

**TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY
MONITORING PROGRAM FOR CEQA COMPLIANCE**

Date:

18-May-21

PROJECT LOCATION:

Widening of Stoddard Wells Road between Interstate 15 to the west and Johnson Road to the east; Apple Valley, CA

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING	TIMING	CRITERIA	COMPLIANCE CHECKED BY	DATE
<p>BIO-1 – Pre-construction Surveys for Burrowing Owl: Pre-construction surveys for burrowing owl shall be conducted prior to the start of construction. The surveys shall follow the methods described in the CDFW’s Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012). Two surveys shall be conducted, with the first survey being conducted between 30 and 14 days before initial ground disturbance (e.g., grading, grubbing, construction), and the second survey being conducted no more than 24 hours prior to initial ground disturbance. If burrowing owls and/or suitable burrowing owl burrows with sign (e.g., whitewash, pellets, feathers, prey remains) are identified on the Project Area during the survey and impacts to those features are unavoidable, consultation with the CDFW shall be conducted and the methods described in the CDFW’s Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012) for avoidance and/or passive relocation shall be followed.</p>	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>			

<p>BIO-2 – Pre-construction Nesting Bird Survey: If construction or other Project activities are scheduled to occur during the bird breeding season (February 1 through August 31), a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to ensure that active bird nests, including those for the loggerhead shrike, will not be disturbed or destroyed. The survey shall be completed no more than three days prior to initial ground disturbance. The nesting bird survey shall include the Project Area and adjacent areas where Project activities have the potential to affect active nests, either directly or indirectly due to construction activity, noise, or ground disturbance. If an active nest is identified, a qualified avian biologist shall establish an appropriate disturbance limit buffer around the nest using flagging or staking. Construction activities shall not occur within any disturbance limit buffer zones until the nest is deemed inactive by the qualified biologist.</p>	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>			
<p>BIO-3 – Pre-construction Survey for Special-Status Wildlife Species (Desert Tortoise, Mohave Ground Squirrel, Desert Kit Fox): The project site provides low quality habitat for desert kit fox, desert tortoise, and Mohave ground squirrel; therefore, a pre-construction survey for these species is recommended. Survey methods should follow those outlined in Preparing for Any Action that May Occur within the Range of the Mojave Desert Tortoise (USFWS 2018). During the survey, biologists will document observations of other sensitive species, such as coast horned lizard. If individuals or sign of desert kit fox, desert tortoise, or Mohave ground squirrel (e.g., burrows, carcasses, scat) are observed on or immediately adjacent to the Project Area, then coordination with USFWS and/or CDFW will need to occur. If impacts to these species will occur from the Project, then the appropriate permits will need to be obtained prior to the start of Project activities. The pre-construction survey should take place no more than 1</p>	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>			

<p>BIO-4 – Joshua Tree Inventory: A Joshua tree inventory should be conducted to document the location, height, diameter, and general health of the Joshua trees that may be affected by the Project. An arborist or qualified botanist should conduct the inventory and make recommendations on the Joshua tree specimens that are healthy enough for transplanting or adopting activities. Following the inventory, the report will need to be presented to the Town for approval prior to receiving a grading permit for the Project. Due to the low number of Joshua trees observed on site during the reconnaissance survey, this inventory can be conducted concurrently with the 14-30-day burrowing owl pre-construction survey (described below).</p>	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>			
<p>The following best management practices are not mitigation measures pursuant to CEQA but are recommended to further reduce impacts to special-status species that have potential to occur on the property:</p>	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confine all work activities to a pre-determined work area. 	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent inadvertent entrapment of wildlife during the construction phase of a project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than two feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen fill or wooden planks shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. 	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife are often attracted to burrow- or den-like structures such as pipes and may enter stored pipes and become trapped or injured. To prevent wildlife use of these structures, all construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of four inches or greater should be capped while stored onsite. 	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>			

<p>· All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.</p>	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>			
<p>· Use of rodenticides and herbicides on Project Area should be restricted. This is necessary to prevent primary or secondary poisoning of wildlife, including burrowing owl and the depletion of prey populations on which they depend. All uses of such compounds should observe label and other restrictions mandated by the USEPA, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other State and federal legislation. If rodent control must be conducted, zinc phosphide should be used because of a proven lower risk to burrowing owl.</p>	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>			
<p>BIO-5 – Joshua Tree Take Permit: During candidacy of the western Joshua tree, all western Joshua trees and parts thereof shall be establish a 40-foot buffer around each western Joshua tree parent, seedling, and sprout. Not project activities may occur within the buffer. Should avoidance be infeasible (during candidacy or if the species is listed under CESA) the Project Proponent shall apply for an incidental take permit from CDFW prior to Project activities.</p>	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>			
<p>BIO-6 –Notification of Streambed Alteration. Prior to commencement of Project activities, the Project Proponent shall submit a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration to CDFW’s Lake and Streambed Alteration Program. Upon receipt of a complete notification, CDFW shall determine if Project activities may substantially adversely affect existing fish and wildlife resources. If required by CDFW-executed Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, authorizing impacts to resources subject to the Fish and game Code section 1602 associated with the Project, or a letter from CDFW stating an Agreement is not required project to commending Project activities subject to Fish and game Code section 1602.</p>	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>			
<p>XIX. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES</p>					
<p>CUL MMs</p>					

<p>1. In the event that cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the other portions of the project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period. Additionally, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Cultural Resources Department (SMBMI) shall be contacted, as detailed within TCR-1, regarding any pre-contact and/or historic-era finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes his/her initial assessment of the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.</p>	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance; Ongoing during construction</p>			
<p>TCR MMs</p>					
<p>1. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Cultural Resources Department (SMBMI) shall be contacted, as detailed in CR-1, of any pre-contact and/or historic-era cultural resources discovered during project implementation, and be provided information regarding the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), a cultural resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be created by the archaeologist, in coordination with SMBMI, and all subsequent finds shall be subject to this Plan. This Plan shall allow for a monitor to be present that represents SMBMI for the remainder of the project, should SMBMI elect to place a monitor on-site.</p>	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance; Ongoing during construction</p>			
<p>2. Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be supplied to the applicant and Lead Agency for dissemination to SMBMI. The Lead Agency and/or applicant shall, in good faith, consult with SMBMI throughout the life of the project.</p>	<p>The Engineering Department and Planning Division</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance; Ongoing during construction</p>			