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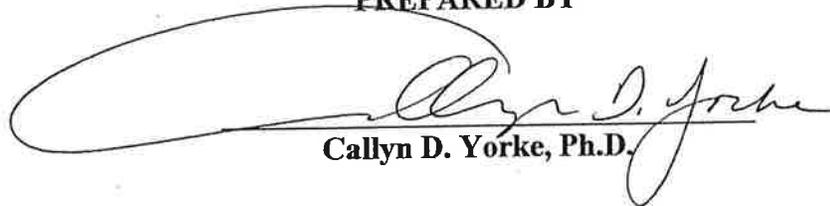
**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES REPORT**

**ON**  
**APN 3204-008-031**  
**Twenty Acres, 60<sup>th</sup> Street West, North of Avenue L,**  
**Lancaster, California**

**PREPARED FOR**

**Andrew Park**  
**3453 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90005**

**PREPARED BY**

  
**Callyn D. Yorke, Ph.D.**

**September, 2005**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	1
Materials and Methods .....	2
Results .....	2
Corridors of Dispersal .....	3
Project Impacts to Sensitive Species .....	4-10
General Cumulative Impacts .....	10
Mitigation Measures .....	11

Figure 1: USGS Topographical Map Showing Location of the Project Site.

Figure 2 : Assessor's Parcel Map Showing Location of Project Site.

Figures 3-5: Ground-level Photographs of Project Site.

Figure 6: Aerial Photo of the Site Showing Surrounding Land Use.

References

Appendices: Floral Compendium  
Faunal Compendium  
Resume of Project Biologist  
Copy of Letters from CNDDB

## INTRODUCTION

A biological resources study was made on a ca. twenty-acre parcel (hereafter referred to as the "project site" or "site") in west Lancaster, California, following the request of Andrew Park, Los Angeles, CA. This report summarizes results of our biotic survey and discusses project impacts to the biota. Mitigation measures are included.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT SITE

The project site consists of approximately twenty acres of abandoned farmland located on the west side of 60<sup>th</sup> Street West, near Avenue K-14, in the city of Lancaster, CA, APN 3204-008-031 (Figures 1 & 2). The land is part of a gentle north-sloping alluvial plain with sand and alkali clay soils, at a maximum elevation of about 2,400 feet above sea level.

The site has experienced considerable disturbance due to clearing of vegetation, farming, grazing, refuse disposal and local traffic (Figures 3-6). Much of the existing vegetation is in various stages of re-growth and includes mostly exotic weeds (e.g. *Erodium*, *Bromus*, *Sysimbrium*, *Salsola*). Native vegetation is limited largely to herbaceous annuals (e.g. *Amsinkia tessellata*) and a few hardy shrubs (e.g. *Atriplex canescens*). There are no Joshua trees and no California junipers on the site. The land to the east and north of the project site is currently being developed and has been cleared of native vegetation. The southern and western boundaries of the site are adjacent with open fields of similar nature to the study site (Figure 6). Drainage across the site appears to be largely by sheet flow to the north, in addition to eroded ditches paralleling the western and eastern boundaries (Figure 6). The latter two drainages support small clusters of adventitious riparian vegetation.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field surveys of the site were made on 16 and 22 September, 2005, by Callyn D. Yorke, Principal Biologist. The entire site was covered on foot, first along the perimeter, then through the center section. Binoculars (10 x 40), a 35 mm camera, and field notebook were used. Field surveys were made between 1000 and 1600 hrs. under fair skies, with WNW winds reaching 7 mph. Air temperatures during the surveys ranged from 70-80F. Ground-level and aerial photos were made of the site.

Attention was given to detection of sensitive plant and animal species known to occur in this region. A focused study was made for signs of occupation by loggerhead shrike burrowing owl, coast horned lizard, California legless lizard, and alkali mariposa lily. The California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG) Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) was contacted for print-outs describing locations of sensitive species in the Palmdale-Lancaster area.

## RESULTS

### Flora

A total of forty-six species of plant, representing eighteen families, was found on the site (see Floral Compendium). There is extensive coverage by exotic grasses (e.g. *Bromus* spp.) and herbs (e.g. *Erodium cicutarium*, *Sysimbrium altissimum*, and *Salsola iberica*). With few exceptions (e.g. *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*, *Trichostemma lanceolata*, *Amsinkia tessellata*, and *Atriplex canescens*) very little native desert vegetation occurs on the site. The relatively moist soils along the western boundary of the site support several species of riparian trees and shrubs (e.g. *Populus fremontii*, *Salix* spp. *Baccharis glutinosa*). No State or Federally listed endangered, rare or sensitive plant species was found on the site.

### Fauna

Two species of butterfly (common white and buckeye) were found on the site. One species of lizard (side-blotched) and ten species of bird were found during the survey. One CDFG Species of Special Concern, **loggerhead shrike**, was found on the site (see *Impacts to Sensitive Animals*). Sign of seven species of mammal was found, including valley pocket gopher, California ground squirrel, and Merriam's kangaroo rat.

### **Corridors of Dispersal**

The project site is no longer a significant part of the regional corridor of wildlife dispersal in the Western Antelope Valley. This is due to developments currently in progress to the north and east of the site (Figure 6). The low diversity and density of small animal sign (e.g. reptiles and mammals) found on the site suggests that it is becoming a "habitat island" with decreased value to native wildlife; small birds of prey (e.g. loggerhead shrike, American kestrel, burrowing owl) and seed-eating birds (e.g. meadowlark, savanna sparrow) being possible exceptions. For large raptors in particular, and depending on annual rainfall, (see *Sensitive Species*), the project site together with adjacent fields to the west, may still offer significant forage and shelter opportunities. One unoccupied raptor nest, possibly red-tailed hawk, was seen in a dead tree bordering the site to the northwest.

## KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CDFG = California Department of Fish & Game  
USFWS = United States Fish & Wildlife Service  
CNPS = California Native Plant Society  
SSC = CDFG Species of Special Concern  
FSC = USFWS Species of Special Concern

## Project Impacts to Sensitive Species

### FLORA

No CNPS, State or Federal listed plant was found on the site. Several listed species are known to occur in this area and are detectable in Spring through early Summer. Potential impacts to these species are considered below.

**Kern County Evening Primrose** (*Camissonia kernensis*) is listed as a rare species by the CNPS, but unlisted by State and Federal agencies. This plant is found in desert washes and canyons from 2500 to 6000 feet in elevation, and in Joshua Tree woodland. Flowering occurs in May. No individuals or remains of this species were found. Habitat on the site is largely degraded and inappropriate. Project impacts are unlikely.

**Alkali Mariposa Lily** (*Calochortus striatus*) is listed a Category 1B (locally endangered) species by the CNPS and as a Level 2 Candidate species by the USFWS. This attractive, relatively rare annual plant is found locally in this vicinity (Yorke, pers. observation) in alkali depressions supporting chenopod scrub vegetation (CNDDDB; Yorke pers. observ.). Flowering occurs from April to June, depending on adequate seasonal rainfall. No individuals of this species of plant were found on the site; habitat on the site is largely inappropriate; project impacts are unlikely.

**Desert Cymopterus** (*Cymopterus deserticola*) is listed as a rare and highly restricted species by the CNPS and Level 2 Candidate species by USFWS. This plant occurs on Edwards AFB in creosote scrub. Flowering occurs in April. No evidence of this species was found in the surveyed areas. Potential for this species occurring on the site is low; negative impacts are unlikely.

**Short-joint beavertail cactus** (*Opuntia basilaris brachyclada*) is a FSC and CNPS Category 1B plant occurring in Joshua tree woodland and upland desert-chaparral. No individuals of this species were found on the site; project impacts are unlikely.

cy-5

**Peirson's lupine** (*Lupinus peirsonii*) is a CNPS Category 4 plant that occurs in Joshua tree woodland and pinyon-juniper woodland. No individuals of this plant were found on the site. Project impacts are unlikely.

**Pigmy poppy** (*Canbya candida*) is a CNPS Category 1B plant found in Joshua tree woodland and desert scrub, in sandy places. The disturbed soils on the site are largely inappropriate for this plant. Project impacts are unlikely.

**Mojave spineflower** (*Chorizanthe spinosa*) is a CNPS Category 4 species found in chenopod scrub and creosote desert scrub. Flowering occurs from April to July. No evidence of this plant was found on the site; project impacts are unlikely.

**Crowned Muilla** (*Muilla coronata*) is listed by the CNPS as a rare species that is endangered in part of its range, but as a taxonomically invalid species by USFWS. This plant is found in heavy soils in Joshua Tree woodland, between 3000 and 5000 feet in elevation. Flowering occurs from March through April. No sign of this plant was found on the site; project impacts are unlikely.

**Barstow woolly sunflower** (*Eriophyllum mohavense*) is a Federal Special Concern Species (FSC) and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) category 1B (rare, threatened or endangered throughout their range) species. It occurs in rises between sinks in xerophytic saltbush scrub. No evidence of this plant was found on the site; project impacts are unlikely due to largely inappropriate habitat.

**Mason's neststraw** (*Stylocline masonii*) is a FSC and CNPS 1B species that occurs in chenopod (e.g. saltbush) scrub. No sign of this plant was found on the site; project impacts are unlikely.

**Palmer's grappling hook** (*Harpagonella palmeri*) is a FSC and CNPS category 2 species (rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common in other states). It occurs in sage scrub and clay soils below 2,500 feet. No sign of this plant was found in the study area; project impacts are unlikely.

**Lancaster milkvetch** (*Astragalus preussi* var. *laxiflorus*) is a CNPS 1B species that occurs in chenopod scrub, alkaline clay flats or gravelly or sandy washes and along draws in gullied badlands. No sign of this plant species was found in the surveyed area; habitat appears largely inappropriate. Impacts to Lancaster Milkvetch as a result of implementation of the proposed project are unlikely.

cy-6

**Parish's alkali grass** (*Puccinellia parishii*) is a CNPS Category 1B and CDFG S1.1 plant found in alkali springs and seeps in deserts. Habitat on the site is inappropriate. Impacts to this species as a result of implementation of the proposed development are unlikely.

**Lemmon's syntrichopappus** (*Syntrichopappus lemmonii*) is a FSC and CNPS Category 4 species (species of limited distribution in California but whose existence does not appear to be susceptible to threat). This plant occurs in Joshua tree woodland with sandy or gravelly soil. No sign of this plant was found on the site. Habitat is largely degraded and unsuitable; impacts are unlikely.

## FAUNA

No listed species were found on the subject property. Several sensitive animal species are known to occur in this region; potential impacts to these are addressed below.

**Mojave Desert Tortoise** (*Gopherus agassizi*) is a CDFG and USFWS Endangered Species known to occur in this region, principally east of Highway 14. Absolutely no sign (e.g. burrows, scat, shell fragments) of desert tortoise was found on the subject property or adjacent parcels during our surveys. Nor was there any evidence found of historical occupation by tortoises. We recommend a DECLARATION OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT on the Mojave desert tortoise.

**Coast horned lizard** (*Phrynosoma coronatum*) is a CDFG Species of Special Concern (SSC) known to occur on Avenue M-12, near 45<sup>th</sup> Street West in Quartz Hill (CNDDDB; Yorke, pers. observation). These lizards prefer loose sandy to gravelly soils around the perimeter of the western Antelope Valley (Yorke, pers. observ.). A focused search for this species on the site were concentrated in open areas with ant nests. No individuals of this lizard were found. Impacts to this species as a result of the proposed development are unlikely.

**Burrowing owl** (*Athene cunicularia*) is a CDFG "Species of Special Concern" (SSC) in California. Several family groups of burrowing owls are still found in the open fields of the western Antelope Valley (e.g. along 110<sup>th</sup> Street West near Avenue I, and near 40<sup>th</sup> Street West and Avenue K) though the population of this species in the Antelope Valley today is only a small fraction of its size fifteen years ago (Yorke, unpublished field notes). These birds may be declining for a number of reasons, e.g., habitat loss, pesticides, and hunting. No sign (e.g. feathers, insect remains, pellets) of burrowing owl was found. Direct impacts to nesting burrowing owls as a result of the project are unlikely, however a pre-construction survey is recommended (see *Mitigation Measures*).

**California legless lizard** (*Aniella pulchra*) is a CDFG SSC known to occur in sandy soils near seepages in the Western Antelope Valley (e.g. in the vicinity of 40<sup>th</sup> Street West and Avenue K). Habitat on the site appears marginally appropriate; no individuals of this species were found during our surveys. Project impacts are possible and a pre-construction Spring-time survey is recommended (see *Mitigation Measures*).

**Long-eared owl** (*Asio otus*) is a CDFG SSC occasionally found in fall and winter months, in small groups. These owls prefer relatively isolated clusters of trees and shrubs in this vicinity (Yorke, pers. observ.). The number of sightings of this species has

decreased over the past 20 years in the Antelope Valley. Reasons for the apparent decline of long-eared owls in this region may include habitat loss and encroachment. These owls are extremely shy and tend to avoid areas with human activity. No sign of long-eared owls was found on the site; project impacts are unlikely.

**Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*)** is a CDFG and USFWS SSC occasionally found during migration in fall and spring in the Antelope Valley; there are no documented nesting records of this species in Leona Valley (Yorke, pers. observation). Significant adverse impacts to short-eared owls as a result of implementation of the proposed project are unlikely.

**Prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)** is another CDFG SSC that appears to be declining in portions of its range. No individuals of this species were seen on the project site during the surveys. This is a wide ranging species that usually nests in remote canyons and forages throughout the region. It may be declining in response to cumulative impacts from loss of open fields for foraging. Direct project impacts to nesting prairie falcons are unlikely; relatively insignificant project impacts to wintering falcons may result from an incremental loss of foraging opportunities.

**Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)** is a CDFG SSC that may also nest in the mountains and foothills bordering the Antelope Valley, foraging widely elsewhere. In winter months (November-February) the local population of golden eagles is augmented by visitors from other regions. At such times, individuals, particularly immature birds, commonly perch on power poles along roadways and may be struck by cars when they attempt to feed on roadkill. No eagles were found on or near the subject property; impacts to nesting eagles are unlikely. Significant project impacts on wintering golden eagles are also unlikely.

**Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*)** is a CDFG SSC that winters in the Antelope Valley in relatively high numbers. Birds forage in open fields, often using power poles for lookouts. They rarely take roadkill and thus are seldom hit by automobiles. The cumulative loss of foraging habitat may be the greatest threat to this species in the region. Significant project impacts on wintering ferruginous hawks are unlikely.

**Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)** is a State Threatened species known to have nested in the eastern Antelope Valley. A CNDDDB record indicates a pair of Swainson's hawks nested in a locust tree surrounded by agricultural fields near Avenue I and 50<sup>th</sup> Street East, in 1996 and 1999. Most records of nesting Swainson's Hawk in this region are from the eastern Antelope Valley. However, clusters of trees along the western boundary of the subject property may be suitable for Swainson's hawks; project impacts are possible and a pre-construction, Spring-time survey is recommended (see Mitigation Measures).

**Cooper's Hawk** (*Accipiter cooperii*) is a CDFG SSC that nests locally in the Antelope Valley and is a passage migrant and winter visitor. No individuals of this species were seen on the project site. However, I have found Cooper's hawk to be one of the more common raptors in the Lancaster-Palmdale area; it is frequently found in and around suburban parks and yards with mature trees (Yorke, pers. observ.). Direct impacts to nesting Cooper's hawks on the site are possible; a pre-construction Spring-time survey is recommended (see *Mitigation Measures*).

**LeConte's thrasher** (*Toxostoma lecontei*) is a Federal Candidate for listing, and is known from several scattered localities in the Antelope Valley (e.g. east Palmdale and Edwards AFB). A small population also occurs in Jawbone Canyon north of Mojave and also in east Palmdale. No thrashers were found during the surveys of the study site. Project impacts are unlikely.

**Loggerhead shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*) is another Federal Candidate for listing and a CDFG SSC. Habitat loss and pesticide poisoning are blamed for the decline of this bird. One adult shrike was found perched on an exposed dead limb of a Chinese elm on the southwestern edge of the site. No evidence of nesting on the site was found, however a pre-construction, Spring-time survey is recommended (see *Mitigation Measures*).

**Horned lark** (*Eremophila alpestris actia*) is a CDFG SSC. No horned larks were found on the site during the survey. Horned larks nest in the western Antelope Valley and appear to have a relatively large, viable population (Yorke, unpublished field notes). Presently it is not known if this species nests on or adjacent to the study site. Since this subspecies is probably not the form currently considered by CDFG as a SSC, implementation of the proposed project will have no significant impacts on the "California" horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*).

**Tricolored blackbird** (*Agelaius tricolor*) is a CDFG SSC occurring at scattered localities in desert wetlands (e.g. Rosamond and Lancaster, Yorke, pers.observ.). Habitat on the present site is unsuitable for this species due to the absence of riparian vegetation. No individuals of this species were seen on or near the site during the surveys; project impacts are unlikely.

Virtually all **Bats** in California are CDFG SSC. Consequently, any loss of foraging, roosting or breeding habitat caused by residential development could have impacts on these nocturnal insectivores. No bat roosts were found on or adjacent to the subject property during our surveys. If bats are using the site for feeding, implementation of the proposed project will result in an insignificantly small loss of foraging habitat; adjacent open land should provide adequate foraging opportunities, in addition to increased insect availability in well-watered developments with outdoor lighting.

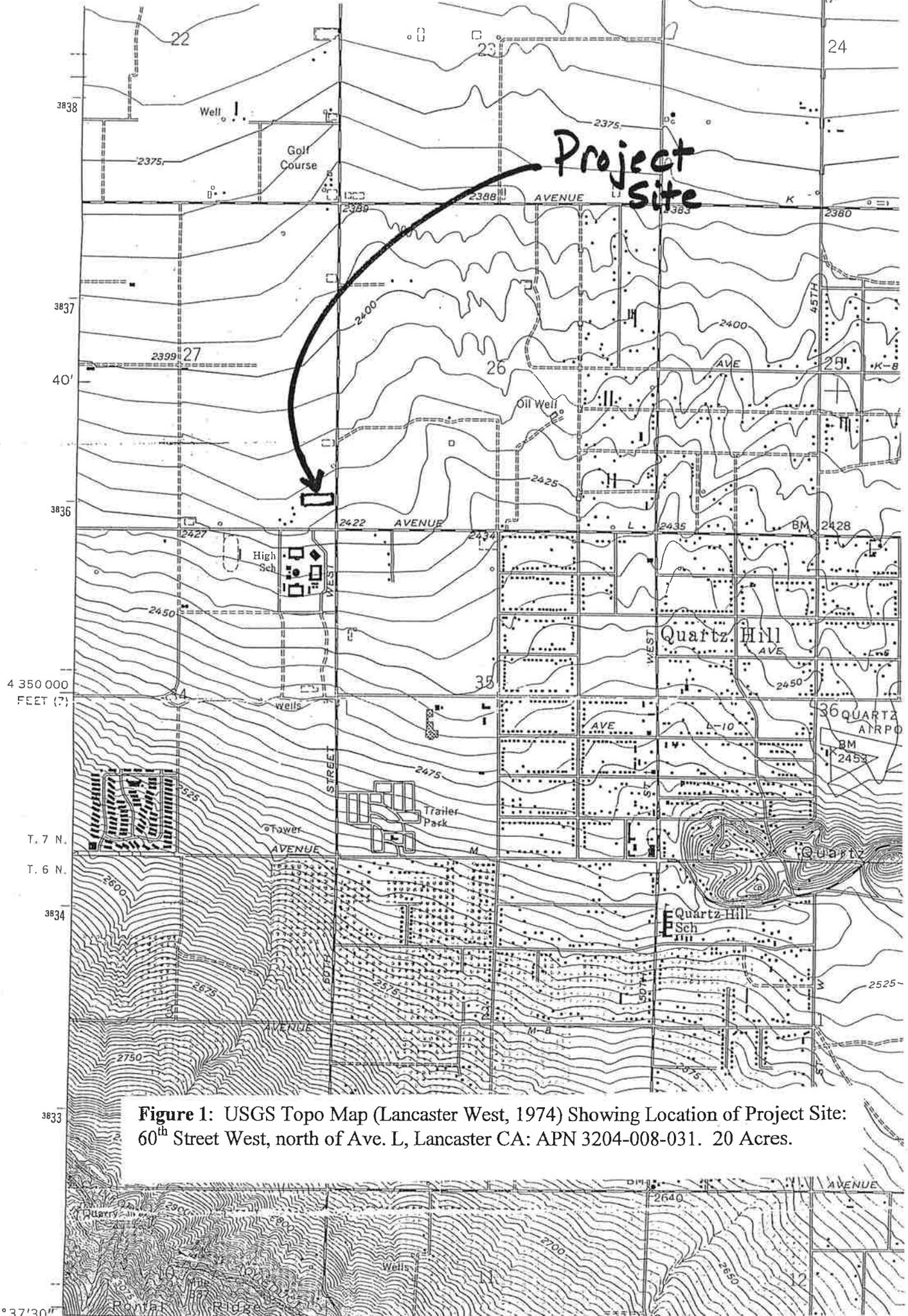
**Mojave ground squirrel** (*Spermophilus mohavensis*) is a CDFG threatened species that occurs at scattered localities in the Mojave Desert, principally east of Highway 14, including nearby Edwards AFB. There are also records of MGS from east Palmdale. No sign of this species was found (or expected to be found) on the subject property. Habitat on the site (i.e. Mojavean desert scrub) is isolated, largely degraded and inappropriate for MGS. We recommend a DECLARATION OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON MGS.

**American badger** (*Taxidea taxus*) is a CDFG SCC that may occasionally be attracted to resources on the subject property. However, no sign of badger was found during the surveys. Badgers have occurred in this area, as one was reportedly seen crossing Highway 14 near Rosamond in 1993 (L. Uhazy, pers. communication). Another road-killed badger was found in western Leona Valley on Elizabeth Lake Road in '01 (Yorke, pers. observ.) A badger's territory is seldom less than 100 acres, indicating that the present site contains inadequate spatial resources for one breeding pair. Project impacts to badgers are unlikely.

### **General Cumulative Impacts**

Whenever wilderness is taken for development few native organisms benefit. This is because in the complex web of life everything is interconnected and dependent. Removing vegetation destroys habitat for countless microscopic organisms with larger species dependent on them for food. For example, the tiny moth *Tegeticula paradoxa* is the only known pollinator of the Joshua Tree; disappearance of either species results in extinction of both. And the overall result of loss of Joshua Trees, an ecological keystone species, is simplification of the food web to include a new assemblage of relatively few, hardy species. Consequently, exotic pests like Russian thistle, tumble mustard, stork's bill, brome grasses, fire ants, aphids, snails, rock doves and starlings become established.

Due to its highly modified nature and ecological isolation, the subject property appears to be a relatively good choice for development. The majority of the site (90%) has been cleared and significantly modified, and is discontinuous with ecologically intact Joshua Tree Woodland-Saltbush Scrub communities in the area (Figure 6). Pre-construction surveys for sensitive species (e.g raptors, legless lizard) are recommended to reduce project impacts to a level of insignificance (see *Mitigation Measures*)



**Figure 1: USGS Topo Map (Lancaster West, 1974) Showing Location of Project Site: 60<sup>th</sup> Street West, north of Ave. L, Lancaster CA: APN 3204-008-031. 20 Acres.**

3204 8

1992

SCALE 1" = 400'

3204-8  
1992

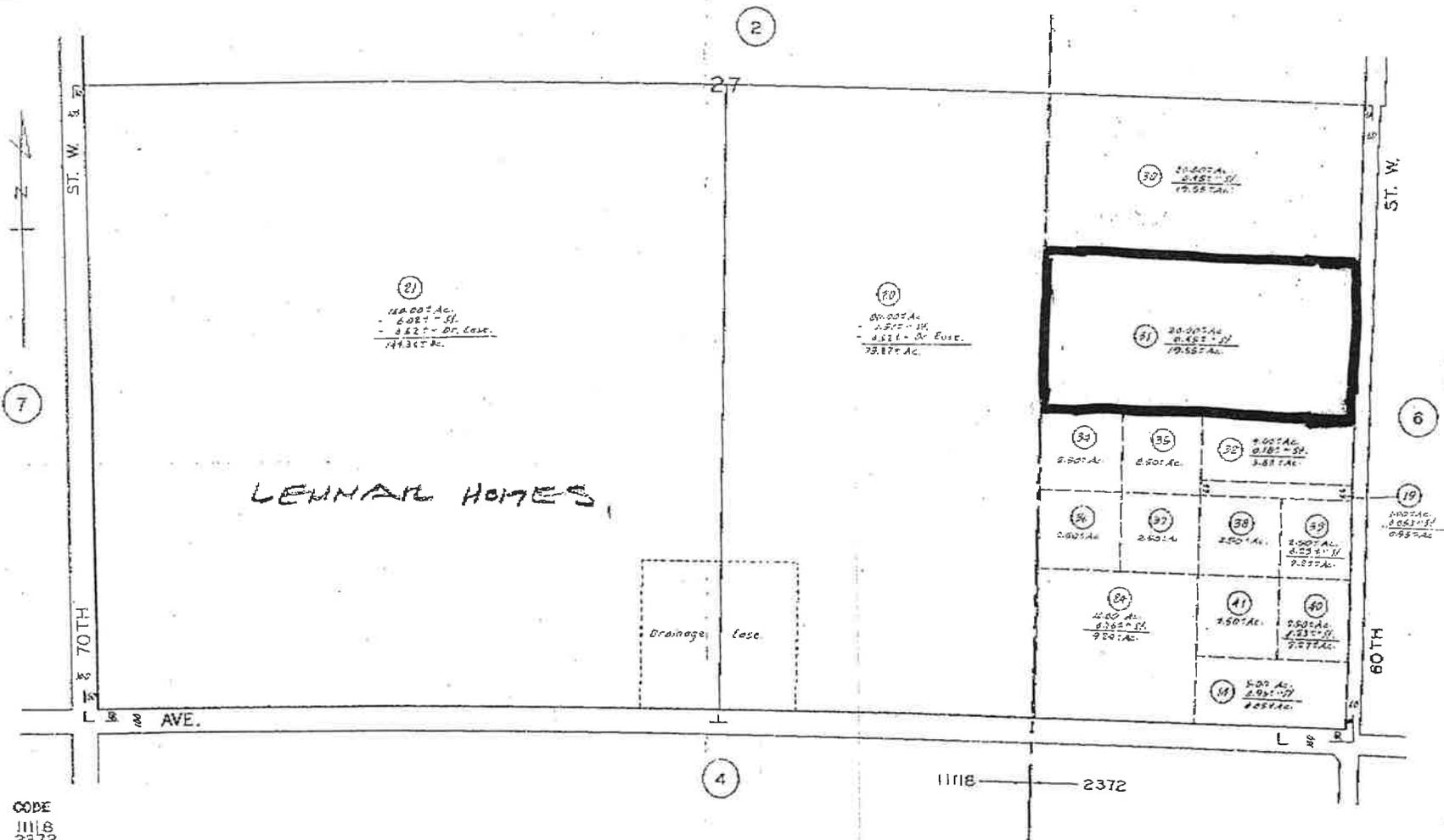


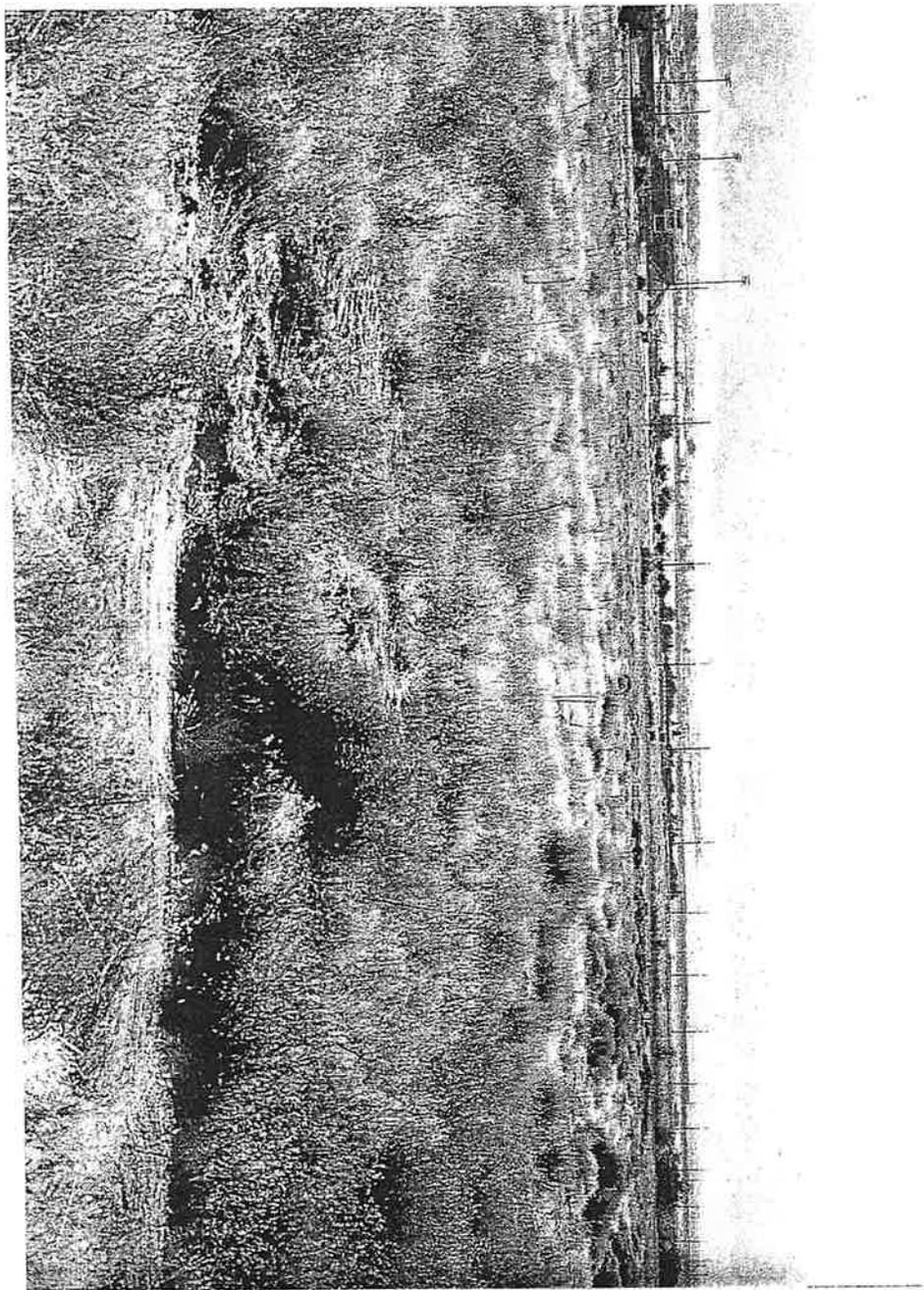
Figure 2. L.A. County Assessor's Parcel Map Showing Location of Project Site: 60th Street West, north of Ave. L, Lancaster, CA: APN 3204-008-031. 20 Acres.

CODE  
H118  
2372

T. 7 N., R. 13 W.

FOR PREV. ASSMT SEE:  
3204 - 8

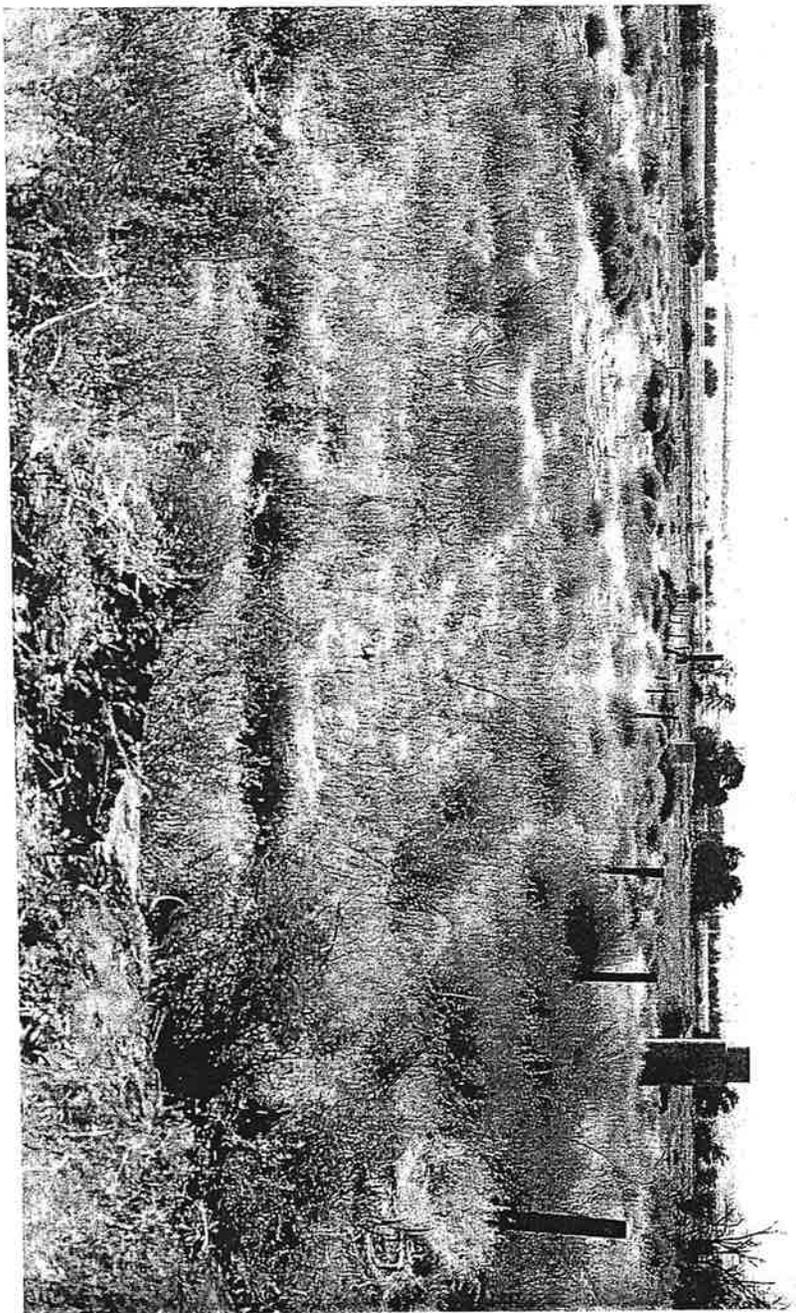
ASSESSOR'S MAP  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIF.



9-16-05

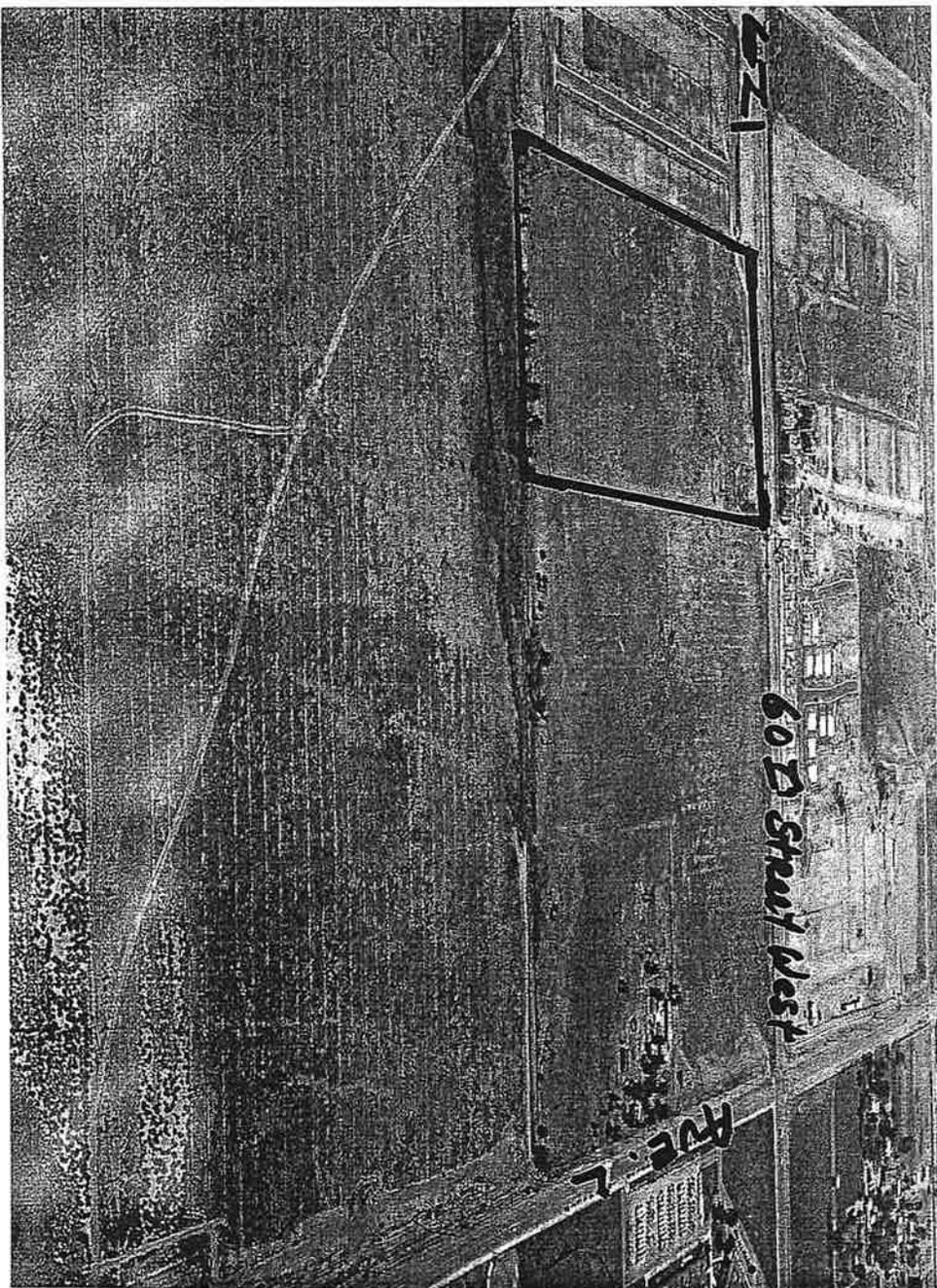
Figure 4: Viewing sw across site from  
60<sup>th</sup> Street West.

APPN 3204-008-031



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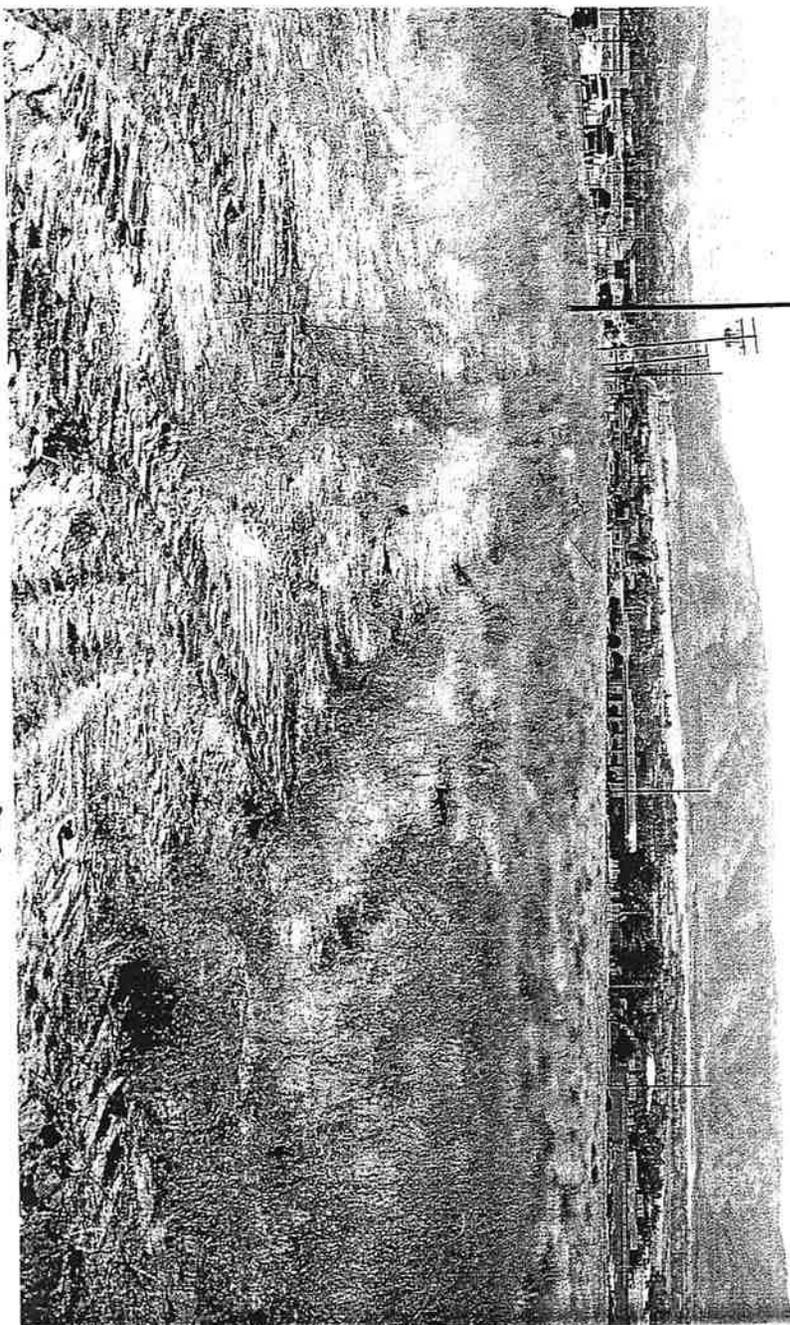
Figure 3: Viewing west across site along  
northern property line, at 60<sup>th</sup> St. West.



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Figure 6: Aerial view of project site showing surrounding land use.

APN 3204-008-031



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Figure 5: Viewing south across site along 60<sup>th</sup> Street West.

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## Floral Compendium

The following is a list of vascular plants found in the study area during the surveys. Relative abundances were estimated visually. Nomenclature largely follows Munz (1974).

### LEGEND

#### **Frequency**

**A** = more than 50 individuals

**B** = 25-50 individuals

**C** = 10-20 individuals

**D** = 1-10 individuals

Latin binomial names are italicized, followed by common names and frequencies.

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## ASTERACEAE

- Ambrosia acanthocarpa* annual bursage A  
*Ambrosia tomentosa* bursage B  
*Chrysothamnus nauseosus* rabbitbush C  
*Acroptilon repens* Russian knapweed A (exotic)  
*Lessingia lemmoni* autumn vinegar weed A  
*Corethrogyne filaginifolia* cudweed aster B  
*Heterotheca grandiflora* telegraph weed A  
*Stephanomeria exigua* wire lettuce A  
*Centaurea sp.* knapweed (exotic) C  
*Conzua bonariensis* hairy fleabane C (exotic)  
*Conzua canadensis* horseweed A  
*Helianthus annuus* common sunflower B  
*Iva axillaris* poverty sumpweed C  
*Baccharis glutinosa* mulefat C  
*Arctium minus* common burdock D

## BETULACEAE

- Alnus rhombifolia* white alder D

## BORAGINACEAE

- Amsinkia tessellata* fiddleneck A

## BRASSICACEAE

- Sisymbrium alissimum* tumble mustard A (exotic)  
*Alyssum sp.* D (exotic)

*Brassica nigra* black mustard D (exotic)  
*Lepidium latifolium* pepperweed D (exotic)

#### CHENOPODIACEAE

*Salsola iberica* Russian thistle A (exotic)  
*Atriplex canescens* four-winged saltbush A

#### EUPHORBIACEAE

*Eremocarpus setigerus* turkey mullein A  
*Euphorbia albomarginata* rattlesnake weed A

#### FABACEAE

*Robinia pseudo-acacia* locust D (exotic)

#### GERANIACEAE

*Erodium cicutarium* red-stemmed filaree A (exotic)

#### HYDROPHYLLACEAE

*Phacelia* sp. A

#### LAMIACEAE

*Trichostemma lanceolata* vinegar weed A

#### PLANTAGINACEAE

*Plantago major* broadleaf plantain C (exotic)

## POACEAE

- Bromus rubens* foxtail chess A (exotic)
- Bromus tectorum* downy brome A (exotic)
- Bromus mollis* soft chess A (exotic)
- Bromus carinatus* carinate brome A
- Bromus secalinus* cheat grass A (exotic)
- Agrostis stolonifera* creeping bentgrass A
- Avena fatua* wild oat B (exotic)
- Polypogon monspeliensis* rabbitfoot polypogon C

## POLEMONIACEAE

- Gilia parrayae* Parry gilia B

## ROSACEAE

- Prunus sp.* peach (exotic) D

## SALICACEAE

- Salix exigua* narrow-leaf willow D
- Salix lasiandra* black willow D
- Populus fremontii* Fremont cottonwood D

## SOLANACEAE

- Datura meteloides* Jimson weed C

## TAMARICACEAE

- Tamarix ramosissima* salt cedar D

## ULMACEAE

- Ulma parviflora* Chinese elm C (exotic)

# FAUNAL COMPENDIUM

## Explanation of Symbols

### Relative Frequency and Abundance

- c** -- common: observed or expected throughout the site in high numbers.
- f** -- fairly common: observed or expected in moderate numbers.
- u** -- uncommon: observed or expected in low numbers.
- o** -- occasional: observed or expected with low frequency.
- s** -- scarce: rarely observed or expected on the site.

### Local Status

\* Presence noted visually, vocally, or other sign. (1,2, etc. = maximum number of individuals found during a survey).

Museum/University Record: One or more records of this species in institutional collections from this region.

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**Note:** This faunal species list includes animals observed or expected to occur on or in the immediate vicinity of the study site.

## Butterflies

### DANIDAE

- Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) s
- Striated Queen (*D. gilippus strigosus*) u

### NYMPHALIDAE

- Neumogen's checkerspot (*Charidryas neumoenigeni*) u
- Mylitta crescent (*Phycoides mylitta*) s
- Cerrita checkerspot (*Thessalia leanira cerrita*) s
- painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*) o
- common buckeye (*Junonia coenia*) 2

### PIERIDAE

- Becker's white (*Pontia beckeri*) s
- California white (*P. sisymbrii*) u
- Common white (*P. protodice*) 1
- Southern dogface (*Zerene cesonia*) o
- Nicippe yellow (*Eurema nicippe*) s
- Dwarf yellow (*Nathalis iole*) s
- Felder's orange tip (*Anthocharis cethura cethura*) u
- Grinell's marble (*Falcapica lanceolata australis*) u
- Southern marble (*Eucloe hyantis lotta*) u

### LIBYTHEIDAE

- Snout butterfly (*Libythea bachmanii larvata*) s

### RIODINIDAE

- Mormon metalmark (*Apodemia mormo mormo*) u
- Behr's metalmark (*A. mormo virgulti*) u
- Cythera metalmark (*A. mormo cythera*) u

## LYCAENIDAE

- common hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*) s
- Marine blue (*Leptotes marina*) s
- Pygmy blue (*Brephidium exilis*) s
- Acmon Blue (*Plebejus acmon acmon*) u
- Bernardino blue (*Euphilotes battoides bernardino*) u
- Elvira's blue (*E. pallescens elvira*) u
- Mojave blue (*E. mojave*) u
- Small blue (*Philotiella speciosa*) s

## MEGATHYMIDAE

- Martin's giant skipper (*Megathymus coloradensis martini*) u

## HESPERIIDAE

- Chusca skipper (*Polites sabuleti*) s
- Juba skipper (*Hesperia juba*) u
- Sootywing (*Pholisora catullus*) o

## Amphibians and Reptiles

### BUFONIDAE

Western toad (*Bufo boreas halophilus*) c

### HYLIDAE

Pacific chorus frog (*Hyla regilla*) c

### GEKKONIDAE

Banded gecko (*Coleonyx variegatus*) s

### PHRYNOSOMATIDAE

Zebra tailed lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*) s

Long-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia wislizenii*) o

Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*) o (see text)

Desert horned lizard (*Phrynosoma platyrhinos*) s

Desert Spiny lizard (*Sceloporus magister*) c

Western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) c

Side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*) 1

### XANTUSIDAE

Desert night lizard (*Xantusia vigilis*) c

### TEIIDAE

California whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*) c

### ANNIELLIDAE

California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*) (see text)

## LEPTOTYPHLOPIDAE

Western blind snake (*Leptotyphlops humilis*) s

## COLUBRIDAE

Glossy snake (*Arizona elegans*) u

Western shovel-nosed snake (*Chionactis occipitalis*) s

Night snake (*Hypsiglena torquata*) u

Common kingsnake (*Lampropeltus getulus*) u

Coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum*) o

Gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) o

Long-nosed snake (*Rhinccheilus lecontei*) u

California black-headed snake (*Tantilla planiceps*) s

Lyre snake (*Trimorphodon biscutatus*) s

## VIPERIDAE

Mojave rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutellatus*) o

## TESTUDINIDAE

Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) (see text)

## Birds

### Note

Numbers in parentheses following a species indicate the maximum number of individuals seen or heard during a survey.

### CATHARTIDAE

Turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*) f

### ACCIPITRIDAE

Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) u

Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*) u (see text)

Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) 1

Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) u (see text)

Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) u (see text)

Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) u (see text)

### FALCONIDAE

American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) u

Prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) u (see text)

### PHASIANIDAE

California quail (*Callipepla californica*) c

### CHARADRIIDAE

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) o

## COLUMBIDAE

Rock dove (*Columba livia*) c

Mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) 30

## CUCULIDAE

Greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) o

## STRIGIDAE

Great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*) u

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) s (see text)

Long-eared owl (*Asio otus*) u (see text)

## TYTONIDAE

Common barn owl (*Tyto alba*) u

## CAPRIMULGIDAE

Lesser nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) f

Common poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) s

## APODIDAE

Vaux's swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) s

## TROCHILIDAE

Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) c

Costa's hummingbird (*C. costae*) u

Black-chinned hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) f

Rufous hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) s

## PICIDAE

Ladder-backed woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*) o

Northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) u

#### TYRRANIDAE

Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) 1

Ash-throated flycatcher (*Myarchis cinerascens*) f

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) f

#### CORVIDAE

Western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) u

Common raven (*Corvus corax*) 2

#### REMIZIDAE

Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*) c

#### AEGITHALIDAE

Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*) s

#### TROGLODYTIDAE

Cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) o

Rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) o

Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) o

#### MUSCICAPIDAE

Ruby-crowned kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) u

Hermit thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) s

Swainson's thrush (*C. swainsoni*) s

American robin (*Turdus migratorius*) u

## MIMIDAE

- Northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) c
- Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*) s (see text)

## LANIIDAE

- Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) 1 (see text)

## STURNIDAE

- European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) c

## ALAUDIDAE

- Horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) c (see text)

## HIRUNDINIDAE

- Cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)
- Violet green swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*) s
- Barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
- Rough-winged swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) s
- Tree swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) s

## EMBERIZIDAE

- Yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) c
- Orange-crowned warbler (*Vermivora celata*) 1
- Common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) s
- Nashville warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) s
- MacGillivray's warbler (*Oporonis tolmiei*) s
- Wilson's warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) s
- Western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) 2
- Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) c
- Great-tailed grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) u
- Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) u (see text)
- Red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) 1

Scott's oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) s  
Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) o  
Black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) s  
White-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) c  
Sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*) u  
Lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) c  
Savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) 1  
Vesper sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) u  
Golden-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) u  
Song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) c

#### FRINGILLIDAE

House finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) 10  
American goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) u  
Lesser goldfinch (*C. psaltria*) u

#### PLOCEIDAE

House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) c

## Mammals

### Note

This is a largely hypothetical list of species based on very broad range boundaries which may include the present site. No attempt is made here to assess relative abundance.

### GEOMYIDAE

Valley pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) sign

### SORICIDAE

Desert shrew (*Notiosorex crawfordi*)

### PHYLLOSTOMIDAE

California leaf-nosed bat (*Macrotus californicus*)

### VESPERTILIONIDAE

Little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*)

Yuma myotis (*M. yumanensis*)

Long-eared myotis (*M. evotis*)

Fringed myotis (*M. thysanodes*)

Long-legged myotis (*M. volans*)

California myotis (*M. californicus*)

Small-footed myotis (*M. leibii*)

Western pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus hesperus*)

Big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)

Red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*)

Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)  
Townsend's big-eared bat (*Plecotus townsendii*)  
Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)

#### MOLOSSIDAE

Brazilian free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*)  
Pocketed free-tailed bat (*Tadarida femorosacca*)  
Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis*)

#### LEPORIDAE

Desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus auduboni*) sign  
Black-tailed jack rabbit (*Lepus californicus mohavensis*) sign

#### SCIURIDAE

White-tailed antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*)  
California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*) sign

#### HETEROMYIDAE

Agile kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys agilis*)  
Merriam's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami*) sign  
Panamint kangaroo rat (*D. panamintinus mohavensis*)

#### CRICETIDAE

Deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) sign  
Desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida*)

#### CANIDAE

Coyote (*Canis latrans*) sign  
Feral domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) sign  
Desert kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*)

PROCYONIDAE

Ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*)

Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

MUSTELIDAE

Badger (*Taxidea taxus*) (see text)

Western spotted skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*)

Striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)

FELIDAE

Mountain lion (*Felis concolor*)

Bobcat (*Felis rufus*)

Domestic cat (*Felis catus*)

CERVIDAE

Black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)

EQUIDAE

Domestic horse (*Equus caballus*)

BOVIIDAE

Domestic cattle (*Bos taurus*)

HOMINIDAE

Human (*Homo sapiens*)

## **Callyn D. Yorke**

### **Project Manager/Principal Biologist**

Dr. Callyn Yorke is a zoologist with extensive field research and teaching experience in Ornithology, Herpetology and Mammalogy. In addition to having completed several research projects overseas, he has been active in the study of the distribution of birds in Southern California for twenty years. Dr. Yorke has authored over twenty-five scientific papers and reports in Environmental Biology. He continues to hold a full-time, tenured position as Professor of Zoology at Antelope Valley College, Lancaster, California.

### **EDUCATION**

- B.Sc. 1975. Biological Science. California State University, Hayward.
- M.A. 1976. Biological Science. California State University, Hayward.
- Ph.D. 1983. Zoology. University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

### **PROFESSIONAL HISTORY**

- Ornithology Instructor 1976. University of California, Berkeley
- Visiting Assistant Professor 1977-80. National University of Malaysia.
- Post-Doctoral Research 1983-84. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C..
- Visiting Assistant Professor 1984. Monterey Peninsula College, CA.
- Professor of Zoology 1984 - Antelope Valley College, Biology Dept, CA.
- Post-Doctoral Research 1990. Point Reyes Bird Observatory, CA.
- Research Associate 1987- Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, CA.
- Owner and Project Manager 1987-Callyn D. Yorke, Biological Resources Reports.

Callyn D. Yorke, Ph.D. Biological Resources Reports  
**Professional Work Experience**

Biological Resources Reports completed in Southern California  
1989 - 2004

- 1) APN 3029-12-08: 80 Acres, L.A. County.
- 2) APN 3209-14-21: 10 Acres, L.A. County.
- 3) APN 3010 -002-003 .... 8: 23 Acres, Palmdale.
- 4) APN 3022-25-10: ~~5~~ Acres, Palmdale.
- 5) APN 3056-12-31: 20 Acres, Palmdale.
- 6) APN 3053-009-004: 35 Acres, Palmdale.
- 7) APN 3053-009-007: 20 Acres, Palmdale.
- 8) APN 302-26-9;57: California City, Kern County.
- 9) APN 3114-13-001: 80 Acres, Lancaster.
- 10) APN 3126-19-024: 4 Acres, Lancaster.
- 11) APN 3176-002-021: 10 Acres, Lancaster.
- 12) APN 3128-003-036: 9.6 Acres, Lancaster.
- 13) APN 3001-001-035: 10 Acres, Palmdale.
- 14) APN 3109-002-099: 2.5 Acres, Lancaster.
- 15) APN 3109-001-36,37,38,39: 10 Acres, Lancaster
- 16) APN 3053-06-05;20: 20 Acres, Palmdale.
- 17) APN 3114-13-29: 3 Acres, Lancaster.
- 18) APN 3004-15-42,43: 12 Acres, Palmdale.
- 19) Sections 2,3,25,26,27, 35: 1500 Acres, Palmdale.
- 20) APN 359-03-002: 20 Acres: Kern County (Rasmussen: default)

- 21) APN 3064-16-10,22: 240 Acres, Llano, Los Angeles County.
- 22) APN 0419-091-10;12: 319 Acres, San Bernardino County.
- 23) APN 345-100-02-00-9: 100 Acres, Willow Springs, Kern County.
- 24) Proposed Fairmont and Antelope Buttes Reservoir, 1600 acres, Los Angeles County.
- 25) APN 3003-003-025,28,29: 15 acres, Palmdale, CA.
- 26) SE corner of L-8 and 45<sup>th</sup> Street West, 6 acres, Quartz Hill, Los Angeles County.
- 27) APN 3114-013-087,88,89: 35 acres, Lancaster, Los Angeles County.
- 28) 45<sup>th</sup> Street W and L-8: 6 acres, Quartz Hill, CA
- 29) MB 31-13, TR 2916, L 16: 20 Acres, Palmdale, CA
- 30) Fort Tejon Road and Union Pacific Railway: 59 Acres, Palmdale, CA
- 31) APN 3114-103-087,88,89: Avenue H-8 and 20<sup>th</sup> street West, 35 Acres, Lancaster, CA
- 32) TTM 60058, Rancho Vista Blvd., west of O-8: 30.6 Acres, Palmdale, CA
- 33) TTM 53869, 55<sup>th</sup> Street West and the California Aqueduct: 30 Acres, Palmdale, CA
- 34) TTM 60053, 40<sup>th</sup> Street East and Avenue R: 20 Acres, Palmdale, CA
- 35) APN 3057-012-003,014 and 033; 289 Acres, Acton, CA
- 36) TTM 60162, 60<sup>th</sup> Street East and Avenue R-8: 5 Acres, Palmdale, CA
- 37) TTM 060431, 70<sup>th</sup> Street West and Avenue M-8. 77 Acres, Palmdale, CA
- 38) NE corner of 47<sup>th</sup> Street East and Avenue R, 8 Acres, Palmdale, CA
- 39) APN 3003-004-012, 20<sup>th</sup> Street West and Avenue P-10, 8.8 acres, Palmdale, CA
- 40) TTM 27081, Davenport Road, 8.5 Acres, Agua Dulce, CA
- 41) APN 3003 080 007, 1.17 Acres, Auto Center Drive, Palmdale, CA
- 42) TTM Quail Valley Road, 40 Acres, Castaic, CA

- 43) APN 3111-012-056, 10 Acres, east of 45<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster, CA
- 44) APN 3109-001-065;066, 20 Acres, west of 35<sup>th</sup> Street West and L-4-L-6, Lancaster, CA.
- 45) Five acres, Avenue O and 10<sup>th</sup> Street West, Palmdale, CA
- 46) APN 3170-002-028,029;900,901;043;017-019, 24 acres, Lancaster, CA
- 47) Sixteen acres, Lancaster Blvd, and 35<sup>th</sup> Street East, Lancaster, CA
- 48) APN 3203-015-069;143;059-060, 13 Acres 52<sup>nd</sup> Street West and Avenue J, Lancaster, CA.
- 49) Twelve acres, Avenue I and 20<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster CA
- 50) APN 3204-006-049-051, 8 Acres, Avenue K-12 and 57<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster, CA.
- 51) Five acres, Avenue L and 10<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster, CA
- 52) Two acres, Avenue J and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street West, Lancaster, CA.
- 53) Nineteen acres, Avenue I and 12<sup>th</sup> Street East, Lancaster, CA
- 54) APN 3204-023-182, 10 acres, Avenue M-8 and 70<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster, CA.
- 55) APN 0394-031-023&028, 17 Acres, Mojave Drive, Victorville, CA
- 56) APN 3150-014-006, 47 acres, Avenue K and 30<sup>th</sup> Street East, Lancaster, CA.
- 57) 4.5 acres, Avenue J-6 and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street East, Lancaster, CA.
- 58) 10.5 acres, Avenue J-4 and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street East, Lancaster, CA.
- 59) APN 3150-022-009, 5 acres, Lancaster Blvd. and 30<sup>th</sup> Street East, Lancaster, CA.
- 60) APN 3150-030-006;013, 8 acres, Avenue J-2 to J-4 and 26<sup>th</sup> Street East, Lancaster, CA.
- 61) Thirty acres, Avenue J and 35<sup>th</sup> Street East, Lancaster, CA.

## THESES AND PUBLICATIONS

Yorke, C.D. 1976. Reproductive strategies in the Hylidae (New World treefrogs). Biology Dept., California State University, Hayward. 45 pp.

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(916) 324-3812

April 6, 2005

Mr. Callyn Yorke  
15438 Ensenada Road  
Green Valley, California 91350

Dear Mr. Yorke:

In response to your request on April 6, 2005, a search for occurrences of rare, threatened, endangered, and sensitive animals, plants, and natural communities has been completed by the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) for the following quadrangle(s): **Palmdale, Lancaster East, Lancaster West, Rosamond, Rosamond Lake, Bissell, Soledad, Green Valley, Sleepy Valley, Del Sur & Ritter Ridge - Text Report.**

Please refer to the enclosed documents for an explanation of the terms and information contained in this computerized report. You will be billed shortly for your order. All of our current CNDDDB lists are now available online at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab>.

#### **NOTICE TO ALL USERS OF NATURAL DIVERSITY DATABASE INFORMATION**

This report does not constitute official Department of Fish and Game environmental impact review of a project under the California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, or other statutory or regulatory authority. Environmental impact review is carried out by other units in the Department. Even if the CNDDDB does not report an occurrence of special animals, plants, or natural communities in your project area, the Department may recommend that you conduct studies to determine or confirm their presence or absence, or to determine the impact of your proposed activity on these and other organisms and their habitats.

Although the CNDDDB inventory does not include other more common animals and plants, such as those that may be important for game, commercial, or aesthetic reasons, such species are of concern, and the law requires that they also be considered in an environmental assessment of any nonexempt project.

The CNDDDB also inventories both terrestrial and aquatic natural communities that are of extremely high quality, very limited distribution or threatened. These natural communities contain a rich heritage of native animals and plants that contribute significantly to the State's natural biotic diversity.





(916) 324-3812

September 22, 2005

Callyn Yorke  
Callyn Yorke Biological  
15438 Ensenada Road  
Green Valley CA 91390

Dear Callyn Yorke:

In response to your request on september 22, 2005, a search for occurrences of rare, threatened, endangered, and sensitive animals, plants, and natural communities has been completed by the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) for the following quadrangle(s): **Lancaster East, Lancaster West, Palmdale & Ritter Ridge - (text only).**

Please refer to the enclosed documents for an explanation of the terms and information contained in this computerized report. You will be billed shortly for your order. All of our current CNDDDB lists are now available online at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab>.

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The absence of a special animal, plant, or natural community from the report does not necessarily mean that they are absent from the area in question, only that no