

Mark Hagan
44715 17th Street East
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 723-0086
(661) 433-9956

November 18, 2018

Royal Investors Group, LLC
Attn: Ms. Kris Pinero
15821 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 460
Encino, CA 91436

Dear Ms. Pinero:

Re: Update to the Biological Resources Report for TTM 61678, Avenue K and 57th Street West, Lancaster, California

Development of single-family residences has been proposed for TTM 61678. This parcel includes APNs 3204-009-002, 3204-009-007, 3204-009-044 and 3204-009-045. The approximately 25 acre (10 ha) study area was located east of 57th Street East and south of Avenue K. The purpose of this update was to determine whether the original 2005 report was still valid (Hagan 2005).

A site visit was conducted on 6 November 2018 to update the biological report previously prepared for this property. Weather conditions consisted of warm temperatures (estimated 70 degrees F) and light winds. A total of four random transects were walked in a northeast-southwest orientation. The housing development north of Avenue K and west of 57th Street West has been completed since the 2005 report. In addition, another housing development has been completed along the western boundary of the study area subsequent to the 2005 report.

As noted in the original report, the area was characteristic of a Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) woodland and desert scrub plant community. Vegetation and disturbances were similar to the 2005 survey and report. There has been a small increase in the amount of trash dumping and scattered litter.

Several bird species were observed or are expected to occur that were not noted in the original report. These include the common flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), ladder-backed woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*), mountain bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*), mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), ring-neck dove (*Streptopelia capicola*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), and white crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*). California ground squirrels (*Citellus beecheyi*) and their burrows which provide future potential cover sites for burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) are now present within the study area. No sign of burrowing owl use of these cover sites was observed during this field survey. If

development does not occur prior to February 2019, a burrowing owl survey should be accomplished within 30 days prior to construction activities to ensure burrowing owls are not present during construction activities. If burrowing owls are discovered the guidance outlined in the CDFW 2012 "Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation" should be used for addressing burrowing owl issues on the study site (California Department of Fish and Game 2012). The migratory bird surveys recommended in the 2005 report are still considered a valid protection measure.

No sensitive plant or wildlife species are expected to be present within the study area. The 2005 biological report is considered to still be valid with the addition of the burrowing owl protection measures.

Literature Cited

- California Department of Fish and Game. 2012. Staff report on burrowing owl mitigation. Calif. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Branch, Sacramento, CA. 36pp.
- Hagan, M. 2005. Biological resource assessment of tentative tract number 61678, Lancaster, California. 10pp.

Sincerely,



Mark Hagan
Wildlife Biologist



**Biological Resource Assessment
of Tentative Tract Number 61678
Lancaster, California**

July 14, 2005

APN 3204-009-002, APN 3204-009-007, APN 3204-009-044, APN 3204-009-045

**Mark Hagan, Wildlife Biologist
44715 17th Street East
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 723-0086**

**B.S. Degree, Wildlife Management
Humboldt State University**

Biological Resource Assessment of Tentative Tract Number 61678, Lancaster, California

Mark Hagan, Wildlife Biologist, 44715 17th Street East, Lancaster, CA 93535

Abstract

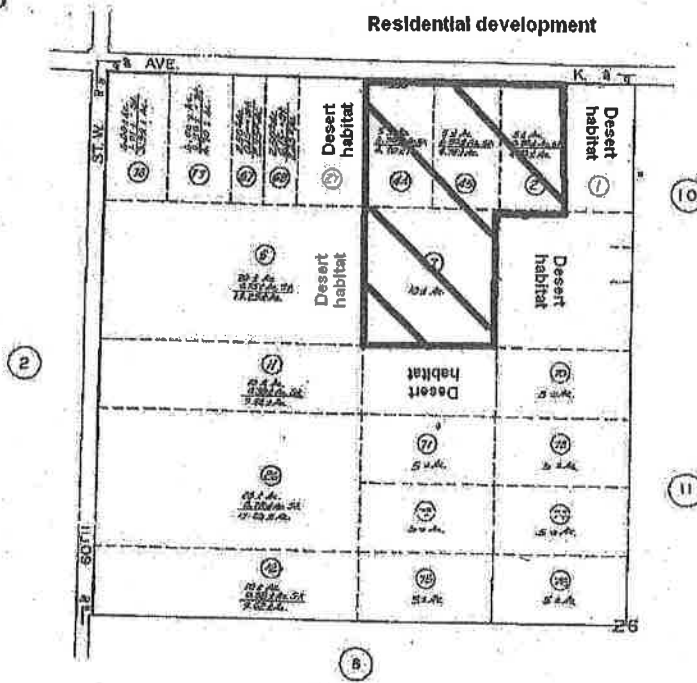
Development of single-family residences has been proposed for Tentative Tract Number 61678. The approximately 25 acre (10 ha) study area is located east of 60th Street West and south of Avenue K, T7N, R13W, N1/2 of the NE1/4 of the NW1/4 and the SW1/4 of the NE1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 26, S.B.B.M. A line transect survey was conducted on 4 July 2005 to inventory biological resources. The study area was characteristic of a Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) woodland and desert scrub plant community. A total of twenty-six plant species and seven wildlife species or their sign were observed during the line transect survey. No desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*) or their sign were observed during the field survey. No burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) or sign were observed during the field survey. Joshua trees located within the study area provide potential nesting sites for migratory birds. If at all possible, construction activities should occur outside the nesting season (spring) for birds. If construction activity will occur during the nesting season, a survey should be conducted within one week prior to removal of the trees. If active bird nests are found, impacts should be avoided unless the proper permits are obtained. The proposed project site was not located within the geographic range of the Mohave ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*). No other state or federally listed species are expected to occur within the proposed project area. This project is not expected to result in a significant adverse impact to biological resources.

Development of single family residences has been proposed for Tentative Tract Number 61678. Development would include installation of paved access roads and utilities (natural gas, water, sewer, electric, telephone). The entire project area would be graded prior to construction activities. Tentative Tract Number 61678 includes APN 3204-009-002, APN 3204-009-007, APN 3204-009-044, and APN 3204-009-045 (Figure 1).

An environmental analysis should be conducted prior to any development project. An assessment of biological resources is an integral part of environmental analyses (Gilbert and Dodds 1987). The purpose of this study was to provide an assessment of biological resources potentially occurring within, or utilizing the proposed project area. Specific focus was on the presence/absence of rare, threatened and endangered species of plants and wildlife.

3204 | 9
SCALE 1" = 400'

1995



CODE
2417

T 7 N, R 13 W

Figure 1. Location of proposed project area as depicted on APN map.

Study Area

The approximately 25 acre (10 ha) study area is located east of 60th Street West and south of Avenue K, T7N, R13W, N1/2 of the NE1/4 of the NW1/4 and the SW1/4 of the NE1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 26, S.B.B.M. (Figure 2). Avenue K formed the northern boundary of the study area. New residential development was under construction immediately north of Avenue K. Desert habitat occurred adjacent to the southern, eastern and western boundaries of the study area.

Methods

A line transect survey was conducted to inventory plant and wildlife species occurring within the proposed project area (Cooperrider et al. 1986, Davis 1990). Line transects were walked in an east-west orientation. Sixteen line transects were approximately 1,320 feet (426 m) long and spaced about 40 feet (13 m) apart (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1990). Sixteen line transects were approximately 660 feet (213 m) long and spaced about 40 feet (13 m) apart (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1990).

All observations of plant and animal species were recorded in field notes. Field guides were used to aid in the identification of plant and animal species (Arnett and Jacques 1981, Borror and White 1970, Burt and Grossenheider 1976, Gould 1981, Jaeger 1969, Knobel 1980, Robbins et al. 1983, Stark 2000). Observations of animal tracks, scat, and burrows were also utilized to determine the presence of wildlife species inhabiting the proposed project area (Cooperrider et al. 1986, Halfpenny 1986, Murie 1974).

Results

A total of thirty-two line transects were walked on 4 July 2005. Weather conditions consisted of warm temperatures (75-80 degrees F), 0% cloud cover, and a slight breeze. A sandy loam surface soil texture was characteristic throughout the study area.

The study area was characteristic of a Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) woodland and desert scrub plant community (Barbour and Major 1988). A total of twenty-six plant species were observed during the line transect survey (Table 1). The dominant shrub species at the study site were rabbit brush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*) and four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*). Vinegar weed (*Trichostema lanceolatum*), schismus (*Schismus* sp.), and red brome (*Bromus rubens*) were the dominant annual species throughout the study area.

With the exception of the extreme northern portion of the study area, Joshua trees were present throughout the site. It was estimated that 80% of the trees were between 6 feet (2 m) and 12 feet (4 m) high.

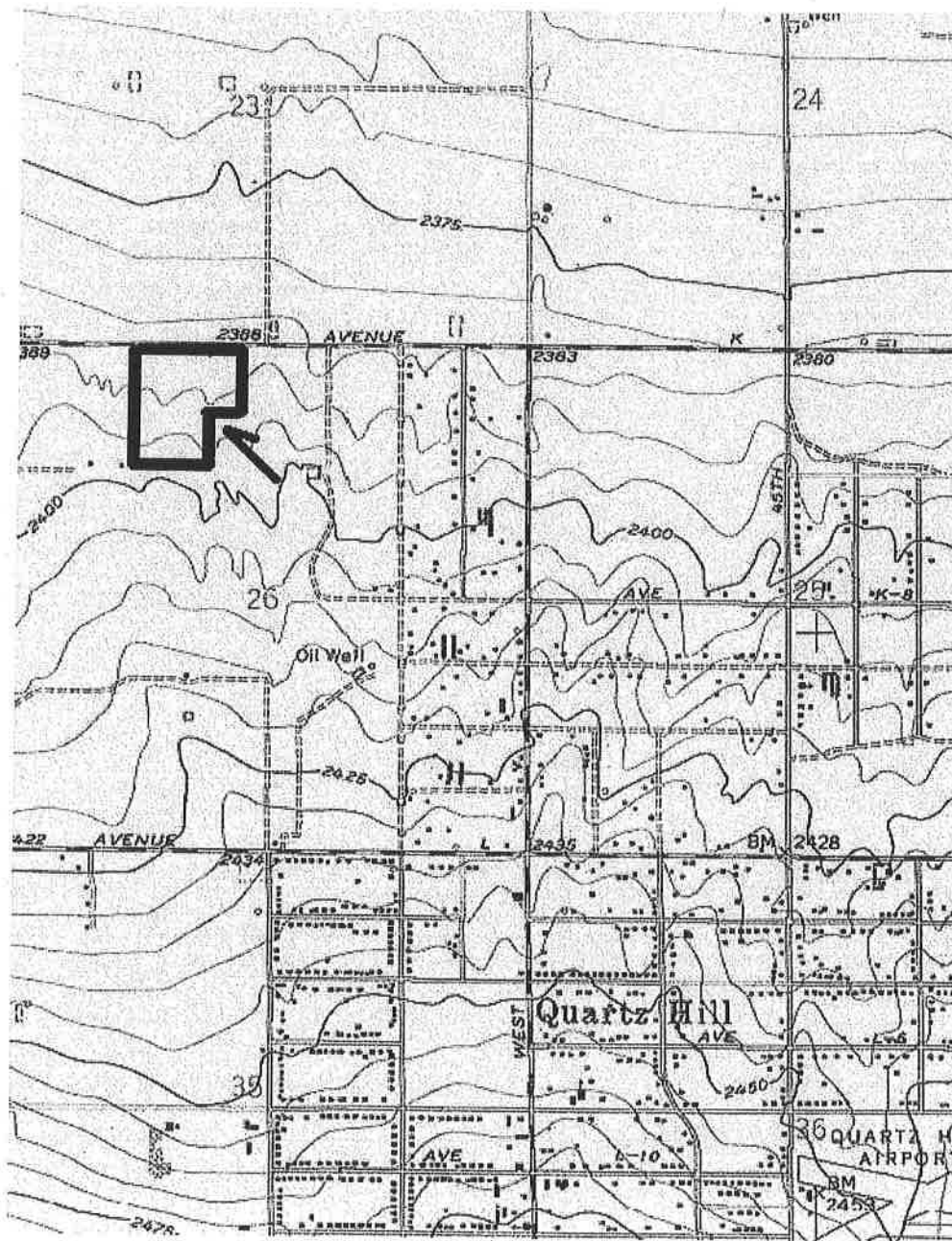


Figure 2. Approximate location of study area as depicted on excerpt from USGS Quadrangle, Lancaster West, California, 7.5' 1974.

Table 1. List of plant species that were observed during the line transect survey of Tentative Tract Number 61678, Lancaster, California.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Joshua tree	<i>Yucca brevifolia</i>
Four-wing saltbush	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>
Allscale	<i>Atriplex polycarpa</i>
Cooper goldenbush	<i>Haplopappus cooperi</i>
Morman tea	<i>Ephedra nevadensis</i>
Anderson thorn	<i>Lycium andersonii</i>
Peachthorn	<i>Lycium cooperi</i>
Rabbit brush	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosis</i>
Thistle sage	<i>Salvia carduacea</i>
Skeleton weed	<i>Eriogonum</i> sp.
Goldfields	<i>Lasthenia californica</i>
Desert straw	<i>Stephanomeria pauciflora</i>
Turkey mullein	<i>Eremocarpus setigerus</i>
Rattlesnake weed	<i>Euphorbia albomarginata</i>
Fiddleneck	<i>Amsinckia tessellata</i>
Common sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>
Nevada blue grass	<i>Poa secunda</i>
Annual burweed	<i>Franseria acanthicarpa</i>
Schismus	<i>Schismus</i> sp.
Red brome	<i>Bromus rubens</i>
Red-stemmed filaree	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>
Foxtail barley	<i>Hordeum leporinum</i>
Russian thistle	<i>Salsola iberica</i>
Tumblemustard	<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>
Tansy mustard	<i>Descurainia sophia</i>
Vinegar weed	<i>Trichostema lanceolatum</i>