

Western Riverside County
Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
Consistency Analysis

FRENCH VALLEY
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT Revision 3

PERMITTEE

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ATTACHMENT A

FRENCH VALLEY DEVELOPMENT BURROWING OWL PROTOCOL SURVEY

1.0 Executive Summary

General biological surveys were conducted on 5/6/19 and 6/13/19 within the proposed French Valley Development site. The 2.47 acres (2.17 acres and 0.3 acres hardscape/landscape) of the project site is located near the City of Winchester and is included in the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation area. None of the MSHCP sensitive plants, habitats or animals were observed.

No federal or state botanical or zoological endangered or threatened species were found within 2.47 acres (2.17 acres and 0.3 acres hardscape/landscape) acre project site areas or 500-foot buffer survey zone where possible.

No wetlands, washes or streams were observed on site therefore no jurisdictional waters of the U. S. (Army Corp of Engineers – Section 404 Clean Water Act or California Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 401) will be impacted.

As a result of the biological resources assessment, it was determined that the following survey was required for project consistency with the MSHCP: Breeding Season Focused Burrowing Owl Surveys (4 site visits) and surveys were performed with no evidence of burrowing owl found on site.

2.0 Introduction

The purpose of this Consistency Analysis (Analysis) report is to summarize the biological data for the proposed French Valley Jack in the Box Project and to document project's consistency with the goals and objectives of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRMSHCP). The project proposes to divide the site into two parcels: Parcel 1 proposes a 2,743 sf Jack in the Box restaurant with a 12-car drive thru stack, and Parcel 2 proposes a 2,104 sf Taco Bell restaurant with a 10-car drive thru stack.

2.1 Project Area

The development consists of 2.47 acres (2.17 acres and 0.3 acres hardscape/landscape) acres located near the southwest corner of the intersection of Benton Road and Highway 79 near the City of Winchester; ± 500 feet southwest of the intersection of State Highway 79, North (Winchester Road) and Benton Road in unincorporated Riverside County, California. T7SR2W SEC 6 SE on the USGS Topographic Maps, 7.5 Minute Series, Bachelor Mountain and Murrieta, California Quadrangles. APN 963-070-02.

The description from the WRMSHCP Cell Number 5778:

Table 1: MSHCP Narrow Endemic and Additional Criteria Area Species

APN#	Amphibia Species	Burrowing Owl	Criteria Area Species	Mammalian Species	Narrow Endemic Plant Species	Special Linkage Area
963-070-052	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No

2.2 Project Description

The subject site is 2.47 acres (2.17 acres and 0.3 acres hardscape/landscape) of undeveloped ruderal vacant land onsite, formerly considered grasslands; 0.17 acres of landscape and 0.13 acres of hardscape (sidewalks and driveways) offsite. The north boundary is Highway 79 with vacant lots north of Highway 79; the east boundary abuts Benton Road with commercial business east of Benton Road; the south boundary abuts a commercial business (Restaurant); on the west is a nursery, Briggs Road and commercial businesses. Map attached.

Onsite	Offsite (hardscape/landscape)
2.17 acres	0.3 acres
Total acres: 2.47	

The subject property is currently a vacant rectangular shaped parcel with no significant topographic features or vegetation, and it is currently undeveloped land.

The project proposes to divide the site into two parcels: Parcel 1 proposes a 2,743 sf Jack in the Box restaurant with a 12-car drive thru stack, and Parcel 2 proposes a 2,104 sf Taco Bell restaurant with a 10-car drive thru stack. Access to the property will be through a shared driveway on Winchester Rd. and through 3 driveways on Briggs Road.

Due to the fact that this site has a Fire Hazard Classification of Very High, the site has long been subjected to the weed abatement requirements of the Riverside County Fire Department for fire prevention purposes, the Non-native grasslands and Burrowing Owl (BUOW) burrowing habitat are removed from the site by mowing or discing in the spring. After mowing or discing, the majority of the site is maintained as bare ground void of vegetation for the remainder of the year and this area would be considered permanently impacted. While the region is considered a California Annual Grassland Alliance, ruderal vegetation prevails on this site.

A HANS Application was submitted to the Riverside County Planning Department because the property is located within the MSHCP Criteria Area. The application is

subject to review in order to determine whether all or part of the property is needed for inclusion in the MSHCP Conservation Area. It was assigned HANS Case No. HAN210006. The Riverside County Parcel Report indicate site is not in a WRMSHCP Cell Group.

Water and sewer services to the project sites will be provided by EMWD, gas service by Southern California Gas, electricity by Southern California Edison, telephone by Verizon, and cable by Time Warner. This project intends to comply with all the development regulations.

2.3 Covered Roads

This project does not include the construction of, or improvements to Covered Roads.

2.4 Covered Public Access Activities

The covered public access uses within the MSHCP Conservation Area will be comprised of trails, facilities, and passive recreational activities. No covered public access activities are included in this project.

2.5 General Setting

The site is vacant and undeveloped with structures at this time. An aerial photograph from 1996 shows that the site was cleared and graded over 20 years ago. The irregularly shaped site is adjacent to Briggs Road. State Highway 79, North (Winchester Road) is located along the site's property line. The local area is experiencing a considerable amount of growth in recent years. The site is surrounded by Moon Valley Nurseries, several fast-food restaurants and commercial buildings.

3.0 Reserve Assembly Analysis

The Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) is a comprehensive, multijurisdictional plan focusing on the conservation of federal and state-listed species, other rare and sensitive species, and their habitats. The MSHCP will enhance and maintain biological diversity and ecosystem processes while allowing future economic growth. Preserving a quality of life characterized by well-managed and well-planned growth integrated with an associated open-space system is a component of the RCIP vision. The MSHCP will result in an MSHCP Conservation Area in excess of 500,000 acres and focuses on Conservation of 146 species and provide for an MSHCP Conservation Area that offers assurances that additional CESA and FESA permits will not be needed for future infrastructure development during the term of the Permit.

Conservation within Cell #5778 will contribute to assembly of Proposed Core 2:

“Proposed Core 2 (Antelope Valley) is located approximately in the southwest region of the Plan Area. This Core Area consists largely of private lands but also contains small pieces of Public/Quasi-Public Lands. Connections from the Core are made through Proposed Constrained Linkages 15 (Lower Warm Springs Creek), 16, 17 (Paloma Valley), and 18. The Core is constrained in all directions by existing agricultural uses and urban Development. Though the Core has one of the highest P/A ratios of all MSHCP proposed or existing Cores, it is highly connected to other MSHCP conserved lands and is located only 1.1 miles from the nearest connected Core, Existing Core J (Lake Skinner/Diamond Valley Lake). This Core provides important Habitat for the Quino checkerspot, which has key populations in this area. This butterfly is restricted by the distribution and availability of its host plants, which in many areas have been replaced by non-native exotic weed species and habitat type conversion. Because of the large number of Covered Activities planned in this area and the constrained condition of the Core, management of edge conditions will be necessary in this area to maintain high quality Habitat for the Quino checkerspot and other species using this Core. Guidelines Pertaining to Urban/Wildlands Interface for the management of edge factors such as lighting, urban runoff, toxics, and domestic predators are presented in Section 6.1 of this document.”

Conservation within this Cell will contribute to assembly of Proposed Core 2. Conservation within this Cell will focus on grassland habitat. Areas conserved within this Cell will be connected to grassland habitat and agricultural land proposed for conservation in Cell Group B' to the west. Conservation within this Cell will be approximately 5% of the Cell focusing in the southwestern portion of the Cell.”

As mentioned above, conservation within this Cell #5778 will be approximately 5% of the Cell focusing on the southwestern portion of the Cell. An unnamed tributary of Warm Springs Creek is located in the southwest corner of Cell #5778 where the proposed conservation within Cell #5778 will contribute to the assembly of Proposed Core 2. The site is located in the northwest portion of the Cell approximately 750 feet north of the proposed Conservation Area. The site does not have a relationship to the assembly of Proposed Core 2. Acreage is available in the southern portion of the Cell to obtain the conservation acreage need for the Cell to be consistent with the MSHCP.

3.1 Public Quasi-Public Lands

3.1.1 Public Quasi-Public Lands in Reserve Assembly Analysis

The limits of work are not adjacent to any Public/Quasi-public Conserved Lands.

3.1.2 Project Impacts to Public Quasi-Public Lands

The site is not located within or along the boundaries of Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Agency Conserved Lands or MSHCP Public/Quasi- Public Conserved Lands and therefore the proposed project will not directly impact Public/Quasi-public Conserved Lands.

4.0 Vegetation Mapping

4.1 Methods

Barrett's Biological Surveys Senior Biologists Glenna Barrett and Marie Barrett conducted a general plant and wildlife survey and mapped vegetation on May 25, 26 and June 30, July 1, 2021, with pedestrian transects. Vegetation was mapped within the project limits of work and wildlife potential was assessed within a 500-foot buffer around the limits of work. Representative photographs are attached. Prior to the survey, a literature review was conducted to identify special status plants, wildlife, and habitats that have been reported to occur in the project region. Resources reviewed included the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2021), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) California Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2021), and previous reports for the project area.

Table 2: Vegetation

Vegetative Communities	Acres
Disturbed vacant lot with ruderal vegetation	Approximately 2.17 acres

Vegetation has been divided into communities that are groups of plants that usually coexist within the same area. This area is considered Southern California Mountains and Valleys which is found in the California Coastal Range Shrub-Forest Meadow ecological series. (A Manual of California Vegetation, 2009, Sawyer/Wolf) and classified as California Annual Grassland Alliance.

Developed or disturbed lands consist of areas that have been disked, cleared, or otherwise altered. Developed lands may include roadways, existing buildings, and structures. Disturbed lands may include ornamental plantings for landscaping, escaped exotics, or ruderal vegetation dominated by nonnative, weedy species such as mustard (*Brassica* sp.) and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) (County of Riverside 2003). The extent of Non-native grasslands growing on the site depends on the time of year. Common and widespread non-native annual grasses and weeds emerge on the site surface after the rainy season. They invade disturbed areas and form a rather dense cover. As the site has long been subjected to the weed abatement requirements of the Riverside County Fire Department for fire prevention purposes, the Non-native grasslands are removed from the site by mowing or discing in the spring. After mowing or discing, the majority of the site is maintained as bare ground void of vegetation for the remainder of the year.

Before mowing or discing, the site supports typical Non-native grasslands dominated by non-native species, including a limited mix of native forb species.

Table 3: Botanical Species Observed on or Near Site

BOTANICAL SPECIES OBSERVED ON OR NEAR SITE		
Common name	Scientific name	CNPS Classification
		Cal Exotic Pest Plant
Russian thistle (onsite)	<i>Salsola spp.</i>	C
Sunflower (onsite)	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	None
Datura (onsite)	<i>Datura wrightii</i>	Poisonous
Lambsquarters (offsite)	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	None
Prostrate pigweed (offsite)	<i>Amaranthus albus</i>	None
Creeping saltbush (onsite)	<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>	Invasive (Moderate)
Shortpod Mustard	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Invasive (Moderate)
Residential vegetation (offsite)	<i>various</i>	None

5.0 Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools (Section 6.1.2)

Section 6.1.2 the MSHCP provides for protection for Riparian/Riverine areas, vernal pools, and associated species.

5.1 Riparian/Riverine

As defined by Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP, Riparian/Riverine areas are “lands which contain habitat dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergent, or emergent mosses and lichens, which occur close to or which depend upon soil moisture from a nearby fresh water source; or areas with fresh water flow during all or a portion of the year.

5.1.1 Methods

The proposed project limits of work were assessed for the presence of Riparian/Riverine areas concurrently with pedestrian transects vegetation mapping on May 25, 26 and June 30, July 1, 2021. Wildlife species detected during the course of the surveys were documented in field notes. Birds were identified by visual and auditory recognition. Surveys for mammals were conducted during the day and included searching for and identifying diagnostic sign, including scat, footprints, scratch-outs, dust bowls, burrows, and trails. Technical sources are listed in Works Referenced.

5.1.2 Existing Conditions and Results

Riparian/riverine areas as “lands which contain habitat dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, or emergent mosses and lichens, which occur close to or which depend upon soil moisture from a nearby fresh water source; or areas with fresh water flow during all or a portion of the year.” During pedestrian surveys of the areas, Riparian/Riverine areas as defined by the MSHCP were not found to be present within the area of the Project.

5.1.3 Impacts

No riparian/riverine areas are not found on site; no impacts are expected.

5.1.4 Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

5.2 Vernal Pools

As defined by Section 6.1.2 the MSHCP, vernal pools are “seasonal wetlands that occur in depression areas that have wetlands indicators of all three parameters (soils, vegetation, and hydrology) during the wetter portion of the growing season but normally lack wetlands indicators of hydrology and/or vegetation during the drier portion of the growing season.

5.2.1 Methods

The proposed project limits of work were assessed for the presence of vernal pools concurrently with pedestrian transect site visits on May 25, 26 and June 30, July 1, 2021.

5.2.2 Existing Conditions and Results

Soil series include 84.0% MmB:Monserate sandy loam, 0-5% slopes and 16.0% MmC2: Monserate sandy loam, 5-8% slopes. Monserate series is a member of the fine-loamy, mixed thermic family and typically have brown and yellowish red, slightly acid, sandy loam A horizons, reddish brown, neutral, sandy clam loam B2t horizons underlain by silica-cemented duripans. Soils are moderately well to well drained. When used for agriculture, crops are planted principally for growing grain, grain hay or pasture, some citrus, and field and truck crops when irrigation water is available. The soil profile indicates moderately well to well drained; therefore, no vernal pools would be expected. Vernal pools are depressions in areas where a hard underground layer prevents rainwater from draining downward into the subsoils. Vernal pools, vernal swales, alkali scalds or flats, or other seasonal wet habitats were not identified during field surveys

conducted by biologists. The survey area lacks suitable habitat for Riverside fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, Santa Rosa Plateau fairy shrimp, or other vernal pool species (including plants). These species are absent from the survey area.

Additional MSHCP objectives reviewed for consistency during the survey included Section 6.1. 2. Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools. No evidence of vernal pools or other wetland features were recorded on site. Vernal pools are depressions in areas where a hard underground layer prevents rainwater from draining downward into the subsoils. When rain fills the pools in the winter and spring, the water collects and remains in the depressions. In the springtime the water gradually evaporates away, until the pools became completely dry in the summer and fall. Vernal pools tend to have an impermeable layer that results in ponded water. The soil texture (the amount of sand, silt, and clay particles) typically contains higher amounts of fine silts and clays with lower percolation rates. Pools that retain water for a sufficient length of time will develop hydric cells. Hydric cells form when the soil is saturated from flooding for extended periods of time and anaerobic conditions (lacking oxygen or air) develop. None of these conditions (i.e., no depressions, hydric soils, etc.) were observed on site and all soils are mapped that don't retain water. No features are present that would support fairy shrimp. No standing water or other sign of areas that pond water (e.g., mud cracks, tire ruts, drainages) were recorded. No riparian/ riverine areas suitable habitat to support riparian-associated birds is present on site.

No potential ponding features were observed within the proposed project limits of work. Therefore, vernal pools do not occur within the proposed project limits of work.

5.2.3 Impacts

No vernal pools were observed; no impacts are expected.

5.2.4 Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

5.3 Fairy Shrimp

Section 6.1.2 the MSHCP requires an assessment of suitable habitat for Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), Santa Rosa Plateau fairy shrimp (*Linderiella santarosae*), and vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*). Riverside fairy shrimp are generally found only in natural and created pools that are deep (greater than 30 centimeters) (Hathaway and Simovich 1996). Development and maturation are much slower in this species than other fairy shrimp, with an average of seven to eight weeks to full maturity (Hathaway and Simovich 1996). Due to this slow development, the minimum duration for inundation of a pool that can support Riverside fairy shrimp is nine to ten weeks (Gonzalez et al. 1996; Hathaway and Simovich 1996). Santa Rosa Plateau fairy shrimp are restricted to the grassland pools of the Santa Rosa Plateau (Eriksen and Belk 1999). These are southern basalt flow vernal pools that range in size from 25

to just over 100,000 square meters in area. Vernal pool fairy shrimp are usually found in small and shallow vernal pools, although they are sometimes found in a range of natural and artificially created ephemeral habitats such as alkali pools, seasonal drainages, stock ponds, vernal swales, and rock outcrops (USFWS 2005). They occur in alluvial fans, bedrock, bedrock escarpments, basin rim, floodplain, high terrace, stream terrace, volcanic mudflow, and low terrace formations (USFWS 2005).

5.3.1 Methods

The proposed project limits of work were assessed for the presence of ponding features (e.g., road ruts, depressions) that may support vernal pool branchiopods (i.e., fairy shrimp) concurrently with pedestrian transect site visits on May 25, 26 and June 30, July 1, 2021.

5.3.2 Existing Conditions and Results

No potential ponding features were observed within the proposed project limits of work. Therefore, fairy shrimp are not expected to occur within the proposed project limits of work.

5.3.3 Impacts

No ponding features or fairy shrimp are expected; therefore, no impacts are expected.

5.3.4 Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

5.4 Riparian Birds

Section 6.1.2 the MSHCP requires an assessment of suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and western, yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*).

5.4.1 Methods

The proposed project limits of work were assessed for the presence of special-status species concurrently with pedestrian transect site visits on May 25, 26 and June 30, July 1, 2021.

The following vegetation types were not found on site: southern cottonwood–willow riparian scrub, southern sycamore riparian woodland (canopy and understory), blue elderberry, mulefat scrub, alluvial scrub, open wash, and developed. Southern cottonwood–willow riparian scrub, southern sycamore riparian woodland (canopy and

understory), blue elderberry, and mulefat scrub does not occur within the project limits of work. No vegetation is found on site that would support riparian birds.

5.4.2. Existing Conditions and Results

Table 4: Riparian Birds

Special-Status Species	Status	Potential for Occurrence/Focused Surveys	Focused Survey Required
Least Bell 's vireo	Focused Surveys if habitat found	No suitable habitat; no thickets. Not expected	No
Southwestern willow flycatcher	Focused Surveys if habitat found	No suitable habitat; no water on site. Not expected	No
Western yellow-billed cuckoo	Focused Surveys if habitat found	No suitable habitat; no dense cover.	No

5.3.3 Impacts

No impacts expected.

5.4.4 Mitigation

No mitigation required.

5.5 Other Section 6.1.2 Species

The site is not providing suitable habitats for species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species. Spring annuals provide temporary habitat for opportunistic species that inhabit and forage in environments altered by humans, but there is no permanent live-in habitat present on the site after the Non-native grasslands are removed for fire prevention purposes in the spring. After the Non-native grasslands are removed, there are no natural food sources, water resources or places to take refuge on this site to provide suitable habitats for resident and/or migratory species.

The disturbed Monserate sandy loams are not providing required growing habitats for candidate, sensitive or special status plant species that are restricted to clay and saline-alkali soils.

6.0 Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species (Section 6.1.3)

Based on Figure 6-1 of the MSHCP, the site is located within Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area 4. The six Narrow Endemic Plant Species listed for Survey Area 4 include Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*), San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*), many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*), spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*), California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*), and Wright's trichocoronis (*Trichocoronis wrightii* var. *wrightii*).

6.1 Methods

The proposed project limits of work were assessed for the presence of narrow endemic plant species concurrently with pedestrian transect site visits on May 25, 26 and June 30, July 1, 2021.

6.2 Existing Conditions and Results

Table 5 MSHCP Narrow Endemic and Additional Criteria Area Species

Special-Status Species	Status	Potential for Occurrence/Focused Surveys	Focused Survey Required
San Diego ambrosia	Narrow Endemic Plant Species (NEPS)	No suitable habitat; no vernal pools. Not expected	No
Munz's onion	NEPS	No clay soils for habitat. Not expected	No
Many-stemmed dudleya	NEPS	Dry stony areas favored for habitat. Not expected	No
Spreading navarretia	NEPS	No suitable habitat; no vernal pools. Not expected	No
California Orcutt grass	NEPS	No suitable habitat; no vernal pools. All known occurrences are associated with vernal pools. Not expected	No
Wright's trichocoronis	NEPS	No suitable habitat; no vernal pools. Not expected	No

6.3 Impacts

No impacts expected.

6.4 Mitigation

No mitigation required.

7.0 Additional Survey Needs and Procedures (Section 6.3.2)

7.1 Criteria Area Plant Species

The proposed project limits of work were assessed for the presence of narrow endemic plant species concurrently with pedestrian transect site visits on May 25, 26 and June 30, July 1, 2021.

Table 6 Criteria Area Species

Special-Status Species	Status	Potential for Occurrence/Focused Surveys	Focused Survey Required
Davidson's saltscale	Criteria Area Species (CAS)	No suitable coastal habitat. Not expected	No
Parish's brittlebush	CAS	No suitable habitat; not an alkali sink or wetland. Not expected.	No
Thread-leaved brodiaea	CAS	No suitable habitat; no vernal pools.	No
Smooth tarplant	CAS	No suitable habitat; no vernal pools. Not expected	No
Round-leaved filaree	CAS	No clay soils for habitat. Not expected	No
Coulter's Goldfields	CAS	No suitable habitat; no vernal pools. Not expected	No
Little mousetail	CAS	No suitable habitat; no vernal pools. Not expected	No
Mud nama	CAS	No suitable habitat; no vernal pools. Not expected	No

No impacts or mitigation expected.

7.3 Burrowing Owl

The proposed project falls within the mapped survey area for burrowing owl. Due to the presence of suitable and critical burrowing owl habitats, a Nesting Season Survey for

the Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*) was completed at the site. Four nesting season surveys were conducted between May 25 and June 30, 2021, and followed the Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area (March 29, 2006).

7.3.1 Methods

Suitable burrowing owl habitats were carefully surveyed for the presence/absence of the burrowing owl. Thorough searches were conducted during morning and evening hours in an attempt to directly observe this species or discover diagnostic sign and followed

MSHCP Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment/Focused Surveys

The Project Site occurs within an MSHCP burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) survey area and a habitat assessment was conducted for the species to ensure compliance with MSHCP guidelines for the species. In accordance with the MSHCP Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions (2006), survey protocol consists of two steps, Step I – Habitat Assessment and Step II – Locating Burrows and Burrowing Owls. The following section describes the approach to conducting the habitat assessment.

Step I – Habitat Assessment

Step 1 of the MSHCP habitat assessment for burrowing owl consists of a walking survey to determine if suitable habitat is present onsite. The habitat assessment on (date here). Upon arrival at the Project Site, and prior to initiating the assessment survey, binoculars were used to scan all suitable habitats on and adjacent to the property, including perch locations, to ascertain owl presence.

All suitable areas of the Project Site were surveyed on foot by walking slowly and methodically while recording/mapping areas that may represent suitable owl habitat onsite. Primary indicators of suitable burrowing owl habitat in western Riverside County include, but are not limited to, native and non-native grassland, interstitial grassland within shrub lands, shrub lands with low density shrub cover, golf courses, drainage ditches, earthen berms, unpaved airfields, pastureland, dairies, fallow fields, and agricultural use areas. Burrowing owls typically use burrows made by fossorial mammals, such as ground squirrels (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) or badgers (*Taxidea taxus*), but they often utilize man-made structures, such as earthen berms, cement culverts, cement, asphalt, rock, wood debris piles, openings beneath cement or asphalt pavement. Burrowing owls are often found within, under, or in close proximity to man-made structures.

According to the MSHCP guidelines, if suitable habitat is present, the biologist should also walk the perimeter of the property, which consists of a 150-meter (approximately 500 feet) buffer zone around the Project Site boundary. If permission to access the buffer area cannot be obtained, the biologist shall not trespass, but visually inspect adjacent habitats with binoculars. In addition to surveying the entire Project Site all bordering natural habitats located immediately adjacent to the Project Site were assessed. Results from the habitat assessment indicate that suitable resources for

burrowing owl are present throughout the Project Site. Accordingly, if suitable habitat is documented onsite or within adjacent habitats, both Step II, focused surveys and the 30-day preconstruction surveys are required in order to comply with the MSHCP guidelines.

Step II – Locating Burrows and Burrowing Owls

Concurrent with the initial habitat assessment, a detailed focused burrow survey was conducted and included documentation of appropriately sized natural burrows or suitable man-made structures that may be utilized by burrowing owl - as part of the MSHCP protocol, which is described below under Part A. Focused Burrow Survey. The MSHCP protocol indicated that no more than 100 acres should be surveyed per day/per biologist.

Part A: Focused Burrow Survey

A systematic survey for burrows, including burrowing owl sign, was conducted by walking across all suitable habitats mapped within the Project Site on (date). Pedestrian survey transects were spaced to allow 100% visual coverage of the ground surface. The distances between transect centerlines were no more than 10-15 meters (approximately 30-45 ft.) apart, and owing to the terrain, often much smaller. Transect routes were also adjusted to account for topography and in general ground surface visibility. All observations of suitable burrows or dens, natural or man-made, or sightings of burrowing owl, were recorded and mapped during the survey.

Step II of the Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions.

The methodology used to prepare this Nesting Season Survey involved conducting complete visual and walk-over field surveys. Surveys were conducted by slowly walking through suitable habitats on the site and in the buffer zone. The survey transects were spaced to allow 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface. Because topography throughout the site is basically flat-lying and featureless, the distance between transect center lines was approximately 10-15 meters (\pm 30-45 feet) which were walked by two qualified biologists.

Four surveys were conducted between May 25 and July 1, 2021. All surveys were conducted during weather that was conducive to observing burrowing owls outside of their burrows and detecting burrowing owl sign. Surveys were not conducted during rain, high winds (> 20 mph), dense fog, or temperatures over 90°F. They were not conducted within five days of rain.

Burrowing Owl (BUOW) surveys of approximately 2.47 acres (2.17 acres and 0.3 acres hardscape/landscape) and a 500 foot buffer area was surveyed (where possible); private property was surveyed by binoculars. Survey was conducted by Glenna Barrett, and Marie Barrett, biologists in a 30-45 foot transect pedestrian survey across the project (4 transects).

7.3.2 Existing Conditions and Results

Table 7: Survey Dates

Date	May 25, 2021	May 26, 2021	June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021
Time/climate	1730-1835; 81-82°F 55% cloud cover/10 mph No rain within 5 days	0722-0800 63- 65°F 100% cloud cover /0- 3 mph No rain within 5 days	1715-1800; 88-90°F Clear/12 mph No rain within 5 days	0730-0915; 65-67°F Clear/0-5 mph No rain within 5 days
Biologists	Marie Barrett/Glenna Barrett	Glenna Barrett/Marie Barrett	Glenna Barrett/Marie Barrett	Marie Barrett/Glenna Barrett
Total hours	2 hours	1 hour	1.5 hours	1.5 hours

Location is north side of Briggs Road, approximately 500 feet southwest of the intersection of State Highway 79, North (Winchester Road) and Benton Road in unincorporated Riverside County, California. Recorded lot size total 2.17 acres. The parcel mapped in portions of Section 6, Township 7 South and Range 2 West on the USGS Topographic Maps, 7.5 Minute Series, Bachelor Mountain and Murrieta, California Quadrangles.

Topography/ Hydrography

Topography throughout the site is basically flat-lying and featureless. It is the direct result of previous mass grading and decades of weed abatement plowing and discing for fire prevention purposes. The site slopes downward in a general north-to-south direction.

Natural watercourses of any kind are not present on the site (e.g., perennial or intermittent blue-line streams, ephemeral drainages, historical drainages, etc.). Therefore, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board jurisdictional waters of the United States or adjacent wetlands and/or associated habitat are not present on the site. Similarly, California Department of Fish and Wildlife jurisdictional waters of the State, wetlands or jurisdictional wildlife habitat are not present on the site.

Drainage on the site is by overland flow or downslope movement of storm water runoff (sheet flow) originating on higher elevated areas located in the northern portions of the site.

Soils

Review of the "Soil Survey of Western Riverside Area, California" revealed that the soils on the site are included in the Monserate-Arlington-Exeter Association (Soils of the

Southern California Coastal Plain). Within this association, one soil type was mapped on the site: MmB – Monserate sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes

Vegetation

The extent of Non-native grasslands growing on the site depends on the time of year. Common and widespread non-native annual grasses and weeds emerge on the site surface after the rainy season. They invade disturbed areas and form a rather dense cover. As the site has long been subjected to the weed abatement requirements of the Riverside County Fire Department for fire prevention purposes, the Non-native grasslands are removed from the site by mowing or discing in the spring. After mowing or discing, the majority of the site is maintained as bare ground void of vegetation for the remainder of the year.

Before mowing or discing, the site supports typical Non-native grasslands dominated by non-native species, including a limited mix of native forb species.

No vegetation was found that would be considered endangered, threatened or species of concern

Vegetation has been divided into communities that are groups of plants that usually coexist within the same area. This area is considered Southern California Mountains and Valleys which is found in the California Coastal Range Shrub-Forest Meadow ecological series. (A Manual of California Vegetation, 2009, Sawyer/Wolf) and classified as California Annual Grassland Alliance.

Table 8: Vegetation

Vegetative Communities	Acres
Disturbed vacant lot with ruderal vegetation non-native grass	2.47 acres (2.17 acres and 0.3 acres hardscape/landscape)

Developed or disturbed lands consist of areas that have been disked, cleared, or otherwise altered. Developed lands may include roadways, existing buildings, and structures. Disturbed lands may include ornamental plantings for landscaping, escaped exotics, or ruderal vegetation dominated by nonnative, weedy species such as mustard (*Brassica* sp.) and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) (County of Riverside 2003).

Table 9: Botanical Species Observed On Or Near Site

BOTANICAL SPECIES OBSERVED ON OR NEAR SITE		
Common name	Scientific name	CNPS Classification
		Cal Exotic Pest Plant
Russian thistle (onsite)	<i>Salsola spp.</i>	C
Sunflower (onsite)	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	None
Datura (onsite)	<i>Datura wrightii</i>	Poisonous
Lambsquarters (offsite)	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	None
Prostrate pigweed (offsite)	<i>Amaranthus albus</i>	None
Creeping saltbush (onsite)	<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>	Invasive (Moderate)
Shortpod Mustard	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Invasive (Moderate)
Residential vegetation (offsite)	<i>various</i>	None

Wildlife Species Observed

Wildlife is not found to be abundant nor diverse at the site. The primary vegetation is ruderal with a few spring annuals that could provide brief, temporary habitat for species that inhabit and forage in altered environments but there are no signs of consistent favorable habitat present on the site after the Non- native grasslands are removed for fire prevention purposes in the spring. The few species observed include mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), cabbage butterfly (*Pieris rapae*) and crickets (unknown).

Four site visits to survey were conducted to determine the presence/absence of Western Burrowing Owl, *Athene cunicularia hypugaea*, using procedures found in Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area.

Survey Step One: Habitat Suitability For Burrowing Owls/Focused Burrow Survey

BUOW is a small, pale, buffy brown owl that nests in borrowed burrows. The entrances to burrows often have bits of animal dung, prey carcasses, feathers, and litter, among other objects. Up to 12 eggs are laid, primarily from February to May. Burrowing owl habitats can be found in shortgrass prairies, annual and perennial grasslands, lowland scrub, agricultural lands and rangelands, prairies, coastal dunes, deserts, scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation, and some artificial areas such as landfills, airports, golf courses, cemeteries, and water conveyance structures (ditches, drains). To hunt for prey, large open expanses of sparsely vegetated areas on gentle rolling or

level terrain are required. Critical habitat features require the use of rodent or other burrows for nesting. Burrows are an critical component of burrowing owl habitats along with a prey source. Natural burrows and manmade structures provide protection, shelter and nests for burrowing owls.

Mounds of loose dirt pushed to the surface indicated the presence of Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) and California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*). Presence of burrows on site indicated the necessity of a Focused Burrowing Owl Survey and three more site visits were done.

Burrowing Owl (BUOW) surveys of approximately 2.17 acres and a 500 foot buffer area was surveyed (where possible); private property was surveyed by binoculars. Survey was conducted by Glenna Barrett, and Marie Barrett, biologists in a 30 foot transect pedestrian survey across the project (4 transects).

The site is located within the Burrowing Owl (BUOW) Survey Area. As the site and buffer zone were providing suitable habitats, a Nesting Season Survey was undertaken. Four BUOW surveys were conducted between May 25 and June 30, 2021. During the 2021 nesting season surveys, burrowing owls were not observed. Critical burrowing owl habitats capable of being used for roosting or nesting were not being used. And, animal signs diagnostic of BUOW such as flushed owls, pellets, feathers, whitewash. tracks or decorations were not discovered anywhere on the site or in the buffer zone. There was no evidence of either active habitats presently being used by burrowing owls, or habitats abandoned within the last three years. Previous site surveys performed between March 3 and April 1, 2016 (Principe and Associates) and May 6 and June 13, 2019 (Barrett's Biological Surveys) did not find flushed owls, pellets, feathers, whitewash. tracks or decorations.

Focused Burrowing Owl Survey

Burrowing owls or their diagnostic signs were not observed during any of the surveys.

The locations of critical burrowing owl habitats present on the site (e.g., natural burrows) have been overlaid on a map. The locations of the survey transects have also been overlaid on this map, attached. Photographs have been taken showing suitable and critical burrowing owl habitats at various locations along the survey transect, attached.

During the 2021 nesting season surveys, burrowing owls were not observed. Critical burrowing owl habitats capable of being used for roosting or nesting were not being used (e.g., natural burrows). During the 2021 nesting season surveys, burrowing owls or typical signs such as molted feathers, cast pellets, prey remains, eggshell fragments, and/or decorations at or near a burrow entrance were not observed. Critical burrowing owl habitats capable of being used for nesting were not being used (e.g., natural burrows). There was no evidence of either active habitats presently being used by burrowing owls, or habitats abandoned within the last three years.

The completion of this Nesting Season Survey is consistent with Species Conservation Objective 5/6 of the MSHCP that was developed for the burrowing owl.

7.3.3 Impacts

Habitat provided by ground squirrel burrows that could be utilized by BUOW were found on site. These burrows are routinely disced out for fire suppression and therefore are sporadically available for use. No signs of BUOW were observed from 2016 through 2021 during three separate site surveys.

7.3.4 Mitigation

A 30-day pre-construction survey for burrowing owls is required prior to initial ground-disturbing activities (e.g. vegetation clearing, clearing and grubbing, tree removal, site watering) to ensure that no owls have colonized the site in the days or weeks preceding the ground-disturbing activities. If burrowing owls have colonized the project site prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, the project proponent will immediately inform the Wildlife Agencies and the Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), and will need to coordinate further with RCA and the Wildlife Agencies, including the possibility of preparing a Burrowing Owl Protection and Relocation Plan, prior to initiating ground disturbance. If ground-disturbing activities occur but the site is left undisturbed for more than 30 days, a pre-construction survey will again be necessary to ensure burrowing owl has not colonized the site since it was last disturbed. If burrowing owl is found, the same coordination described above will be necessary.

7.4 Mammals

The site is not located in an area where additional surveys are needed for Amphibian and Mammal Species in conjunction with MSHCP implementation in order to achieve coverage for these species.

7.4.1 Methods

Not applicable

7.4.2 Existing Conditions and Results

Not applicable

7.4.3 Impacts

Not applicable

7.4.4 Mitigation

Not applicable

8.0 INFORMATION ON OTHER SPECIES

8.1 Delhi Sands Flower Loving Fly

Soils conducive to Delhi Sands Flower Loving Fly are not present.

8.1.2 Existing Conditions and Results

Not applicable

8.1.3 Impacts

Not applicable

8.1.4 Mitigation

Not applicable

8.2 Species Not Adequately Conserved

The site is not providing suitable habitats for species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species. Spring annuals provide temporary habitat for opportunistic species that inhabit and forage in environments altered by humans, but there is no permanent live-in habitat present on the site after the Non-native grasslands are removed for fire prevention purposes in the spring. After the Non-native grasslands are removed, there are no natural food sources, water resources or places to take refuge on this site to provide suitable habitats for resident and/or migratory species.

The disturbed Monserate sandy loams are not providing required growing habitats for candidate, sensitive or special status plant species that are restricted to clay and saline-alkali soils.

9.0 Guidelines Pertaining to The Urban/Wildlands Interface (Section 6.1.4)

The site does not have a relationship to the assembly of Proposed Core 2. Future development at the site will not result in edge effects that will adversely affect the maintenance of high quality Habitat for the species using Proposed Core 2. The site is not located within the 250-foot buffer used in the MSHCP to complete an edge analysis for indirect effects of land uses located adjacent to a MSHCP Conservation Area.

Therefore, the projects will not be subject to all of the Guidelines Pertaining to the Urban/Wildlands Interface for the management of edge conditions as presented in *Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP, Volume 1, The Plan*.

10.0 Best Management Practices

Final design of the project will also consider and comply with the applicable NPDES Supplement. Construction best management practices (BMPs) for the management of storm water and non-stormwater discharges shall be documented on the Grading Plan which thereby becomes the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. BMPs will also be used to ensure that siltation and erosion are minimized during construction and will be incorporated into the final design of the project in order to ensure that water quality is not degraded. Regular maintenance of the proposed BMPs will be provided by the project proponent to ensure effective operations of runoff control systems. No disturbed surfaces will be left without erosion control measures in place from October 1 through April 15.

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**FIGURE 1
PROJECT MAP**

WINCHESTER ROAD HIGHWAY 79

7,300 SF
LANDSCAPE 3,567 SF (.08 AC)
HARDSCAPE 3,733 SF (.08 AC)

EXCEPTION (1) - EASEMENT TO
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE FOR PUBLIC
ROAD AND DRAINAGE REC. MAY 16,
1991, INSTRUMENT NO. 163973 O.R.

NOT A PART
SHOW FOR REFERENCE
ONLY

USE: NURSERY
ZONE: SP, CZ NUMBER 7806
APN: 963-070-056

2,104 SF
DRIVE
THROUGH
RESTAURANT

Jack
In the Box
MK108
2,743 SF
55 SEATS

94,330 SF
2.17 AC

BRIGGS ROAD

LANDSCAPE 4,284 SF (.09 AC)
DRIVEWAYS 2,308 SF (.05 AC)
(E) SIDEWALK

ZONE: I-P
APN: 963-070-054

NOT A PART
SHOW FOR REFERENCE
ONLY

EXCEPTION (3) - ONE ROD (16.5)
WIDTH EASEMENT TO SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA GAS CO. REC. JUNE 24,
1949 IN BOOK 1087, PAGE 124 O.R.

EXCEPTION (4) - 30' SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA GAS CO. REC. JULY 25,
1958 ON BOOK 2307, PAGE 118 O.R.

ZONE: I-P
APN: 963-070-012

MAGDAS
COLORADOS

SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 30' - 0"

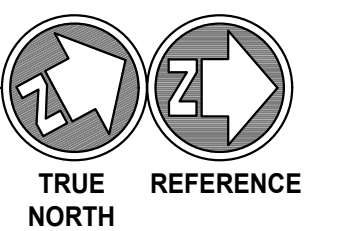
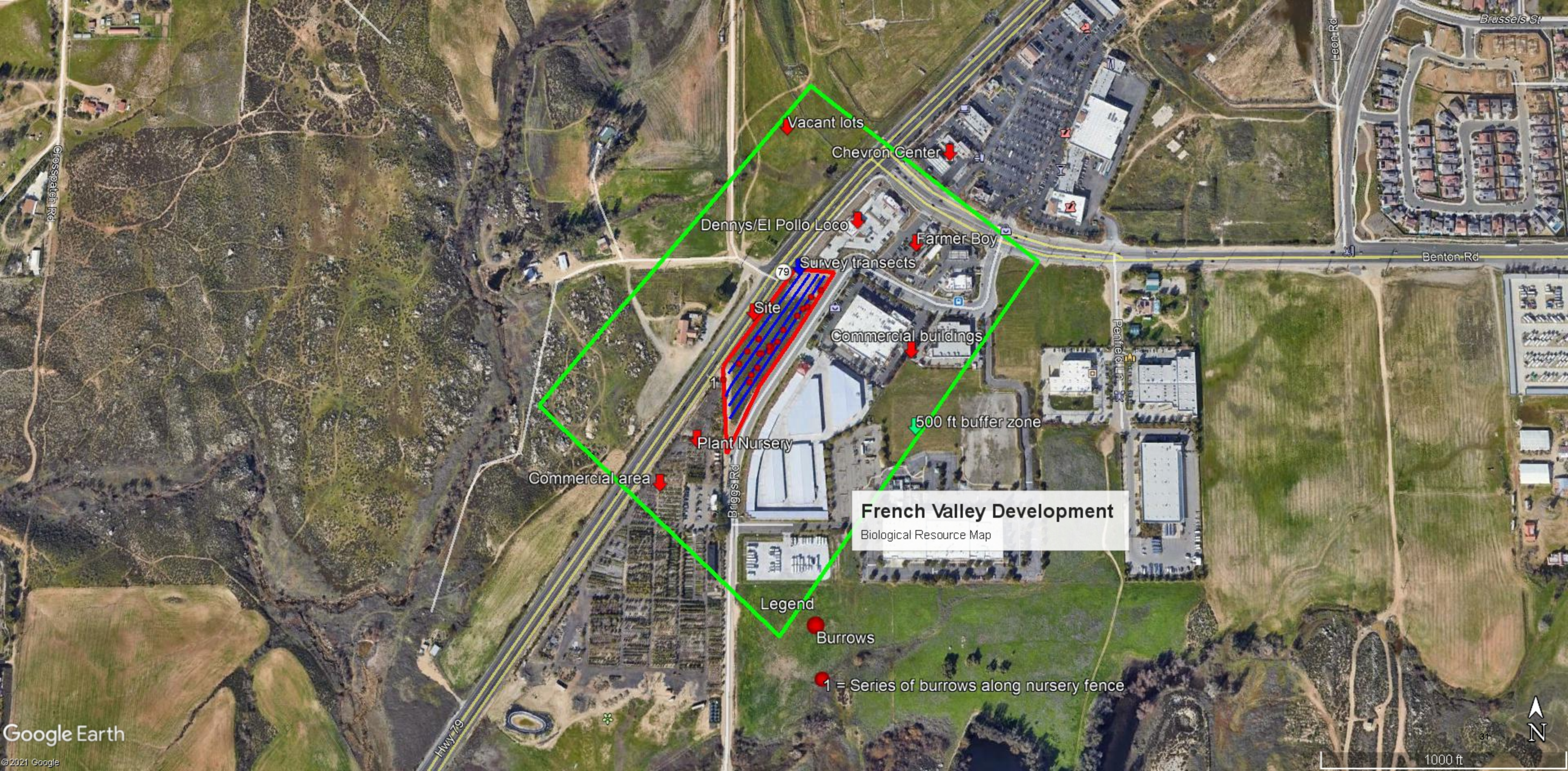


FIGURE 2
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES MAP



Vacant lots

Chevron Center

Dennys/El Pollo Loco

Farmer Boy

Survey transects

Site

Commercial buildings

500 ft buffer zone

Plant Nursery

Commercial area

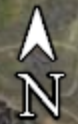
French Valley Development

Biological Resource Map

Legend

Burrows

1 = Series of burrows along nursery fence



**FIGURE 3
PROJECT VEGETATION**

PHOTOGRAPHS



1. Non native grass and ruderal vegetation community on Site looking west toward Nursery 5/25/21



2. Non native grass and ruderal vegetation community Project site looking west toward Nursery after fuel reduction discing 6/30/21

**FIGURE 4
SOILS MAP**

Soil Map—Western Riverside Area, California



Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Map Scale: 1:1,620 if printed on A portrait (8.5" x 11") sheet.



Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 11N WGS84



ATTACHMENT A

FRENCH VALLEY
DEVELOPMENT
BURROWING OWL
PROTOCOL SURVEY

Riverside County, CA

PERMITTEE

DMSD Property LLC
41760 Ivy St. Suite 201
Murrieta CA 92562

APPLICANT:

Marks Architects
Gabriela Marks
2643 4th Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103

CONSULTANT:

Barrett's Biological Surveys
Certified as performed in accordance with
established MSHCP biological practices by:



Marie S. Barrett, Biologist
2035 Forrester Road
El Centro, Ca 92243
760.427.7006

July, 2021

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SURVEY SUMMARY

The French Valley Development site is located within the Burrowing Owl Survey Area of the MSHCP. Therefore, an separate assessment was made for the presence of suitable burrowing owl habitats on the site and in a 150-meter buffer zone around the project boundary. It was determined that the site and the buffer zone did providing suitable burrowing owl habitats consisting of annual non native grassland on relatively level terrain with active small mammal burrows. Critical habitat features suitable of being used for nesting were present on the site, and included natural burrows dug by California ground squirrel burrows.

Four surveys were conducted between May 25 and July 1, 2021. During the 2021 nesting season surveys, burrowing owls or typical signs such as molted feathers, cast pellets, prey remains, eggshell fragments, and/or decorations at or near a burrow entrance were not observed. Critical burrowing owl habitats capable of being used for nesting were not being used (e.g., natural burrows). There was no evidence of either active habitats presently being used by burrowing owls, or habitats abandoned within the last three years.

All project sites containing burrows of suitable habitat (based on Step1/Habitat Assessment) whether owls were found or not, require pre-construction surveys that shall be conducted within 30 days prior to ground disturbance to avoid direct take of burrowing owls (MSHCP Species-Specific Objective 6)

The completion of this Nesting Season Survey is consistent with Species Conservation Objective 5/6 of the MSHCP that was developed for the burrowing owl.

PROJECT LOCATION, DESCRIPTION

North side of Briggs Road, approximately 500 feet southwest of the intersection of State Highway 79, North (Winchester Road) and Benton Road in unincorporated Riverside County, California. Recorded lot size total 2.17 acres plus 0.30 hardscape/landscape total of 2.47 acres. The parcel mapped in portions of Section 6, Township 7 South and Range 2 West on the USGS Topographic Maps, 7.5 Minute Series, Bachelor Mountain and Murrieta, California Quadrangles.

Topography/ Hydrography

Topography throughout the site is basically flat-lying and featureless. It is the direct result of previous mass grading and decades of weed abatement plowing and discing for fire prevention purposes. The site slopes downward in a general north-to-south direction.

Natural watercourses of any kind are not present on the site (e.g., perennial or intermittent blue-line streams, ephemeral drainages, historical drainages, etc.). Therefore, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board jurisdictional waters of the United States or adjacent wetlands and/or associated habitat are not present on the site. Similarly, California Department of Fish and Wildlife jurisdictional waters of the State, wetlands or jurisdictional wildlife habitat are not present on the site.

Drainage on the site is by overland flow or downslope movement of storm water runoff (sheet flow) originating on higher elevated areas located in the northern portions of the site.

Soils

Review of the "Soil Survey of Western Riverside Area, California" revealed that the soils on the site are included in the Monserate-Arlington-Exeter Association (Soils of the Southern California Coastal Plain). Within this association, one soil type was mapped on the site: MmB – Monserate sandy loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes

BIOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Vegetation

The extent of Non-native grasslands growing on the site depends on the time of year. Common and widespread non-native annual grasses and weeds emerge on the site surface after the rainy season. They invade disturbed areas and form a rather dense cover. As the site has long been subjected to the weed abatement requirements of the Riverside County Fire Department for fire prevention purposes, the Non-native grasslands are removed from the site by mowing or discing in the spring. After mowing or discing, the majority of the site is maintained as bare ground void of vegetation for the remainder of the year.

Before mowing or discing, the site supports typical Non-native grasslands dominated by non-native species, including a limited mix of native forb species.

No vegetation was found that would be considered endangered, threatened or species of concern

Vegetation has been divided into communities that are groups of plants that usually coexist within the same area. This area is considered Southern California Mountains and Valleys which is found in the California Coastal Range Shrub-Forest Meadow ecological series. (A Manual of California Vegetation, 2009, Sawyer/Wolf) and classified as California Annual Grassland Alliance.

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Table 2: Botanical Species Observed On Or Near Site

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Common name	Scientific name	CNPS Classification
		Cal Exotic Pest Plant
Russian thistle (onsite)	<i>Salsola spp.</i>	C
Sunflower (onsite)	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	None
Datura (onsite)	<i>Datura wrightii</i>	Poisonous
Lambsquarters (offsite)	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	None
Prostrate pigweed (offsite)	<i>Amaranthus albus</i>	None
Creeping saltbush (onsite)	<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>	Invasive (Moderate)
Shortpod Mustard	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Invasive (Moderate)
Residential vegetation (offsite)	<i>various</i>	None

Wildlife Species Observed

Wildlife is not found to be abundant nor diverse at the site. The primary vegetation is ruderal with a few spring annuals that could provide brief, temporary

habitat for species that inhabit and forage in altered environments but there are no signs of consistent favorable habitat present on the site after the Non- native grasslands are removed for fire prevention purposes in the spring. The few species observed include mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), cabbage butterfly (*Pieris rapae*) and crickets (unknown).

FOCUSED BURROW AND BURROWING OWL SURVEY

Burrowing Owl (BUOW) surveys of 2.47 acres (2.17 acres and 0.3 acres hardscape/landscape) acres and a 500 foot buffer area was surveyed (where possible); private property was surveyed by binoculars. Survey was conducted by Glenna Barrett, and Marie Barrett, biologists in a 30 foot transect pedestrian survey across the project (4 transects).

Table 3 Surveys

Date	May 25, 2021	May 26, 2021	June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021
Time/climate	1730-1835; 81-82°F 55% cloud cover/10 mph No rain within 5 days	0722-0800 63-65°F 100% cloud cover /0-3 mph No rain within 5 days	1715-1800; 88-90°F Clear/12 mph No rain within 5 days	0730-0915; 65-67°F Clear/0-5 mph No rain within 5 days
Biologists	Marie Barrett/Glenna Barrett	Glenna Barrett/Marie Barrett	Glenna Barrett/Marie Barrett	Marie Barrett/Glenna Barrett
Total hours	2 hours	1 hour	1.5 hours	1.5 hours

Photographs and a map are attached.

Four site visits to survey were conducted to determine the presence/absence of Western Burrowing Owl, *Athene cunicularia hypugaea*, using procedures found in Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area.

Survey Step One: Habitat Suitability For Burrowing Owls/Focused Burrow Survey

BUOW is a small, pale, buffy brown owl that nests in borrowed burrows. The entrances to burrows often have bits of animal dung, prey carcasses, feathers, and litter, among other objects. Up to 12 eggs are laid, primarily from February to May. Burrowing owl habitats can be found in shortgrass prairies, annual and perennial grasslands, lowland scrub, agricultural lands and rangelands, prairies, coastal dunes, deserts, scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation, and some artificial areas such as landfills, airports, golf courses, cemeteries, and water conveyance structures (ditches, drains). To hunt for prey, large open expanses of sparsely vegetated areas on gentle rolling or level terrain are required. Critical habitat features require the use of rodent or other burrows for nesting. Burrows are an critical component of burrowing owl habitats along with a prey source. Natural burrows and manmade structures provide protection, shelter and nests for burrowing owls.

Mounds of loose dirt pushed to the surface indicated the presence of Botta’s pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) and California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*). Presence of burrows on site indicated the necessity of a Focused Burrowing Owl Survey and three more site visits were done.

Focused Burrowing Owl Survey

Burrowing owls or their diagnostic signs were not observed during any of the surveys.

The locations of critical burrowing owl habitats present on the site (*e.g.*, natural burrows) have been overlaid on a map. The locations of the survey transects have also been overlaid on this map, attached. Photographs have been taken showing suitable and critical burrowing owl habitats at various locations along the survey transect, attached.

During the 2021 nesting season surveys, burrowing owls were not observed. Critical burrowing owl habitats capable of being used for roosting or nesting were not being used (*e.g.*, natural burrows). During the 2021 nesting season surveys, burrowing owls or typical signs such as molted feathers, cast pellets, prey remains, eggshell fragments, and/or decorations at or near a burrow entrance were not observed. Critical burrowing owl habitats capable of being used for nesting were not being used (*e.g.*, natural burrows). There was no evidence of either active habitats presently being used by burrowing owls, or habitats abandoned within the last three years.

The completion of this Nesting Season Survey is consistent with Species Conservation Objective 5/6 of the MSHCP that was developed for the burrowing owl.

AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION AND MITIGATION ACTIVITIES
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All project sites containing burrows of suitable habitat (based on Step1/Habitat Assessment) whether owls were found or not, require pre-construction surveys that shall be conducted within 30 days prior to ground disturbance to avoid direct take of burrowing owls (MSHCP Species-Specific Objective 6)

REFERENCES

- Behler, Jack L., and F. Wayne King, Natural Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Reptiles & Amphibians, New York, Chanticleer Press, 1996.
- Borror, Donald J. and Richard E. White, Insects, The Easton Press, Norwalk, Ct. 1970.
- Bowers, Nora, Rick Bowers, Kenn Kaufman, Mammals of North America, Houghton Mifflin Company, Singapore, 2004.
- Coulombe, Harry N., Behavior and Population Ecology of the Burrowing Owl, Speotyto Cunicularia, in the Imperial Valley of California, The Condor, 73:163-176, 1971
- County of Riverside, Environmental Programs Department. Revised August 17, 2006. Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area, March 29, 2006.
- Dudek & Associates, Inc. June 17, 2003. Riverside County Integrated Project. Final Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Volume I, The Plan, and II.
- Dudek & Associates, Inc. June 17, 2003. Riverside County Integrated Project. Final Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Volumes II-A through E, The Reference Document.
- Knecht, A. 1971. *Soil Survey of Western Riverside Area, California*. United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D.C.
- Principe and Associates, April, 2016. Nesting Season Survey Burrowing Owl.
- Sawyer, John O. and Todd Keeler-Wolf, A Manual of California Vegetation, California Natural Plant Society, 2009.
- Whitson, Tom D, et al. 2000. *Weeds of the West*. 9th Edition The Western Society of Weed Science/University of Wyoming. Jackson, Wyoming. 626 pp.
- Google Earth. Search: French Valley, Murrieta, California.
Imagery Date: 1/24/2020 <http://www.google.earth.com>

PHOTOGRAPHS



1. Project site looking west toward Nursery 5/25/21



2. Project site looking west toward Nursery after fuel reduction discing 6/30/21



3. Burrows seen on site 5/25/21



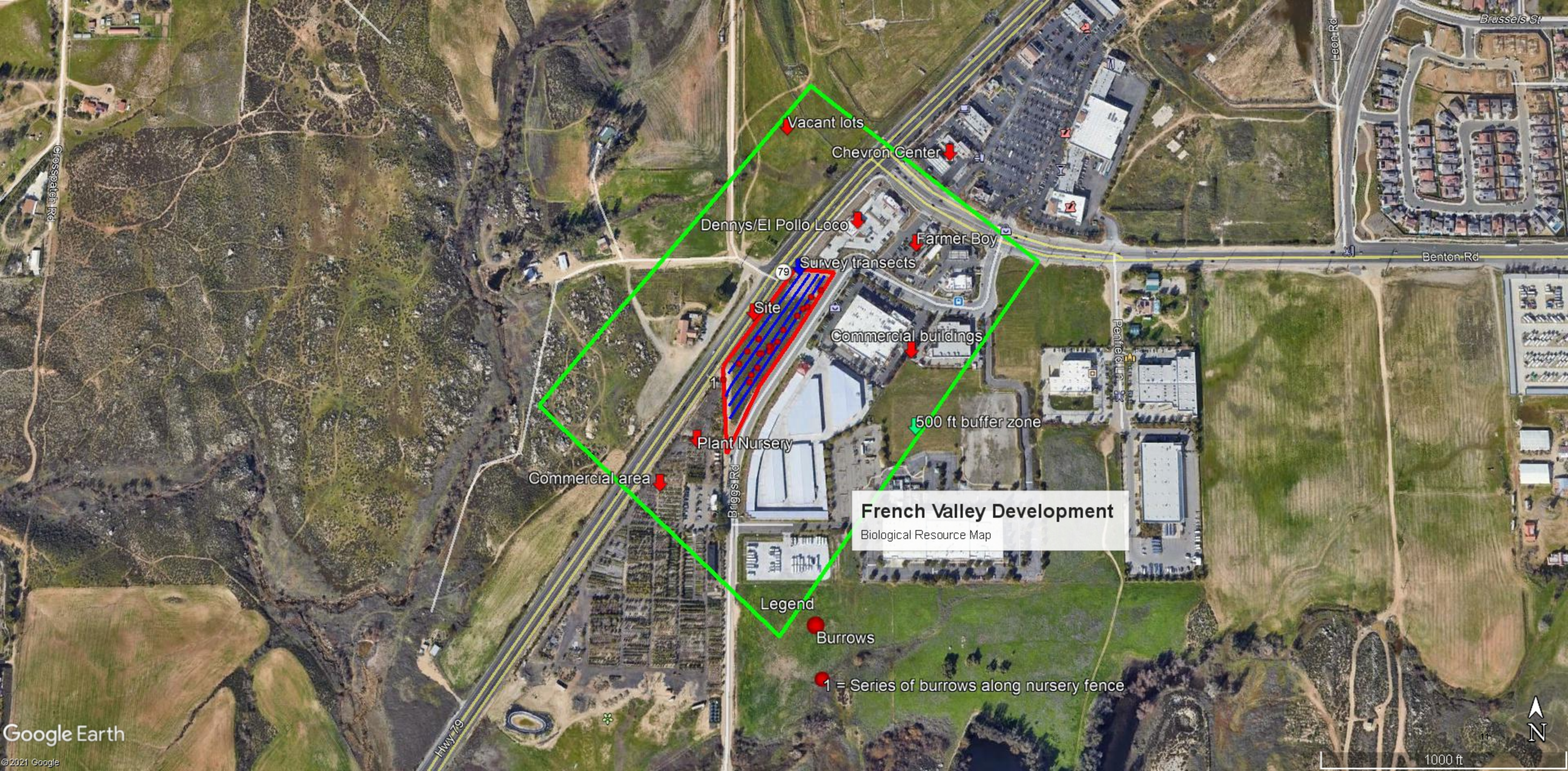
4. Burrows seen on site after fuel reduction discing 6/30/21



5. Concentration of active CA ground squirrel burrows along fencing of Moon Nursery; squirrels appear to have residence in this area 5/25/21



6. Typical burrow found on site; no burrows displayed signs of BUOW usage (pellets, whitewash, feathers, prey remains, decorations) and no BUOW flushed during surveys 6/30/21



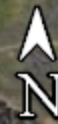
French Valley Development
Biological Resource Map

Legend

● Burrows

1 = Series of burrows along nursery fence

1000 ft



PROFILE

Organized and focused individual, adept at implementing multifaceted projects while .working alone or as an integral part of a team. Skilled in client/employee communications ,report preparation ,program analyses and development .Cost conscious ,safety oriented and empathetic .A strong communicator with excellent interpersonal skills ,which allows development of rapport with individuals on all levels .A sound professional attitude ,strong work ethic and pride in personal performance.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Biologist, Barrett's Biological Surveys. El Centro, CA April 1996-currently. Schedule biologists for various jobs throughout Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego counties. Collect invoices, assist with billing, assist with report writing and data gathering. Set up training for biologists for different jobs and biological certificates. Meet and correspond with clients for various job logistics.

Principal Biological Consultant, Barrett Biological Enterprises, Inc. Imperial, CA December 2001 - currently. Compile information and complete local, state, and federal government forms, such as conditional use permits, reclamation plan applications, Financial Assurance Cost Estimates, zone changes, CEQA, Environmental Evaluation Committee responses, and 501 (c)(3) tax exemption applications. Act as liaison between local businesses and local, state, and federal government agencies. Certified to survey for Flat-Tailed Horned Lizards (*Phrynosoma mcalli*) in California and Arizona. Certified to survey for Burrowing Owls (*Athene cunicularia*) and Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*).

Extensive knowledge in southwestern United States, non-migratory and migratory avian biology and ecology. Strong knowledge of common Flora and Fauna communities associated with Southern California and surrounding environs. CEQA, NEPA, California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) knowledge gained through work experience. I have excellent analytical skills, multi-tasking and writing abilities. My past work experience has provided me with many years of hands on experience working with and managing others to find practical solutions to solve problems and achieve common goals.

Grant writing experience: Awarded two grants for BUOW educational programs for \$15,000 each from Imperial Valley Community Foundation. Awarded \$35,700 for a total of \$75,000 with matching funds to establish the Imperial Valley Small Business Development Center with the Imperial Regional Alliance. Awarded \$450,000 from the California Public Utilities Commission for a broadband connectivity initiative in Imperial County with Imperial Regional Alliance and Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation. Assisted in writing two grants with the Imperial County Film Commission (ICFC). The first grant written with the ICFC from the Imperial Valley Community Foundation for educational film classes at the 2017 Film Festival, which was awarded for \$5,000. Another grant co-written with the ICFC from the Imperial Irrigation District Local Entity Grant for office assistants, etc. Awarded USDA REAP grant for local Calipatria business installation of solar panels to decrease utility bills (7/2020 Project amount \$812,000; grant amount \$200,000).

Executive Director, Southern Border Broadband Consortium. El Centro, CA April 2015- January 2020. Wrote the grant for \$450,000 over three years to assess broadband needs for the unserved and underserved communities in Imperial and San Diego counties. Grant funding is from the California Advanced Services Fund.

Imperial County Community and Economic Development. El Centro, CA September 2001- October 2002. Economic Development specialist working for the County of Imperial on outreach for HUB Zones and Foreign Trade Zones. Wrote grants for a local PTAC center, sent out grant information to other departments.

FIELD EXPERIENCE

Ms. Barrett has done the field work and contributed to the required reports for the following projects:

- **Mount Signal Solar projects (Three phases)- Environmental Consultant** in Calexico, CA. This phased project is the largest solar complex in North America. Barrett's Biological Surveys has been the biologists for this project from start to completion, approximately 12 years (2008-2020), multiple owners and EPCs. BBS conducted all pre and post construction surveys for possible environmental impacts. BBS oversaw and conducted nesting bird monitoring, construction monitoring,

daily/weekly/monthly reports for clients and agencies. BBS created, oversaw, and conducted on Burrowing Owl mitigation, monitoring, and compliance.

- **Kruger- Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC) for Seville Solar Complex** for a 626-acre solar farm in Imperial County, CA. Compiled and submitted data and reports for APCD such as equipment lists and man hours, water hours for dust suppression; Planning reports such as weekly monitoring reports and scheduling with the third party monitor for work on BLM land; Assisted in writing the Emergency Response Action Plan; CDFW quarterly reports for the Incidental Take Permit for the Flat Tail Horned Lizard (FTHL), CNDDDB reports, FTHL Observation Data Sheets, site tours and any other information CDFW asks for; Agriculture Commissioner’s Office quarterly reports; provides the hazardous reporting information for the CERS online reporting system; assisted writing the FTHL ITP; trained new hires; contacted various local businesses for different on-call services; also provides any updates for plans and schedules necessary throughout the life of the project; etc. (January 2015- currently).
- **NAF-EC – FTHL monitoring** for Holtville Airstrip project with USMC personnel to widen a six-mile BLM road and re-strip an airfield. Monitored and consulted with above-mentioned agencies for FTHL. (October 2014)
- **Applied Biological Consulting- Approved Biological Monitor on DPV2:** The 500kV transmission line traverses approximately 153 mi from Blythe, CA to Menifee in Riverside County, CA. Crossing private, state and Federal lands, such as the Bureau of Land Management [BLM], U.S. Forest Service [USFS]. (November 2011 to May 31, 2013)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Received Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a focus on Management, along with Economics and Leadership minors, December 2000. Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA.

Special Status/listed species observed/ identified, surveyed, monitored and/or relocated: Mohave desert tortoise, Coachella valley milkvetch, Desert kit fox, Mountain lion, Coachella valley fringe toed lizard, Mohave fringe toed lizard, Stephen's kangaroo rat, Mohave ground squirrel, Coast horned lizard, Flat-tailed horned lizard, Burrowing Owl.

CERTIFICATIONS/ WORKSHOPS

FTHL Workshop, 2008 El Centro BLM office.	Helicopter flight trained on DPV2, 2012.
Salton Sea International Bird Festival 2007 Coordinator	Mountain Plover/ Long-billed Curlew surveys, L.A. Museum of Natural History.
USFW Desert Tortoise Egg Handling Desert Tortoise Council Survey Techniques Workshop Certificate, 2008 and 2010.	Presented at the Fourth Annual BUOW Symposium in Pasco, Washington, 2014. Board Member- Colorado River Citizens Forum, 2014-2016.
Anza Borrego State Park Wildflower Identification Workshop, 2010.	BUOW Educational outreach grantee from IVCF, interacting with IID, IVROP, ICFB, Ag Commissioner’s Office, 2015.
Bat monitoring with Ms. Pat Brown BLM El Centro, CA Office, 2010.	Pets for Vets, Imperial Valley Chapter, Director 2015
Southwest Willow Flycatcher Workshop Kernville, CA, 2010.	Friends of the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge, Member 2015
SCE TRTP Construction Monitoring Training Class and WEAP Redlands, CA 2011.	Current First Aid certification to 2016.
DPV2 Construction Monitoring Training Class and WEAP Santa Ana, CA 2011.	California Native Plant Society Plant Identification Class, August 2019
Certified to handle/ move venomous snakes on DPV2, 2012.	38 Hour Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Training Program, October 2019
Colorado State University Graduate degree classes (Design of Fish and Wildlife Studies and Conservation Biology (2019)	

MARIE S. BARRETT

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LICENSES/CERTIFICATES

Flat Tailed Horn Lizard Surveyor CDFG/BLM

Burrowing Owl Surveyor (CDFG/USFWS)

USFW Desert Tortoise Egg Handling Desert Tortoise Council Survey Techniques Workshop Certificate

BCI Bat Conservation and Management Workshop (Acoustic) Certificate

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Workshop Kernville, CA 2010

CA Scientific Collection Permit 126/USFWS Salvage Permit MB52633B-1

CAREER HISTORY

Barrett's Biological Surveys, El Centro, California BIOLOGIST 3/95 -present

Helped establish protocol and perform Vegetative Baseline Studies and Biological Surveys for

Mining Reclamation Plans in Imperial County. Have performed numerous (over 20,000 acres) surveys involving varied wildlife including burrowing owl, nesting birds and plant species and writing reports and biological assessments. Certified to perform Flat Tailed Horned Lizard Surveys; completed Desert Tortoise workshops; approved to handle desert tortoise (American Girl Mine/BLM project, 1/2013). Work closely with governmental agencies such as Bureau of Land Management, State Office of Mining Reclamation, California Department of Fish and Game. Written over ten Environmental Assessments for BLM, El Centro office. Over 150 days spent in field monitoring/surveying for FTHL; 98 days in field monitoring/surveying for desert tortoise and 32,000 acres surveyed for burrowing owl and nesting birds; 2 IID Burrowing owl surveys with AECOM (2011/12- 226 hrs). Wrote Imperial Irrigation District Artificial Burrow Installation Manual (2009). Over 25 active burrowing owl burrows passively relocated and 50 artificial burrows installed. Volunteered for desert tortoise work (20 hrs) with Dr. Jeff Lovich. Coachella Valley Projects: Torres-Martinez (Desert Cahuilla Composting Facility Biological Resource Technical Report/Surveys 60 acres, SR 86/Ave 84, 2013-19; Augustine Tribe (Solar Farm Biological Resource Technical Report/Surveys 10 acres, La Quinta, CA, 2010); Benitez Family Trust Therapeutic Community, Dillon and Cabazon Roads, 10 acres, 2008); Chandri Group/Marks Architect various commercial projects 2006-present. Blythe 8Minutenergy Mt. Signal Solar 5000 acres Preconstruction surveys/construction monitoring and BUOW Post construction monitoring; Biological reports, Avian mortality and post construction BUOW. 2010-present. Black Mt. MetTower Installation: desert tortoise survey and monitoring approved by BLM, El Centro office Salton City Burretec Landfill FTHL monitoring/clearance 2010-2019 (42.5 hrs); Superior Redi Mix: FTHL surveys, Oat Pit Environmental Assessment for BLM, El Centro, 2009-20 (20 hours) SDG&E La Rosite Pole Replacement FTHL Monitoring 2012-2013(410 hrs); Imperial County Department of Public Works, surveys for various bridges, El Centro, 2008-20. All American Aggregates, FTHL surveys, Boyd Road Mine Environmental Assessment, BLM El Centro, 2007. (9.5 hours) All American Aggregates, FTHL surveys, Wheeler Road Mine Environmental Assessment, BLM, El Centro, 2006. (8.5 hours); ValRock, FTHL surveys, Ocotillo ByPass Road Environmental Assessment, County of Imperial/BLM, El Centro, 2004. (7 hours). USFWS Authorized desert tortoise biologist: American Girl Mine and Mesquite Mine.

Citizens' Congressional Task Force on the New River, Brawley, Ca PROGRAM COORDINATOR 1/98 - present

Assisted with design, construction, planting and monitoring of four constructed wetlands in Imperial County. Responsible for coordinating activities relating to student and public outreach education to promote the water quality opportunities of wetlands ponding systems on the New River.

Imperial Valley College, Imperial, California ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT COORDINATOR 9/95-12/99

Responsible for establishing an Environmental Technology curriculum, presenting public forums, short courses and certificate courses in hazardous materials and safety areas. In conjunction with Division Chairman, established a budget for 96-98 program and obtained funding of \$131,000 based on 95-96 program performance. Established short courses that trained over 700 people in hazardous materials safety programs. Compiled a survey of employers, which provided direction for the program.

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY: Imperial Valley Coordinator, 2006-2020.

SALTON SEA INTERNATIONAL BIRD FESTIVAL: Coordinator: 2001-2010. Organized bird festival in the Imperial Valley that attracted over 300 birders.

COLORADO RIVER WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD: Board member Dec 05-Sept 06.

FRIENDS OF SONNY BONO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: Board Chairman, May 2015- 16

EDUCATION

University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

Masters of Science Degree – AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Thesis: Survey and training protocol for documenting burrowing owls and habitat in Imperial County, California

California State Polytechnic College, Kellogg-Voorhis Campus, Pomona, California

Bachelor of Science Degree.- AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGY

Imperial Valley College, Imperial, California *Associate of Science Degree. AGRICULTURE*