

April 16, 2013

Susie Tharratt  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office  
6010 Hidden Valley Road  
Suite 101  
Carlsbad, CA 92009

*Subject: Results (Positive) of focused coastal California gnatcatcher surveys on an approximately 27.4 acre site in San Diego County, California*

Ms. Tharratt,

Due to the presence of appropriate habitat, including an area of Critical California gnatcatcher habitat, protocol surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) were completed on the approximately 27.4 acre property(s) located at the terminus of Tyler St. in the City of Santee, County of San Diego. The site is located just south of Mesa Heights Road, approximately 2000 feet south of the 52 Freeway and approximately 2000 feet west of the 125 Freeway, on the La Mesa USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle. BLUE Consulting Group hired biologist Erik LaCoste (TE 027736-5) to complete the protocol surveys. The purpose of the protocol surveys was to determine the status of coastal California gnatcatchers (CAGN) on the Property. This report describes the methods, results, and conclusions of the completed protocol surveys.

#### **Site Location and Description**

The property is approximately 27.4 acres and is located in the City of Santee, San Diego County. Primary access to the property is at the terminus of Tyler Street which dead-ends at the subject properties northern property line (Figures 1-3).

The site is dominated by a ridgeline running east-west with south facing slopes in the southern portion of the property, north facing slopes in the center of the property and a gradually sloping/flat area in the northern portion. The northern, flat and disturbed portion of the property appears to have been previously utilized as an agricultural area. There is an ephemeral drainage channel supporting riparian habitat running along the eastern and northern property line.

During the biological surveys, a total of six vegetation communities were mapped on-site: Diegan coastal sage scrub, mixed chaparral, riparian scrub, jurisdictional unvegetated ephemeral drainage, disturbed habitat, and non-native grasslands. Table 1 summarizes the acreage of each land cover type and Figure 4 depicts their location.

Onsite, the coastal sage scrub habitat community which is generally located on the south facing slopes, are within the designated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitat area for the California gnatcatcher.

**TABLE 1  
PLANT COMMUNITIES**

Plant Community	Tier	Acres
Diegan coastal sage scrub	II	6.36
Chaparral	III	8.89
Riparian Scrub	I	0.24
Jurisdictional Unvegetated Channel	I	120 sq. ft.
Non-Native Grasslands	III	9.94
Disturbed habitat	IV	1.97
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>27.40</b>

Erik LaCoste (TE 027736-5), who is permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to conduct surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher, conducted the 2013 monitoring surveys on the property. Mr. LaCoste conducted three protocol surveys, according to the USFWS gnatcatcher survey protocol (Table 2).

**TABLE 2  
SURVEY DETAILS**

Date	Survey Type	Time	Conditions Temp (°F), Wind (mph) begin and end, Sky	Biologists
3-14-31	CAGN	0830-0930	52-68,1-2, clear	EL*
3-21-31	CAGN	0830-1000	61-65,0-2, 30% haze - clear	EL
3-28-13	CAGN	0815-0945	55-69,0-3, 25% haze - 25% haze	EL

\*EL = Erik LaCoste

All areas supporting coastal sage scrub on site, as well as within appropriate habitat and around the property (offsite) extending approximately 200 feet were carefully searched for the presence or absence of coastal California gnatcatchers.

### Survey Results and Conclusions

Onsite, the same pair (2) of gnatcatchers was observed on the ridgeline and on the south facing slope during all three surveys (Figure 5). In addition to the gnatcatcher pair, a cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) pair was observed on the south facing slope (on all three surveys) and Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*) were observed on the first and second surveys on the ridgeline area.

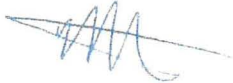
I certify that the information in this survey report and attached exhibits fully and accurately represents my work.

  
Eric LaCoste

5/20/13  
Date

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this survey, please do not hesitate to contact me.

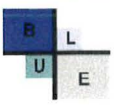
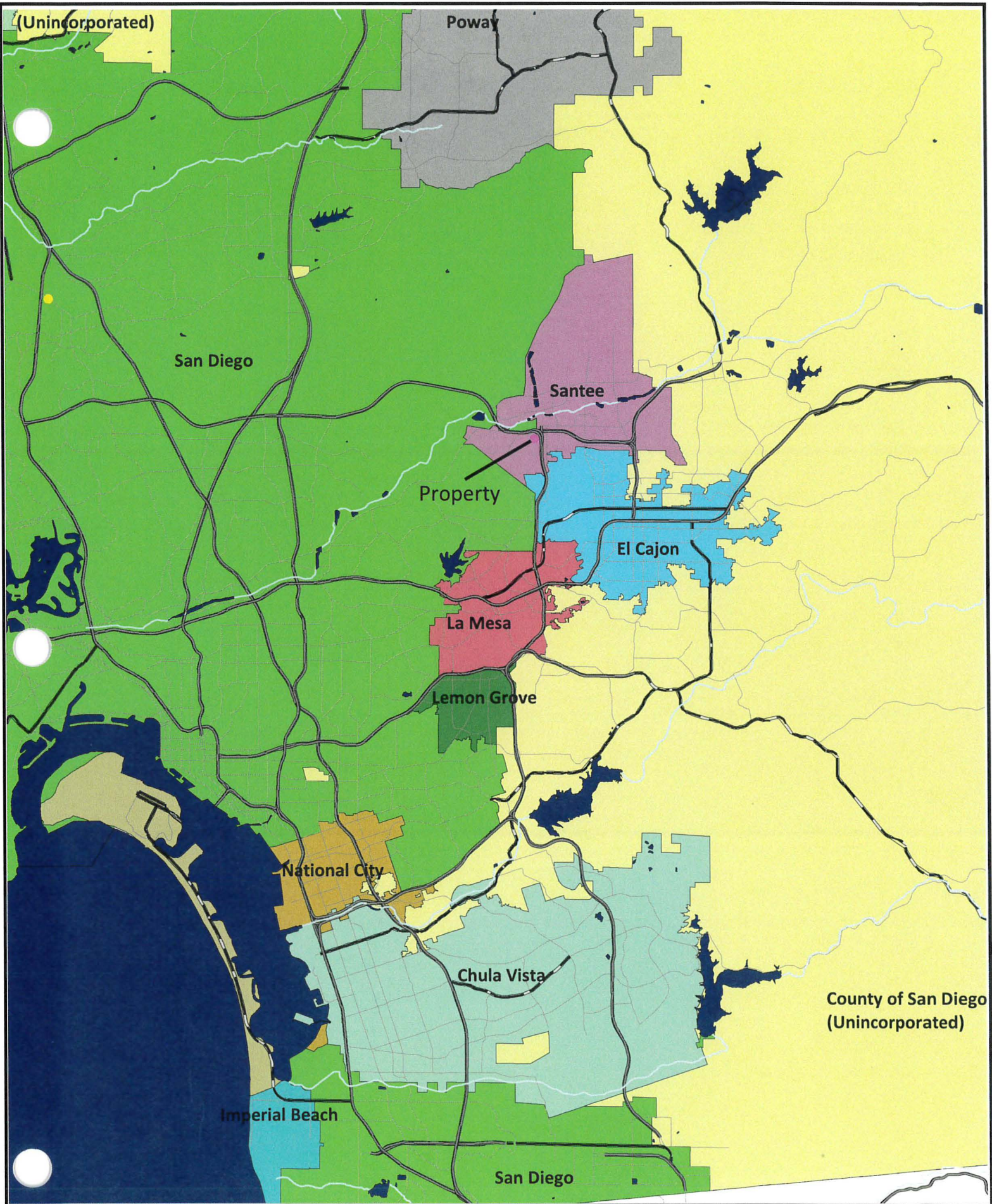
Sincerely,



Michael Jefferson  
President  
BLUE Consulting Group

Attached: Data Sheets

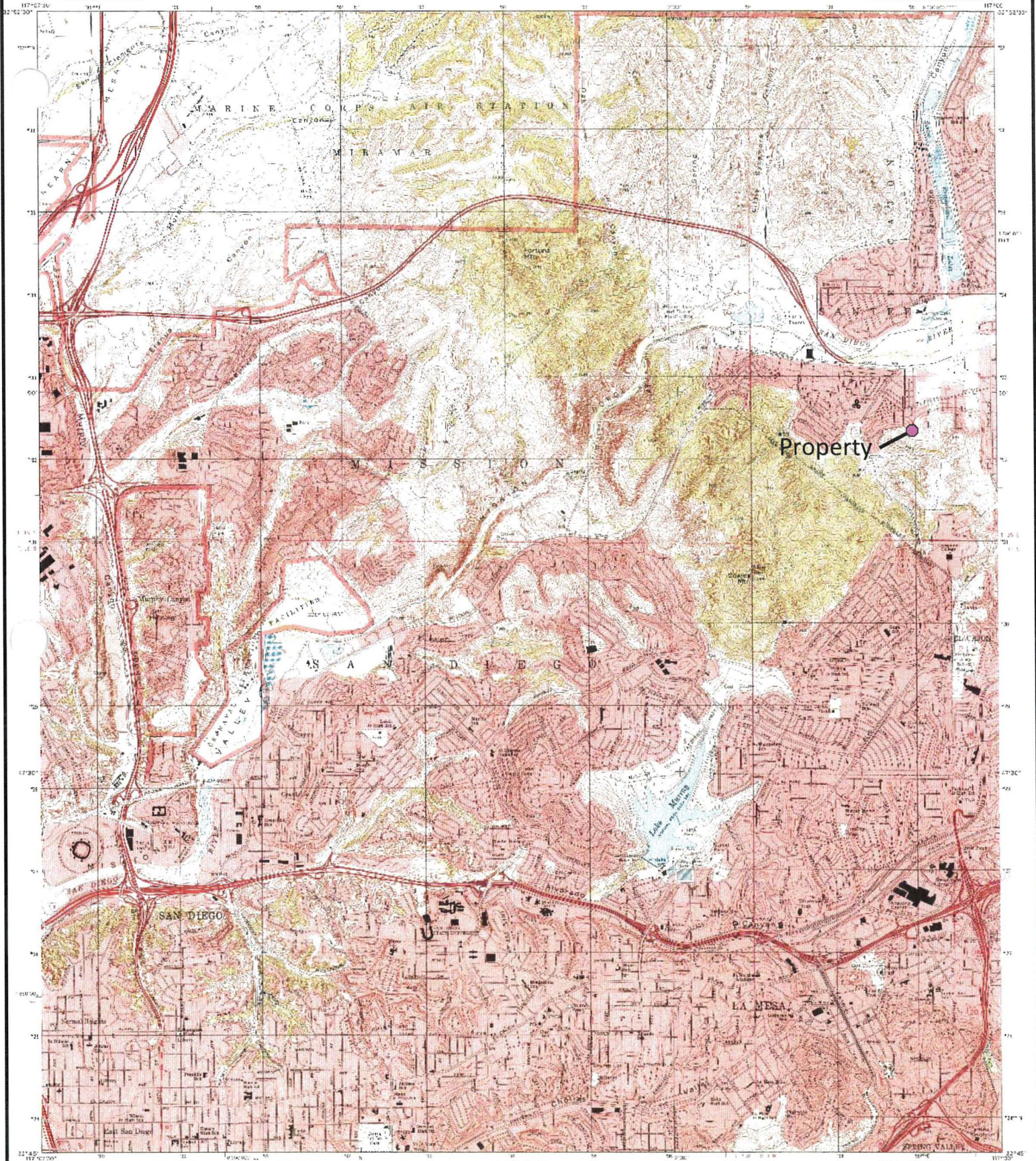




● Property

**FIGURE 1**  
Regional Project  
Location





Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Topographic map of 1981, Revision A, of the area  
near 37th, 40th, 43rd, 46th, 49th, and 52nd streets  
and San Diego Avenue, San Diego, California  
at a scale of 1:24,000. Revision A, 1981  
of the 7.5-minute series of the 1:24,000  
scale. U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA 20192

SCALE 1:24,000

Primary features: Interstate highway  
 State highway  
 Secondary highway  
 Footpath  
Secondary features: Rail line  
 Pipeline  
 Irrigation canal  
 Unimproved road  
Tertiary features: Stream  
 U.S. Route  
 State Route



Property (approximately)

**FIGURE 2**  
**Project Location**

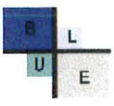




Highway 52

Prospect Ave

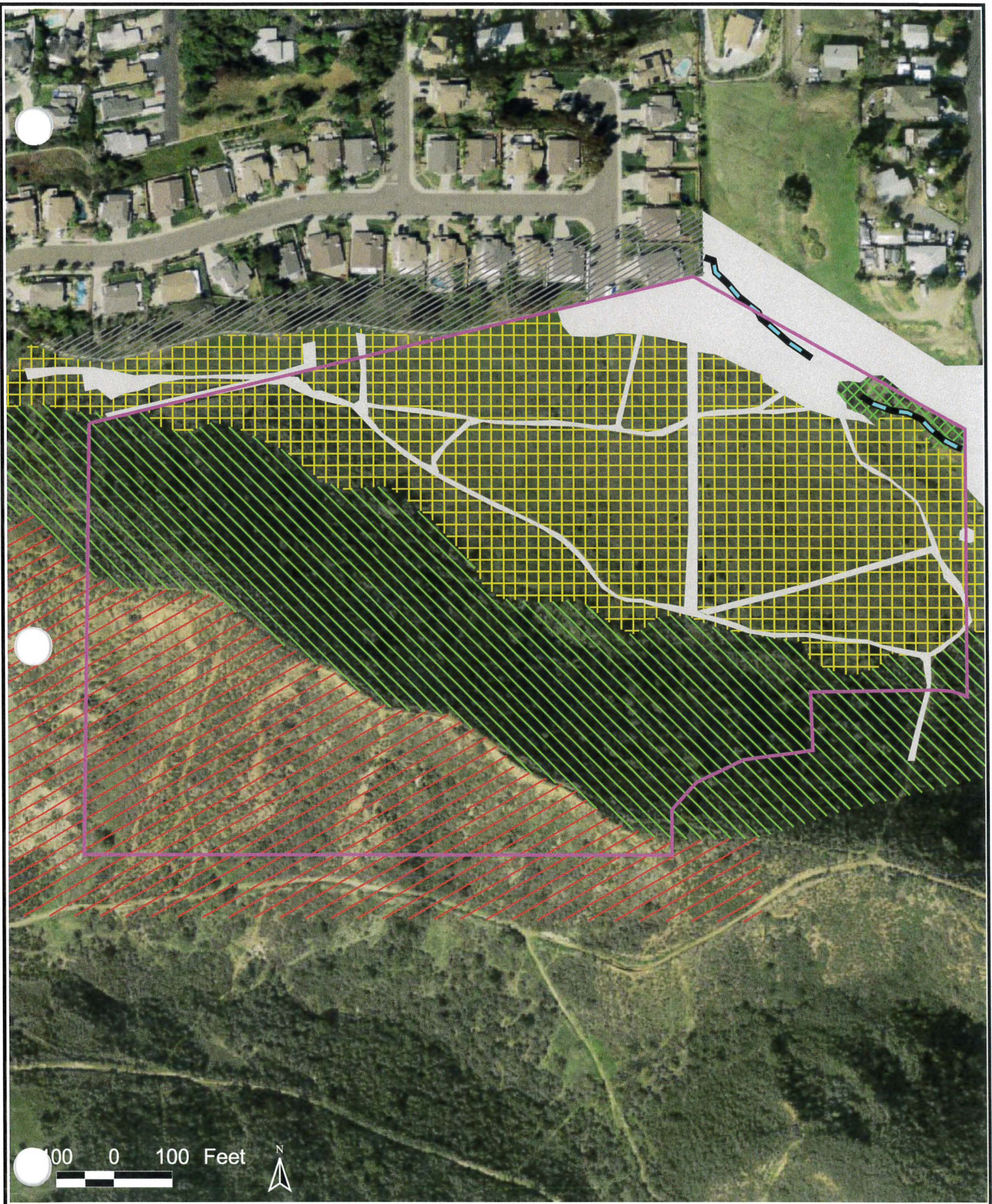
Interstate 125



 Property

**FIGURE 3**  
Property Aerial








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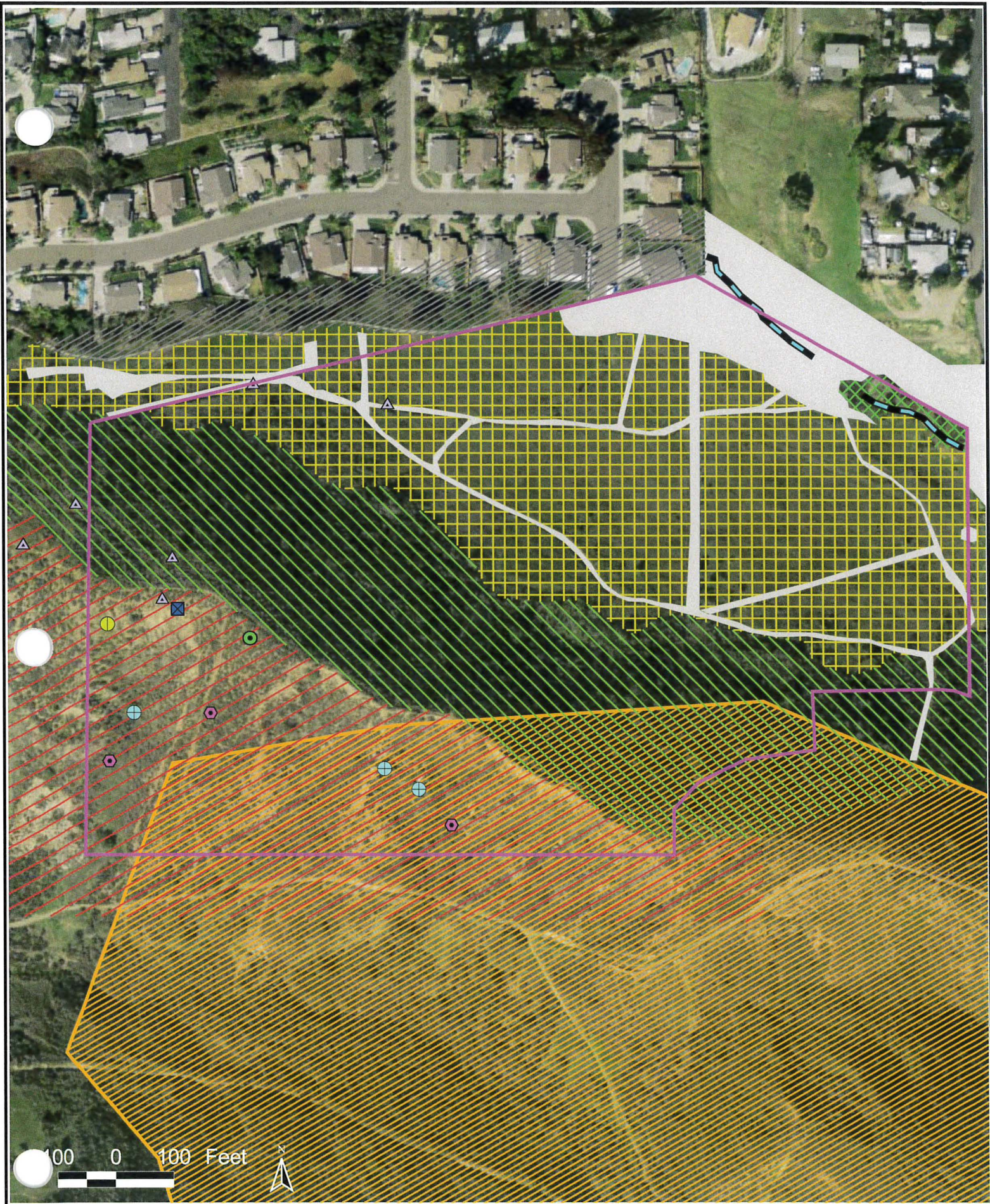
Property

-  Coastal Sage Scrub
-  Chaparral
-  Riparian scrub

-  Ephemeral drainage channel
-  Non-native grassland
-  Disturbed habitat

**FIGURE 4**  
**Habitat Map**





B L  
U E

- Property
- CAGN Critical Habitat
- ⬢ Gnatcatcher
- Rufous crowned sparrow
- ⊕ Cactus Wren
- △ Plantago erecta
- ⊠ Palmers grappling hook
- Jewel flower

**FIGURE 5**  
Sensitive Species  
Location Map



**ATTACHMENTS**

## Field Data Sheet

Project: Santee (Tyler street) Date of Survey: 3/14/13 Page 1 of 1  
 Type of Survey: CAGN Survey Number: 1 of 3  
 Personnel: Erik Lacoste (Permit # TE027736-5)  
 Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Time	Temp (°F)	Wind (mph)	Sky (% clouds)	Precipitation
Start	0800	52	0	0
Finish	0930	68	0	0

Species		
Lesser Goldfinch		
House Finch		
* Cactus wren		
ANNA's Hummingbird		
California Quail		
Blue Gray Gnatcatcher		
* Coastal California Gnatcatcher		
Mourning Dove		
California Thrasher		
Wrentit		
Northern Mockingbird		
* S.c. Rufous Crown Sparrow		
Sharp Shinned Hawk		
Bush Tit		
California Towhee		
Western Kingbird		
Bewick's Wren		
Gull sp.		
Red-tailed Hawk		
Black Phoebe.		

**Notes:**

Gnatcatcher pair located on Ridge line & South Facing slope (see map)
Cactus Wren pair located on South Facing slope - (see map)
Southern California Rufous Sparrow - Ridge line area



## Field Data Sheet

Project: Santee (Tyler street) Date of Survey: 3/21/13 Page 1 of 1  
 Type of Survey: CABN Survey Number: 2 of 3  
 Personnel: Erik LaCoste (Permit # TE027736-5)  
 Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Time	Temp (°F)	Wind (mph)	Sky (% clouds)	Precipitation
Start 830	61	0-2	30 HAZE	0
Finish 1000	65	0-2	0	0

Species		
House finch	* Cactus wren	
Nuttall's woodpecker	* Coastal California Gnatcatcher	
Bush tit	Bewicks wren	
House wren	American Kestrel	
Western Kingbird	Red tailed hawk	
Anna's Hummingbird		
* S.C. Rufous Crown Sparrow		
California Towhee		
White crown Sparrow		
Hermit Thrush		
Lesser Goldfinch		
Wren tit		
Yellow Rump Warbler		
American Crow		
Says Phoebe		
Northern Mockingbird		
Pacific slope flycatcher		
California Quail		
Mourning Dove		
Spotted Towhee		
White throat Swift		
Western scrub Jay		
Cooper hawk		

**Notes:**

CABN - Same as survey 1
CACW - Same as survey 1

# Field Data Sheet

Project: Santee (Tyler Street) Date of Survey: 3/22/13 Page 1 of 1  
 Type of Survey: CABN Survey Number: 3 of 3  
 Personnel: Erik LaCoste (Permit # TE027736-5)  
 Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Time	Temp (°F)	Wind (mph)	Sky (% clouds)	Precipitation
Start <u>0815</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>0-1</u>	<u>25% Haze</u>	<u>0</u>
Finish <u>0945</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>25% Haze</u>	<u>0</u>

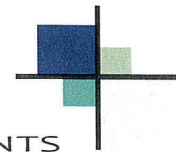
Species		
Northern Mockingbird		
Mourning Dove		
Lesser Goldfinch		
House Finch		
Anna's Hummingbird		
House Wren		
Yellow rumped Warbler		
Bewick's Wren		
Coopers hawk		
* Cactus wren		
* Coastal California Gnatcatcher		
California Quail		
California Towhee		
Wren-tit		
Red tail hawk		
Northern Rough winged swallow		
Western Kingbird		
Cliff Swallow		
White throat Swift		
Common Raven		
Red shouldered hawk		
White crown Sparrow		

**Notes:**

CABN - Same pair - west end  
Cacw - Same pair - multiple nest visits - West end.







April 16, 2013

Susie Tharratt  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office  
6010 Hidden Valley Road  
Suite 101  
Carlsbad, CA 92009

*Subject: Results (Negative) of focused Quino Checkerspot Butterfly surveys on an approximately 27.4 acre site in San Diego County, California*

Ms. Tharratt,

Due to the presence of appropriate habitat and patches of *Plantago erecta*, protocol surveys for the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (QCB; *Euphydryas editha quino*) were completed on the approximately 27.4 acre property(s) located at the terminus of Tyler St. in the City of Santee, County of San Diego. The site is located just south of Mesa Heights Road, approximately 2000 feet south of the 52 Freeway and approximately 2000 feet west of the 125 Freeway, on the La Mesa USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle. BLUE Consulting Group hired biologist Erik LaCoste (TE 027736-5) to complete the protocol surveys. The purpose of the protocol surveys was to determine the status of QCB on the Property. This report describes the methods, results, and conclusions of the completed protocol surveys.

#### **Site Location and Description**

The property is approximately 27.4 acres and is located in the City of Santee, San Diego County. Primary access to the property is at the terminus of Tyler Street which dead-ends at the subject properties northern property line (Figures 1-3).

The site is dominated by a ridgeline running east-west with south facing slopes in the southern portion of the property, north facing slopes in the center of the property and a gradually sloping/flat area in the northern portion. The northern, flat and disturbed portion of the property appears to have been previously utilized as an

agricultural area. There is an ephemeral drainage channel supporting riparian habitat running along the eastern and northern property line. Designated Critical Habitat for the California gnatcatcher is located onsite.

**TABLE 1  
PLANT COMMUNITIES**

Plant Community	Tier	Acres
Diegan coastal sage scrub	II	6.36
Chaparral	III	8.89
Riparian Scrub	I	0.24
Jurisdictional Unvegetated Channel	I	120 sq. ft.
Non-Native Grasslands	III	9.94
Disturbed habitat	IV	1.97
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>27.40</b>

During the biological surveys, a total of six vegetation communities were mapped on-site: Diegan coastal sage scrub, mixed chaparral, riparian scrub, jurisdictional unvegetated ephemeral drainage, disturbed habitat, and non-native grasslands. Table 1 summarizes the acreage of each land cover type and Figure 4 depicts their location.

Onsite, the observed plantago patches were generally along the western property line and on the ridgeline within all upland habitat types. While there were a number of small patches observed, a total of 4 larger patches or groups of plantago erecta were observed onsite; three areas were observed off site to the west of the property line.

Erik LaCoste (TE 027736-5), who is permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to conduct surveys for the Quino Checkerspot butterfly, conducted the 2013 monitoring surveys on the property. Mr. LaCoste conducted 6 protocol surveys, according to the USFWS QCB survey protocol (Table 2).

**TABLE 2  
SURVEY DETAILS**

Date	Survey Type	Time	Conditions Temp (°F), Wind (mph) begin and end, Sky	Biologists
3-14-31	QCB	0930-1200	64-79,2-4, clear	EL*
3-21-31	QCB	1000-1200	65-68,0-2, clear	EL
3-28-31	QCB	0830-0930	69-76,1-3, 2-5% cover	EL
4-2-31	QCB	1000-1200	61-65,0-2, clear	EL
4-10-13	QCB	1245-1445	76-77,4-8, clear	EL
4-18-13	QCB	0900-1030	68-75,2-8,clear	EL

\*EL = Erik LaCoste



All areas supporting *Plantago erecta* on site, as well as within approximately 200 feet were carefully searched for the presence or absence of QCB and/or QCB larvae.


### Survey Results and Conclusions

The locations of the plantago erecta are shown in Figure 5. No QCB were observed onsite.

Butterfly species observed include: funeral duskywing, Behr's metalmark, perplexing hairstreak, painted lady, anise swallowtail, brown elfin, southern blue, west coast lady, cabbage white, and monarch.

Of note, on the 4/10/13 survey, a California gnatcatcher nest with 4 eggs was observed on the ridgeline in a California sagebush adjacent to the dirt trail (32.827217,-117.012260).

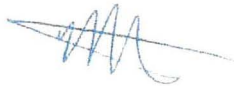
I certify that the information in this survey report and attached exhibits fully and accurately represents my work.

  
Eric LaCoste

5/20/13  
Date

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this survey, please do not hesitate to contact me.

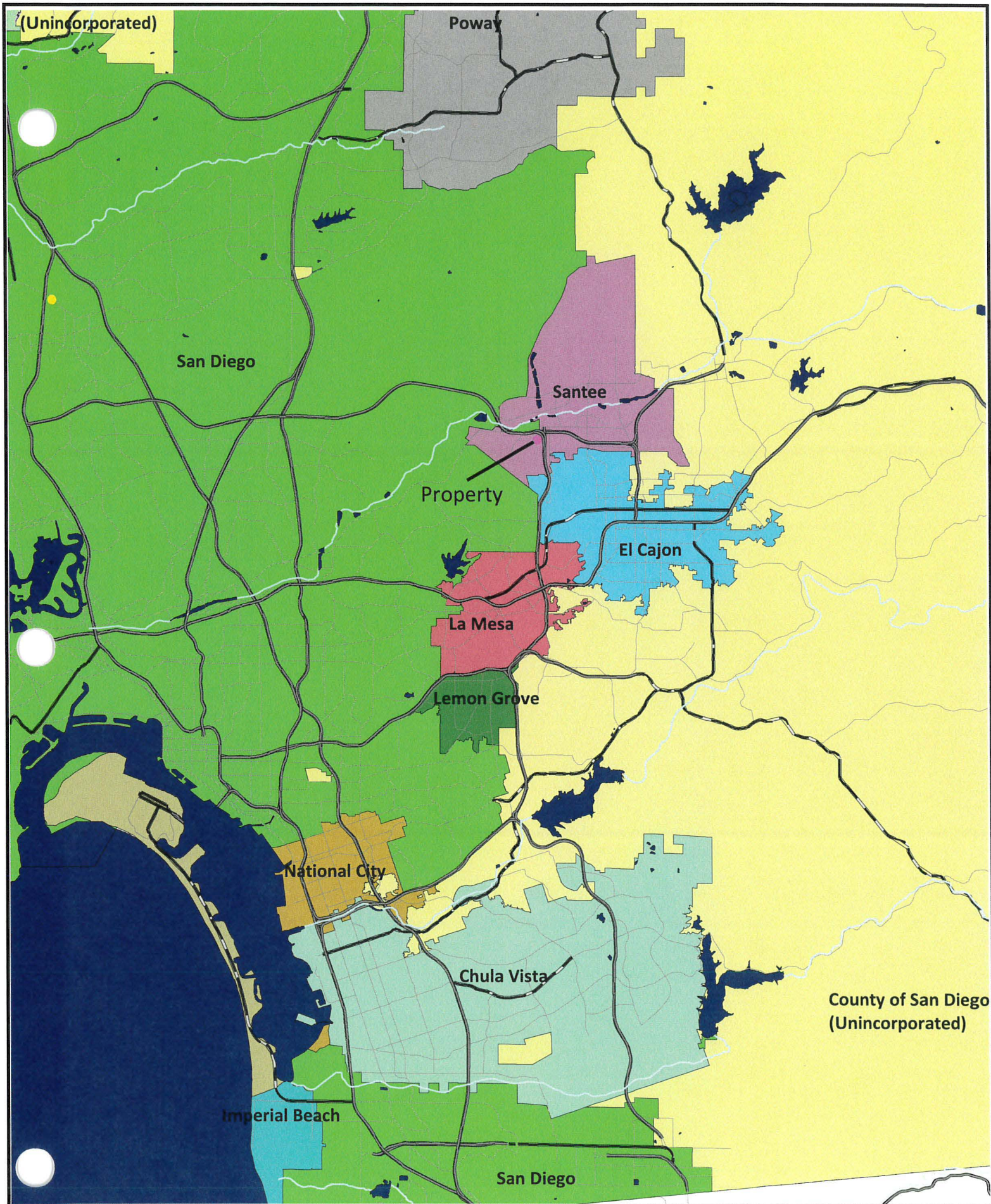
Sincerely,



Michael Jefferson  
President  
BLUE Consulting Group

Attached: Data Sheets 1-6

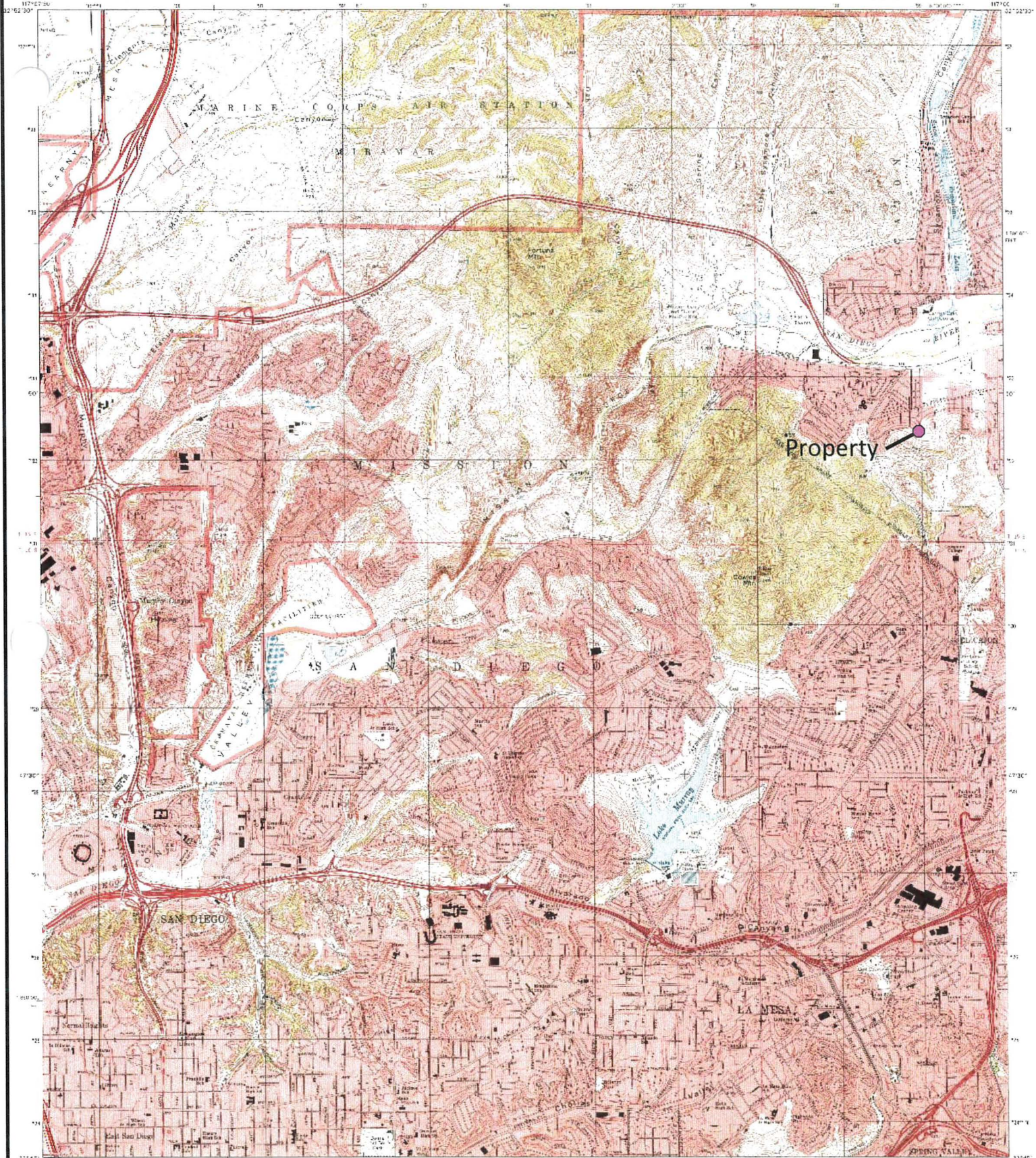




● Property

**FIGURE 1**  
Regional Project  
Location





Property

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Using aerial photography. Position of all features  
shown on this map is based on the National  
Map Accuracy Standards. For more information,  
contact the National Map Accuracy Standards  
Section, U.S. Geological Survey, 1225  
North American Bluffs, Reston, VA 20192.

SCALE 1:24,000

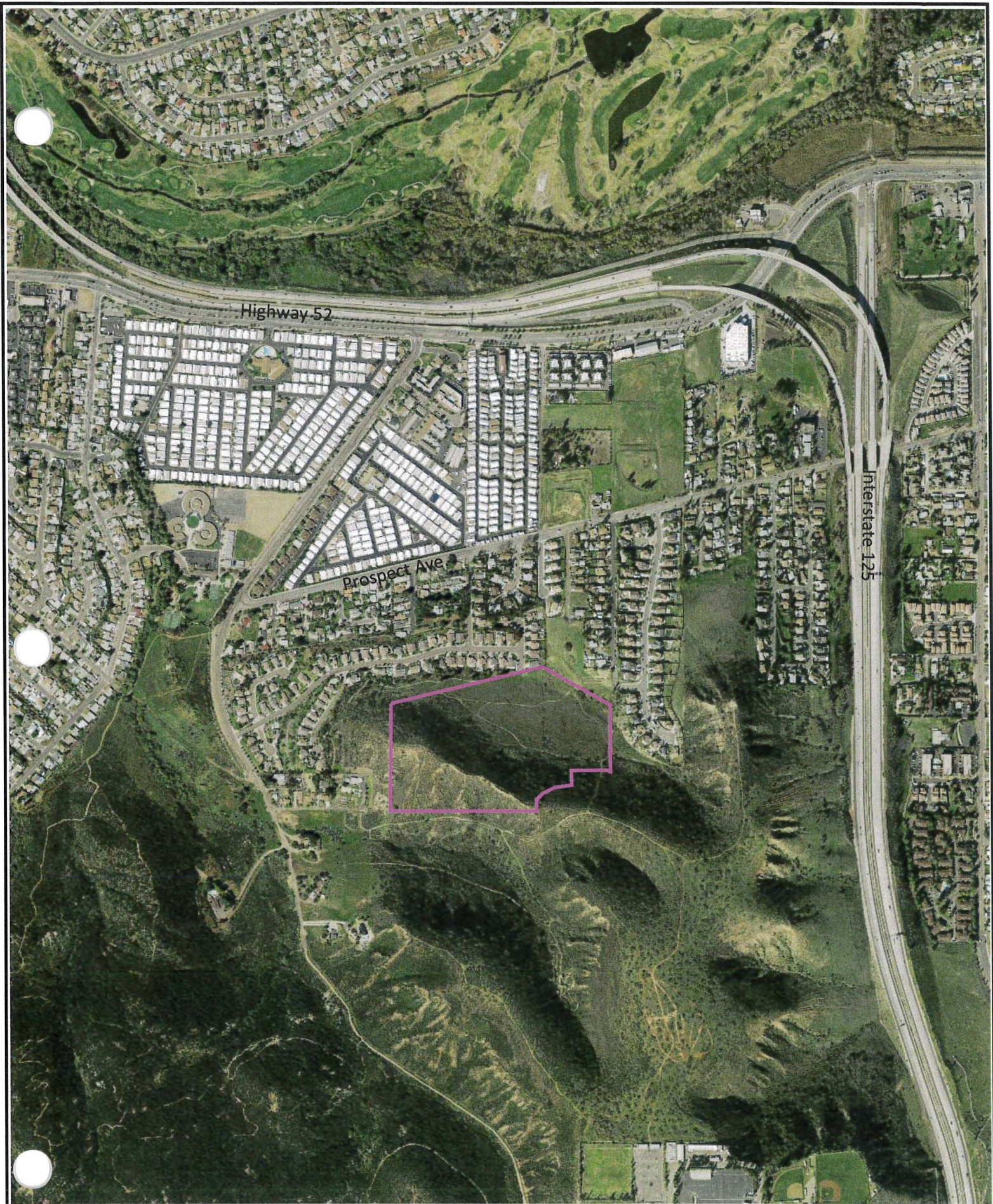
Legend:  
Elevation contours  
Roads  
Water features  
Boundaries  
Other features



Property (approximately)

FIGURE 2  
Project Location

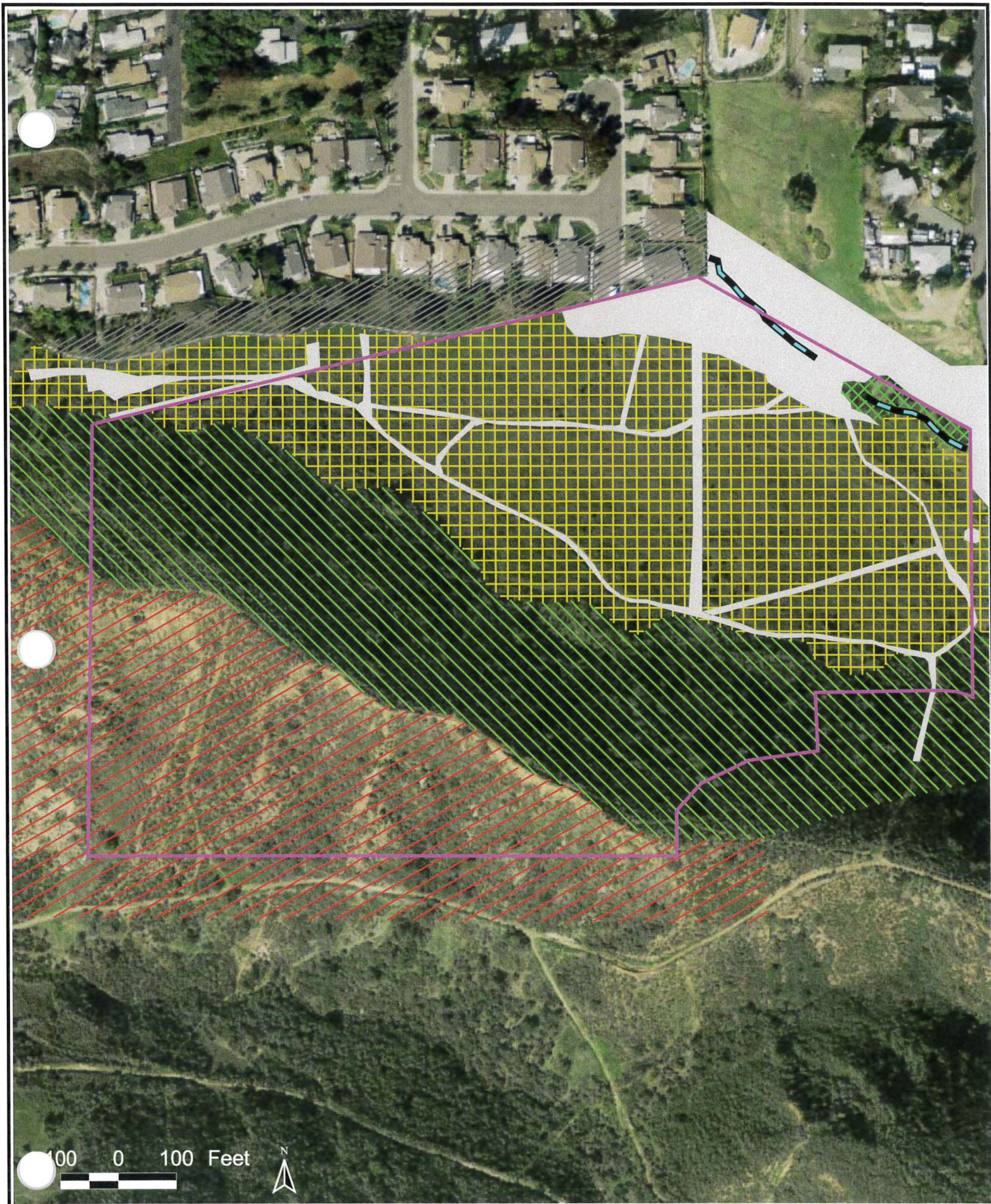




Property

FIGURE 3  
Property Aerial





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Property

Coastal Sage Scrub  
Chaparral  
Riparian scrub

Ephemeral drainage channel  
Non-native grassland  
Disturbed habitat

**FIGURE 4**  
**Habitat Map**





B L  
U E

- Property
- CAGN Critical Habitat
- Gnatcatcher
- Rufous crowned sparrow
- Cactus Wren
- Plantago erecta
- Palmers grappling hook
- Jewel flower

**FIGURE 5**  
**Sensitive Species**  
**Location Map**



**ATTACHMENTS**







# Field Data Sheet

Project: Santee (Taylor st.) Date of Survey: 3/21/13 Page 1 of 1  
 Type of Survey: QCR Survey Number: 2 of 6  
 Personnel: Erik LaCoste TE027736  
 Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Time	Temp (°F)	Wind (mph)	Sky (% clouds)	Precipitation
Start 1000	65	0-2	☉ Haze	☉
Finish 1200	68	0-2	☉ Haze	☉

Species			Flowers (new)
Funereal Duskywing	IIII IIII	10	Plantago erecta
Perplexing Hairstreak	IIII III	8	Mirabilis laevis crassifolia
Behrs Metalmark	IIII	4	Chia
ANISE Swallowtail	I	1	San Diego Sunflower
Brown Elf	I	1	Phacelia distans
			Ranchers fibuleneck
			Mustard sp.
			Sonchus Oleraceus
			Calystegia macrostegia
			Sanucula arguta
			Shooting stars
			Miner's Lettuce
			Galium or Nuttallianus

Notes:

Many small patches of Plantago - see Map.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_











## Field Data Sheet

Project: Santee (Taylor St.) Date of Survey: 4/10/13 Page 1 of 1  
 Type of Survey: OCIB Survey Number: 5 of 6  
 Personnel: Erik LaCoste TE027736  
 Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Time	Temp (°F)	Wind (mph)	Sky (% clouds)	Precipitation
Start 1245	76	4-7	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>
Finish 245	77	4-8	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>

Species			BLOOMERS (new)
Behrs metalmark		15	NONE.
Funereal Duskywing		3	
West Coast Lady		1	
Unidentified Blue		1	

Notes:

By Chance - locate CAGN Nest w/ 4 eggs in Artemisia  
 on Ridgeline - on trail  
 32.827217, -117.012260

Plantago green on North Slope - Drying on Ridgeline



# Field Data Sheet

Project: Santee (Taylor St.) Date of Survey: 4/18/13 Page 1 of 1

Type of Survey: QCR Survey Number: 6 of 6

Personnel: Eric LaCoste TE027736A

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Survey

Time	Temp (°F)	Wind (mph)	Sky (% clouds)	Precipitation
Start	0900	68	0	0
Finish	1030	75	0	0

Species			Bloomers (new)
Anise Swallowtail	1	1	None.
Behrs Metalmark	<del>1</del>	5	
Cabbage white	1	1	
West Coast lady	1	1	
Funereal Duskywing	1	1	
Monarch	1	1	

Notes:

Plantago mostly dry & to seed