



An Employee-Owned Company

June 22, 2022

Mr. Brian King  
Empire Construction Management, Inc.  
2280 Wardlow Circle, Suite 250  
Corona, CA 92878

Reference: Burrowing Owl Focused Survey Results for the Crystal Cove Apartments Project (RECON Number 10113)

Dear Mr. King:

This letter summarizes the results of the 2022 focused surveys for the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) for the Crystal Cove Apartments Project (project). The project boundary is located at Assessor's Parcel Number 484-030-028 in the city of Moreno Valley in western Riverside County, California (Figures 1 through 3). The project is located in within Township 03 South, Range 03 West of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic map, Sunnymead quadrangle (USGS 1979; see Figure 2).

RECON conducted burrowing owl protocol surveys in suitable habitat in accordance with the guidelines developed by the County of Riverside (Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority [WRCRCA] 2006). Step 1 and Step II–Part A were conducted on March 30, 2022; based on those results, Step II–Part B was conducted to determine the presence or absence of the species within the project boundary. No burrowing owl individuals or any sign of burrowing owl activity were detected within the project boundary or 500-foot buffer. A discussion of the results of the survey conducted is provided below.

### Survey Methods

RECON biologist Jade Woll conducted four focused burrowing owl surveys (Step II–Part B) in accordance with the WRCRCA guidelines (WRCRCA 2006). Due to the presence of suitable habitat, the burrowing owl survey area (survey area) included a 500-foot buffer surrounding the project boundary (Figure 4). Meandering transects were walked through all suitable habitat identified within the project boundary. Suitable habitat within the 500-foot buffer was surveyed using binoculars, as access onto private property was not granted. All wildlife species observed during the surveys were noted. Survey dates, times, and weather conditions are provided in Table 1.

Table 1 Survey Information				
Date	Survey Type	Surveyors	Beginning Conditions	Ending Conditions
5/24/2022	Step II–Part B Owl Survey #1	J. Woll	6:45 p.m.; 74°F; 1-2 mph; 30% cc	8:00 p.m.; 74°F; 0 mph; 30% cc
5/25/2022	Step II–Part B Owl Survey #2	J. Woll	6:50 p.m.; 81°F; 2-4 mph; 0% cc	7:50 p.m.; 81°F; 2-4 mph; 0% cc
6/8/2022	Step II–Part B Owl Survey #3	J. Woll	6:10 a.m.; 64°F; 0 mph; 0% cc	7:10 a.m.; 64°F; 0 mph; 0% cc
6/10/2022	Step II–Part B Owl Survey #4	J. Woll	6:10 a.m.; 66°F; 0 mph; 0% cc	7:10 a.m.; 70°F; 0 mph; 0% cc

°F = degrees Fahrenheit; mph = miles per hour; % = percent; cc = cloud cover.

### **Focused Burrowing Owl Surveys (Step II-Part B) Results**

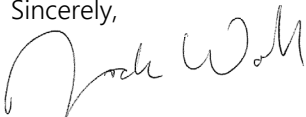
Focused burrowing owl surveys were conducted on four separate dates: May 24 and 25, and June 8 and 10, 2022. The surveys were conducted between two hours before sunset and one hour after sunset or one hour before sunrise and two hours after sunrise. Meandering transects were walked through all suitable habitat identified within the project boundary and burrows were inspected for sign (e.g., pellets, whitewash, feathers). The 500-foot buffer was surveyed from the project boundary using binoculars, as permission to survey within the buffer was not granted. Although burrows were observed on-site and within the 500-foot buffer, no burrowing owls or sign were observed during these focused surveys.

### **Pre-construction Survey Requirement**

As suitable habitat was mapped on-site, a pre-construction survey will be required within 30 days prior to ground disturbance (WRCRCA 2006). This pre-construction survey requirement will ensure avoidance of direct take of burrowing owls, if present. The survey will include all areas where suitable habitat is present within the survey area.

If you have any questions concerning the contents of this letter, please contact me at (619) 308-9333 extension 117.

Sincerely,



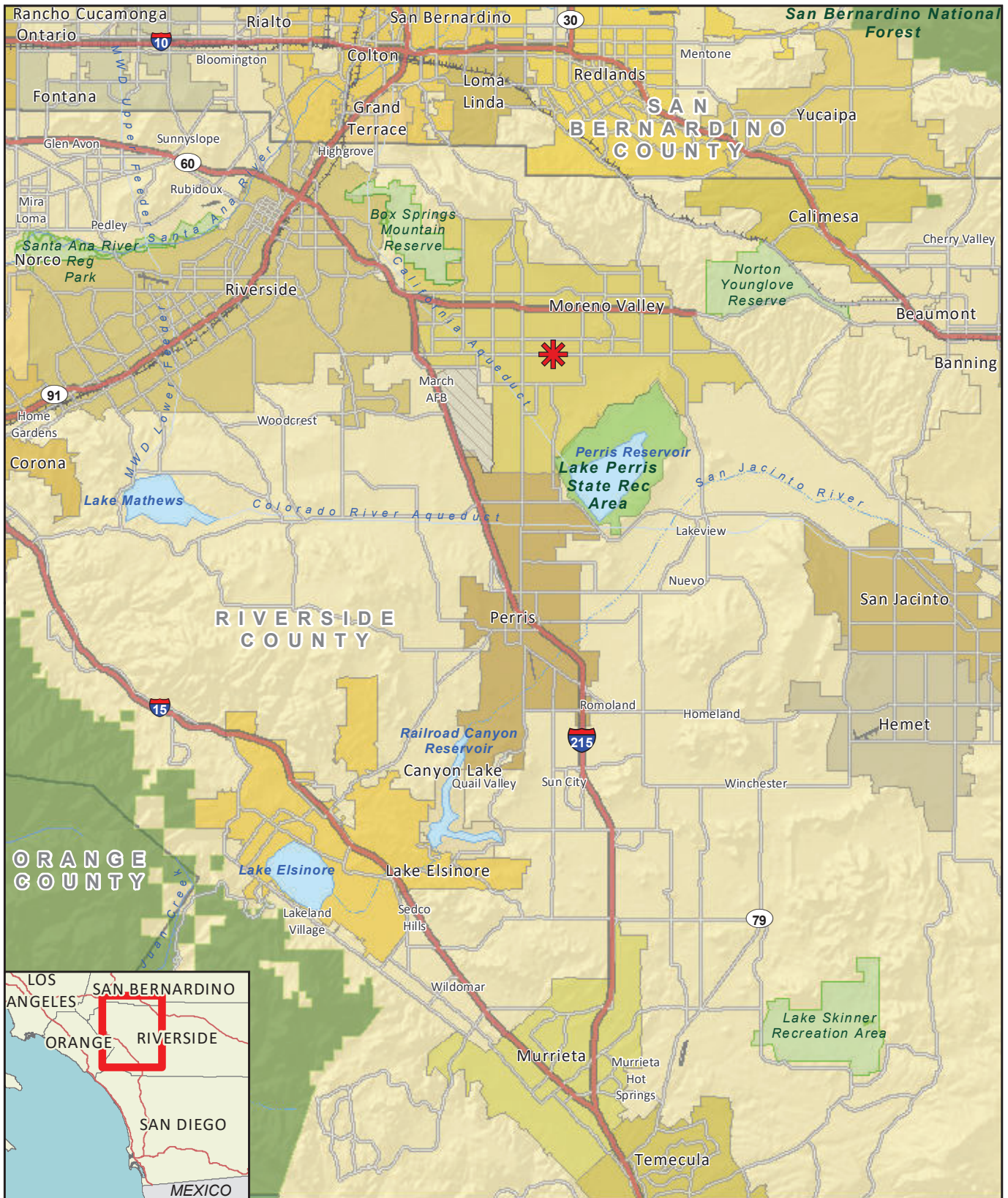
Jade Woll  
Biologist

JCW:jg

### **References Cited**

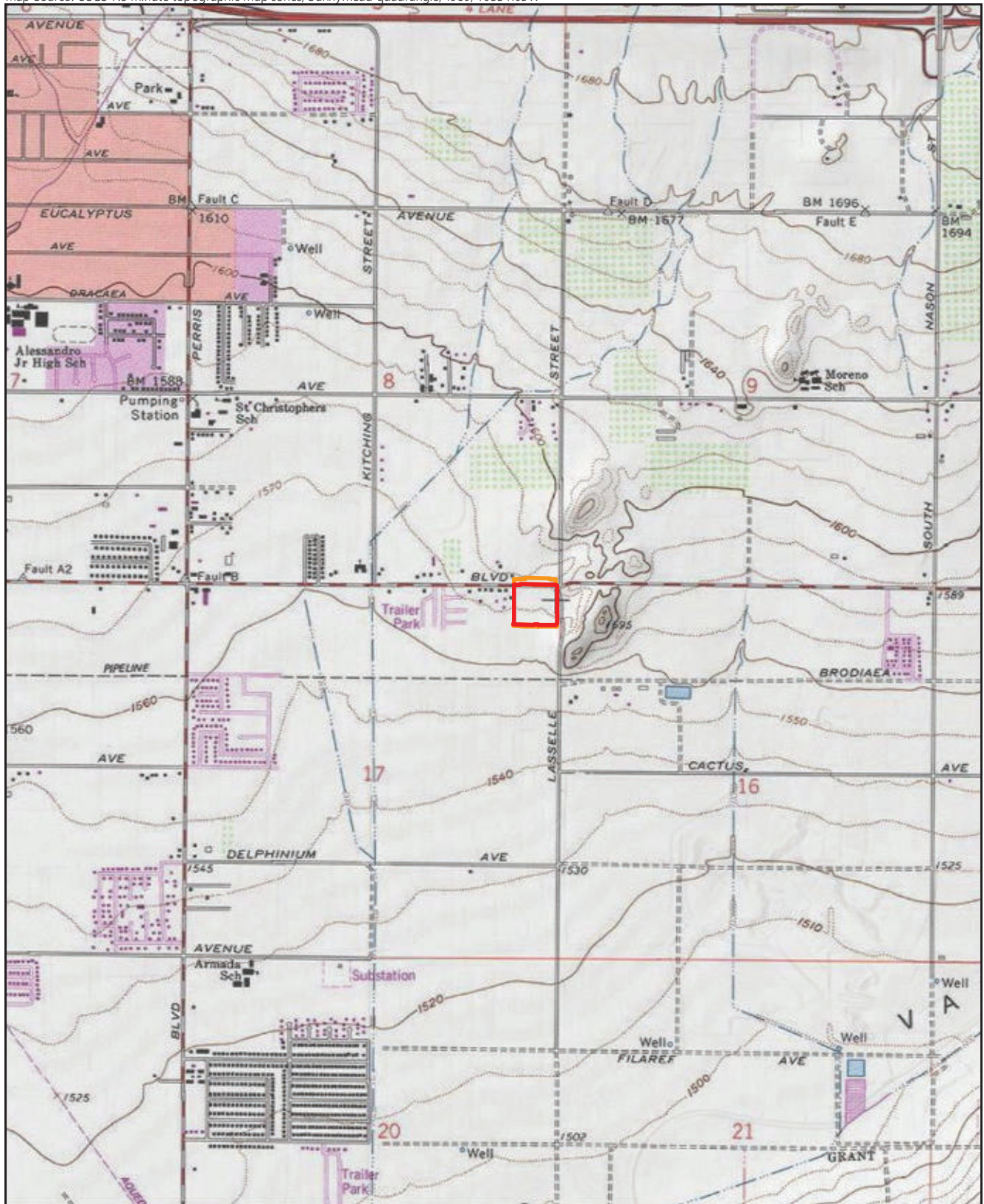
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)  
1979 Murrieta Quadrangle 7.5-Minute Topographic Map.

Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (WRCRCA)  
2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area.



 Project Location

FIGURE 1  
Regional Location





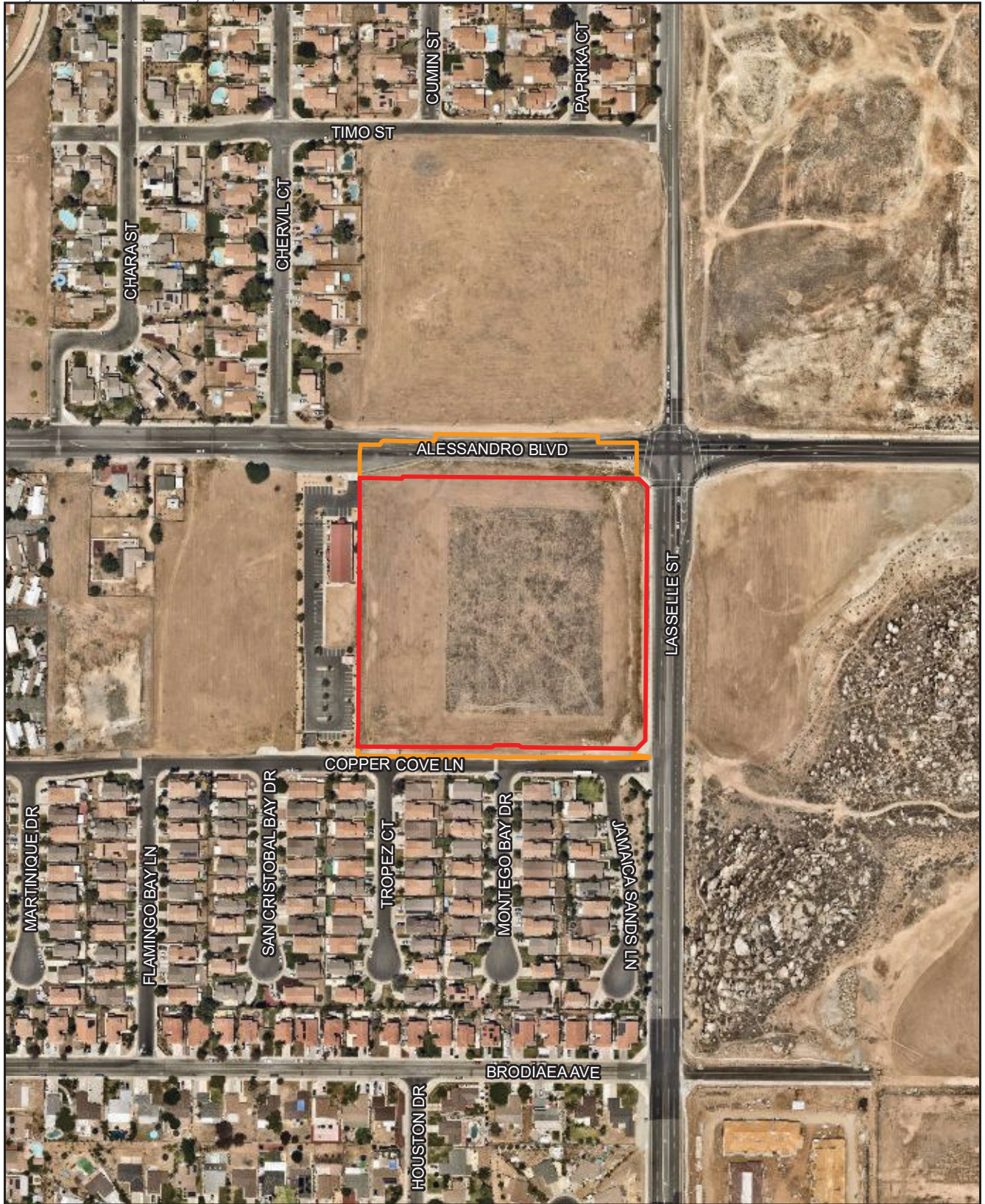
-  Project Boundary
-  Off-site Improvement Area



FIGURE 2  
Project Location on USGS Map





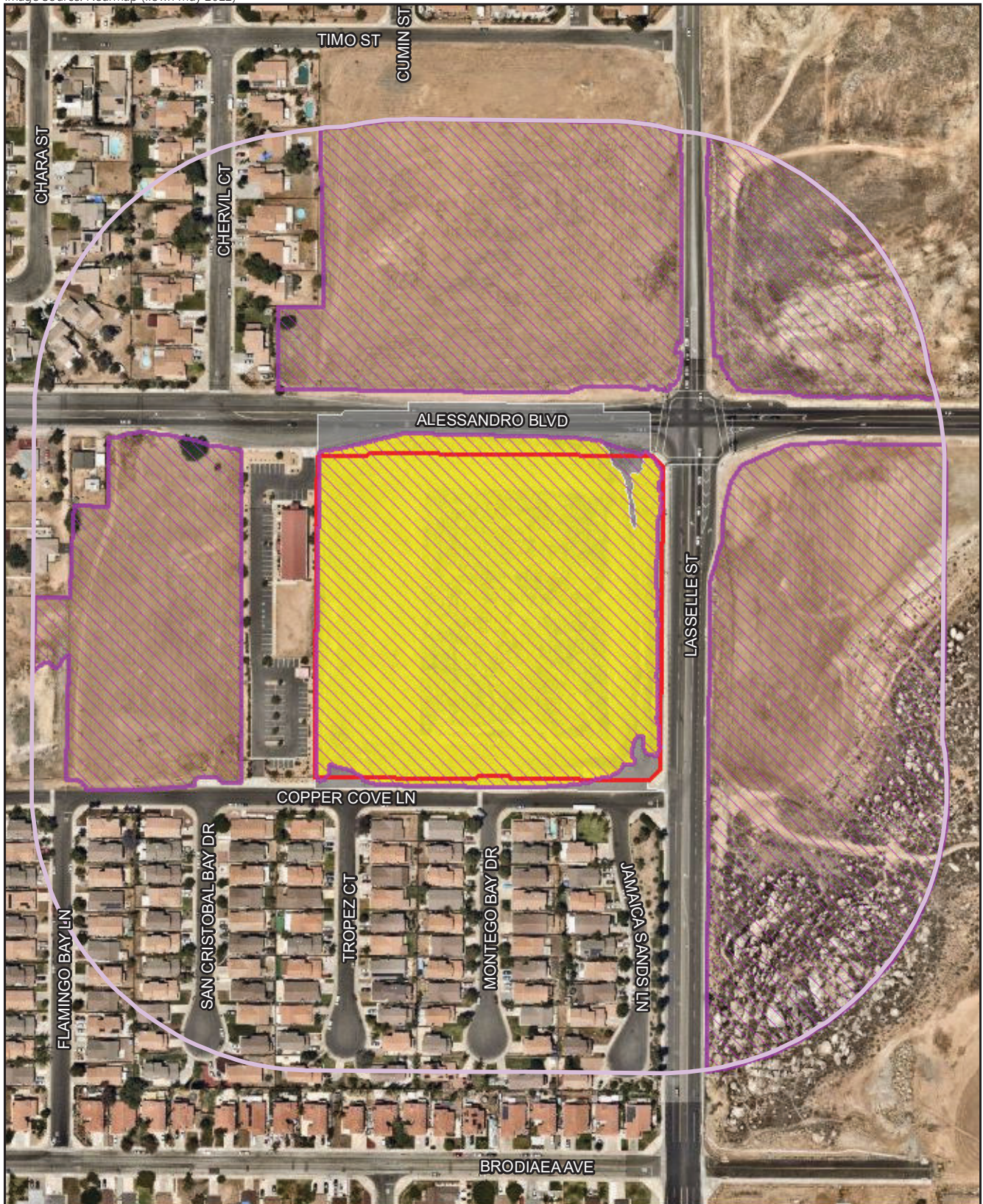
-  Project Boundary
-  Off-site Improvement Area

FIGURE 3  
Project Location on Aerial Photograph



- Project Boundary
- Burrowing Owl Survey Area
- Burrowing Owl Suitable Habitat
- Vegetation Community**
- Non-native Grassland
- Residential/Urban/Exotic

FIGURE 4

Focused Burrowing Owl Survey Results