



17 April 2023

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Subj: Biological Clearance Survey – 69 Acres, APNs 172-140-05 and 172-160-14, Bakersfield, California.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to document biological resources identified during a reconnaissance-level field study of the project site and identify potential impacts to biological resources resulting from the project. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have not been contacted regarding the preparation of this report. If CEQA threshold determinations warrant, further consultation may be required with CDFW and USFWS. If additional consultation with the agencies results in the need for Application for a California Incidental Take Permit, Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 783.2 outlines requirements for detailed species-specific take analysis, proposed measures to minimize and fully mitigate impacts, compliance monitoring, and funding.

## PROJECT LEGAL DESCRIPTION

The project consists of 69 acres of Parcel 3 of Parcel Map Number 2754 and Assessor's Parcel Numbers 172-140-05 (75 East White Lane) and 172-160-14 2572 South Union Avenue), within the incorporated limits of the City of Bakersfield, County of Kern, California (Figure 1).

## PRE-ACTIVITY SURVEY

Federal- and State-Listed or otherwise special-status species that have the historical or current distributions within a 10-mile radius of the project include but are not limited to: Blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*), San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*, SJAS), San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*, SJKF), and Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*, TKR), Bakersfield cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*, BACA), Kern mallow (*Eremalche parryi* ssp. *kernensis*), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*, BUOW). BUOW is afforded protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918), BUOW populations in the San Joaquin Valley occur in close association with California ground squirrels (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*). Based on the project location and historic and current levels of disturbance, the focus species for the project were determined to be SJKF and BUOW. If observed, San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF) dens were classified as defined by the *USFWS Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (2011). All plant taxa encountered were identified to the extent possible given the diagnostic features present. Identifications were made using keys contained in *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* and online updates containing revisions to taxonomic treatments (Baldwin et al. 2012; Jepson Flora Project 2015).

A field study was conducted on full coverage transects for the detection of the listed and special-status species with evidence of occupation or transitory occurrence. The field study was conducted on 02 April 2023, by Steven P. Pruet, a CDFW-approved Qualified Biologist for the species potentially occurring in the vicinity of the project. Mr. Pruet was accompanied by Mr. Tyus Thompson. The project was evaluated on full coverage transects at intervals no greater than 100-feet (30-meters).



## **SURVEY RESULTS**

The project site consists of two distinct disturbance types: approximately 37 acres paved and graveled and currently used as a trucking storage/training facility, and the remaining approximately 32 acres of vacant land disturbed to varying degrees. The project includes addresses for both South Union Avenue and East White Lane. The project is surrounded by commercial and residential development dating back well over 50 years. The Central Branch of the Kern Island Canal is the east border of the project. At the time of the fieldwork, the vacant portion of the site was entirely covered in dense ruderal vegetation as a result of recent heavy rainfall.

No SJKF potential, known, or natal dens were observed. No SJKF scat, track, or other evidence suggesting SJKF presence was observed. BUOW was observed. No BUOW burrows or evidence of BUOW presence was observed. No BACA is present on the Project. No evidence of any other special-status species was observed during the field survey.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Respectfully,

Steven P. Pruetts, Principal Biologist

Attachments