



TETRA TECH EC, INC.

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED**

**11-AFC-3**

TN # 66214

JUL 12 2012

July 12, 2012

Eric Solorio, Project Manager  
California Energy Commission  
Docket No. 11-AFC-3  
1516 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Cogentrix Quail Brush Generation Project - Docket Number 11-AFC-03: Coastal California Gnatcatcher Protocol Survey Report, Cogentrix Quail Brush Generation Project, City of San Diego, San Diego County, California**

Docket Clerk:

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 20, California Code of Regulations, and on behalf of Quail Brush Genco, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cogentrix Energy, LLC, Tetra Tech hereby submits the *Coastal California Gnatcatcher Protocol Survey Report Cogentrix Quail Brush Generation Project, City of San Diego, San Diego County, California*. The Quail Brush generation Project is a 100 megawatt natural gas fired electric generation peaking facility to be located in the City of San Diego, California.

The topics addressed in this letter include the following:

- Biological Resources

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Rick Neff at (704) 525-3800 or me at (303) 980.3653.

Sincerely,

Constance E. Farmer  
Project Manager/Tetra Tech

cc: Lori Ziebart, Cogentrix  
John Collins, Cogentrix  
Rick Neff, Cogentrix  
Proof of Service List

TETRA TECH EC, INC.



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
1-800-822-6228 – [WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV](http://WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV)**

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
FOR THE *QUAIL BRUSH GENERATION PROJECT***

**DOCKET NO. 11-AFC-03  
PROOF OF SERVICE  
(Revised 7/5/2012)**

**APPLICANT**

Cogentrix Energy, LLC  
C. Richard "Rick" Neff, Vice President  
Environmental, Health & Safety  
9405 Arrowpoint Boulevard  
Charlotte, NC 28273  
[rickneff@cogentrix.com](mailto:rickneff@cogentrix.com)

Cogentrix Energy, LLC  
John Collins  
Lori Ziebart  
9405 Arrowpoint Blvd.  
Charlotte, NC 28273  
[johncollins@cogentrix.com](mailto:johncollins@cogentrix.com)  
[loriziebart@cogentrix.com](mailto:loriziebart@cogentrix.com)

**APPLICANT'S CONSULTANTS**

Tetra Tech EC, Inc.  
Connie Farmer  
Sr. Environmental Project Manager  
143 Union Boulevard, Suite 1010  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
[connie.farmer@tetrattech.com](mailto:connie.farmer@tetrattech.com)

Tetra Tech EC, Inc.  
Barry McDonald  
VP Solar Energy Development  
17885 Von Karmen Avenue, Ste. 500  
Irvine, CA 92614-6213  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[barry.mcdonald@tetrattech.com](mailto:barry.mcdonald@tetrattech.com)

**COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT**

Bingham McCutchen LLP  
Ella Foley Gannon  
Camarin Madigan  
Three Embarcadero Center  
San Francisco, CA 94111-4067  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[ella.gannon@bingham.com](mailto:ella.gannon@bingham.com)  
[camarin.madigan@bingham.com](mailto:camarin.madigan@bingham.com)

**INTERVENORS**

Roslind Varghese  
9360 Leticia Drive  
Santee, CA 92071  
[roslindv@gmail.com](mailto:roslindv@gmail.com)

Rudy Reyes  
8527 Graves Avenue, #120  
Santee, CA 92071  
[rreyes2777@hotmail.com](mailto:rreyes2777@hotmail.com)

Dorian S. Houser  
7951 Shantung Drive  
Santee, CA 92071  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[dhouser@cox.net](mailto:dhouser@cox.net)

Kevin Brewster  
8502 Mesa Heights Road  
Santee, CA 92071  
[lzpup@yahoo.com](mailto:lzpup@yahoo.com)

Phillip M. Connor  
Sunset Greens Home Owners  
Association  
8752 Wahl Street  
Santee, CA 92071  
[connorphil48@yahoo.com](mailto:connorphil48@yahoo.com)

**\*HomeFed Fanita Rancho, LLC**  
Jeffrey A. Chine  
Heather S. Riley  
Allen Matkins Leck Gamble  
Mallory & Natsis LLP  
501 West Broadway, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101  
[jchine@allenmatkins.com](mailto:jchine@allenmatkins.com)  
[hriley@allenmatkins.com](mailto:hriley@allenmatkins.com)  
[jkaup@allenmatkins.com](mailto:jkaup@allenmatkins.com)

**INTERESTED AGENCIES**

California ISO  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[e-recipient@caiso.com](mailto:e-recipient@caiso.com)

City of Santee  
Department of Development Services  
Melanie Kush  
Director of Planning  
10601 Magnolia Avenue, Bldg. 4  
Santee, CA 92071  
[mkush@ci.santee.ca.us](mailto:mkush@ci.santee.ca.us)

Morris E. Dye  
Development Services Dept.  
City of San Diego  
1222 First Avenue, MS 501  
San Diego, CA 92101  
[mdye@sandiego.gov](mailto:mdye@sandiego.gov)

Mindy Fogg  
Land Use Environmental Planner  
Advance Planning  
County of San Diego  
Department of Planning & Land Use  
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B  
San Diego, CA 92123  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[Mindy.Fogg@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Mindy.Fogg@sdcounty.ca.gov)

**ENERGY COMMISSION –  
DECISIONMAKERS**

KAREN DOUGLAS  
Commissioner and  
Presiding Member  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[karen.douglas@energy.ca.gov](mailto:karen.douglas@energy.ca.gov)

ANDREW McALLISTER  
Commissioner and  
Associate Member  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[andrew.mcallister@energy.ca.gov](mailto:andrew.mcallister@energy.ca.gov)

Raoul Renaud  
Hearing Adviser  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[raoul.renaud@energy.ca.gov](mailto:raoul.renaud@energy.ca.gov)

Galen Lemei  
Presiding Member's Advisor  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[galen.lemei@energy.ca.gov](mailto:galen.lemei@energy.ca.gov)

David Hungerford  
Associate Member's Advisor  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[david.hungerford@energy.ca.gov](mailto:david.hungerford@energy.ca.gov)

**ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF**

Eric Solorio  
Project Manager  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[eric.solorio@energy.ca.gov](mailto:eric.solorio@energy.ca.gov)

Stephen Adams  
Staff Counsel  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[stephen.adams@energy.ca.gov](mailto:stephen.adams@energy.ca.gov)

Eileen Allen  
Commissioners' Technical  
Adviser for Facility Siting  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[eileen.allen@energy.ca.gov](mailto:eileen.allen@energy.ca.gov)

**ENERGY COMMISSION –  
PUBLIC ADVISER**

Jennifer Jennings  
Public Adviser's Office  
*e-mail service preferred*  
[publicadviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadviser@energy.ca.gov)

## DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Constance Farmer, declare that on July 12, 2012, I served and filed a copy of the *Coastal California Gnatcatcher Protocol Survey Report, Cogentrix Quail Brush Generation Project, City of San Diego, San Diego County, California* (11-AFC-03). This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at:

[\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/quailbrush/index.html\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/quailbrush/index.html).

The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit or Chief Counsel, as appropriate, in the following manner:

**(Check all that Apply)**

**For service to all other parties:**

- ☒ Served electronically to all e-mail addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- ☒ Served by delivering on this date, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first- class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses **NOT** marked "e-mail preferred."

**AND**

**For filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:**

- ☒ by sending an electronic copy to the e-mail address below (preferred method); **OR**
- ☐ by depositing an original and 12 paper copies in the mail with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid, as follows:

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION – DOCKET UNIT**

Attn: Docket No. 11-AFC-3

1516 Ninth Street, MS-4

Sacramento, CA 95814-5512 [docket@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:docket@energy.state.ca.us)

**OR, if filing a Petition for Reconsideration of Decision or Order pursuant to Title 20, § 1720:**

- ☐ Served by delivering on this date one electronic copy by e-mail, and an original paper copy to the Chief Counsel at the following address, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid:

California Energy Commission

Michael J. Levy, Chief Counsel

1516 Ninth Street MS-14

Sacramento, CA 95814

[mlevy@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mlevy@energy.state.ca.us)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.

*Constance C. Farmer*

**Coastal California Gnatcatcher Protocol Survey Report**  
**Cogentrix Quail Brush Generation Project**  
**City of San Diego, San Diego County, California**

La Mesa, California, USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle Map  
Township 15 South, Range 1 West, Section 7, Township 15 South, Range 2 West,  
Section 12 and Unsectioned Portions of El Cajon and Mission San Diego Land Grants

Prepared for:



**Tetra Tech EC, Inc.**  
143 Union Boulevard, Suite 100  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
303.980.3653

Contact: Ms. Connie Farmer, Senior Environmental Project Manager

Prepared by:

**Michael Brandman Associates**  
220 Commerce, Suite 200  
Irvine, CA 92602  
714.508.4100

Author/Biologist: Scott Crawford, Section Manager



June 8, 2012



## Table of Contents

<b>Section 1: Summary.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Section 2: Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 - Project Location .....	3
2.2 - Project Description .....	3
<b>Section 3: Target Species Biology .....</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1 - Coastal California Gnatcatcher .....	11
<b>Section 4: Methodology.....</b>	<b>13</b>
4.1 - Literature Review .....	13
4.2 - Protocol Survey.....	13
<b>Section 5: biological Survey Area .....</b>	<b>15</b>
5.1 - Coastal California Gnatcatcher Survey Area .....	15
5.1.1 - Topography .....	15
5.1.2 - Disturbance .....	15
5.1.3 - Vegetation Communities/Habitat Types .....	15
<b>Section 6: Protocol Survey Results .....</b>	<b>17</b>
6.1 - Target Species Presence/Absence Determination .....	17
6.2 - Additional Avifauna Species.....	18
<b>Section 7: Conclusions and Recommendations.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Section 8: Certification .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Section 9: References.....</b>	<b>23</b>

### Appendix A: Avifauna Compendium

### Appendix B: Biologist Resume

## List of Tables

Table 1: Coastal California Gnatcatcher Protocol Survey Results.....	17
--	----

## List of Exhibits

Exhibit 1: Regional Location Map.....	5
Exhibit 2: Local Vicinity Map - Topographic Base .....	7
Exhibit 3: Suitable Gnatcatcher Habitat Survey Area Locations .....	9





## SECTION 1: SUMMARY

This report contains the results of protocol surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) conducted by Michael Brandman Associates (MBA) on the proposed Cogentrix Quail Brush Generation Project (project), in the City of San Diego, in San Diego County, California. The proposed project consists of a 100-megawatt gas-fired intermediate/peaking plant (herein referred to as plant site or site), a 138 kilovolt (kV) generation tie-line (gentie) transmission line, an electrical switchyard at the point of interconnection, an 8-inch underground natural gas pipeline, and temporary construction laydown and parking areas. The overall survey area encompasses all project facilities described above as the project site (both preferred and alternative switchyard and transmission line), as well as a buffer area and potential mitigation parcels. The overall survey area consists of 495 acres.

The project site is located within a previously burned area adjacent to an existing landfill. A few low-quality patches of coastal sage scrub, identified during a habitat assessment survey conducted by MBA in May 2011, occur within the proposed project site (approximately 10 acres). In addition, several large patches of moderate-quality coastal sage scrub occur within the proposed transmission line corridor and proposed mitigation parcels (approximately 70 acres). The coastal sage scrub areas within the plant site, transmission corridor, and mitigation parcels make up the coastal California gnatcatcher protocol survey area (survey area) described in detail in this technical report.

Breeding season protocol surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher were conducted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) permitted biologist, Scott Crawford,<sup>1</sup> between March 22 and May 9, 2012 within approximately 80 acres of suitable habitat in the biological survey area. A single, dispersing coastal California gnatcatcher was observed during the first day of protocol surveys, but was not observed again during the additional five surveys. California gnatcatcher is currently absent from the biological survey area, but has been documented to occupy a patch of high-quality California coastal gnatcatcher habitat south of the project site in an offsite area along Mast Boulevard.

---

<sup>1</sup> S. Crawford's Permit Number is TE-019947-4, see Appendix B, Biologist Resume.



## **SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION**

This report documents the results of protocol surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher on the proposed Cogentrix Quail Brush Generation project site in the City of San Diego, San Diego County, California. The coastal California gnatcatcher is listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, whereby “take” of this species and its habitat requires authorization and permitting through the USFWS. The objective of the protocol survey was to determine the presence/absence and distribution of coastal California gnatcatcher within the proposed project site, and to provide recommended measures to address potential project-related impacts to the species and its habitat according to federal policy.

---

### **2.1 - Project Location**

---

The proposed project site is generally located north of State Route 52 (SR-52) (San Clemente Canyon Freeway), south of SR-78, east of Interstate 15 (I-15), and west of SR-67 in the eastern portion of the City of San Diego, California (Exhibit 1). The proposed project is located within Township 15 South, Range 1 West, Section 7, Township 15 South, Range 2 West, Section 12, and unsectioned portions of the El Cajon and Mission San Diego Land Grants, within the La Mesa, California, United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map (Exhibit 2). The project is specifically located north of San Clemente Canyon Freeway (SR-52), east of Medina Drive, and on both sides of Sycamore Landfill Road adjacent to the Sycamore Canyon Landfill (Exhibit 3).

Land use adjacent to the proposed project site generally consists of the existing Sycamore Landfill and Hanson Aggregate Mine to the north, and open, undeveloped hillsides to the south, east, and west. Previous disturbances include the development and maintenance of the Sycamore Landfill Road.

No portions of the proposed project site occur within USFWS designated critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher. The project site is located 2 miles west of the closest designated critical habitat for this species.

---

### **2.2 - Project Description**

---

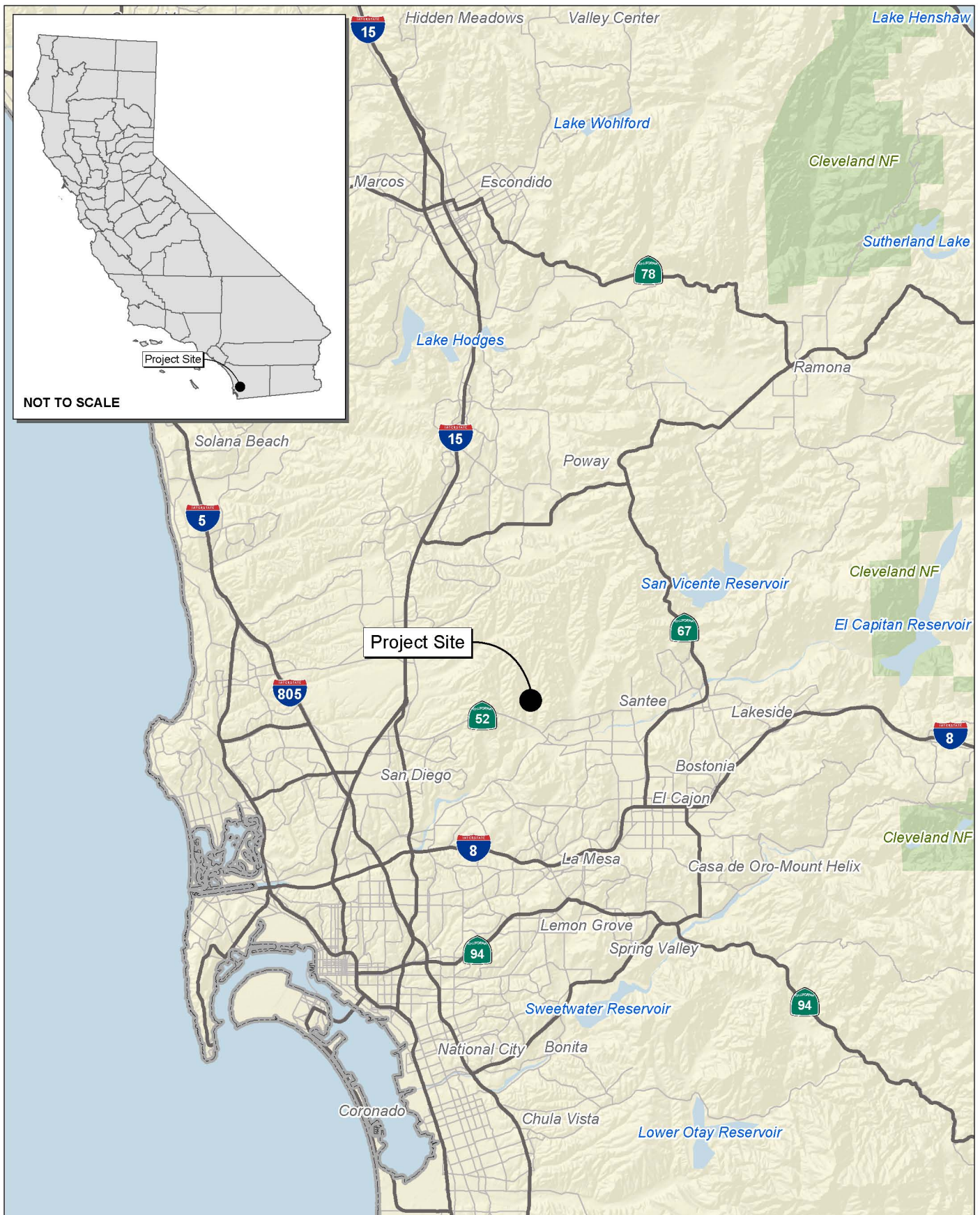
Quail Brush Genco, LLC recently signed a long-term power-purchase agreement with San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) to deliver power to homes and businesses in San Diego. This proposed project was one of three projects selected by SDG&E to meet its 2009 solicitation for conventional generation. Natural gas power plants are a major goal of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Regional Energy Strategy 2009. Goal 2 of the SANDAG Regional Energy Strategy 2030 is to increase in-county energy generation. The Cogentrix Quail Brush Generation Project is consistent with these strategies.

The proposed project consists of the construction and operation of the following facilities:

- A 100-MW peaker plant, to be constructed approximately 11 acres within an approximately 22-acre parcel;
- A 138 kV transmission line to connect between the peaker plant and the existing SDG&E Carlton Hills Substation; and
- An 8-inch underground natural gas pipeline that will be constructed by trenching within the right-of-way (ROW) of Sycamore Landfill Road southeast of the proposed project.

A temporary construction area for laydown of materials and parking will also be required and is proposed to be located on 5 acres north of the plant site within the existing Sycamore Landfill.

The overall biological survey area for the proposed project encompassed all of these facilities. The gnatcatcher survey area was limited to coastal sage scrub habitat within the overall biological survey area. The coastal California gnatcatcher survey area did not include the offsite parking or the temporary construction areas due to a lack of suitable habitat.



Source: Census 2000 Data, The CaSIL, MBA GIS 2011.





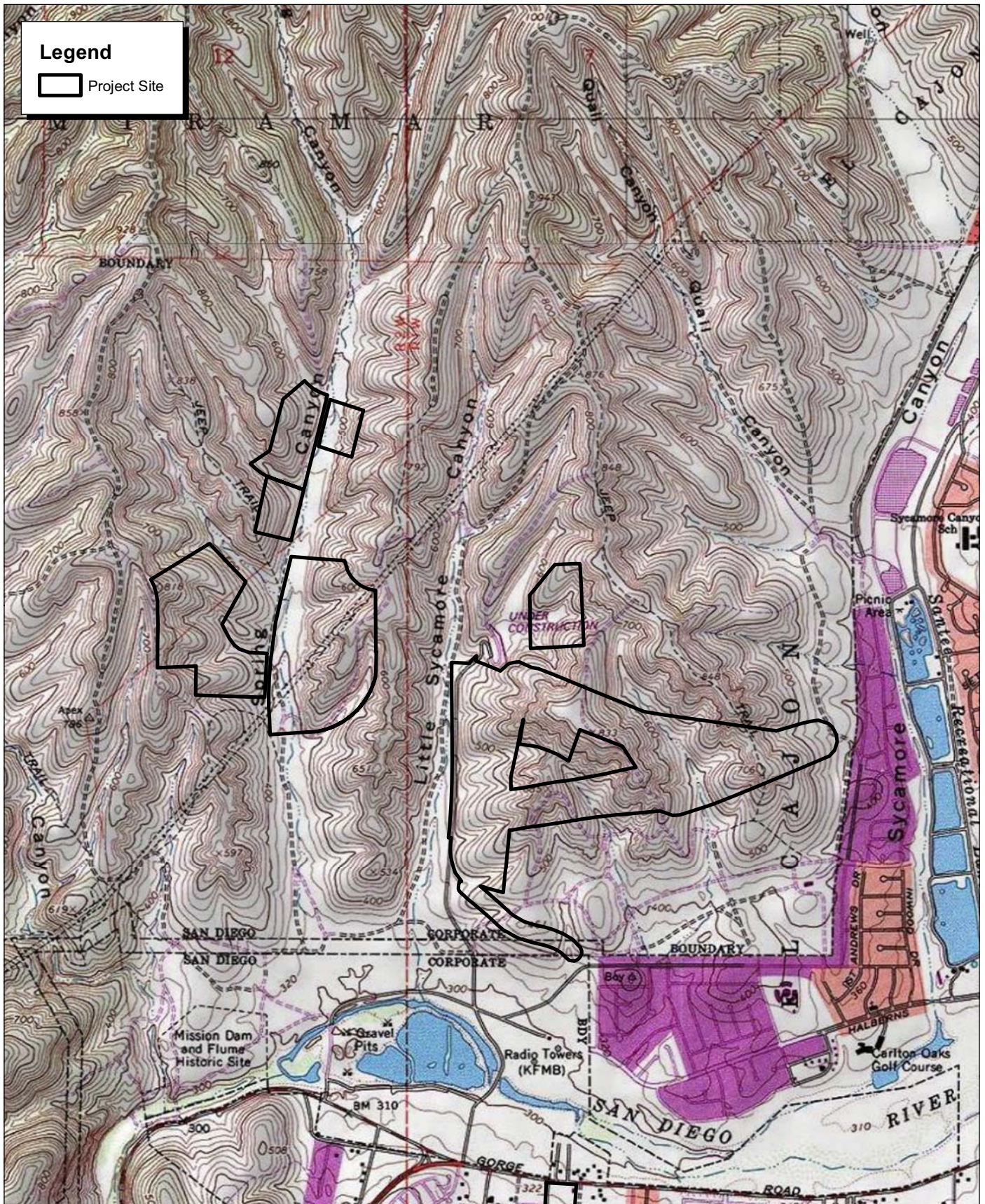


Exhibit 2

Local Vicinity Map  
Topographic Base



Michael Brandman Associates

17510009 • 04/2012 | 2\_local\_topo.mxd

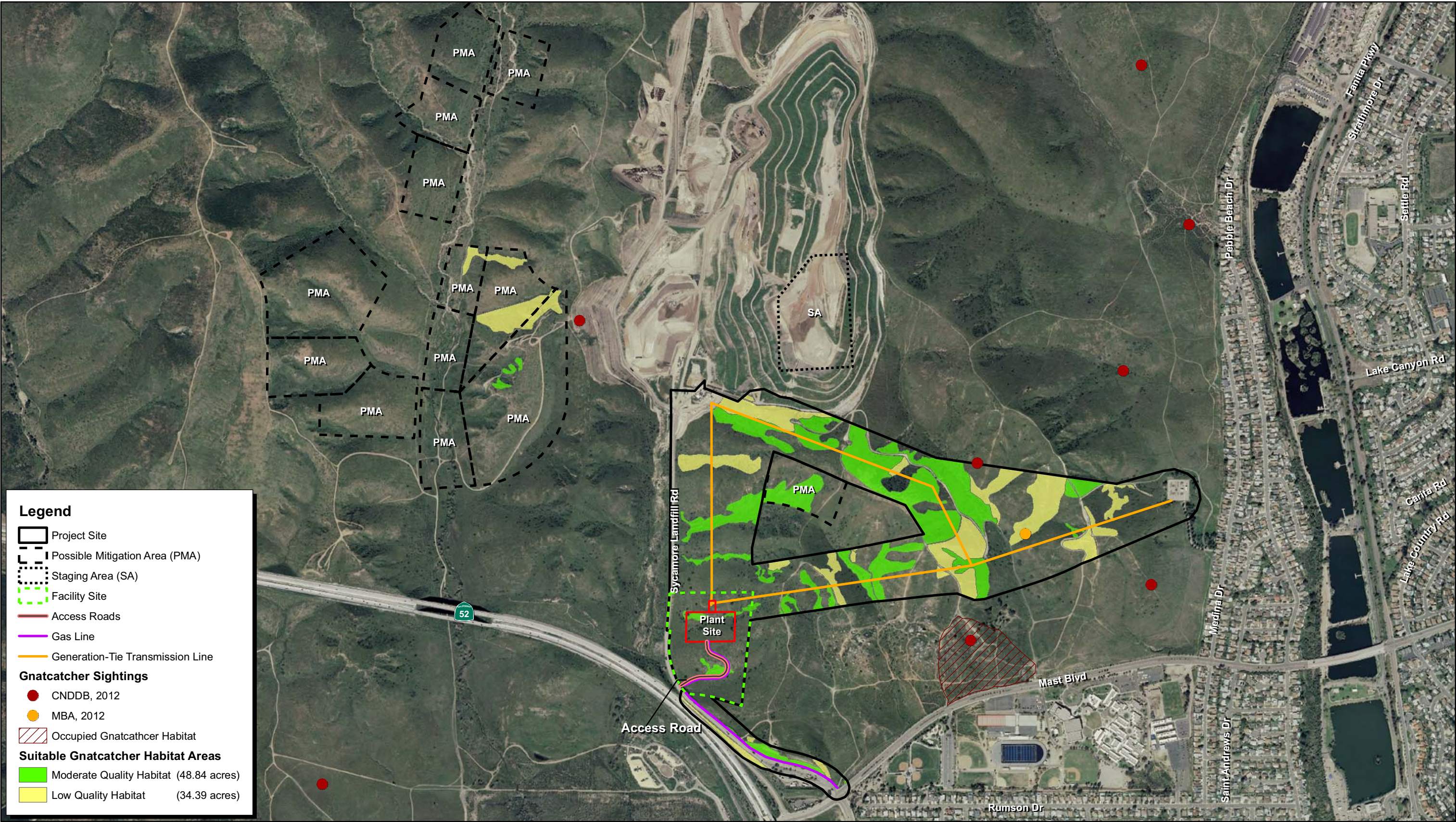


TETRA TECH EC, INC. • QUAIL BRUSH PROJECT  
COASTAL CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER PROTOCOL SURVEY REPORT









Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery. CNDDDB Data, April 2012. MBA Field Survey and GIS Data, 2012.





## SECTION 3: TARGET SPECIES BIOLOGY

### 3.1 - Coastal California Gnatcatcher

On March 30, 1993, the USFWS issued their final ruling to list the coastal California gnatcatcher as a federally threatened species under the federal ESA. This species is also designated as a California State species of special concern by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).

The coastal California gnatcatcher is a small, blue-gray songbird in the family Sylviidae, which includes old-world warblers and gnatcatchers. Coastal California gnatcatchers are relatively small, measuring 4.5 inches (11 centimeters) and weighing 0.2 ounce (6 grams). It is identified by dark blue-gray feathers on its back and grayish-white feathers on its underside. The wings of adult gnatcatchers have a gray-brown wash that is more prominent in females than males. Males have a more distinct gray coloration to their wing plumage than females. Perhaps most noticeable as a distinguishing characteristic is its relatively long fluttering tail, which is mostly black with white outer tail feathers. Adult males display a black cap during breeding season, which is molted out and absent during the non-breeding season. They have a thin, small bill that is compatible with their insectivorous foraging requirements.

The coastal California gnatcatcher is an obligate resident of lower elevation coastal sage scrub habitats in southern California from Ventura County to the north, to San Diego County to the south, and known to occur in northwestern Baja California, Mexico locations. This species' breeding habitat consists of moderately dense coastal sage scrub associated with shallow-sloping, arid hillsides, mesas, and washes, generally occurring below 2,000 feet in elevation. Coastal sage scrub habitat dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*) is preferred for breeding; however, breeding territories have been documented in non-sage scrub habitats, including chaparral scrub types, grasslands, and ruderal (weedy) dominated habitats. The breeding season for this species typically extends from February 15 through August 30, with peak nesting activities typically occurring from mid-March through mid-May. A high rate of nest predation is compensated for by up to ten re-nesting attempts over this species' relatively long breeding season. The coastal California gnatcatcher is an obligate insectivore foraging over a variety of habitats; however, they prefer coastal sage scrub. Loss and fragmentation of suitable habitat due to expanding development have been major factors in the decline of coastal California gnatcatcher in southern California.



---

## **SECTION 4: METHODOLOGY**

---

### **4.1 - Literature Review**

---

Prior to conducting protocol surveys, a literature review was conducted to obtain background information and resources pertinent to the survey effort. The literature review began with a thorough review of aerial imagery of the proposed project site and vicinity, as well as electronic and hard copies of the La Mesa, California USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map. Mapping sources used for the effort also included online interactive mapping tools provided by Google Earth.

Data on previous observations of the target species that have been recorded in the vicinity of the project site were compiled from the CDFG California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), a sensitive species and plant community account database. MBA conducted a query of the CNDDDB records based on a 10-mile radius surrounding the project site that included the Del Mar, El Cajon, Jamul Mountains, La Jolla, La Mesa, National City, Point Loma, Poway, and San Vicente Reservoir, California USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps. The CNDDDB Geographical Information Systems (GIS) database was also used, together with ArcGIS software, to confirm and map the locations of all sensitive species recorded by the CNDDDB.

The literature review also included research of existing data and documents pertaining to the target species, including federal register listings, protocol survey guidelines, and species data provided by the USFWS and CDFG. Other documents reviewed for the effort include material prepared for the Biological Resources Survey Report for the Quail Brush Project (MBA 2011). This and other references are provided in Section 9, References.

---

### **4.2 - Protocol Survey**

---

Protocol breeding season surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher were conducted by Scott Crawford under USFWS Section 10(a)(1)(A) Permit Number TE-019947-4. Under the County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and City of San Diego Subarea Plan, a minimum of three surveys are required to document presence/absence of the species. However, due to the marginal quality habitat on most of the project site, additional surveys were included to better understand the usage of the project site by the coastal California gnatcatcher. Methods employed were in conformance with USFWS Coastal California Gnatcatcher Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines, issued July 28, 1997 (USFWS 1997). Six surveys were performed at least 1 week apart, from March 15 to June 30, 2011, between 0600 hours and 1200 hours, within all coastal California gnatcatcher protocol survey area (survey area) in that portion of the project site containing suitable coastal sage scrub habitat, as discussed in Section 5, Biological Survey Area.

The biologist slowly traversed the biological survey area, stopping at approximately 100-foot intervals, uttering pishing sounds, and playing an audio tape of recorded coastal California

gnatcatcher vocalizations. The tape was played for several seconds at each interval, followed by a brief pause to listen for a response. If any coastal California gnatcatcher individuals were noted, additional observations, including sex, age, breeding status, and behavioral characteristics, would be documented, consistent with protocol requirements.

## **SECTION 5: BIOLOGICAL SURVEY AREA**

### **5.1 - Coastal California Gnatcatcher Survey Area**

Coastal California gnatcatchers are known to frequent gentle sloping hillsides adjacent to high-quality coastal sage scrub. The coastal California gnatcatcher survey area is generally located on south-facing slopes within coastal sage scrub habitat (Exhibit 3). The coastal California gnatcatcher survey area was determined from the presence of important habitat suitability elements for the coastal California gnatcatcher—most importantly, the presence of suitable coastal sage scrub habitat within the vicinity of known populations of coastal California gnatcatcher. A coastal California gnatcatcher habitat assessment was conducted during the initial vegetation mapping conducted as part of the biological reconnaissance-level survey. Other factors considered in establishing the survey area included areas where slopes are less than 40 percent, the vegetative canopy and terrain are open, and there is adjacency to non-sage scrub habitats that may provide space for the dispersal, foraging, and nesting requirements of the species.

#### **5.1.1 - Topography**

The coastal California gnatcatcher survey area occurs between Spring Canyon to the west and Quail Canyon to the east on gently sloping hillsides 400 to 550 feet above mean sea level. The project site is located within Little Sycamore Canyon and extends into the western portion of Quail Canyon. The potential mitigation sites occur in Spring Canyon, which is west of the project site. The Mission Trails Park is located to the southwest of the proposed project site. The surrounding land to the north, and west consists of rolling hills containing non-native grasslands and scattered scrub habitat. The land to the east and south has been graded to support residential development and is no longer in a natural state. The main canyons associated with the survey area drain from north to south and eventually connect to the San Diego River to the south.

#### **5.1.2 - Disturbance**

Direct disturbances to the proposed project site include constant truck traffic on Landfill Road accessing Sycamore Landfill and the Hanson Aggregate Mine. Additionally, recent brush fires (2007) have greatly disturbed vegetation growth within the coastal sage scrub plant areas, which vary in species diversity and density. Indirect disturbances to the proposed project site are limited to those pertaining to nighttime lighting and noise as a result of the adjacent landfill and daily activities associated with the existing Carlton Hills Substation, such as facility maintenance. Some adjacent residences were contained localized lighting in off-site locations. These areas may provide minimal, if any, indirect impacts associated with current existing conditions.

#### **5.1.3 - Vegetation Communities/Habitat Types**

The plant site is located within a previously burned area east of Landfill Road. The majority of the plant site contains a dense stand of non-native grasses with three patches of remnant coastal sage

scrub habitat. The most common plant species observed is deer weed (*Lotus scoparius*). Isolated individual plants scattered within the patch of deer weed include California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpus*), and purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*).

The transmission line corridor is largely undeveloped with only a few dirt access roads associated with the existing transmission line ROW. The transmission gentle corridor also contains a dense stand of non-native grasslands with isolated patches of coastal sage scrub/non-native grassland mix and chamise chaparral.

A description of the suitable coastal sage scrub community that defines the coastal California gnatcatcher survey area is provided below; it includes a discussion of the vegetative constituents and overall structure of the coastal sage scrub within the biological survey area, and a statement of the overall quality and general resource value of the habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher.

### **Coastal Sage Scrub**

Coastal sage scrub habitat contains a sparse to dense arrangement of low-growing, drought-deciduous and evergreen shrubs, typically occupying steep and gentle slopes below 3,000 feet in elevation, and ranging throughout southern California and south into Baja California. This community is typically located on sites with low moisture availability, such as steep, xeric slopes or clay-rich soils that release stored moisture slowly. It intergrades at higher elevations and more mesic sites with chaparral communities and with Riversidean sage scrub in drier inland areas. This community is dominated by drought-deciduous, low-growing native shrubs averaging 2 to 3 feet in height, and is characterized by an herbaceous understory typically consisting of non-native grasses and forbs.

Dominant species observed within the coastal sage scrub include deer weed, California buckwheat, black sage, and chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*). A few native species such as chia (*Salvia columbariae*) and popcorn flower (*Cryptantha* sp.) comprised the understory.

Overall, coastal California gnatcatcher habitat quality within the project biological survey area is considered moderate to low. The shrub density and canopy cover is relatively low compared to other occupied habitat in the vicinity, due to 2007 brush fire in that area.

Several known recorded occurrences of coastal California gnatcatcher are located within the vicinity of the project site. Therefore, there is a higher potential for coastal California gnatcatcher to occur within the coastal sage scrub habitat.



## SECTION 6: PROTOCOL SURVEY RESULTS

### 6.1 - Target Species Presence/Absence Determination

A single coastal California gnatcatcher was observed during the first of six protocol surveys. The single individual was observed dispersing to a high-quality patch of coastal sage scrub located at an offsite location approximately 1,750 feet to the south. Coastal California gnatcatchers are not likely to establish a breeding territory or take residence within any portion of the project site or in the coastal California gnatcatcher survey area, due to the lack of high-quality habitat within the project site. Portions of the project site may provide some foraging habitat. Table 1 provides a summary of the protocol survey results.

**Table 1: Coastal California Gnatcatcher Protocol Survey Results**

Survey	Surveyor	Date	Time		Temperature (°F)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind Speed Average (mph)	Coastal California Gnatcatchers Observed/Detected
			Begin	End				
1	S. Crawford	3/22/12	0630	1130	66	0	0-2	Yes
2	S. Crawford	3/29/12	0800	1200	63	100	0-2	No
3	S. Crawford	4/5/12	0700	1100	60	100	4-6	No
4	S. Crawford	4/19/12	0700	1100	61	0	0-2	No
5	S. Crawford	5/3/12	0730	1130	68	100	0-2	No
6	S. Crawford	5/9/12	0700	1100	62	100	3-4	No

The location of the coastal sage scrub within the proposed project site and current reported distribution of the coastal California gnatcatcher contribute to possible explanations as to why this species was only observed once during the breeding season surveys. The locations of the coastal sage scrub present within the proposed project site surveyed for coastal California gnatcatcher are located on south-facing slopes and surrounded by dense stands of non-native grasslands. Furthermore, the existing habitat is mostly dense stands of deer weed with isolated patches of buckwheat and few other coastal sage scrub species. Coastal California gnatcatchers prefer sage scrub-dominated habitat. Because of the disturbed nature of the coastal sage scrub within the project site, it is highly unlikely that the coastal sage scrub onsite would support a population of coastal California gnatcatcher. The coastal sage scrub onsite likely provides some suitable foraging habitat adjacent to high-quality coastal sage scrub. The individual coastal California gnatcatcher observed onsite occupies high-quality coastal sage scrub habitat located at an off-site location. The high-quality habitat is dominated by coastal sagebrush and California buckwheat. This plant community contains a dense canopy of coastal sage scrub with little to no non-native species. This high-quality coastal sage scrub habitat is not located within the project site (Exhibit 3).

---

## 6.2 - Additional Avifauna Species

---

Avian activity during protocol surveys was relatively high, with a wide range of bird species observed or otherwise detected throughout the course of the surveys. Common bird species observed or otherwise detected during surveys include species commonly found in grasslands, coastal sage scrub, and disturbed habitats; these included house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), lesser goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*), bushtit (*Psaltiriparus minimus*), wrenit (*Chamaea fasciata*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), and California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*). No brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), considered to be nest parasites for coastal California gnatcatchers, were observed or otherwise detected during the surveys. A complete list of avian species observed during the protocol surveys is provided in Appendix A, Avifauna Compendium.

## **SECTION 7: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Coastal California gnatcatcher protocol surveys have been completed for the proposed Cogentrix Quail Brush Generation Project in accordance with the USFWS presence/absence survey protocol and pursuant to the federal ESA. A single coastal California gnatcatcher was observed during the first protocol survey on March 22, 2012. This species was not observed onsite during any of the subsequent surveys; however, this species was observed at an adjacent offsite area during all six surveys. The coastal California gnatcatcher is currently present within an off-site patch of high-quality coastal sage scrub south of the survey area, which has been identified as occupied gnatcatcher habitat (approximately 6 acres)(Exhibit 3). This individual coastal California gnatcatcher may periodically forage on a small portion of the transmission line between the Carlton Hills Substation and the proposed plant site. No other observations of coastal California gnatcatcher were made onsite.



## **SECTION 8: CERTIFICATION**

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

Date: June 8, 2012 Signed:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Crawford, Section Manager  
Michael Brandman Associates  
Permit Number TE-019477-4



## **SECTION 9: REFERENCES**

- American Ornithologists' Union. June 1998. The American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds. 7th Edition, American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
- Attwood, J.L., and J. Bolsinger. Spring 1992. "Elevational Distribution of California Gnatcatchers in the United States." *Journal of Field Ornithology*, 63 (2):159-168
- Bontrager, D. 1991. Habitat Requirements, Home Range and Breeding Biology of the California Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica*) in South Orange County. Santa Margarita Company
- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 2011. Endangered and Threatened Animals List. The Resources Agency of California, Department of Fish and Game, Natural Heritage Division, Natural Diversity Database. Sacramento, California.
- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 2011. Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants. The Resources Agency of California, Department of Fish and Game, Natural Heritage Division, Natural Diversity Database. Sacramento, California. January.
- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 2011. RareFind 4 personal computer program. Database Record Search for Information on Threatened, Endangered, Rare, or Otherwise Sensitive Species for the Simi, California USGS Topographic Quadrangles. California Department of Fish and Game, State of California Resources Agency. Sacramento, California.
- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 2011. Special Animals List. The Resources Agency of California, Department of Fish and Game, Natural Heritage Division, Natural Diversity Data Base. Sacramento, California. January.
- Garrett, K., and J. Dunn. 1981. Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution. Los Angeles: Los Angeles Audubon Society.
- Hickman, J.C. 1993. The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Holland, R.F. 1986. Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California. State of California Resources Agency. Department of Fish and Game. Non-Game Heritage Program. Sacramento, California.
- Michael Brandman Associates (MBA). 2011. Biological Resources Survey Report for Quail Brush Project. July.
- State of California Resources Agency. 2011. List of California Terrestrial Natural Communities Recognized by the Natural Diversity Data Base. Department of Fish and Game. Natural Heritage Division. Sacramento. January.
- State of California Resources Agency. 2011. Special Animals List. Department of Fish and Game. Natural Heritage Division. Sacramento. January.

***References***

---

- State of California Resources Agency. 2011. State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California. Department of Fish and Game. Natural Heritage Division. Sacramento. January.
- Thorne, R.F. 1976. Plant Communities of Southern California. June Latting, ed. California Native Plant Society. Special Publication No. 2. Sacramento, California.
- Tibor, D.P. 2001. California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California. California Native Plant Society. Special Publication, No. 1, 6th ed.
- Udvardy, M.D. 1994. National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. New York, New York.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1997. Coastal California Gnatcatcher Presence/Absence Survey Protocol. Revised July 28, 1997. Unpublished paper.
- United States Geological Survey (USGS). 1975. La Mesa, 7.5-minute USGS Quadrangle Map. Washington DC: Department of the Interior.



## **Appendix A: Avifauna Compendium**



## Fauna Compendium

<b>Anatidae</b>		<b>Waterfowl</b>
<i>Anas</i>	<i>platyrhynchos</i>	mallard
<b>Cathartidae</b>		<b>Vultures</b>
<i>Cathartes</i>	<i>aura</i>	turkey vulture
<b>Accipitridae</b>		<b>Hawks</b>
<i>Elanus</i>	<i>leucurus</i>	white-tailed kite
<i>Circus</i>	<i>cyaneus</i>	northern harrier
<i>Accipiter</i>	<i>cooperii</i>	cooper's hawk
<b>Falconidae</b>		<b>Falcons</b>
<i>Falco</i>	<i>sparverius</i>	American kestrel
<b>Columbidae</b>		<b>Pigeons/Doves</b>
<i>Zenaida</i>	<i>macroura</i>	mourning dove
<b>Cuculidae</b>		<b>Cuckoos/Roadrunners/Anis</b>
<i>Geococcyx</i>	<i>californianus</i>	greater roadrunner
<b>Apodidae</b>		<b>Swifts</b>
<i>Aeronautes</i>	<i>saxatalis</i>	white-throated swift
<b>Trochilidae</b>		<b>Hummingbirds</b>
<i>Calypte</i>	<i>anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
<b>Tyrannidae</b>		<b>Flycatchers</b>
<i>Tyrannus</i>	<i>verticalis</i>	western kingbird
<b>Corvidae</b>		<b>Jays/Crows</b>
<i>Corvus</i>	<i>corax</i>	common raven
<b>Hirundinidae</b>		<b>Swallows</b>
<i>Tachycineta</i>	<i>thalassina</i>	violet-green swallow
<i>Stelgidopteryx</i>	<i>serripennis</i>	northern rough-winged swallow
<b>Aegithalidae</b>		<b>Bushtits</b>
<i>Psaltiriparus</i>	<i>minimus</i>	bushtit
<b>Troglodytidae</b>		<b>Wrens</b>
<i>Thryomanes</i>	<i>bewickii</i>	Bewick's wren
<i>Troglodytes</i>	<i>aedon</i>	house wren
<b>Sylviidae</b>		<b>Old world warblers</b>
<i>Polioptila</i>	<i>californica</i>	California gnatcatcher
<b>Timaliidae</b>		<b>Old world babblers</b>
<i>Chamaea</i>	<i>fasciata</i>	wrentit
<b>Parulidae</b>		<b>New world warblers</b>
<i>Dendroica</i>	<i>coronata</i>	yellow-rumped warbler
<b>Emberizidae</b>		<b>Warblers, sparrow, etc.</b>
<i>Pipilo</i>	<i>maculatus</i>	spotted towhee
<i>Pipilo</i>	<i>crissalis</i>	California towhee

## Fauna Compendium

<i>Spizella</i>	<i>passerina</i>	chipping sparrow
<i>Spizella</i>	<i>atrogularis</i>	black-chinned sparrow
<i>Chondestes</i>	<i>grammacus</i>	lark sparrow
<i>Melospiza</i>	<i>melodia</i>	song sparrow

### Cardinalidae

### Cardinals

<i>Passerina</i>	<i>caerulea</i>	blue grosbeak
------------------	-----------------	---------------

### Icteridae

### New world blackbirds

<i>Sturnella</i>	<i>neglecta</i>	western meadowlark
<i>Icterus</i>	<i>cucullatus</i>	hooded oriole

### Fringillidae

### Finches

<i>Carpodacus</i>	<i>mexicanus</i>	house finch
<i>Carduelis</i>	<i>psaltria</i>	lesser goldfinch

## **Appendix B: Biologist Resume**



#### **Education**

M.A., Biological Science, California State University, Fullerton 1997

B.A., Environmental Biology, California State University, Northridge 1995

#### **Professional Registrations**

Collection Permit: 801034-03 Exp. 1/3/14

Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Certification 6/2001

Wetland Training Institute: Wetland Delineation Training: 12/1998

Desert Tortoise Council Workshop 10/1999

Desert Tortoise Egg Handling/ Artificial Burrow Construction 10/1999

Project Management Boot Camp 1 – PSMJ Resources, Inc. 3/2004

Managing Multiple Project Objectives and Deadlines, Skill Path 1/2006

Registered Wildlife Biologist – San Diego County- 3/2006

LAX Security Clearance/Driving Clearance – 2001

FEDERAL PERMIT # TE019947-04, California gnatcatcher, Quino Checkerspot Butterfly, Listed Fairy Shrimp

## **Experience Summary**

Since 1994 Mr. Crawford has obtained experience conducting herpetological, mammalian and avian surveys in Southern California. He is experienced in conducting jurisdictional delineation surveys and sensitive plant surveys. Mr. Crawford has a federal permit to conduct surveys for the California Gnatcatcher, Quino Checkerspot Butterfly and listed fairy shrimp species. He also possesses extensive experience in conducting surveys for other sensitive wildlife species including El Segundo Blue Butterfly, Red-Legged Frog, Arroyo Toad, Western Spadefoot, Desert Tortoise, Western Pond Turtle, Least Bell's Vireo, and Burrowing Owl. Mr. Crawford is well-seasoned in GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and vegetation mapping. In addition to his years of fieldwork, Mr. Crawford is experienced in preparing biological sections for General Plans, Specific Plans and EIRs. He participated in third-party reviews for both cities and counties. Along with preparing and reviewing written documents, Mr. Crawford is a practiced technical expert for public hearings including City Council Meetings, Planning Commission meetings and County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Crawford currently assists in the management of the natural resource team at MBA for southern California.

## **Recent Project Experience**

### ***Sensitive Species Surveys***

**California Gnatcatcher Surveys, Via Escola Lattice Tower, Orange County.** Conducted protocol surveys for California gnatcatcher prior to installation of a proposed cellular communication facility. The surveys were conducted on a 5-acre patch of coastal sage scrub within the vicinity of an existing water tank facility. No California gnatcatchers were observed. 2010

**California Gnatcatcher Surveys, Serrano Lattice Tower, Orange County.** Conducted protocol surveys for California gnatcatcher prior to installation of a proposed cellular communication facility. The surveys were conducted on a 5-acre patch of coastal sage scrub within the vicinity of an existing water tank facility. A single male California gnatcatchers were observed. 2010

### **Informal Consultation with Resource Agencies for several well locations, King/Kern County.**

Conducted informal consultation with USFWS, CDFG, BLM, and DOGGR with regard to appropriate mitigation measures for potential impacts to threatened and/or endangered species protected under the Endangered Species Act. Coordinated Blunt-nosed leopard lizard surveys to determine presence/absence prior to grading activities.

**Avian Surveys for a Wind Energy Project in Pine Canyon, LADWP, Kern County.** Conducted avian point count surveys for a proposed wind energy project for LADWP. As part of the avian surveys, we also mapped existing vegetation and conducted bat surveys for a better understanding the biological resources present within the area. The surveys were conducted with the use of LADWP Helicopters. Approximately 40 hours of helicopter time was logged throughout the surveys.

**California Gnatcatcher Surveys, Ronald Regan Library, Ventura County.** Conducted protocol surveys for California gnatcatcher prior to installation of a proposed cellular communication facility. The surveys were conducted on a 5-acre patch of coastal sage scrub within the vicinity of an existing water tank facility. No California gnatcatchers were observed. 2009

**Western Spadefoot Capture and Relocation Study-** Conducted a pre-construction survey for western spadefoot in the summer by artificially flooding existing ponded areas. Pit fall traps and silt fence were installed to assist in capturing western spadefoots. A single western spadefoot was captured and relocated. 2009

**California Gnatcatcher Surveys, Canyon Heights Restoration Area, Riverside County.** Conducted protocol surveys for California gnatcatcher as part of the on-going monitoring for a conservation area. The surveys were conducted on a 5-acre patch of coastal sage scrub within the conservation area. A single pair of California gnatcatchers was observed. 2009

**California Gnatcatcher Surveys, Cricket Cellular Communication, City of Escondido.** Conducted protocol surveys for California gnatcatcher. The surveys were conducted on a 10-acre transmission line hilltop that contained suitable coastal sage scrub habitat. No gnatcatchers were observed during the survey. 2009

**Arroyo Toad Study for the Rio Santiago Property in the City of Orange.** Conducted a protocol survey for arroyo toad within the 110-acre proposed senior living complex in the City of Orange. The information was used to prepare an EIR. 2008

**Wildlife Movement Corridor Study, Los Angeles and Orange Counties.** Conducted a year-long study of wildlife movement within the Tonner Canyon property in the Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Surveys included spot counts for birds, scent stations for tracks, and photo stations for active wildlife movement photographs. The survey was conducted for a 5-day period once a month for an entire year. 2007 to 2008.

**Riverside Fairy Shrimp Protocol Survey, Rancho Diamante, Riverside County.** Conducted protocol wet season surveys for the federally endangered Riverside Fairy Shrimp. The surveys were conducted on previous agricultural lands. Common fairy shrimp were observed. 2008

**Riverside Fairy Shrimp Protocol Survey, Quail Lake, Riverside County.** Conducted protocol wet season surveys for the federally endangered Riverside Fairy Shrimp. The ponded areas did not pond long enough to be considered suitable habitat. No fairy shrimp were observed during the survey. 2008

**Riverside Fairy Shrimp Protocol Survey, Oliver Cagle, Riverside County.** Conducted protocol wet season surveys for the federally endangered Riverside Fairy Shrimp. The surveys were conducted on an old stock pond. No fairy shrimp were observed. 2007

**Riverside Fairy Shrimp Protocol Survey, Classic Pacific, City of Beaumont.** Conducted protocol dry season surveys for the federally endangered Riverside Fairy Shrimp. The surveys were conducted on two natural occurring ponded areas. Branchinecta cysts were observed. 2007

**Riverside Fairy Shrimp Protocol Survey, Classic Pacific, City of Beaumont.** Conducted protocol wet season surveys for the federally endangered Riverside Fairy Shrimp. The surveys were conducted on two natural occurring ponded areas. Common versatile fairy shrimp were observed. 2006

**Riverside Fairy Shrimp Protocol Survey, Granite Homes, Riverside County.** Conducted protocol dry season surveys for the federally endangered Riverside Fairy Shrimp. The surveys were conducted on an old stock pond. Branchinecta and Streptocephalus cysts were observed. 2005

**Riverside Fairy Shrimp Protocol Survey, Courdures LLC, City of Perris.** Conducted protocol dry season surveys for the federally endangered Riverside Fairy Shrimp. The surveys were conducted on a single large ponded area. Branchinecta cysts were observed. 2005





**Riverside Fairy Shrimp Protocol Survey, County of Orange.** Conducted protocol surveys for the federally endangered Riverside Fairy Shrimp. The surveys were conducted on two natural occurring and one man-made vernal pool as part of a mitigation site for the Antonio Parkway extension. 2004

**Riverside Fairy Shrimp Protocol Survey, Greenpark Runkle Canyon LLC.** Conducted protocol surveys for the federally endangered Riverside Fairy Shrimp. The surveys were conducted on one natural occurring vernal pool and two man-made vernal pools in order to determine presence/absence. The common *Branchinecta lindahli* was the only species of fairy shrimp observed in the sampling. 2003

**Riverside Fairy Shrimp Habitat Assessment, Enviro-recycling, City of Hemet.** Conducted a habitat assessment for Riverside Fairy Shrimp. The ponded area onsite was created by continual off-road vehicle use on an existing dirt access road. The ponded area did not support any fairy shrimp species. 2003

**El Segundo Blue Butterfly (ESB) Protocol Surveys, Los Angeles World Airport.** Conducted block-count surveys for the endangered ESB. These surveys were conducted to determine the status of the existing ESB population in the dune system west of the airport. Thousands of butterflies were identified during the survey. 2001

**Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Habitat Assessment and Protocol Surveys, Armada LLC.** Conducted a habitat assessment for a proposed residential development just south of the City of Corona along Cajalco Road. Suitable habitat was observed and focused surveys were conducted. No butterflies were observed during the surveys. 2006

**Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Habitat Assessment and Protocol Surveys, Century Crowell Communities.** Assisted with conducting habitat assessment and protocol surveys for a project site in the Gavilan Plateau area. Suitable habitat was observed and focused surveys were conducted. No butterflies were observed during the surveys. 2003

**Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Surveys, Winchester Area.** Assisted in conducting the first protocol survey for two parcels in the Winchester area for the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly. 2002

**Habitat Assessment for Quino Checkerspot Butterfly, City of Yucaipa.** Conducted preliminary habitat assessment for the Quino checkerspot butterfly. Suitable Quino habitat was observed on the 450-acre site during the second day of surveys, therefore adult surveys were recommended. 2000

**Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Protocol Surveys (QCB), Century Crowell Communities, Riverside County.** Conducted protocol surveys for the endangered QCB. The surveys were conducted in the Gavilan Plateau area that was once known to contain a large population of QCB. 2000

**Habitat Assessment for Quino Checkerspot Butterfly, City of Ontario.** Conducted preliminary habitat assessment for the Quino checkerspot butterfly. The survey was conducted on a total of four parcels of land that encompassed approximately one thousand acres. The habitat consisted of active cow pastures and agricultural land. It was determined that no suitable Quino checkerspot butterfly habitat occurred within either of the four project sites. 1999

**Arroyo Toad Surveys, Rio Santiago, Orange County, California.** Conducted protocol surveys for arroyo toad at the Rio Santiago project site in the City of Orange. The surveys were conducted within Santiago Creek. No arroyo toads were observed on site. 2008

**O'Neal Park Arroyo Toad Focused Surveys, County of Orange.** Conducted focused surveys for Arroyo Toad for a proposed sewer line within the campground portion of O'Neal Park. 2006

**Arroyo Toad Surveys, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.** Assisted in surveying for Arroyo Toad in the Big Tujunga wash as part of a habitat comparison study for potential mitigation measures for impacts associated with the sluicing of Morris and San Gabriel Dams along the San Gabriel River Channel. No arroyo toads were observed. 1997



**Runkle Canyon Property Western Spade-foot Toad Focused Survey, California Greenpark Group, LLC.** Conducted a focused survey for the presence of western spade-foot toad. The survey was conducted at all suitable ponded areas located on the property. Western spade-foot tadpoles and adults were identified during the survey. 2005

**Saddleback Meadows Western Spade Foot Toad Focused Survey, Irvine.** Conducted a focused survey for the presence of western spade-foot toad. The survey was conducted within suitable ephemeral ponds located on the Saddleback Meadows property in Irvine. The survey was used to update a previous study on spade-foot occurrences within the project site. Western spade-foot toad tadpoles were observed at the site. Vocalizations were heard at four of the ponds. 1997

**Southwestern Pond Turtle Trapping, City of Laguna Hills.** Assisted in trapping southwestern pond turtles in the Aliso Creek Channel, a tributary to Aliso Creek. A total of thirty nine turtles were captured, measured, and relocated further downstream in the Aliso Creek system. Also assisted in surveying for hatchling turtles in the upland portion of the study site and construction monitoring near the edge of the undrained pond. Assisted in surveying the drained pond for juvenile pond turtles. 1998

**Southwestern Pond Turtle Trapping, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.** Assisted in trapping southwestern pond turtles at Sawpit Dam. Due to the rough terrain of the site, traps were set using a boat to get to the remote portions of the reservoir. No pond turtles were observed during the trapping session. 1997

**Southwestern Pond Turtle Habitat Assessment, Los Angeles Department of Public Works.** Assisted in habitat assessment for the southwestern pond turtle in five locations within the upper west fork and east fork of the San Gabriel River system. The surveys consisted of walking the stream course and evaluating suitable aquatic habitat as well suitable refugia and basking sites. 1997

**Southwestern Pond Turtle Trapping/Telemetry, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.** Assisted in trapping southwestern pond turtles in the San Gabriel water shed prior to the sluicing of Morris Dam. A total of twelve turtles were captured, processed, fitted with a radio telemetry transmitter, and relocated in the upper west fork of the San Gabriel River. Turtles were then monitored bi-monthly for movement and recaptured to determine health and status of each individual. 1997

**Desert Tortoise Surveys, Garlock Mine, Kern County, California.** Conducted a desert tortoise protocol survey on a large mining operation outside of the City of Johannesburg, California. Two desert tortoises were observed within the project site and two were observed in the Zone of Influence area. 2008

**Focused Surveys for Desert Tortoise, WZI Engineering.** Conducted a focused survey for desert tortoise for the proposed expansion of Ridgecrest Road in the northern portion of the City of Ridgecrest. No desert tortoise or desert tortoise sign was observed during the survey. 2003

**Desert Tortoise Protocol Survey, Cellular Site, City of Mojave.** Conducted a zone of influence survey to determine possible impacts to desert tortoise populations with regard to the development of a cellular-phone utility pole site near the city of Mojave. No tortoises or sign of tortoises were observed during the survey. 1997

**Desert Tortoise Protocol Survey, Cellular Site, Antelope Valley.** A zone of influence survey was conducted to determine possible impacts to desert tortoise populations with regard to the development of a cellular-phone utility pole site in Antelope Valley. No tortoises or sign of tortoises were observed during the survey. 1998

**Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Focused Surveys, County of Riverside, City of Desert Hot Springs.** Conducted focused surveys for the presence/absence of flat-tailed horned lizards within all suitable habitat associated with the County of Riverside project in the City of Desert Hot Springs. No horned lizards were observed during the surveys. 2007



**Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Focused Surveys, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Coachella Valley.** Conducted focused surveys for the presence/absence of flat-tailed horned lizards within all suitable habitat associated with the Indian Reservation lands. A single horned lizard was observed during the surveys. 2000

**Flat-tailed Horned Lizards Focused Survey, Country Club Estates.** Assisted Marie Barrett in conducting a focused scat survey for the flat-tailed horned lizard in desert scrub habitat. It was determined that the project site contained limited suitable habitat and this species was determined to be absent from the project site. 1998

**Two-stripe Garter Snake Surveys, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.** Assisted in surveying for the two-stripe garter snake in the San Gabriel water shed prior to the sluicing of Morris Dam. Los Angeles Department of Public Works. Surveys were conducted by walking along the banks of the stream course and surveying in suitable garter snake habitat. 1997

**Focused Burrowing Owl Survey, Granite Equities, French Valley Property.** A focused survey was conducted on a 30-acre project site. Two pairs of burrowing owl were observed onsite and an additional two were observed off-site. 2006

**Agua Bella Property Burrowing Owl Focused Survey, Highland Fairview Properties, Riverside County.** Conducted focused surveys for burrowing owl within a proposed residential development. No burrowing owls were observed during the survey. 2006

**Bel Lago Property Burrowing Owl Focused Survey, Highland Fairview Properties, Riverside County.** Conducted focused surveys for burrowing owl within a proposed residential development. A single pair of burrowing owls was observed during the survey. 2006

**Romoland South Site Burrowing Owl Focused Survey, Classic Pacific, Riverside County.** Conducted focused surveys for burrowing owl within a proposed residential development. No burrowing owls were observed during the survey. 2006

**Romoland North Site Burrowing Owl Focused Survey, Classic Pacific, Riverside County.** Conducted focused surveys for burrowing owl within a proposed residential development. No burrowing owls were observed during the survey. 2006

**Burrowing Owl Focused Survey, Spring Mountain Ranch, Riverside County.** Conducted focused surveys for burrowing owl within a proposed residential development. No burrowing owls were observed during the survey. 2006

**Millwood Property California Gnatcatcher Focused Survey, Cingular, Orange County.** Conducted focused surveys for California gnatcatcher within a proposed cellular communication facility in the City of Lake Forest. Two pairs of gnatcatchers were observed during the survey. 2005

**Laguna Canyon California Gnatcatcher Focused Survey, AT&T, Orange County.** Conducted focused surveys for California gnatcatcher within a proposed cellular communication facility west of State Highway 133. Two pairs of gnatcatchers were observed during the survey. 2005

**California Gnatcatcher Surveys, Van Daele Development, Menifee Area.** Conducted protocol surveys in the Menifee area. The surveys were conducted on a 60-acre parcel of land that contained suitable coastal sage scrub habitat. Three pairs of gnatcatchers were observed during the survey. 2005

**California Gnatcatcher Surveys, Community of Three-Arch-Bay.** Conducted protocol surveys for California gnatcatcher. The surveys were conducted on a 5-acre parcel of land that contained suitable coastal sage scrub habitat. The proposed project includes the expansion of an existing detention basin. No gnatcatchers were observed during the survey. 2005



**California Gnatcatcher Focused Surveys, Citrus Valley Health Partners, City of Diamond Bar.** Conducted a focused survey for California Gnatcatchers for a proposed commercial development. Suitable habitat was observed and focused surveys were conducted. No Gnatcatchers were observed during the surveys. 2005

**California Gnatcatcher Focused Surveys, Armada LLC.** Conducted a focused survey for California Gnatcatchers for a proposed residential development just south of the City of Corona along Cajalco Road. Suitable habitat was observed and focused surveys were conducted. A single pair of Gnatcatchers was observed during the surveys. 2005

**California Gnatcatcher Focused Survey, Lewis Homes, City of Fontana.** Conducted focused California gnatcatcher surveys on a 700-acre parcel proposed for residential development in the northeastern portion of the City of Fontana. No California gnatcatchers were observed during the survey. 2005

**California Gnatcatcher Protocol Surveys, Nuevo Development, City of Nuevo.** Conducted protocol surveys for the California gnatcatcher. No coastal California gnatcatchers were observed during the surveys. 2005

**California Gnatcatcher Surveys, Sprint, City of Camarillo.** Conducted protocol surveys for California gnatcatcher. The surveys were conducted on a 10-acre site adjacent to an orchard that contained suitable coastal sage scrub habitat. No gnatcatchers were observed during the survey. 2004

**California Gnatcatcher Surveys, Cingular, City of Glendale.** Conducted protocol surveys for California gnatcatcher. The surveys were conducted on a 10-acre water tank site that contained suitable coastal sage scrub habitat. No gnatcatchers were observed during the survey. 2004

**Laguna Canyon California Gnatcatcher Focused Survey, Cingular, Orange County.** Conducted focused surveys for California gnatcatcher within a proposed cellular communication facility west of State Highway 133. Two pairs of gnatcatchers were observed during the survey. 2004

**California Gnatcatcher Protocol Surveys, Quest Diagnostics, Orange County.** Conducted protocol surveys for the California gnatcatcher. A single coastal California gnatcatcher was observed during the surveys. 2003

**East Highland Ranch Property California Gnatcatcher Focused Surveys, Spring Pacific Properties, LLC.** Conducted a focused survey for California Gnatcatchers on the property. Suitable habitat was observed and focused surveys were conducted. No Gnatcatchers was observed during the surveys. 2003

**Tonner Canyon California Gnatcatcher Focused Survey, Sprint PCS.** Conducted focused surveys for California gnatcatcher within a proposed cellular communication facility along the southern portion of Tonner Canyon. No gnatcatchers were observed during the survey. 2003

**La Tuna Canyon California Gnatcatcher Focused Survey, Cingular, Los Angeles County.** Conducted focused surveys for California gnatcatcher within a proposed cellular communication facility north of State Highway 210, Los Angeles County. No gnatcatchers were observed during the survey. 2003

**California Gnatcatcher Surveys, City of Anaheim.** Conducted protocol surveys in the Anaheim Hills area. The surveys were conducted on a 100-acre parcel of land that contained suitable coastal sage scrub habitat. One pair of gnatcatchers was observed during the survey. 2002

**California Gnatcatcher Surveys, Nuevo Development.** Conducted protocol surveys in the unincorporated community of Nuevo. The surveys were conducted on a 250-acre parcel of land that contained suitable coastal sage scrub habitat. No gnatcatchers were observed during the survey. 2002



**California Gnatcatcher Focused Surveys, Rose Hills Cemetery.** Conducted a focused survey for California Gnatcatchers on a proposed construction footprint required to repair a landslide within the Cemetery Property. Suitable habitat was observed and focused surveys were conducted. No Gnatcatchers was observed during the surveys. 2002

**California Gnatcatcher Focused Survey, County of Orange.** Conducted focused surveys for California gnatcatcher within a proposed bridge expansion project site for the widening of an Antonio Parkway bridge. No gnatcatchers were observed during the survey. 2002

**California Gnatcatcher Focused Survey, City of Beaumont.** Assisted in conducting a survey to determine the presence and location of any individual or pair of gnatcatchers within a 536-acre parcel. No gnatcatchers were identified during the survey. 2000

**California Gnatcatcher Protocol Surveys, Urban Environs, Community of East Highlands.** Conducted protocol surveys for the California gnatcatcher. No coastal California gnatcatchers were observed during the surveys. Blue-Gray gnatcatchers were observed within the project site. 2000

**California Gnatcatcher Focused Survey, Orange County.** Assisted in conducting a focused survey to determine the presence and location of any individual or pair of gnatcatchers within a 595-acre parcel located in Cypress Canyon. Four pairs of gnatcatchers were identified during the survey. 1997

**Least Bell's Vireo Surveys, Armada LLC.** Conducted a focused survey for Least Bell's Vireo for a proposed residential development just south of the City of Corona along Cajalco Road. Suitable habitat was observed and focused surveys were conducted. No Least Bell's Vireo were observed during the surveys. 2006

**Nesting Bird Survey, Brandywine Development, City of Orange.** Conducted a nesting bird survey to determine if construction activity would affect any active bird nests protected under the migratory bird treaty act. A total of three active nests were observed during the survey. 2001

**Palm Springs Pocket Mouse Trapping, Country Club Estates.** Conducted a 5 days trapping effort for the Palm Springs pocket mouse.. A total of 1,035 trap-nights were set and checked. No Palm Springs Pocket Mouse individuals were captured during the trapping effort. The site contained marginal and mostly unsuitable habitat for this species. 1998

**Pacific Pocket Mouse Focused Surveys, Transportation Corridor Authority.** Assisted in trapping for pacific pocket mouse along the north side of Camp Pendleton in known pacific pocket mouse habitat. The trapping effort consisted of approximately 6,900 trap-nights. A total of 8 individuals were trapped, processed, and released during the three weeks of trapping. 1997

**San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat, Calmat, City of Etiwanda.** Conducted a preliminary habitat survey for occurrence of suitable habitat on site for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat. The 80-acre project site was determined to have marginal habitat for this species, and the focused trapping effort was stopped during the second night due to lack of significant trap success. It was determined that the species was not present onsite. 1998

**Santa Ana River Channel Bat Species Focused Survey, City of Santa Ana.** Conducted focused surveys for bat species within four proposed bridge expansion projects within the Santa Ana River Channel. No bats were observed during the survey. 2004

**Nevin's Barberry Focused Survey, Spring Brook Estates, Riverside County.** Conducted focused surveys for Nevin's barberry within a 5-acre survey area. The area was part of a much larger 200-acre proposed residential development. No sensitive plants were observed during the survey. 2006

**Nevin's Barberry and Vail Lake Ceanothus Focused Survey, Realty Trust, Riverside County.** Conducted focused surveys for Nevin's barberry and Vail Lake Ceanothus. No sensitive plants were observed during the survey. 2005



**Cagney Property Site Sensitive Plants Focused Survey, Pulte Homes.** Conducted focused surveys to identify any sensitive plant species within the site. No sensitive plant species were identified during the site visit. 2003

**Fagan Property Sensitive Plant Species Focused Survey, Shea Homes, Ventura County.** Conducted a focused survey for listed plant species. No sensitive plant species were observed during the survey. 2002

**Santa Susana Tarplant (*Hemizonia minthornii*) Focused Plant Survey, Sprint PCS, City of Chatsworth.** Conducted a 100% coverage survey for the Santa Susana tarplant. The site was located within an existing water tank facility that has previously mitigated for impacts to the species. The plants were mapped and project redesign was recommended to avoid impacts to the species. 2001

**Broad-leaved Crownbeard Focused Plant Survey, Khaldia Development, City of Laguna Beach.** Conducted a 100% coverage survey for Broad-leaved Crownbeard (*Verbesina dissita*). Several plants were observed onsite and mapped. The project site was redesigned to avoid all impacts to the plant. 2001

**Scale Broom Focused Survey, Lennar Homes.** Conducted scale broom surveys to identify and assist in vegetation removal of scale broom, which is known to damage the foundations of new home construction. 400 to 500 plants were observed during the survey and herbicide application and vegetation removal was monitored for six months. 2000

**Cowbird Trapping, County of Orange.** Conducted cow-bird trapping at 5 separate sites with a total of 20 traps. Cowbird trapping was required as part of the mitigation for impacts to California Gnatcatchers. The standard cow-bird trapping protocol was used including: maintaining a proper number of cowbirds in the traps, routine trap maintenance, providing sufficient seed and water, identifying and count captured species, releasing non-target species, and euthanizing target species. 1997

