

Least Bell's Vireo Survey Area and Avian Locations

SE OF HARMONY GROVE

Attachment A
ANIMAL SPECIES OBSERVED OR DETECTED
HARMONY GROVE PARCELS

<u>TAXON</u>		<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>
INVERTEBRATES			
<u>Order</u>	<u>Family</u>		
Hymenoptera	Apiidae	<i>Apis mellifera mellifera</i>	honeybee
	Pompilidae	<i>Pepsis</i> sp.	tarantula hawk
Lepidoptera	Papilionidae	<i>Papilio eurymedon</i>	pale swallowtail
		<i>Papilio rutulus</i>	western tiger swallowtail

VERTEBRATES

Reptiles

<u>Order</u>	<u>Family</u>		
Squamata	Phrynosomatidae	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	western fence lizard

Birds

<u>Order</u>	<u>Family</u>		
Accipitriformes	Accipitridae	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk
Anseriformes	Anatidae	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	mallard
Apodiformes	Apodidae	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	white-throated swift
	Trochilidae	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's Hummingbird
		<i>Calypte costae</i>	Costa's hummingbird
Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>	killdeer
Columbiformes	Columbidae	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning Dove
Falconiformes	Accipitridae	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed Hawk
		<i>Buteo lineatus</i> †	red-shouldered Hawk
Galliformes	Odontophoridae	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	California quail

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<u>TAXON</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>
VERTEBRATES (cont.)		
<u>Birds</u> (cont.)		
<u>Order</u>	<u>Family</u>	
Passeriformes	Aegithalidae	<i>Psaltirparus minimus</i> bushtit
	Cardinalidae	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i> black-headed Grosbeak
	Corvidae	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i> western Scrub-Jay
		<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> American crow
		<i>Corvus corvax</i> common raven
	Emberizidae	<i>Melospiza melodia</i> song sparrow
		<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i> savannah sparrow
		<i>Pipilo crissalis</i> California towhee
		<i>Pipilo maculatus</i> spotted towhee
		<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> white-crowned sparrow
	Fringillidae	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i> lesser goldfinch
		<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i> house finch
	Hiruninidae	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i> cliff swallow
		<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> northern rough-winged swallow
	Icteridae	<i>Molothrus ater</i> brown-headed cowbird
	Mimidae	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i> northern mockingbird
		<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i> California thrasher
	Parulidae	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i> common yellowthroat
		<i>Icteria virens</i> † yellow-breasted chat
		<i>Setophaga petechia</i> † yellow warbler
		<i>Vermivora celata</i> orange-crowned warbler
	Ptilonotidae	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i> phainopepla
	Sturnidae	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> European starling
	Timaliidae	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i> wrentit
	Troglodytidae	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i> bewick's wren
		<i>Troglodytes aedon</i> house wren
	Turdidae	<i>Sialia mexicana</i> western bluebird
	Tyrannidae	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i> pacific-slope flycatcher

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<u>TAXON</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>
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VERTEBRATES (cont.)

Birds (cont.)

<u>Order</u>	<u>Family</u>		
		<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	ash-throated flycatcher
		<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	black phoebe
		<i>Sayornis saya</i>	say's phoebe
		<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	Cassin's kingbird
	Vireonidae	<i>Vireo bellii pusillis</i> †	least Bell's vireo
Pelecaniformes	Ardeidae	<i>Ardea alba</i>	great egret
Piciformes	Picidae	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's Woodpecker

Mammals

<u>Order</u>	<u>Family</u>		
Carnivora	Canidae	<i>Canis latrans clepticus</i>	coyote
		<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	
Rodentia	Sciuridae	<i>nudipes</i>	California ground squirrel
Lagomorpha	Leporidae	<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	cottontail

†Sensitive Species

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Appendix I

BURROWING OWL SURVEY REPORT



August 11, 2014

KOV-01

Mr. David Kovach
RCS Harmony Partners, LLC
2305 Historic Decatur Road, Suite 100
San Diego, California 92106

Subject: Year 2014 Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) Protocol Survey Report for the Harmony Grove Village South Project, San Diego County, California.

Dear Mr. Kovach:

This letter presents the results of 2014 protocol-level surveys for the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*; BUOW) conducted by HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) for the Harmony Grove Village South Project (project) located in the unincorporated community of Harmony Grove, San Diego County, California. The purpose of this report is to document the presence or absence of BUOW and BUOW sign on and within 500 feet of anticipated impact areas of the project.

LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The survey was conducted on an approximately 111-acre property, herein referred to as the project site or site, located within the unincorporated community of Harmony Grove, just west of Interstate 15, and southeast of Country Club Drive in northern San Diego County, California (Figure 1). The site is situated in Section 31 of Township 12 South, Range 2 West on the Rancho Santa Fe U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle map (Figure 2). The site is currently being evaluated for development and conservation opportunities.

Vegetation communities or land use types identified within the project site and immediate vicinity include: Diegan coastal sage scrub (including disturbed), coastal sage-chaparral scrub, granitic southern mixed chaparral, mafic southern mixed chaparral, mule fat scrub, southern willow riparian forest, coastal live oak woodland, eucalyptus woodland, non-native vegetation, non-native grassland, disturbed habitat, and developed land (Figure 3).

Suitable habitat for BUOW on site is restricted to the some of the more open stands of coastal sage scrub, non-native grassland, non-native vegetation, and disturbed habitat.

METHODS

HELIX biologists Tara Baxter, Benjamin Rosenbaum, Jesse Miller, and Jenna Hartsook conducted a total of four focused BUOW protocol surveys, in teams of two, within the project site and areas within approximately 500 feet containing suitable habitat and where access was granted. Table 1 below summarizes the survey conditions.

Table 1 BURROWING OWL SURVEY INFORMATION					
SURVEY	DATE	BIOLOGISTS	TIME	WEATHER CONDITIONS	
				Start	Stop
1	04/09/14	T. Baxter B. Rosenbaum	0615/1000	43° F, wind 0-2 mph, 10% cloud cover	77° F, wind 0-2 mph, 25% cloud cover
2	05/14/14	T. Baxter B. Rosenbaum	0715/1000	82° F, wind 1-3 mph, 0% cloud cover	92° F, wind, 5-15 mph, 0% cloud cover
3	06/05/14	J. Miller B. Rosenbaum	0615/0815	41° F, wind 0-3 mph, 100% cloud cover	63° F, wind, 0-3 mph, 0% cloud cover
4	07/03/14	T. Baxter J. Hartsook	0645/1000	61° F, wind 1-3 mph, 100% cloud cover	77° F, wind 1-3 mph, 0% cloud cover

The surveys were conducted following guidelines detailed within the 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation prepared by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW; CDFG 2012). Biologists slowly walked meandering transects in areas of suitable habitat, closely examining any fence posts, rocks, or other possible perching locations as well as mammal burrows (especially those of California ground squirrel [*Spermophilus beecheyi*]). Burrows potentially suitable for use by BUOW were checked for signs of recent owl occupation which include pellets (e.g., regurgitated fur, bones, and insect parts), white wash (excrement), and feathers. In addition, man-made structures such as concrete culverts/piles, wood debris piles, trash piles, and openings beneath cement or asphalt pavement were checked carefully for owl sign.

The survey was conducted in areas with short, sparse vegetation exhibiting low shrub cover, flat to gently sloping topography, and well-drained soils. Habitats surveyed included non-native grassland, disturbed habitat, non-native vegetation, and portions of native scrub communities with sparse shrubs. A 500-ft buffer surrounding the site was included in the area surveyed as it supports potential foraging and nesting habitat for BUOW adjacent to the site. Pursuant to CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation, surveys are recommended whenever BUOW habitat or sign is encountered on or adjacent (within 150 meters [approximately 500 ft]) to a project site.

All survey visits took place in daylight hours, beginning either immediately before or immediately after sunrise, and spanned a 4-month period within the BUOW breeding season. Surveys were conducted during periods when visibility was not limited by fog, and surveys were not conducted during periods of high winds or rain. Areas of dense, impenetrable vegetation were not surveyed because they were determined to not be suitable for BUOW. Areas within the 500-foot buffer that had access restrictions, such as by property boundaries and fencing, were surveyed from as close of a distance as possible and aided with the use of binoculars.

The CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB; CDFW 2013) was queried for records of BUOW within 2.0 miles of the project site. This query produced no records. The closest record occurs east of Interstate 15, approximately 3.0 miles from the site. The area is currently developed and BUOW has very likely been extirpated. A list of all animal species observed or detected during the survey is provided in Attachment A. Representative photos of the BUOW survey area are included as Attachment B.

RESULTS

No BUOW or sign of BUOW such as pellets or whitewash, were observed within the survey area. A total of 23 burrows potentially suitable for use by BUOW were observed (Figures 3), however no BUOW sign was present at these locations or elsewhere in the survey area. BUOW is presumed to be absent from the site.

Please contact me or Karl Osmundson at 619-462-1515 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TARA" followed by a stylized flourish.

Tara Baxter
Biologist

Enclosures:

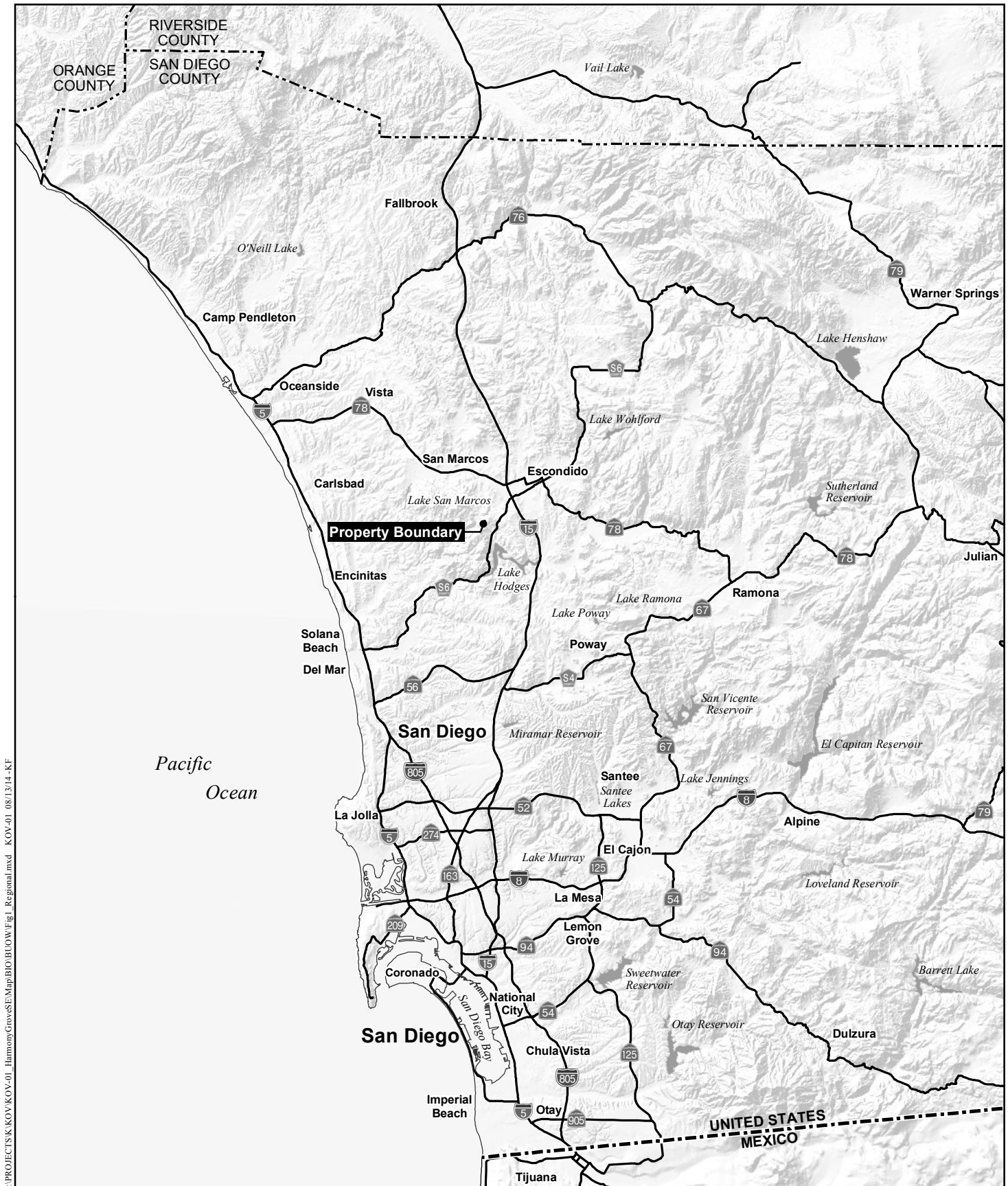
- Figure 1 Regional Location Map
- Figure 2 Project Vicinity Map
- Figure 3 Vegetation and BUOW Potential BUOW Locations
- Attachment A Animal Species Observed or Detected
- Attachment B Representative Site Photos

REFERENCES

California Burrowing Owl Consortium (COBC). 1993. Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines. April.

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 2012. Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. March 7.

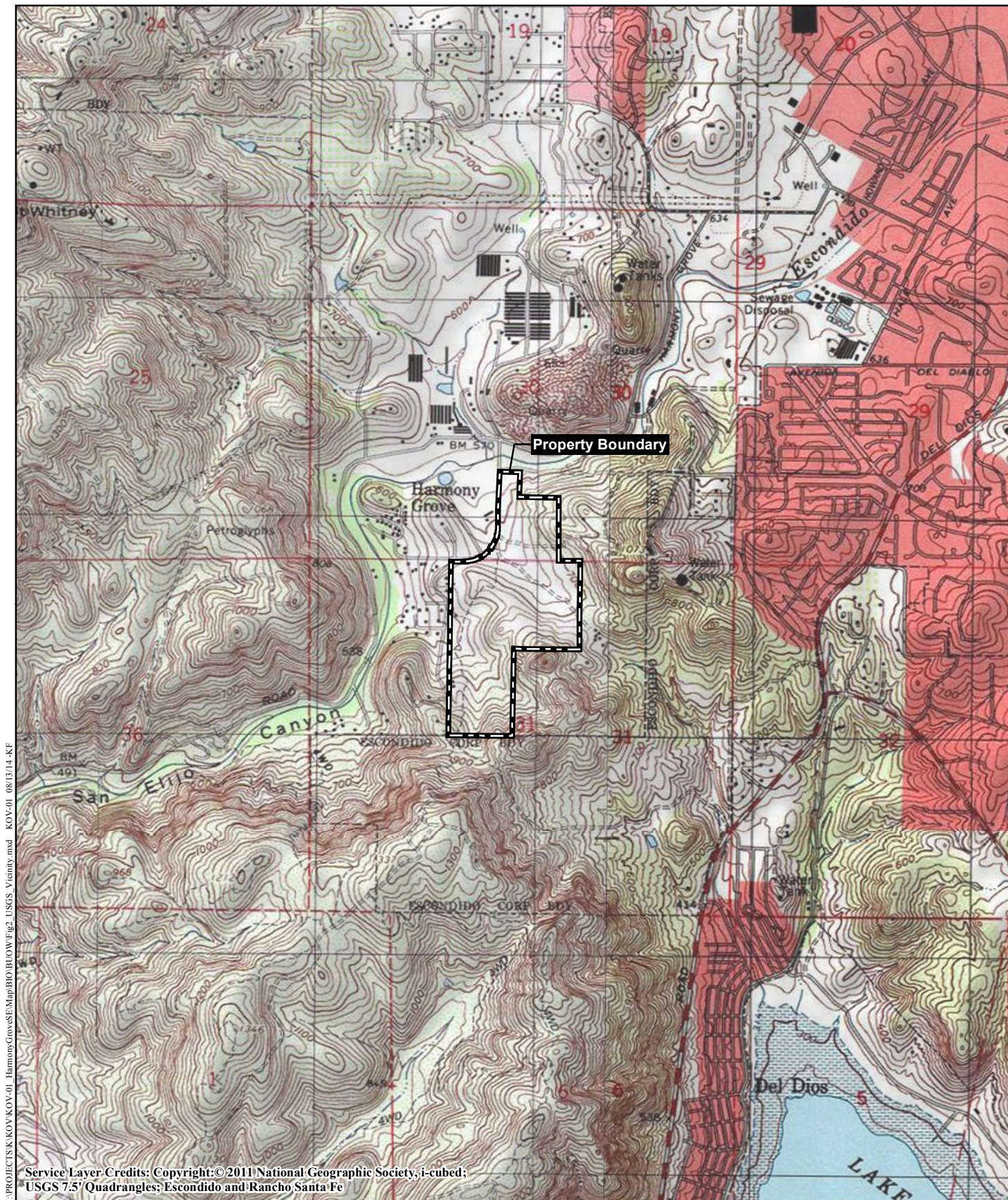
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB). 2013. Accessed November 5. RareFind Database Program.
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb>.



Regional Location Map

SE OF HARMONY GROVE

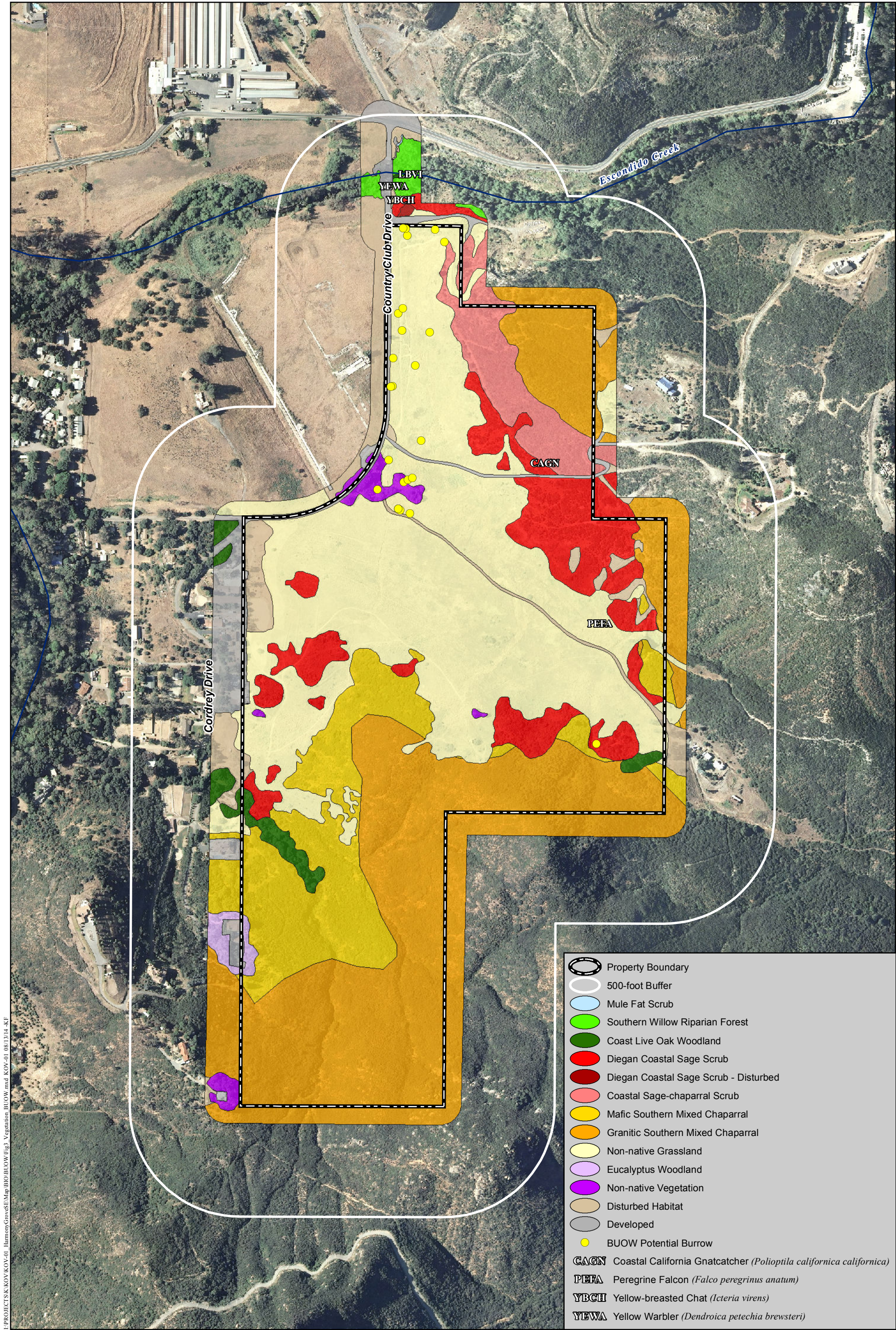
Figure 1



Project Vicinity Map

SE OF HARMONY GROVE

Figure 2



Vegetation and BUOW Potential Burrow Locations

SE OF HARMONY GROVE

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HARMONY GROVE PARCELS

<u>TAXON</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>		<u>COMMON NAME</u>
VERTEBRATES			
<u>Reptiles</u>			
<u>Order</u>	<u>Family</u>		
Squamata	Phrynosomatidae	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	western fence lizard
<u>Birds</u>			
<u>Order</u>	<u>Family</u>		
Accipitriformes	Accipitridae	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk
Anseriformes	Anatidae	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	mallard
Apodiformes	Apodidae	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	white-throated swift
	Trochilidae	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's Hummingbird
Columbiformes	Columbidae	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove
Falconiformes	Accipitridae	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk
	Falconidae	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> †	peregrine falcon
Galliformes	Odontophoridae	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	California quail
Passeriformes	Aegithalidae	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	bushtit
	Cardinalidae	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	black-headed grosbeak
		<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	western scrub-jay
	Corvidae	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow
		<i>Corvus corvax</i>	common raven
		<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	song sparrow
		<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	California towhee
		<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	spotted towhee
		<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	white-crowned sparrow
		<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	lesser goldfinch
	Fringillidae	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	house finch
		<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	cliff swallow
	Hiruninidae		

Attachment A (cont.)
ANIMAL SPECIES OBSERVED OR DETECTED
HARMONY GROVE PARCELS

<u>TAXON</u>		<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>
VERTEBRATES (cont.)			
<u>Birds</u> (cont.)			
<u>Order</u>	<u>Family</u>		
Passeriformes (cont.)	Icteridae	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>	hooded oriole
		<i>Molothrus ater</i>	brown-headed cowbird
		<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	western meadowlark
	Mimidae	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	northern mockingbird
	Parulidae	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	Wilson's warbler
		<i>Icteria virens</i> †	yellow-breasted chat
		<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	yellow-rumped warbler
	Polioptilidae	<i>Setophaga petechia</i> †	yellow warbler
		<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	blue-gray gnatcatcher
		<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i> †	coastal California gnatcatcher
	Ptilonotidae	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>	phainopepla
	Sturnidae	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European starling
	Timaliidae	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	wren
	Troglodytidae	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	bewick's wren
		<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	house wren
	Turdidae	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	western bluebird
	Tyrannidae	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	ash-throated flycatcher
		<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	black phoebe
		<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's phoebe
		<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	Cassin's kingbird
		<i>Vireo bellii pusillii</i> †	least Bell's vireo
Pelecaniformes	Ardeidae	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	great blue heron
Piciformes	Picidae	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	acorn woodpecker
		<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's Woodpecker

Attachment A (cont.)
**ANIMAL SPECIES OBSERVED OR DETECTED
HARMONY GROVE PARCELS**

<u>TAXON</u>		<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>
VERTEBRATES (cont.)			
<u>Mammals</u>			
<u>Order</u>	<u>Family</u>		
Rodentia	Sciuridae	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	California ground squirrel
Lagomorpha	Leporidae	<i>nudipes</i> <i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	cottontail

†Sensitive Species

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Photo 1. The project site, facing east.



Photo 2. The project site, facing northeast.



Photo 3. The project site, facing northwest.



Photo 4. The project site, facing south.



Photo 5. The project site, facing southeast.



Photo 6. The project site, facing west.