

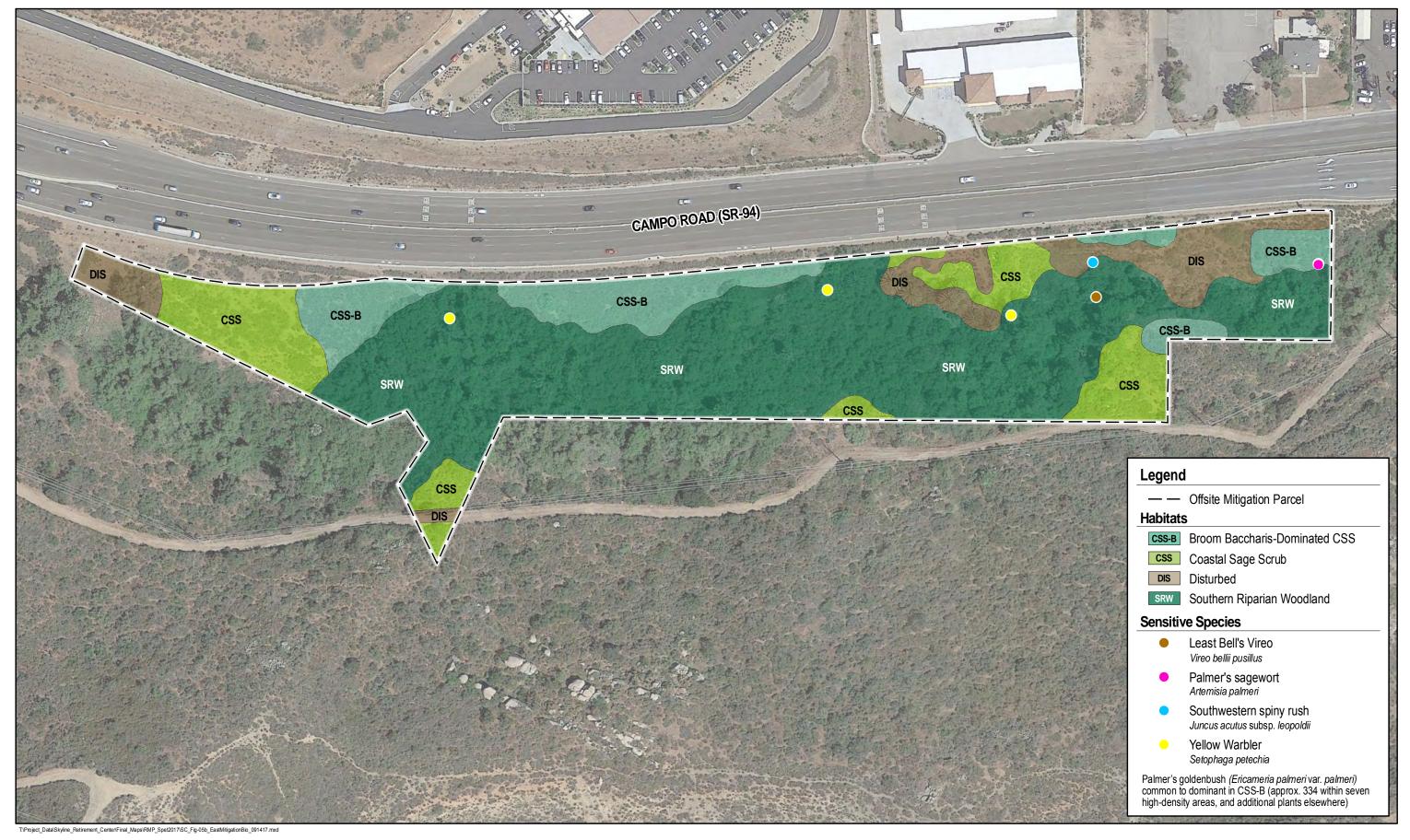






R:E:C Offsite Mitigation Area - West Parcel

0 90 180



RR:C Offsite Mitigation Area - East Parcel

Feet 0 60 120



Offsite Mitigation Area - West Parcel Fencing and Signage

0 90 180



REC Offsite Mitigation Area - East Parcel Fencing and Signage

70 70 140

# **APPENDIX A**

Offsite Mitigation Area Property Analysis Record

## Skyline Retirement Center OMA Management and Monitoring Tasks with Costs To Be Used For PAR

One-time start-up tasks	Specification	Unit	No. of units	Cost per unit*	Cost	On year(s)	Associated RMP Task
Biological resources inventory	Baseline inventory and mapping of biological resources (including mapping of invasive species and excluding focused bird surveys)	Bio hr	12	\$75.00	\$900.00	1	BIO-1
Baseline invasive plant removal	Hand removal and limited herbicide treatment, three times	Labor hr	40	\$30.00	\$1,200.00	1 (start)	BIO-2
Invasives removal supplies	Tools and supplies such as herbicide for invasive species removal	Item			\$500.00	1	BIO-2
Easement coordination	Coordinate with easement holders	Labor hr	2		\$0.00	1 (start)	OM-1
Preserve fencing	Construct permanent fencing and gates around unfenced sides of site, repair/replace existing fencing along northern side	Item		TBD		1 (start)	OM-2
Preserve signage	Obtain and place permanent signs	Item	57	\$30.00	\$1,710.00	1 (start)	OM-3
Baseline trash removal	Baseline trash and debris removal	Labor hr	16	\$30.00	\$480.00	1 (start)	OM-4
Baseline trash disposal fee	Legal offsite disposal of trash and invasive plant material	Ton	2	\$60.50	\$121.00	1 (start)	OM-4
Database	Establish database for data analysis	Staff hr	8	\$45.00	\$360.00	1	OM-5
Fire agency coordination	Coordinate with fire agencies for access	Staff hr	3	\$45.00	\$135.00	1	FM-1
Project Management	Overall management of start-up tasks	Mgr hr	6	\$100.00	\$600.00	1	ALL
Ongoing tasks after start-	Specification	Unit	No. of	Cost per	Cost	On year(s)	
<i>up</i> Biological resources mapping	Update mapping of biological resources, including mapping of invasive species	Bio hr	units 3	\$75.00	\$225.00	Every 5 years	BIO-3
Aerial photography	Update aerial photography of site	Staff hr	3	\$45.00	\$135.00	Every 5 years	BIO-4
Invasive plant removal	Hand removal and herbicide treatment	Labor hr	16	\$30.00	\$480.00	Every year	BIO-5
Invasives removal equipment	Tool replacement and herbicide	Item			\$100.00	Every 5 years	BIO-5
Monitoring and management	Quarterly monitoring and management of habitat restoration	Bio hr	32	\$75.00	\$2,400.00	Quarterly	BIO-6
Focused California gnatcatcher survey	Protocol gnatcatcher update survey and report	Item			\$3,000.00	Every 5 years	BIO-7
Focused least Bell's vireo	Protocol least Bell's vireo survey and report	Orn hr	30	\$100.00	\$3,000.00	Every 5 years	BIO-7
survey Predator control	Brown-headed cowbird trapping as needed	Bio hr	8	\$75.00	\$600.00	Every 5 years	BIO-9
Database	Maintain database for database analysis	Staff hr	3	\$45.00	\$135.00	Every 5 years	OM-6
Annual report	Write and submit annual report	Staff hr	20	\$45.00	\$900.00	Every 5 years	OM-7
Review fees	Submit review fees for County review of annual report	Item			TBD	Every year	OM-8
Review of RMP	Review and if necessary update management plan	Mgr hr	6	\$100.00	\$600.00	Every 5 years	OM-9
Fencing and signage	Maintain/repair fencing and signage	Item		\$500.00		Every 5 years	OM-10
Trash removal	Trash and debris removal	Labor hr	8	\$30.00	\$240.00	Every year	OM-11
Disposal fee	Legal offsite disposal of trash and invasive plant material	Ton	0.25	\$60.50	\$15.13	Every year	OM-11
Maintain deposit	Maintain deposit account for County staff management	Item			TBD	Every year	OM-12
Control post-fire erosion	Install erosion control measures if fire results in significant soil erosion	Item			TBD		FM-2
Reseed after fire	Apply appropriate seed to assist with post-fire habitat recovery, if needed	Item			TBD		
Replant after fire	Install container plants to assist with post-fire recovery, if needed	Item			TBD		
Project Management	Overall management  PAR rates and known actual costs	Mgr hr	4	\$100.00	\$400.00	1	ALL

<sup>\*</sup>Cost are based on standard PAR rates and known actual costs

## **Hourly rate abbreviations**

Staff hr = general staff hourly rate Labor hr = general labor hour Bio hr = biologist hourly rate Orn hr = ornithologist hourly rate Mgr hr = manager hourly rate

# (Slipsheet for PAR)

# **APPENDIX B**

Legal Descriptions for the Offsite Mitigation Area

# (Slipsheet for legal descriptions)

# **APPENDIX C**

Plants Observed in the Skyline Retirement Center Offsite Mitigation Area

APPENDIX C PLANTS OBSERVED IN THE SKYLINE RETIREMENT CENTER OFFSITE MITIGATION AREA				
Species Name	Common Name	Family	Habitat	
Acacia redolens*	desert carpet	Fabaceae	ORN	
Acmispon strigosus	bishop's/strigose lotus	Fabaceae	CSS, DIS	
Adiantum jordanii	California maidenhair	Pteridaceae	CSS	
Ambrosia psilostachya	western ragweed	Asteraceae	SRW	
Amsinckia intermedia	rancher's fiddleneck	Boraginaceae	CSS	
Amsinckia sp.	fiddleneck	Boraginaceae	DIS	
Anemopsis californica	yerba mansa	Saururaceae	SRW	
Anthriscus caucalis*	bur chervil	Apiaceae	DIS	
Apiastrum angustifolium	mock-parsley	Apiaceae	CSS	
Artemisia californica	coastal sagebrush	Asteraceae	CSS, DIS	
Artemisia douglasiana	Douglas mugwort	Asteraceae	SRW	
Artemisia palmeri!	Palmer's sagewort	Asteraceae	SRW/DIS	
Arundo donax*	giant reed	Poaceae	SRW, DIS	
Asparagus asparagoides*	florist's-smilax	Asparagaceae	SRW	
Asphodelus fistulosus*	hollow-stem asphodel	Asphodelaceae	DIS	
Baccharis salicifolia subsp. salicifolia	mule-fat, seep-willow	Asteraceae	SRW	
Baccharis sarothroides	broom baccharis	Asteraceae	CSS	
Bahiopsis laciniata!	San Diego sunflower	Asteraceae	CSS	
Bolboschoenus maritimus subsp. paludosus	prairie bulrush	Cyperaceae	SRW	
Brassica nigra*	black mustard	Brassicaceae	CSS	
Bromus diandrus*	ripgut grass	Poaceae	CSS, DIS	
Bromus hordeaceus*	soft chess brome	Poaceae	CSS	
Bromus madritensis subsp. madritensis*	compact brome	Poaceae	CSS	
Calandrinia menziesii	red maids	Montiaceae	CSS	
Carduus pycnocephalus subsp.	Italian thistle	Asteraceae	CSS, SRW, DIS	
Carex spissa	San Diego sedge	Cyperaceae	SRW	
Centaurea melitensis*	tocalote	Asteraceae	CSS, DIS	
Cerastium glomeratum*	mouse-ear chickweed	Caryophyllaceae	CSS	
Chenopodium album*	lamb's quarters	Chenopodiaceae	DIS	
Chlorogalum parviflorum	small flower soap plant/amole	Agavaceae	CSS	
Cirsium vulgare*	bull thistle	Asteraceae	SRW	
Clarkia purpurea subsp. quadrivulnera	four-spot clarkia	Onagraceae	CSS	
Claytonia parviflora subsp. parviflora	Utah miner's-lettuce	Montiaceae	CSS	
Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata	miner's-lettuce	Montiaceae	CSS	
Conium maculatum*	common poison hemlock	Apiaceae	SRW	
Cortaderia selloana*	Selloa pampas grass	Poaceae	SRW, DIS	
Crassula connata	pygmyweed	Crassulaceae	CSS	
Croton setiger	doveweed	Euphorbiaceae	DIS	
Cuscuta sp.	dodder	Convolvulaceae	CSS	
Daucus pusillus	rattlesnake weed	Apiaceae	CSS	
Dichelostemma capitatum	blue dicks	Themidaceae	CSS	
Distichlis spicata	saltgrass	Poaceae	DIS	
Elymus triticoides	beardless wild-rye	Poaceae	SRW	
Ericameria palmeri var. palmeri!	Palmer's goldenbush	Asteraceae	CSS	
Erigeron(*)	horseweed	Asteraceae	DIS	
Eriogonum fasciculatum var. foliolosum	inland California buckwheat	Polygonaceae	CSS	
Erodium cicutarium*	red-stem filaree/storksbill	Geraniaceae	CSS	
Erodium moschatum*	white-stem filaree/storksbill	Geraniaceae	CSS, DIS	
Euphorbia peplus*	petty spurge	Euphorbiaceae	SRW	
Euphorbia polycarpa	small-seed sandmat	Euphorbiaceae	CSS	

Species Name	Common Name	Family	Habitat	
Festuca myuros*	rat-tail fescue	Poaceae	CSS, DIS	
Ficus carica*	edible fig	Moraceae	SRW	
Foeniculum vulgare*	sweet fennel	Apiaceae	CSS	
Fraxinus uhdei*	Shamel ash	Oleaceae	SRW	
Galium aparine	common bedstraw, goose grass	Rubiaceae	SRW	
Geranium sp.(*)	-	Geraniaceae	CSS	
Hedypnois rhagadioloides*	Crete hedypnois	Asteraceae	DIS	
Heliotropium curassavicum var. oculatum	salt heliotrope	Boraginaceae	DIS	
Helminthotheca echioides*	bristly ox-tongue	Asteraceae	SRW, DIS	
Heteromeles arbutifolia	toyon, Christmas berry	Rosaceae	CSS	
Heterotheca grandiflora	telegraph weed	Asteraceae	DIS	
Hirschfeldia incana*	short-pod mustard	Brassicaceae	DIS	
Iris pseudacorus* (tentative)	pale yellow iris	Iridaceae	SRW	
Juncus acutus subsp. leopoldii!	southwestern spiny rush	Juncaceae	SRW	
Lactuca serriola*	prickly lettuce	Asteraceae	CSS	
Lepidium sp.	pepperweed	Brassicaceae	CSS	
Logfia gallica*	daggerleaf cottonrose, narrow-	Asteraceae	CSS	
Logjiu gainea	leaf filago	1 isteraceae		
Lysimachia arvensis*	scarlet pimpernel	Primulaceae	CSS, SRW	
Marah macrocarpa	wild-cucumber, manroot	Cucurbitaceae	CSS	
Marrubium vulgare*	horehound	Lamiaceae	CSS	
Melilotus albus*	white sweetclover	Fabaceae	SRW, CSS	
Mimulus aurantiacus var. puniceus	coast monkey flower	Phrymaceae	CSS	
Nasturtium officinale	water-cress	Brassicaceae	SRW	
Navarretia hamata subsp. hamata	hooked skunkweed	Polemoniaceae	DIS	
Parkinsonia aculeata*	Mexican palo verde	Fabaceae	DIS	
Pectocarya penicillata	winged pectocarya	Boraginaceae	CSS, DIS	
	sticky silverback fern	Pteridaceae	CSS, DIS	
Pentagramma triangularis subsp. viscosa				
Phoenix canariensis*	Canary Island date palm	Arecaceae	SRW, DIS	
Plantago erecta	dot-seed plantain	Plantaginaceae	DIS	
Platanus racemosa	western sycamore	Platanaceae	SRW	
Poaceae	grass (unidentified)	Poaceae	CSS, DIS	
Polycarpon tetraphyllum var. tetraphyllum*	four-leaf allseed	Caryophyllaceae	CSS	
Polypogon monspeliensis*	annual beard grass	Poaceae	SRW	
Pseudognaphalium californicum	California everlasting	Asteraceae	CSS	
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum*	everlasting cudweed	Asteraceae	DIS	
Psilocarphus tenellus	slender woolly-heads	Asteraceae	DIS	
Pterostegia drymarioides	granny's hairnet	Polygonaceae	CSS	
Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia	coast live oak, encina	Fagaceae	SRW/CSS	
Raphanus sativus*	wild radish	Brassicaceae	CSS, DIS	
Rhamnus crocea	spiny redberry	Rhamnaceae	CSS	
Rhus ovata	sugar bush	Anacardiaceae	CSS	
Ribes speciosum	fuchsia-flower gooseberry	Grossulariaceae	CSS	
Ricinus communis*	castor bean	Euphorbiaceae	SRW	
Robinia pseudoacacia*	black locust	Fabaceae	SRW	
Rosa californica	California rose	Rosaceae	SRW	
Rumex crispus*	curly dock	Polygonaceae	SRW	
Salix gooddingii	Goodding's black willow	Salicaceae	SRW	
Salix laevigata	red willow	Salicaceae	SRW	
Salix lasiolepis	arroyo willow	Salicaceae	SRW	
Salvia apiana	white sage	Lamiaceae	CSS	
Salvia mellifera	black sage	Lamiaceae	CSS	

Species Name	Common Name	Family	Habitat	
Sambucus nigra subsp. caerulea	blue elderberry	Adoxaceae	CSS/SRW	
Schinus molle*	Peruvian pepper tree	Anacardiaceae	ORN, SRW	
Schinus terebinthifolius*	Brazilian pepper tree	Anacardiaceae	SRW/CSS	
Schismus sp.*	schismus grass	Poaceae	CSS, DIS	
Scrophularia californica	California bee plant/figwort	Scrophulariaceae	CSS	
Selaginella cinerascens!	ashy spike-moss	Selaginellaceae	CSS	
Silybum marianum*	milk thistle	Asteraceae	CSS/SRW	
Sonchus asper subsp. asper*	prickly sow-thistle	Asteraceae	SRW	
Stephanomeria sp.	wreath-plant	Asteraceae	CSS	
Stipa miliacea var. miliacea*	smilo grass	Poaceae	SRW	
Stipa sp.	needle grass	Poaceae	CSS	
Stylocline gnaphaloides	everlasting nest-straw	Asteraceae	CSS	
Tamarix sp.*	tamarisk/salt-cedar	Tamaricaceae	SRW	
Toxicodendron diversilobum	western poison-oak	Anacardiaceae	SRW	
Ulmus parvifolia*	Chinese elm	Ulmaceae	DIS	
Urtica urens*	dwarf nettle	Urticaceae	SRW	
Vitis girdiana	desert wild grape	Vitaceae	SRW	
Washingtonia robusta*	Mexican fan palm	Arecaceae	SRW, ORN	
Zeltnera venusta	canchalagua	Gentianaceae	CSS	

<sup>\*</sup> non-native

CSS = Coastal Sage Scrub

DIS = Disturbed Land

ORN = Ornamental

SRW = Southern Riparian Woodland

<sup>!</sup> State or federal special-status (State endangered, threatened, or rare; federal endangered, threatened, or candidate for listing, CRPR 1-4)

# **APPENDIX D**

Animals Observed in the Skyline Retirement Center Offsite Mitigation Area

APPENDIX D ANIMALS OBSERVED IN THE SKYLINE RETIREMENT CENTER SITE OFFSITE MITIGATION AREA				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Observed		
Invertebrates	·			
Anthocharis sara sara	Pacific Sara orangetip	CSS		
Apis mellifera*	honey bee	CSS/DIS		
Erynnis funeralis	funereal duskywing	CSS		
Family Acrididae	grasshopper	CSS		
Family Aeshnidae	darner dragonfly	SRW		
Family Agelenidae	funnel weaver spider	CSS		
Family Vespidae	yellow jacket wasp	CSS		
Helix aspersa*	brown garden snail	CSS		
Nymphalis antiopa	mourning cloak	CSS		
Papilio zelicaon	anise swallowtail	CSS/SRW		
Pepsis sp.	tarantula hawk wasp	CSS		
Subfamily Pierinae	white butterfly (unidentified)	FO		
Reptiles	winte outterity (unidentified)	10		
Aspidoscelis hyperythra!	orange-throated whiptail	CSS, DIS		
(Cnemidophorus hyperythrus)	orange-unoated winptan	C55, D15		
Birds				
Calypte anna	Anna's hummingbird	CSS		
Chamaea fasciata	wrentit	CSS		
Corvus corax	common raven	FO		
Empidonax difficilis	Pacific-slope flycatcher	SRW		
Geothlypis trichas	common yellowthroat	SRW		
Haemorhous mexicanus	house finch	CSS, FO		
Icterus cucullatus	hooded oriole	SRW		
Leiothlypis celata	orange-crowned warbler	SRW		
Melospiza melodia	song sparrow	SRW		
Melozone crissalis	California towhee	CSS		
Myiarchus cinerascens	ash-throated flycatcher	SRW		
Passerina caerulea	blue grosbeak	SRW		
Pheucticus melanocephalus	black-headed grosbeak	SRW		
Picoides nuttallii	Nuttall's woodpecker	SRW		
Pipilo maculatus	spotted towhee	SRW		
Polioptila californica californica	coastal California gnatcatcher	CSS		
Psaltriparus minimus	bushtit	CSS		
Setophaga aestiva! (6)	yellow warbler	SRW		
(S. petechia)	yenow warbier	Siew		
Setophaga coronata	yellow-rumped warbler	CSS		
Spinus lawrencei	Lawrence's goldfinch	CSS		
Spinus tawrencei Spinus psaltria	lesser goldfinch	CSS, SRW		
Spinus psatiria Thryomanes bewickii	Bewick's wren	CSS, SKW		
Toxostoma redivivum	California thrasher	CSS		
Troglodytes aedon	house wren	CSS/SRW		
Tyrannus vociferans	Cassin's kingbird	SRW		
Vireo bellii pusillus! (4)	least Bell's vireo	SRW		
Zenaida macroura	mourning dove	CSS, SRW		
Zonotrichia leucophrys	white-crowned sparrow	CSS		
Mammals	winte-crowned sparrow	Coo		
Canis latrans	coviete	CSS		
Cams tatrans	coyote	Coo		

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Observed
Neotoma fuscipes	dusky-footed woodrat	SRW/CSS (middens)
Sylvilagus audubonii	desert cottontail	CSS

<sup>\*</sup> Non-native species

CSS = Coastal Sage Scrub

DIS = Disturbed Land

FO = Flyover

NNG = Non-Native Grassland

<sup>!</sup> State or federal special-status species (State endangered, threatened, endangered candidate, fully protected, watchlist, or CDF sensitive; or federal endangered, threatened, candidate for listing, USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern, BLM sensitive, or USFWS sensitive)

# **APPENDIX E**

2017 California Gnatcatcher Survey Report for the Skyline Retirement Center *Western* Offsite Mitigation Parcel

Phone: 619.232.9200 Fax: 619.232.9210



May 19, 2017

Stacey Love Recovery Permit Coordinator U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office 2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250 Carlsbad, CA 92008

Subject: 2017 California Gnatcatcher Survey Report for the Skyline Retirement Center

Western Offsite Mitigation Parcel, San Diego County, California; APN 506-140-08;

**USFWS Permit TE786714-1** 

Ms. Love:

This report provides the results of a protocol survey series for the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) performed by REC biologists Elyssa Robertson and Catherine MacGregor on the *western* offsite mitigation parcel associated with the Skyline Retirement Center project. The western offsite parcel is under consideration for use as mitigation for impacts resulting from development of the Skyline Retirement Center.

The California gnatcatcher (CAGN) is a small gray songbird that resides year-round in scrub-dominated plant communities from southern Ventura County southward through Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties, California into Baja California, Mexico. It is strongly associated with sage scrub in its various forms. The range is almost entirely limited to coastal lowlands below 1,000 feet in elevation (Unitt 2004). The western offsite mitigation parcel supports coastal sage scrub, and CAGN are known to occur in the general area.

### Geographical Limits of the Survey Area

The 7.5-acre western offsite mitigation parcel, on Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 506-140-08, is located west of Jamacha Boulevard and south of Campo Road (State Route 94), near the community of Rancho San Diego. A map of the regional location is provided in **Figure 1**, and the site location and vicinity are shown on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Jamul Mountains 7.5' topographic quadrangle map in **Figure 2**. A 2016 Google Earth Pro aerial photograph of the site is provided in **Figure 3**. A creek flows generally northwest-to-southeast through the site. The existing Skyline Church and the planned Skyline Retirement Center are directly northeast on the other side of Campo Road. To the northwest are a SDG&E substation and more developed land. The hillside to the southwest of the parcel is undeveloped. To the southeast are Jamacha Boulevard and then undeveloped land.

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The site consists of land on either side of creek sloping downward to the creek channel, from an elevation of approximately 550 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) at the northwestern end to approximately 440 feet AMSL at the southeastern end.

#### **Habitats**

During REC's site surveys, three vegetation communities/habitats and one other land cover category were observed: coastal sage scrub, broom-baccharis-dominated coastal sage scrub, southern riparian woodland, ornamental vegetation, developed land, and disturbed land. These habitats are shown in **Figure 4** and are described below.

## Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (Habitat Code 32500), 1.0 Acre

Coastal sage scrub in southern California is a shrub community characterized by low-growing, flexible shrubs that are often fragrant and drought-deciduous. Species composition varies significantly between south-facing and north-facing slopes, with greater concentration of smaller, drought-deciduous, and succulent species on the hotter and drier southern slopes, and more larger and evergreen shrubs on cooler, moister northern slopes. Characteristic shrub species of coastal sage scrub include coastal sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), true sages (*Salvia* spp.), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). Numerous annuals, bulbiferous perennials, and native grasses flower among the shrubs in spring and early summer. Coastal sage scrub cover has significantly declined as a result of grazing, urbanization, and other disturbance, and is now considered a threatened community. Many plant and animals of coastal sage scrub have also become endangered, threatened, or rare, including the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) and the coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhyncus brunneicapillus sandiegensis*).

Onsite coastal sage scrub habitat is dominated by coastal sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and inland California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *foliolosum*). Other native shrubs include black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), spiny redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*), and white sage (*Salvia apiana*). Habitat quality is poor to moderate, with a substantial degree of disturbance along Campo Road. Patches of coastal sage scrub south of the creek are in better condition, and are adjacent to higher quality coastal sage scrub on the slope to the south of the site.

## Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, Baccharis-Dominated (Habitat Code 32530), 3.4 Acre

This sub-type of coastal sage scrub is similar to Diegan Coastal sage scrub but is dominated by broom baccharis (*Baccharis sarothroides*) or coyote brush (*B. pilularis*). It typically occurs on disturbed sites or those with nutrient-poor soil, often within other forms of Diegan coastal sage scrub, and on upper terraces of river valleys. Species composition may also include coastal sagebrush, California buckwheat, sawtooth goldenbush (Hazardia squarrosa), goldenbush (Isocoma menziesii), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*) in less amounts. (Oberbauer et al. 2008)

Baccharis-dominated coastal sage scrub on the site is a distinctive mixture of broom baccharis and Palmer's goldenbush (*Ericameria palmeri* var. *palmeri*), a rare shrub whose largest known population occurs in this area. The larger patches of broom baccharis and Palmer's goldenbush are

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too tall and dense to provide good gnatcatcher habitat, but areas intermixed with or bordering more typical coastal sage scrub vegetation could support CAGN.

## Southern Riparian Woodland (62500), 2.6 Acres

Southern riparian woodland occurs along the creek that runs eastward through the parcel. This riparian habitat is characterized by arroyo, red, and black willows (*Salix lasiolepis, S. laevigata, S. gooddingii*) with occasional sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*), and invasive non-native species such as Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), Shamel ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*), and giant reed (*Arundo donax*). Although this habitat is not suitable for CAGN, riparian birds, including yellow warbler and least Bell's vireo, were seen and heard onsite during the survey and are included in the list of bird species observed.

## Disturbed Land (Habitat Code 11300), 0.3 Acre

This land cover category is comprised of "Areas that have been physically disturbed (by previous legal human activity) and are no longer recognizable as a native or naturalized vegetation association, but continues to retain a soil substrate. Typically vegetation, if present, is nearly exclusively composed of non-native plant species such as ornamentals or ruderal exotic species that take advantage of disturbance, or shows signs of past or present animal usage that removes any capability of providing viable natural habitat for uses other than dispersal. Examples of disturbed habitat include areas that have been graded, repeatedly cleared for fuel management purposes and/or experienced repeated use that prevents natural revegetation (i.e. dirt parking lots, trails that have been present for several decades), recently graded firebreaks, graded construction pads, construction staging areas, off-road vehicle trails, and old homesites." (Oberbauer et al. 2008)

Onsite disturbed land consists of compacted dirt access roads associated with utility lines that run rough parallel to the creek, and other dirt paths.

#### Ornamental (Non-native) Vegetation Land (Habitat Code 10000), 0.1 Acre

The patch of ornamental non-native vegetation is associated with an entry gateway to the Rancho San Diego community, built on the southwest side of Campo Road. Landscape plants grow around the gateway structure.

#### Developed Land (Habitat Code 12000), 0.1 Acre

Developed land consists of the paved access road on the southeast side of the SDG&E substation. Based on currently parcel boundaries, the road appears to overlap the site.

## **CAGN Survey Methods**

To determine the presence or absence of CAGN on the site, a protocol series of focused presence/absence surveys was conducted by USFWS permitted biologist Elyssa Robertson (Permit TE786714-1) and Catherine MacGregor (currently completing the training hours permit requirement under Ms. Robertson's permit). The methodology used during the surveys followed the 1997 USFWS presence/absence survey protocol, as updated in July 1997 (USFWS 1997). Table 1 below summarizes

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all CAGN survey dates and conditions.

Table 1. California Gnatcatcher Surveys Conducted on the Skyline Retirement Center Western Offsite Mitigation Site

Date	Time	Temp (°F)	Sky	Wind (MPH)	Survey Type	Personnel
3/10/2017	Begin: 0830	Begin: 66	Sunny	Begin: 0-1	CAGN	E. Robertson,
3/10/2017	End: 0945	End: 68	Sumiy	End: 0-3	CAGIV	C. MacGregor
3/23/2017	Begin: 0815	Begin: 60	Partly	Begin: 0-1.0	CAGN	E. Robertson,
3/23/2017	End: 0945	End: 59	sunny	End: 1-2.4	CAGN	C. MacGregor
4/28/2017	Begin: 0910	Begin: 65	Cummi	Begin: 0-1.5	CAGN	E. Robertson,
4/28/2017	End: 1020	End: 73	Sunny	End: 0-1.8	CAGN	C. MacGregor

USFWS protocol requires a minimum of three surveys, at least one week apart, to determine presence/absence of this species. For the western offsite mitigation parcel protocol survey, three presence/absence surveys for the California gnatcatcher were completed by USFWS permitted biologist Elyssa Robertson (Permit TE786714-1) and Catherine MacGregor. All potentially suitable habitat on the site was surveyed on foot with an irregularly meandering route; the average route is shown in **Figure 4**. Sufficient time was spent in all appropriate habitat to determine the presence/absence of CAGN. All areas of potentially suitable habitat (1.0 acre coastal sage scrub, and 3.4 acre of baccharis-dominated coastal sage scrub) were surveyed during each visit, at an average rate of 3.4 acres per hour. Field notes were maintained throughout the surveys and species of interest were mapped. Recorded vocalizations of CAGN were played only in an attempt to elicit an initial response, as frequently as every 100 feet along the route when no responses were detected, but were not repeated after gnatcatcher(s) were detected in a location. Bird species were identified directly by sight or by vocalizations. The surveys were conducted at least one week apart, and all surveys were conducted during favorable weather conditions. No territory mapping, nest surveys, handling, or banding was conducted.

#### **2017 Survey Results**

One pair of CAGN was found on and adjacent to the site, as shown in **Figure 4**. During the first survey, the pair were foraging onsite and calling frequently. During the second and third visits, only the male was observed, on the dirt road along the southwestern boundary of the site. On the second visit he called a few times, and on the third visit he did not call at all.

All bird species observed during the surveys are listed in Table 2, below. This includes all riparian birds that were incidentally seen or heard on the site. One least Bell's vireo (Vireo bellii pusillus) and three yellow warblers (Setophaga petechia) were found in and along the riparian woodland, at the locations shown in **Figure 4**. No other sensitive bird species were found.

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Table 2. Bird Species Observed on the Western Offsite Mitigation Parcel during CAGN Surveys

Common Name	Scientific Name
Anna's Hummingbird	Calypte anna
Ash-throated flycatcher	Myiarchus cinerascens
Bewick's Wren	Thryomanes bewickii
Black-headed grosbeak	Pheucticus melanocephalus
Blue grosbeak	Passerina caerulea
Bushtit	Psaltriparus minimus
California gnatcatcher	Polioptila c. californica
California towhee	Kieneria crissalis
Cassin's kingbird	Tyrannus vociferans
Common yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas
Hooded oriole	Icterus cucullatus
House finch	Haemorhous mexicanus
House wren	Troglodytes aedon
Least Bell's vireo	Vireo bellii pusillus
Lesser goldfinch	Spinus psaltria
Mourning dove	Zenaida macroura
Nuttall's woodpecker	Picoides nuttallii
Orange-crowned warbler	Leiothlypis celata
Pacific-slope flycatcher	Empidonax difficilis
Song sparrow	Melospiza melodia
Spotted towhee	Pipilo maculatus
White-crowned sparrow	Zonotrichia leucophrys
Wrentit	Chamaea fasciata
Yellow-rumped warbler	Setophaga coronata
Yellow warbler	Setophaga aestiva

# Conclusion

One pair of CAGN occupies the Skyline Retirement Center Western Offsite Mitigation Parcel.

Elyssa K. Robertson (USFWS TE786714-1)

Principal Biologist

Catherine MacGregor Senior Biologist

# **Figures**

1. Regional Location Map

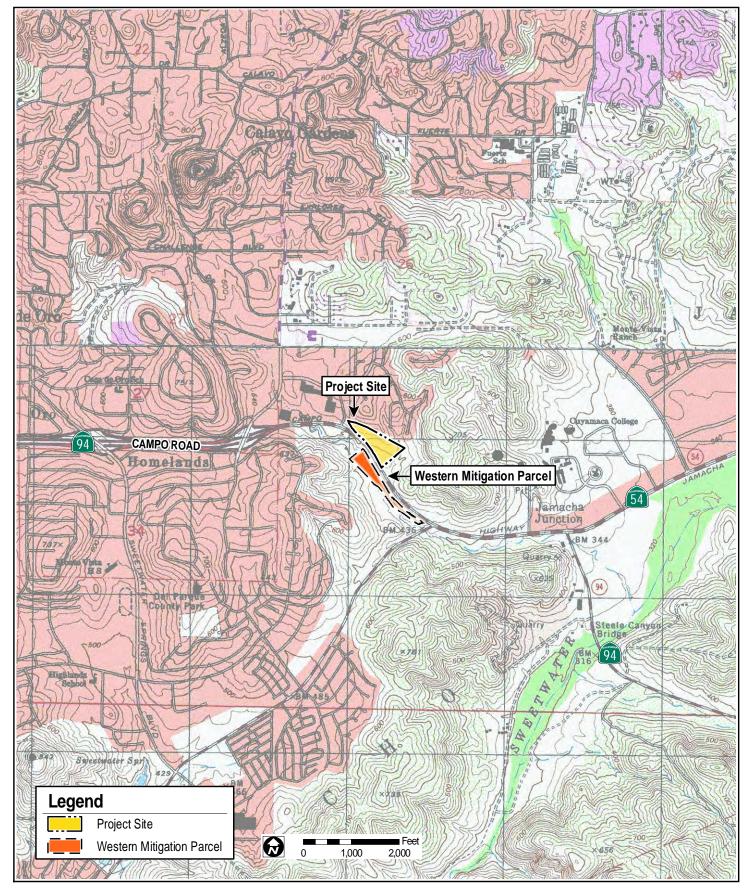
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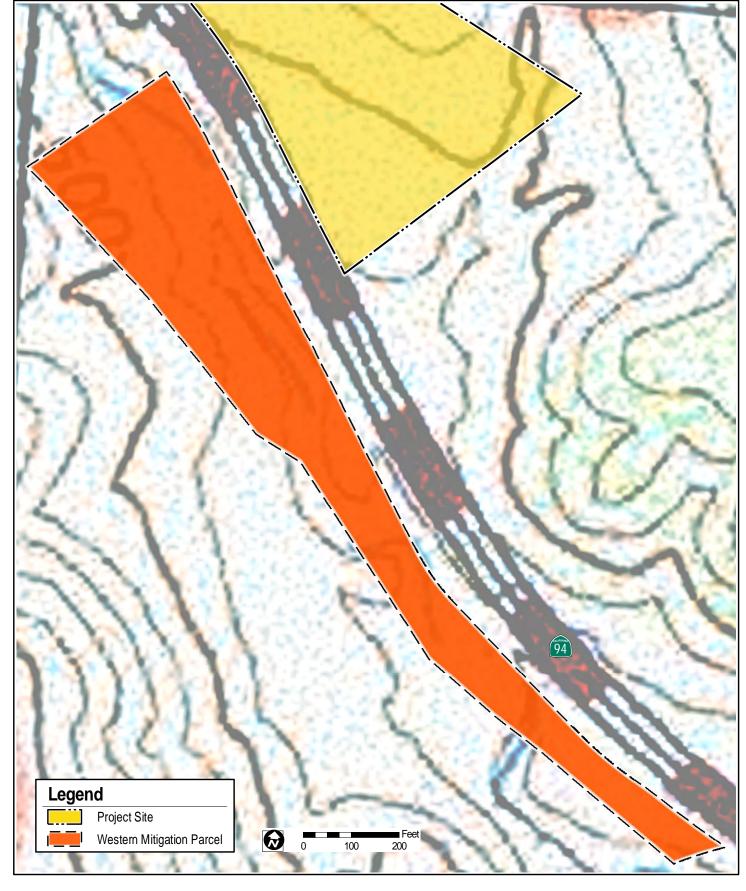
- 2. Vicinity Map on USGS Topo
- 3. Aerial Photograph
- 4. California Gnatcatcher Survey Results Map

#### References

- Baldwin, B. G., D. H. Goldman, D. J. Keil, R. Patterson, T. J. Rosatti, and D. H. Wilken, editors. 2012. The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, second edition. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
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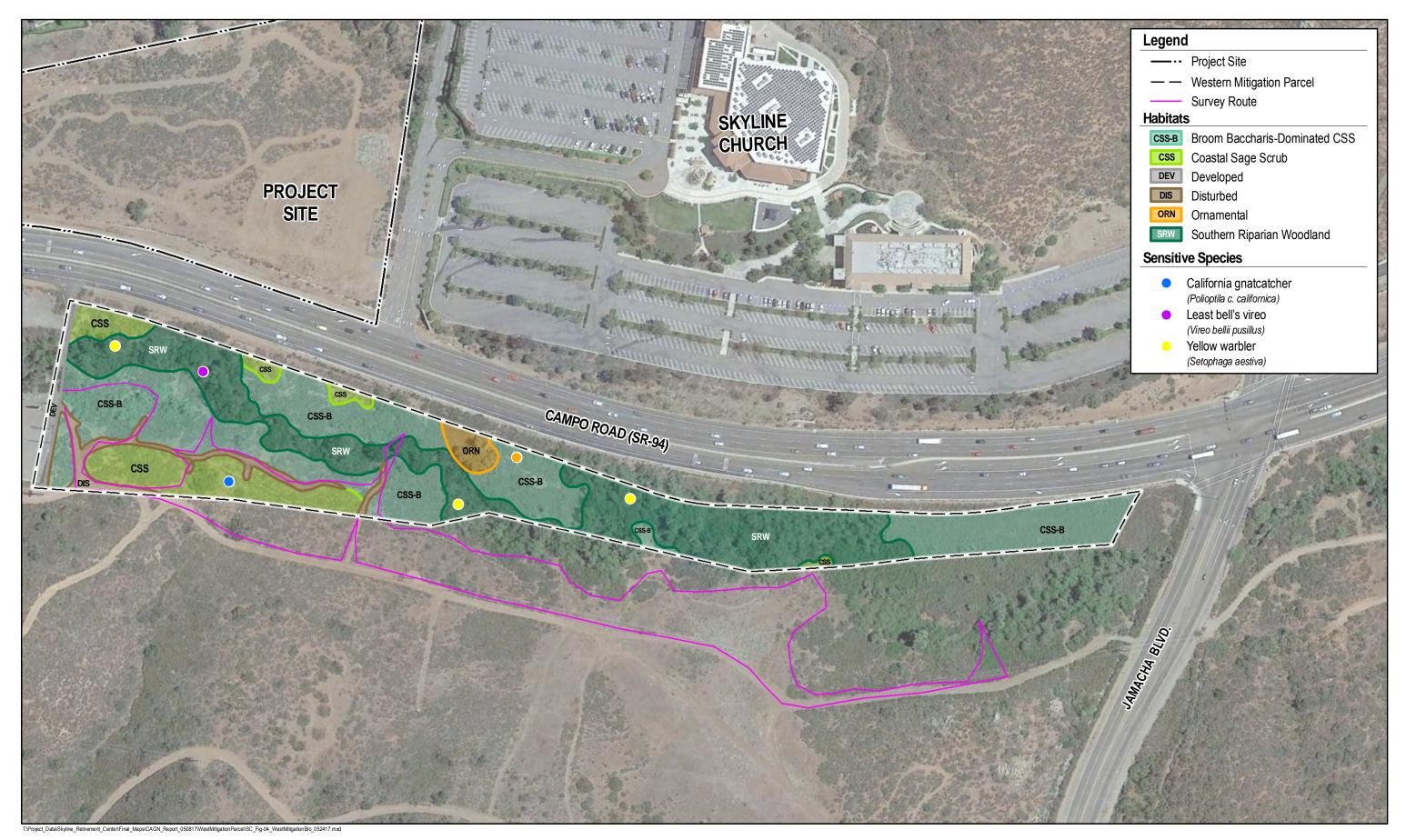














# **APPENDIX F**

2017 California Gnatcatcher Survey Report for the Skyline Retirement Center *Eastern* Offsite Mitigation Parcel





May 19, 2017

Stacey Love Recovery Permit Coordinator U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office 2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250 Carlsbad, CA 92008

Subject: 2017 California Gnatcatcher Survey Report for the Skyline Retirement Center Eastern Offsite Mitigation Parcel, San Diego County, California; APN 506-140-03;

**USFWS Permit TE786714-1** 

Ms. Love:

This report provides the results of a protocol survey series for the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) performed by REC biologists Elyssa Robertson and Catherine MacGregor on the *eastern* offsite mitigation parcel associated with the Skyline Retirement Center project. The eastern offsite parcel is under consideration for use as mitigation for impacts resulting from development of the Skyline Retirement Center.

The California gnatcatcher (CAGN) is a small gray songbird that resides year-round in scrub-dominated plant communities from southern Ventura County southward through Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties, California into Baja California, Mexico. It is strongly associated with sage scrub in its various forms. The range is almost entirely limited to coastal lowlands below 1,000 feet in elevation (Unitt 2004). The eastern offsite mitigation parcel supports a small amount of coastal sage scrub, and CAGN are known to occur in the general area.

# Geographical Limits of the Survey Area

The 7.5-acre eastern offsite mitigation parcel, on Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 506-140-03, is located east of Jamacha Boulevard, south of Campo Road (State Route 94), and also west of Campo Road where the road turns south at the community of Rancho San Diego. A map of the regional location is provided in **Figure 1**, and the site location and vicinity are shown on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Jamul Mountains 7.5' topographic quadrangle map in **Figure 2**. A 2016 Google Earth Pro aerial photograph of the site is provided in **Figure 3**. This location is approximately 0.4 mile southeast of the proposed Skyline Retirement Center. A creek flows generally west-to-east through the parcel. The hillside to the south of the parcel is undeveloped. To the west are undeveloped land and Jamacha Boulevard. To the north are Campo Road, undeveloped land, a County Sheriff's station, a storage facility, and a trucking school. To the east are a graded partially developed area, Campo Road, and then the Rancho San Diego shopping center.

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The site consists of land on either side of creek sloping downward to the creek channel, from an elevation of approximately 440 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) at the western end to approximately 360 feet AMSL at the eastern end.

#### **Habitats**

During REC's site surveys, three vegetation communities/habitats and one other land cover category were observed: coastal sage scrub, broom-baccharis-dominated coastal sage scrub, southern riparian woodland, and disturbed land. These habitats are shown in **Figure 4** and are described below.

# Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (Habitat Code 32500), 1.2 Acres

Coastal sage scrub in southern California is a shrub community characterized by low-growing, flexible shrubs that are often fragrant and drought-deciduous. Species composition varies significantly between south-facing and north-facing slopes, with greater concentration of smaller, drought-deciduous, and succulent species on the hotter and drier southern slopes, and more larger and evergreen shrubs on cooler, moister northern slopes. Characteristic shrub species of coastal sage scrub include coastal sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), true sages (*Salvia* spp.), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). Numerous annuals, bulbiferous perennials, and native grasses flower among the shrubs in spring and early summer. Coastal sage scrub cover has significantly declined as a result of grazing, urbanization, and other disturbance, and is now considered a threatened community. Many plant and animals of coastal sage scrub have also become endangered, threatened, or rare, including the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) and the coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhyncus brunneicapillus sandiegensis*).

Onsite coastal sage scrub habitat is dominated by coastal sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and inland California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *foliolosum*). Other native shrubs include black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), spiny redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*), and white sage (*Salvia apiana*). Habitat quality is poor to moderate, with a substantial degree of disturbance along Campo Road. Patches of coastal sage scrub south of the creek are in better condition, but occupy very little acreage within the parcel. Adjacent sage scrub south of the creek and offsite to the south ranges from moderate to very good quality.

### Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, Baccharis-Dominated (Habitat Code 32530), 1.0 Acre

This sub-type of coastal sage scrub is similar to Diegan Coastal sage scrub but is dominated by broom baccharis (*Baccharis sarothroides*) or coyote brush (*B. pilularis*). It typically occurs on disturbed sites or those with nutrient-poor soil, often within other forms of Diegan coastal sage scrub, and on upper terraces of river valleys. Species composition may also include coastal sagebrush, California buckwheat, sawtooth goldenbush (Hazardia squarrosa), goldenbush (Isocoma menziesii), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*) in less amounts. (Oberbauer et al. 2008)

Baccharis-dominated coastal sage scrub on the site is a distinctive mixture of broom baccharis and Palmer's goldenbush (*Ericameria palmeri* var. *palmeri*), a rare shrub whose largest known population occurs in this area. The larger patches of broom baccharis and Palmer's goldenbush are

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too tall and dense to provide good gnatcatcher habitat, but areas intermixed with or bordering more typical coastal sage scrub vegetation could support CAGN.

## Southern Riparian Woodland (62500), 4.4 Acres

Southern riparian woodland occurs along the creek that runs eastward through the parcel. This riparian habitat is dominated by arroyo and red willows (*Salix lasiolepis*, *S. laevigata*) with occasional sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*), and invasive non-native species such as Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), non-native walnuts (*Juglans* hybrids), and giant reed (*Arundo donax*). Although this habitat is not suitable for CAGN, riparian birds, including yellow warbler and least Bell's vireo, were seen and heard onsite during the survey and are included in the list of bird species observed.

# Disturbed Land (Habitat Code 11300), 0.8 Acre

This land cover category is comprised of "Areas that have been physically disturbed (by previous legal human activity) and are no longer recognizable as a native or naturalized vegetation association, but continues to retain a soil substrate. Typically vegetation, if present, is nearly exclusively composed of non-native plant species such as ornamentals or ruderal exotic species that take advantage of disturbance, or shows signs of past or present animal usage that removes any capability of providing viable natural habitat for uses other than dispersal. Examples of disturbed habitat include areas that have been graded, repeatedly cleared for fuel management purposes and/or experienced repeated use that prevents natural revegetation (i.e. dirt parking lots, trails that have been present for several decades), recently graded firebreaks, graded construction pads, construction staging areas, off-road vehicle trails, and old homesites." (Oberbauer et al. 2008)

Onsite disturbed land consists of previously graded and cleared land characterized by compacted soil and ornamental / non-native plants, and an unpaved utility access roads. Vegetation on disturbed land was dominated by non-natives such as Peruvian pepper, Canary Island date palm, bristly ox tongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), and Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*).

### **CAGN Survey Methods**

To determine the presence or absence of CAGN on the site, a protocol series of focused presence/absence surveys was conducted by USFWS permitted biologist Elyssa Robertson (Permit TE786714-1) and Catherine MacGregor (currently completing the training hours permit requirement under Ms. Robertson's permit). The methodology used during the surveys followed the 1997 USFWS presence/absence survey protocol, as updated in July 1997 (USFWS 1997). Table 1 below summarizes all CAGN survey dates and conditions.

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Table 1. California Gnatcatcher Surveys Conducted on the Skyline Retirement Center Eastern Offsite Mitigation Site

Date	Time	Temp (°F)	Sky	Wind (MPH)	Survey Type	Personnel
3/20/2017	Begin: 0655	Begin: 57	Overcast,	Begin: 0-1	CAGN	E. Robertson,
3/20/2017	End: 0815	End: 59	Overcast	End: 0	CAGN	C. MacGregor
4/5/2017	Begin: 0815	Begin: 60	Clear,	Begin: 0-1.0	CAGN	E. Robertson,
4/3/2017	End: 0940	End: 74	Clear	End: 0.1-1.4	CAGN	C. MacGregor
4/28/2017	Begin: 0655 End: 0850	Begin: 55 End: 65	Overcast, Partly sunny	Begin: 0 End: 0-1.5	CAGN	E. Robertson, C. MacGregor

USFWS protocol requires a minimum of three surveys, at least one week apart, to determine presence/absence of this species. For the eastern offsite mitigation parcel protocol survey, three presence/absence surveys for the California gnatcatcher were completed by USFWS permitted biologist Elyssa Robertson (Permit TE786714-1) and Catherine MacGregor. All potentially suitable habitat on the site was surveyed on foot with an irregularly meandering route; the average route is shown in **Figure 4**. Sufficient time was spent in all appropriate habitat to determine the presence/absence of CAGN. All areas of potentially suitable habitat (1.2 acre coastal sage scrub, 1.0 acre of baccharis-dominated coastal sage scrub, and 0.8 of disturbed land) were surveyed during each visit, at an average rate of 1.9 acres per hours. Field notes were maintained throughout the surveys and species of interest were mapped. Recorded vocalizations of CAGN were played only in an attempt to elicit an initial response, as frequently as every 100 feet along the route when no responses were detected, but would not have been repeated after gnatcatcher(s) were detected in a location. Bird species were identified directly by sight or by vocalizations. The surveys were conducted at least one week apart, and all surveys were conducted during favorable weather conditions. No territory mapping, nest surveys, handling, or banding was conducted.

# **2017 Survey Results**

No CAGN were detected on or adjacent to the eastern offsite mitigation parcel during the protocol surveys.

All bird species observed during the surveys are listed in Table 2, below. This includes all riparian birds that were incidentally seen or heard on the site. One least Bell's vireo (Vireo bellii pusillus) and three yellow warblers (Setophaga petechia) were found in and along the riparian woodland, at the locations shown in **Figure 4**. No other sensitive bird species were found.

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Table 2. Bird Species Observed on the Eastern Offsite Mitigation Parcel during CAGN Surveys

Common Name	Scientific Name
Anna's hummingbird	Calypte anna
Ash-throated flycatcher	Myiarchus cinerascens
Bewick's wren	Thryomanes bewickii
Black-headed grosbeak	Pheucticus melanocephalus
Bushtit	Psaltriparus minimus
California thrasher	Toxostoma redivivum
California towhee	Kieneria crissalis
Cassin's kingbird	Tyrannus vociferans
Common yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas
House finch	Haemorhous mexicanus
House wren	Troglodytes aedon
Lawrence's goldfinch	Spinus lawrencei
Least Bell's vireo	Vireo bellii pusillus
Lesser goldfinch	Spinus psaltria
Mourning dove	Zenaida macroura
Orange-crowned warbler	Leiothlypis celata
Pacific-slope flycatcher	Empidonax difficilis
Song sparrow	Melospiza melodia
Spotted towhee	Pipilo maculatus
White-crowned sparrow	Zonotrichia leucophrys
Wrentit	Chamaea fasciata
Yellow warbler	Setophaga aestiva

### Conclusion

No CAGN were detected on the Skyline Retirement Center East Offsite Mitigation Parcel during REC's 2017 focused protocol survey.

Elyssa K. Robertson (USFWS TE786714-1)

Principal Biologist

Catherine MacGregor Senior Biologist

# **Figures**

- 1. Regional Location Map
- 2. Vicinity Map on USGS Topo
- 3. Aerial Photograph

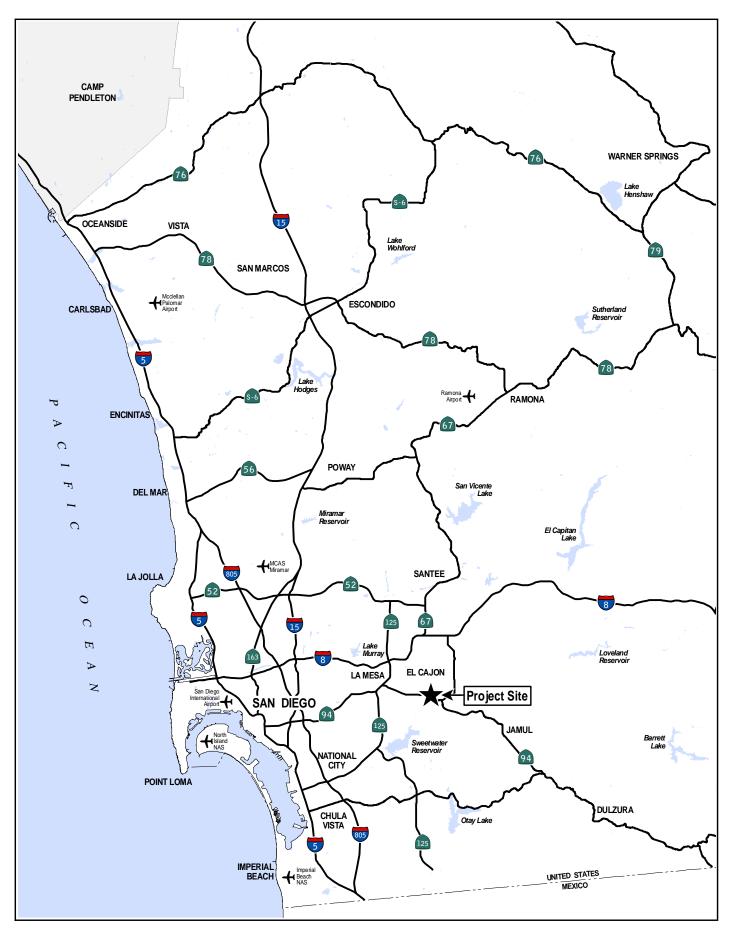
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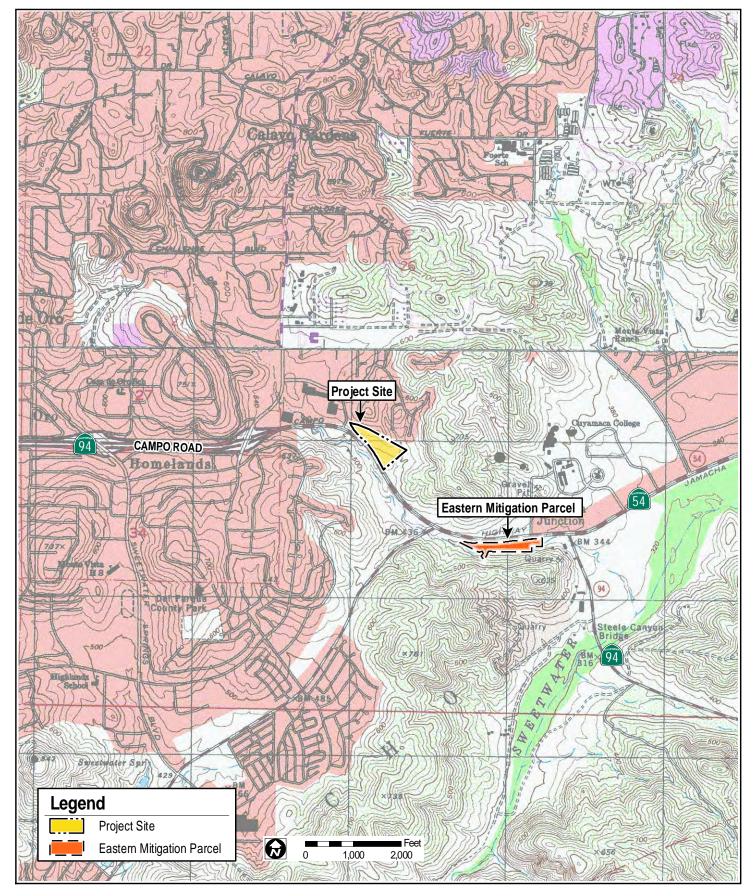
4. California Gnatcatcher Survey Results Map

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Offsite Mitigation - Eastern Parcel