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McRae
Attn: Mr. Jeff Zimmerman
8800 N. Gainey Center Drive, Suite 255
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

Re: Update for TTM 062349, Lancaster, California”

Development has been proposed for TTM 062349, APN 3154-002-095 (formerly APN 3154-002-027), Lancaster, California. The approximately 20 acre (8 ha) study site was located east of 20th Street East and south of Avenue H-8. The western boundary was formed by 20th Street East. Housing and saltbush habitat was present to the west of 20th Street East. Disturbed saltbush habitat was present north of the study site. The southern and eastern boundary was formed by block walls and residential housing.

The original 2005 report noted the area was dominated by disturbed saltbush and mixed shrub plant community (RCA Associates 2005). The original report noted the following. The study site was disturbed and the overall habitat quality reduced. Plant species typical of a saltbush plant community were present. Common wildlife species were noted. No desert tortoises, or Mohave ground squirrels were observed during the field survey. The report concluded desert tortoises were not present. Desert tortoises were not a concern based on lack of presence in the surrounding area. The report concluded Mohave ground squirrels were not present and not a concern based on lack of suitable plant species and lack of presence in the surrounding area. No mitigations were recommended for either species. No burrowing owls or potential cover sites were present within the study site. Burrowing owls had been sighted within a few miles of the site. Due to the presence of burrowing owls in the area a preconstruction survey was recommended. No sensitive plant species were addressed in the reports. No water features were addressed in the reports.

For this update, the 2005 report was reviewed. Transects were conducted within the study site on 2 January 2022. No changes to the conditions addressed in the 2005 report were detected during this field survey. No sensitive wildlife species were observed during the update survey. The study site does not appear to provide good foraging habitat for Swainson’s hawk. Swainson’s hawk appears to be tied to active agricultural fields, parks, and large retention basins within the Antelope Valley (eBird 2021). Joshua trees were observed within the study site (Figure 1). The site is located within an area of clay pan and dune topography (Figure 1). Potential alkali mariposa lily habitat is present within the study site. Based on the impacts to the area if alkali mariposa lilies are present it would be expected to be in low numbers.



Figure 1. Representative photographs of the study site. Top photograph is northwest looking southeast, bottom is northeast looking southwest

The California Fish and Game Commission accepted a petition to list the Western Joshua Tree in September 2020. This action made the Joshua tree on the study site a candidate species with full protection until a decision on listing is completed. Coordination and submission of an application for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) is now necessary to take Joshua trees. Habitat for alkali mariposa lilies and clay pans could be incorporated into the ITP for Joshua trees.

Due to the clay pans and connecting washes, this project may require consultation with CDFW to determine whether a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement is required.

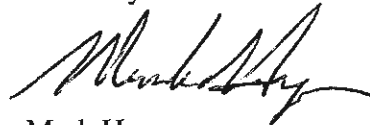
The 2005 reports are still considered valid with inclusion of Joshua tree, alkali mariposa lily, and clay pan measures.

Literature Cited

- eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: 16 August 2021).
- RCA Associates, Inc. 2005. Biological survey report, tentative tract 062349, apn 3154-002-027, lancaster, california. RCA Associates, Inc., 15555 Main Street, #D4-235, Hesperia, California, 92345. 19pp.
- RCA Associates, Inc. 2005. Biological survey report, apn 3154-002-028, lancaster, california. RCA Associates, Inc., 15555 Main Street, #D4-235, Hesperia, California, 92345. 18pp.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need further assistance with this project.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Hagan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Hagan
Wildlife Biologist