



**GONZALES
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSULTING, LLC**

March 22, 2019

Mr. Hitesh Patel
La Sierra Victoria Development LLC
19215 Wild Mustang Court
Apple Valley, CA 92307

RE: Burrowing Owl update for APN 136-220-016 (8.8 acres)

Dear Mr. Patel:

As requested, we conducted a burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) survey for APN 136-220-016 (8.8 acres) in order to determine if conditions had changed since the 2014 surveys conducted by VHBC, Incorporated. We found that the site is still used for citrus production and includes a park-like area covering about ¼ of the site.

The site is located within San Bernardino Meridian in a portion of Sections 24 and 25, Township 3 South, Range 6 West in Riverside County, California. This location is shown on the Riverside West, California 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle (Riverside West photorevised 1980); page 744 Block G3 of the Riverside County Street Guide and Directory (Thomas Brothers Maps Design 2013). The approximate center of the site is located at the center of the project area is 33.887533°N/-117.461718°W. APN 136-220-016 is located on the corner of Victoria Avenue and La Sierra Avenue in the City of Riverside, Riverside County California.

The proposed project site occurs at an elevation between 820 and 836 feet above mean sea level. The entire project site has been disturbed by anthropogenic disturbances. Land immediately adjacent to the consists of single family residences.

The habitat assessment followed the BURROWING OWL SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area, dated March 29, 2006 per Section 6.3.2. Of the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRMSHCP).

The habitat assessment was performed to determine the Site's suitability to support burrowing owl. Several key indicators were used in determining the Site's potential to support burrowing owl. Key indicators included the presence of low-growing vegetation within grassland, desert, and scrublands, small fossorial mammals, and isolated features such as cement or wood debris piles, and/or cement culverts.

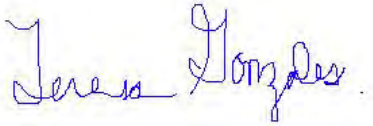
The Site exhibited no key indicators of suitable burrowing owl habitat. Wildlife observed during surveys is listed in Appendix, Animal and Plant Compendium.

The results of the habitat assessment concluded that the Site contained no suitable habitat for burrowing owl.

Results:

GEC conducted Burrowing Owl assessment as outlined by The California Burrowing Owl Consortium and Burrowing Owl Instructions for the Western Riverside MSHCP. Task 1 of the survey identified no suitable burrowing owl habitat on-site. Results of the surveys found no owl burrows or burrowing owls on the proposed project site or in adjacent areas. We found no evidence of burrows, stock piles of materials or areas that burrowing owls would be found in. As such, we concur with the findings of VHBC, Incorporated. If you have any questions, please contact me at (760) 777-1621.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Gonzales, Principal Biologist
GONZALES ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING LLC







