Technical Appendix C2

Burrowing Owl Survey

ALDEN ENVIRONMENTAL, INC
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September 10, 2013

Mr. Jason Rosin
Kearny Real Estate Company
1900 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 320
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Re: Burrowing Owl Survey Results Report for the Dorado Property

Dear Mr. Rosin:

This letter presents the results of the 2013 nesting season survey for the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) conducted by Alden Environmental, Inc. (Alden) and subcontractor Brian Leatherman on the Dorado property.

LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The project site is located on the approximately 51-acre Dorado Property located in the City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County, California within the USGS Perris Quadrangle, Township 3S, Range 3W, Section 32, (Figures 1 through 3). The property is located within the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) area.

The site is bordered to the north existing development and an active construction site. To the east is Nandina Avenue and developed areas. Modular Way and developed land borders the site to the south. North Perris Boulevard and fallow fields are located to the west of the site.

The site is relatively flat with on-site elevations ranging from approximately 1,467 feet above mean sea level at the eastern boundary to approximately 1,475 feet at the western boundary (Figure 3). Soil on site is mapped as Exeter sandy loam, 0-2% slopes (EnA); Hanford coarse sandy loam (HcA), 0-2% slopes; Traver loamy fine sand-eroded (Tp2); Traver fine sandy loam, saline-alkali (ts); and Domino silt loam, saline-alkali (Dv).

METHODS

The burrowing owl survey consisted of a focused burrow survey and focused burrowing owl surveys (Table 1) according to the Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside MSHCP Area[1].

[1] County of Riverside. 2006. Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area. March 29.

Table 1
BURROWING OWL SURVEY INFORMATION

Survey	Date	Biologists	Time (start/stop)	Weather Conditions (start/stop)
1*	8/8/13	Greg Mason	1825/2040	Clear, 74°F, wind 5-8 mph/clear, 76°F, wind 3-5 mph
2	8/15/13	Brian Leatherman	1735/2000	Clear, 92°F, wind 4-7 mph/clear, 84°F, wind 4-7 mph
3	8/19/13	Brian Leatherman	1730/2000	Clear, 91°F, wind 2-4 mph/clear, 80°F, wind 4-7 mph
4	8/21/13	Brian Leatherman	0530/2000	Clear, 71°F, wind 0-2 mph/20% clouds, 73°F, wind 0-2 mph

*Includes the burrow survey, which was conducted concurrently

All surveys were conducted by walking transects no more than 100 feet apart, through suitable habitat over the entire survey area, using binoculars and/or a spotting scope where necessary. The area was surveyed for burrowing owls and potential burrows or perches that could be used by the owl. Burrowing owls are known to occupy California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*) burrows; therefore, particular attention was paid to any areas along fence lines, or other locations where squirrel activity has been observed in the past, was observed presently, or was likely to occur. Dirt piles, drainages, and culverts also were carefully examined as these sites often provide cavities that can support the species. The determination of owl presence is made by direct owl observation or by owl sign such as, but not necessarily limited to, excavated soil, whitewash (excrement), castings (pellets), and/or feathers. Representative photographs are presented as Attachment A. Field notes are presented as Attachment B.

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES/HABITATS

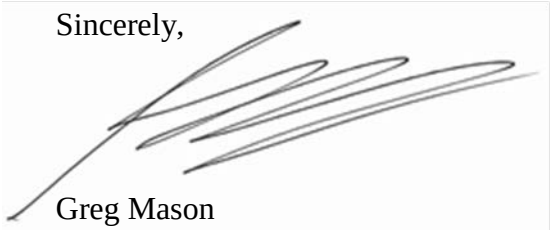
The western portion of the site is developed and does not support suitable burrowing owl habit; therefore, it was excluded from the burrowing owl survey area. The approximately 23 acres of the site to the east supports a detention basin and tilled, fallow fields and was included in the survey area (Figure 4). The vegetation in the survey area consisted of tilled non-native grasses and exotic forb species.

RESULTS

Although much of the property is disturbed or developed, the undeveloped eastern 23 acres provide suitable habitat for burrowing owls. No burrowing owls or signs of burrowing owl presence were observed on site. While burrowing owls are not anticipated to occur, the eastern portion of the site does have the potential to support burrowing owls. In compliance with the conditions of the MSHCP, the City of Moreno Valley likely will require that a pre-construction burrowing owl survey be conducted no more than 30 days prior to grading on the site.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Greg Mason
Senior Biologist

Enclosures:

Figure 1	Regional Location Map
Figure 2	Project Location Map
Figure 3	USGS Topographic Map
Figure 4	Survey Results
Attachment A	Representative Photographs
Attachment B	Field Notes

Figure 1

Regional Location

DORADO PROPERTY

ALDEN ENVIRONMENTAL, INC

N
W E
S

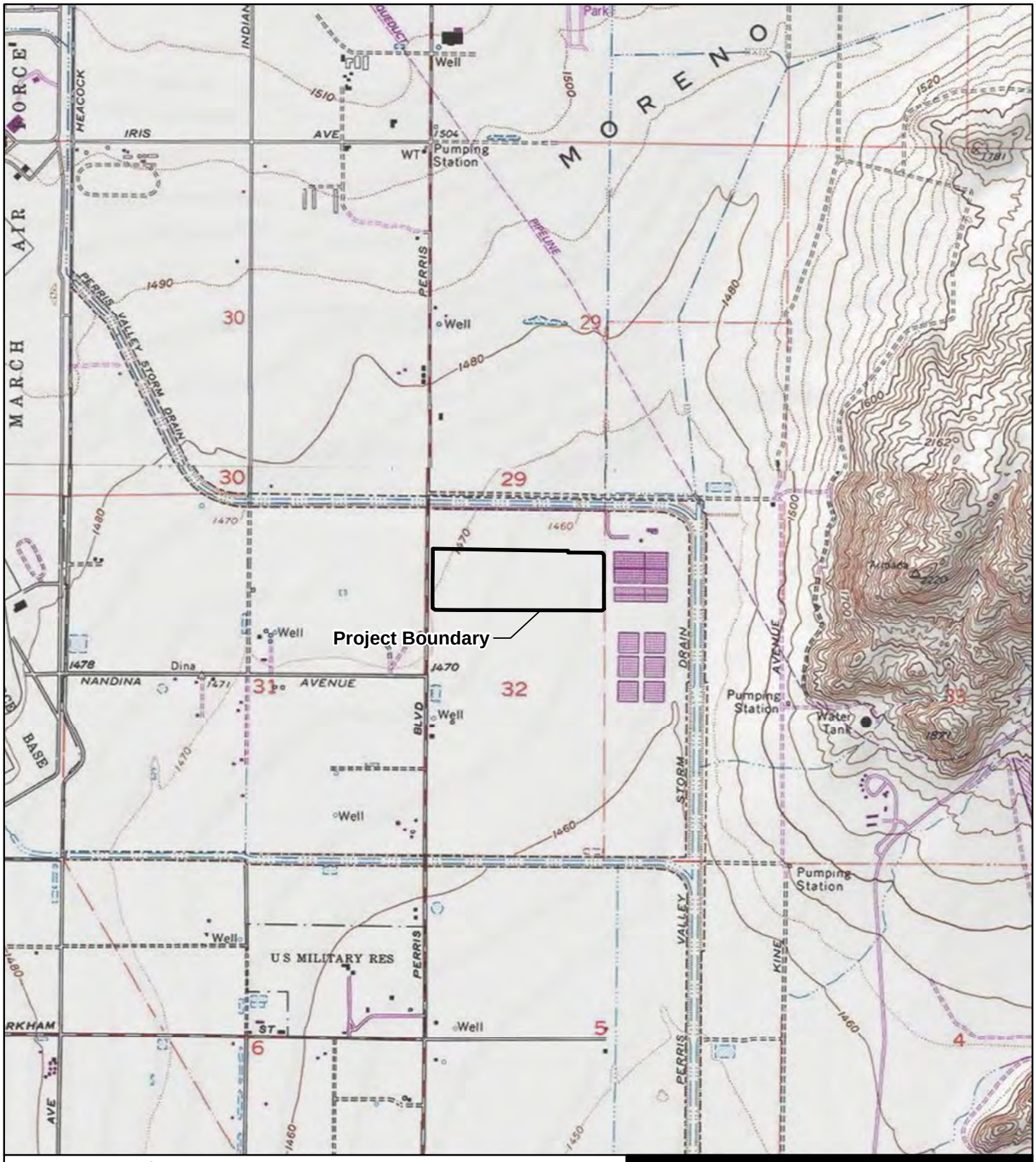
2,000 1,000 0 2,000
Feet

ALDEN
ENVIRONMENTAL, INC

Figure 2

Project Location

DORADO PROPERTY



Source: USGS Quads

N
W E
S

2,000 1,000 0 2,000

Feet

ALDEN ENVIRONMENTAL, INC

Figure 3

USGS Topography

DORADO PROPERTY

Project Boundary
Survey Area

N
W E
S

0 100 200 Feet

ALDEN ENVIRONMENTAL, INC

Figure 4

Survey Results

DORADO PROPERTY

Attachment A
REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS

Attachment A
REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOS

Eastward view along southern boundary. 8/8/2013

Eastward view along southern edge of detention basin. 8/8/13

Northeast view from southern boundary. 8/8/13

Northeasterly view from southwest corner. 8/8/13

Northward view from southern boundary. 8/8/13

Attachment B
FIELD NOTES

8/8/13 TAB-03 BUOW #1

Start: 1825, Clear, 74°F, 5 miles ~ 8 m
End: 2040 clear, 76°F, 3-5 mph

Raven	Sal Tra
MoDo	hordeum
C-tail (~~s~~)	Avena
h-Finch	Tocalote
HOLA	Pepper grass
Coyote scat	erodium
Rt hawk	Finch
k-deer	Bisonia
	Nicotiana

No BUOW or evidence of occupation

15 August 2013 Leaving office to conduct BUOW Survey at Dorado. 1530. Arrived at Project site 1700. Arrived 1 hour early - unsure of traffic. HOFI, BASW, CORA, MODO, Starting Survey 1735 Tair = 92°F, 4-7mph steady breeze, clear, CAKI, EUST, HOLA, AMKE, SAPH, KILL, THOMBOTT, burrows, CANI LATR - Tracks, RODO, 1930 Completed walking transects after scanning entire site with spotting scope. Sun setting, set up scope again to scan for owls as sun sets. SYLVANDY 2000 Tair = 84°F, 4-7mph breeze, clear Completed survey no BUOW.

19 August 2013 Left office at 1530, arrived at site at 1730 and started to scope site Tair 91°F, 2-4mph breeze, clear with 70% high cirrus clouds. Conducting third BUOW survey. 2/3 of site a fallow ag field that is regularly tilled, 1/3 of the site a detention basin MODO, CORA, KILL, RTHA, HOFI, BASW, AMKE, CAKI, EUST, HOLA, BAOW - pellets everywhere next to building at Modular & Kitching SCEOLC, 1810 started transects, UTASTA, RODO, 1922 - Sun went below horizon, SYLV AUDU. Starting to scope site again Tair = 82°F 4-7mph breeze - steady DCCO, BATS, GHOW, 2000 Completed survey Tair = 80°F, 4-7mph w/ periods of lower breeze clear. NO BUOW

21 August 2013 Arrived at Sitea at 0530 Dorado Site, Corner of Modular & Kitching. Perris / Moreno Valley area, Riverside County, CA Tair = 71°F

21 August 2013 Dorado cont 0-2mph breeze, clear. CORA, SYLV AUDU, BCNH, MODO, AMKE, HOFI, BEDCCO, 0620 Beginning transects, HOLA, GREG, SNEG, RTHA, THOMBOTT-burrows, CANILATR-scat, tracks, BASW, RODO, UTASTA, BLPH, Tair = 73°F, 0-2mph breeze, 20% cirro-stratus clouds, NO BUOW. Scanned small field at NE corner of site no BUOW sign, Scanned large field SE corner of site no BUOW.