Biological Assessment Survey for Live/Work Design Office located at APN 0595-172-02 The Town of Yucca Valley, CA.

Prepared for:
Hill-Inspection / Testing / Engineering
PO Box 771
La Jolla, CA 92038

Report Prepared by:
Michael Gray, Senior Environmental Manager, CESSWI, QSP/QSD,

Michael Gray
Senior Environmental Manager

Carroll General Engineering, Inc.

CARROLL
GENERAL ENGINEERING, INC

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to address potential project-related impacts on any special status species protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), California Endangered Species Act (CESA), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and/or California Native Plant Society (CNPS). A biological assessment survey was conducted for the potential occurrence of listed species and species of special concern that have been documented in the vicinity and/or whose habitat requirements are present within the site. Attention was focused on sensitive species known to occur locally including desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii) [DT], burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia) [BUOW] and Joshua tree (Yucca brevifolia) [JT]. The following paragraphs provide a brief description of the project, project location, habitat type, survey methods, and findings. Attached to the end of the document are photographs depicting the project footprint and survey area.

2. Project Description

The proposed project includes construction of a design/work office facility of approximately 4000 square-feet on a .35-acre lot located at 57392 Primrose Drive Yucca Valley, CA 92284.

3. Environmental Setting

The Yucca Valley area of San Bernardino County is located in the Morongo Basin portion of the Mojave Desert, approximately 70 miles east of the City of San Bernardino. Access to the Project site is via Highway 62. The Project site is bounded on the west by vacant lots and commercial properties, on the north by a mix of vacant and rural residential land, on the east by vacant land and rural residential, and on the south by a mix of vacant and rural residential. The area surveyed included approximately .35 acres of previously disturbed soil with minimum vegetation. The topography consists of generally flat bare ground.

4. 9.20.2023 Survey Methods

The survey was conducted between 0730 and 1630 hours on September 20, 2023. Weather conditions during the survey included temperatures ranging from 60 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit, wind gust between 5 and 10 mph, and no precipitation. Using both active and passive survey techniques, Michael surveyed the entire project area by walking 15 meter transects and utilizing strategic vantage points to survey the landscape with binoculars.

5. Results and Discussion

Habitat

The habitat on-site consists of bare ground and desert scrub. The site showed signs of previous disturbance in the form of vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Surrounding uses include rural residential developments.

Wildlife

Species observed during the survey included house sparrow (Passer domesticus), house finch (Haemorhous mexicanus), and common raven (Corvus corax).

Special Status Species

Desert Tortoise – The site does not contain suitable habitat for this species. No sign of desert tortoise burrows, tracks, or pellets was observed during the survey. Additionally, no desert tortoise individuals were observed. No impacts to Desert Tortoise are expected.

Burrowing Owl – The site does not contain suitable habitat for this species. No evidence of burrowing owl, suitable burrows or burrow surrogates were found in the survey area. No impacts to Burrowing Owl are expected.

Western Joshua Tree – There are currently four western Joshua trees located within the project footprint. The site plan currently intends to leave Western Joshua Trees in place and incorporate the Joshua trees and desert native landscape into the design. No impacts to western Joshua trees are expected.

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Photographs

Project Location