

**3.8-3 NESTING SEASON
SURVEY BURROWING OWL**

**NESTING SEASON SURVEY
BURROWING OWL**
(Athene cunicularia hypugaea)

PREVIOUS TRACT 28416

163.25-Acre Site; ±72 Acres Surveyed

LOCATION:

North and south of Bundy Canyon Road, approximately midway between Interstate Highways 15 and 215, in the City of Wildomar, Riverside County, California (The Farm). Portion of Section 19, Township 6 South and Range 3 West of the USGS Topographic Map, 7.5 Minute Series, Romoland, California Quadrangle

PREPARED FOR:

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SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY PAUL A. PRINCIPE ON:

August 10, 17, 23, and 31, 2010

REPORT DATE:

September 1, 2010

INFORMATION SUMMARY

REPORT DATE

September 1, 2010

REPORT TITLE

Nesting Season Survey for the Burrowing Owl

PREVIOUS CASE NUMBER

Tract 28416

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBERS

362-070-001, 362-070-003, 362-070-006, 362-070-010, 362-070-013, 362-070-018,
362-070-021, 362-070-023, 362-070-024

362-080-004, 362-080-005, 362-080-007, 362-080-008, 362-080-009, 362-080-012

362-090-004, 362-090-009, 362-090-015

SITE LOCATION

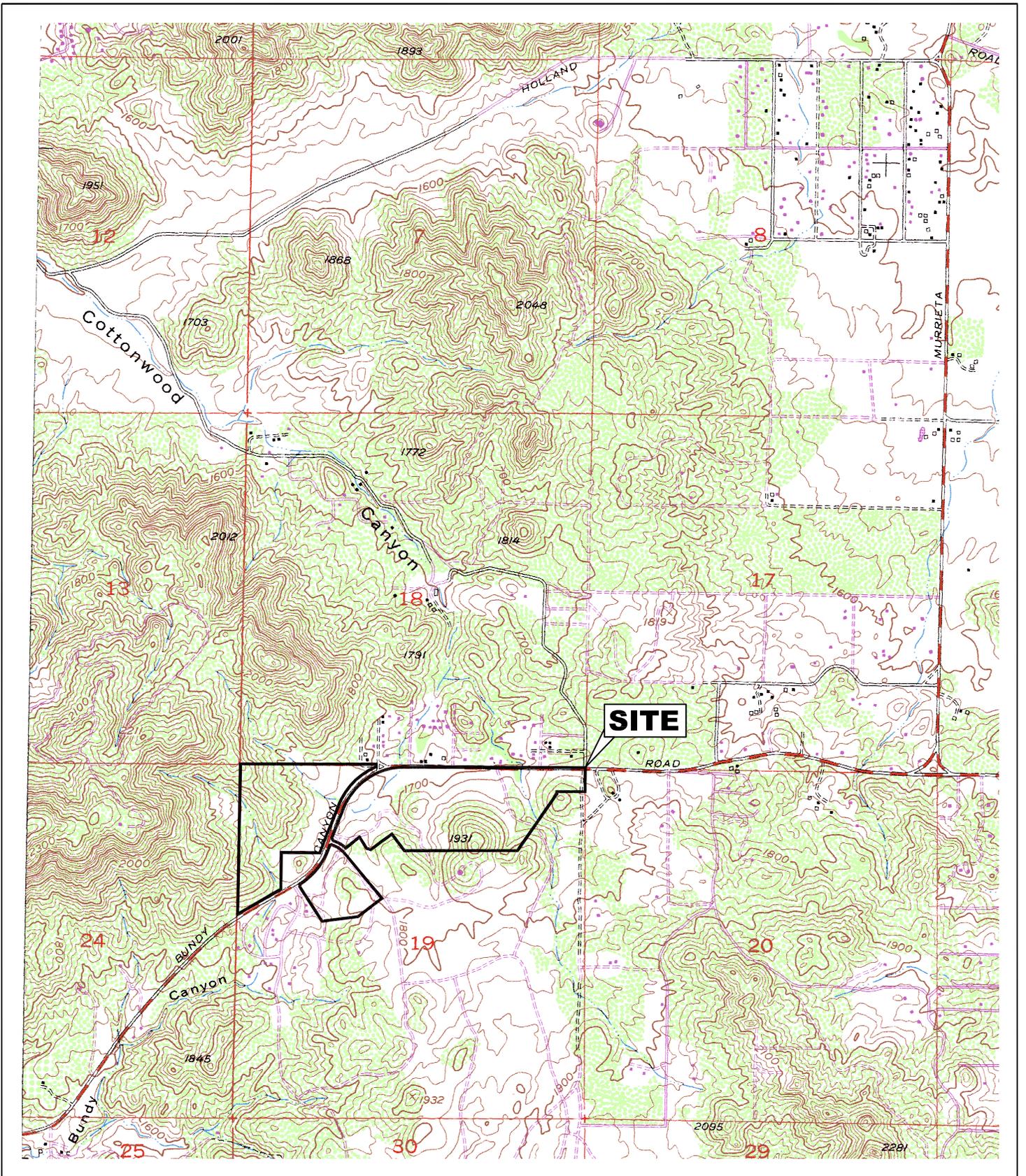
North and south of Bundy Canyon Road, approximately midway between Interstate Highways 15 and 215, in the City of Wildomar, Riverside County, California. The local area is referred to as The Farm. It is mapped in a portion of Section 19, Township 6 South and Range 3 West of the USGS Topographic Map, 7.5 Minute Series, Romoland, California Quadrangle (**Vicinity and Location Maps**).

ACREAGE

163.25 acres (recorded lot sizes)

APPLICANT/OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE

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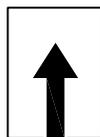
Base Map Source: USGS 7.5 Min.
Romoland, CA Quad.

LOCATION MAP

TRACT 28416

PRINCIPE AND ASSOCIATES

0 2000 4000 Feet



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SECTION 10(a)(1)(A) PERMIT NUMBER

TE 786497-7

CALIFORNIA RESIDENT SCIENTIFIC COLLECTING PERMIT

801108-02 (Permanent ID # SC-002215)

SURVEY SUMMARY

The site is located within the Burrowing Owl Survey Area, Figure 6-4 of the MSHCP. The initial assessment of habitat suitability for burrowing owls revealed that the site included marginally suitable habitat consisting of relatively large open expanses of sparsely vegetated annual grassland on gentle rolling terrain with some active small mammal burrows. Critical habitat features were minimal, but included California ground squirrel burrows and similarly-sized burrows, and manmade structures.

As such, a Nesting Season Survey following the Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area (March 29, 2006) was undertaken. Four surveys were conducted between August 10 and 31, 2010. All suitable habitats were examined on the site. The buffer zone was either developed or the habitat was unsuitable (i.e., densely vegetated sage scrub and chaparral, steep slopes, etc.).

During the field surveys, burrowing owls were not observed. Natural burrows and manmade structures were not being used for roosting or nesting. Animal sign diagnostic of burrowing owls was not discovered anywhere on the site (i.e., molted feathers, cast pellets, prey remains, eggshell fragments, or excrement at or near a burrow entrance). There was no evidence of either active habitat presently being used by burrowing owls, or habitat abandoned within the last three years on the site.

ABSTRACT

Due to the presence of relatively large open expanses of sparsely vegetated annual grassland on gentle rolling terrain with active small mammal burrows on the site, a **Nesting Season Survey for the Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*)** was completed at the site. Nesting season surveys were conducted between August 10 and 31, 2010, and followed the Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area (March 29, 2006).

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE, INCLUDING LOCATION, SIZE, TOPOGRAPHY, VEGETATION COMMUNITIES, AND ANIMALS OBSERVED DURING VISIT(S)

Location, Size and Topography

The site is located in the northeast corner of the City of Wildomar, Riverside County, California. It shares its east boundary line with the City of Menifee along Sunset Avenue, and is located approximately 0.5 miles south of the City of Lake Elsinore. The local area is referred to as The Farm. The Farm was originally developed in the 1970s as a 1,600-acre self-sustaining retirement community. It continues to expand and modernize as resident demographics change over time.

Two of the 18 parcels of land comprising the site are located within Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Conservation Planning Criteria Areas. A total of 0.26 acres of the 163.4-acre site are located within Cell #5046 of Cell Group J' of the Sedco Hills Subunit (SU4) of the Elsinore Area Plan. The extreme southwest tip of the site is located across Bundy Canyon Road from Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) Conserved Lands.

The recorded sizes of the 18 lots total 163.25 acres.

Topography of the site is varied, ranging from relatively flat-lying areas with gentle slopes to moderately sloping foothills to steep sloping hillsides with stream-cut valleys. The relatively flat areas located on the south side of Bundy Canyon Road are the result of agricultural land uses that have taken place for decades. All natural topographic irregularities have long been eliminated by seasonal plowing and discing. Elevation through the majority of the central portion of the site is between the 1720- and 1740-foot contours. Elevations along the base of the foothills is between 1740 and 1760 feet, and is also the result of past agricultural land uses. The highest elevation is present in the rugged northwest corner of the site, 1940 feet. There is a 190-foot change in elevation along the west property line (1940 to 1750). The southern portion of the site slopes downward to the north, and includes three areas with elevations above 1800 feet.

Three reaches of intermittent blue-line streams designated on the USGS Romoland Quadrangle are present on the site. These streams are ephemeral in nature. Two of them originate in the relatively undeveloped Sedco Hills located west and northwest of

the site. The other, Cottonwood Canyon Creek, originates on the Meniffee Hills located south of the site, and passes through a small portion of The Farm. Water was flowing in an approximately 240-foot-long reach of the creek during the November surveys, with urban runoff as its source. Eight more ephemeral watercourses are present on the site. Five originate on the Sedco Hills, and have confluences with the two blueline streams. Two originate on the Meniffee Hills, and have confluences with one of the blueline streams. The upstream reaches of these watercourses have been significantly altered by existing development at The Farm. The last one appears to have developed from storm water runoff along Bundy Canyon Road. The channel is not incised through the middle reach of this watercourse, but it does have a confluence with one of the blueline streams. All the onsite watercourses exhibit U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) jurisdictional features.

Due to continuous agricultural uses over decades, other kinds of permanent and/or semi-permanent aquatic features are not present on the site (i.e., wetlands, vernal pools and swales, vernal pool-like ephemeral ponds, stock ponds, etc.).

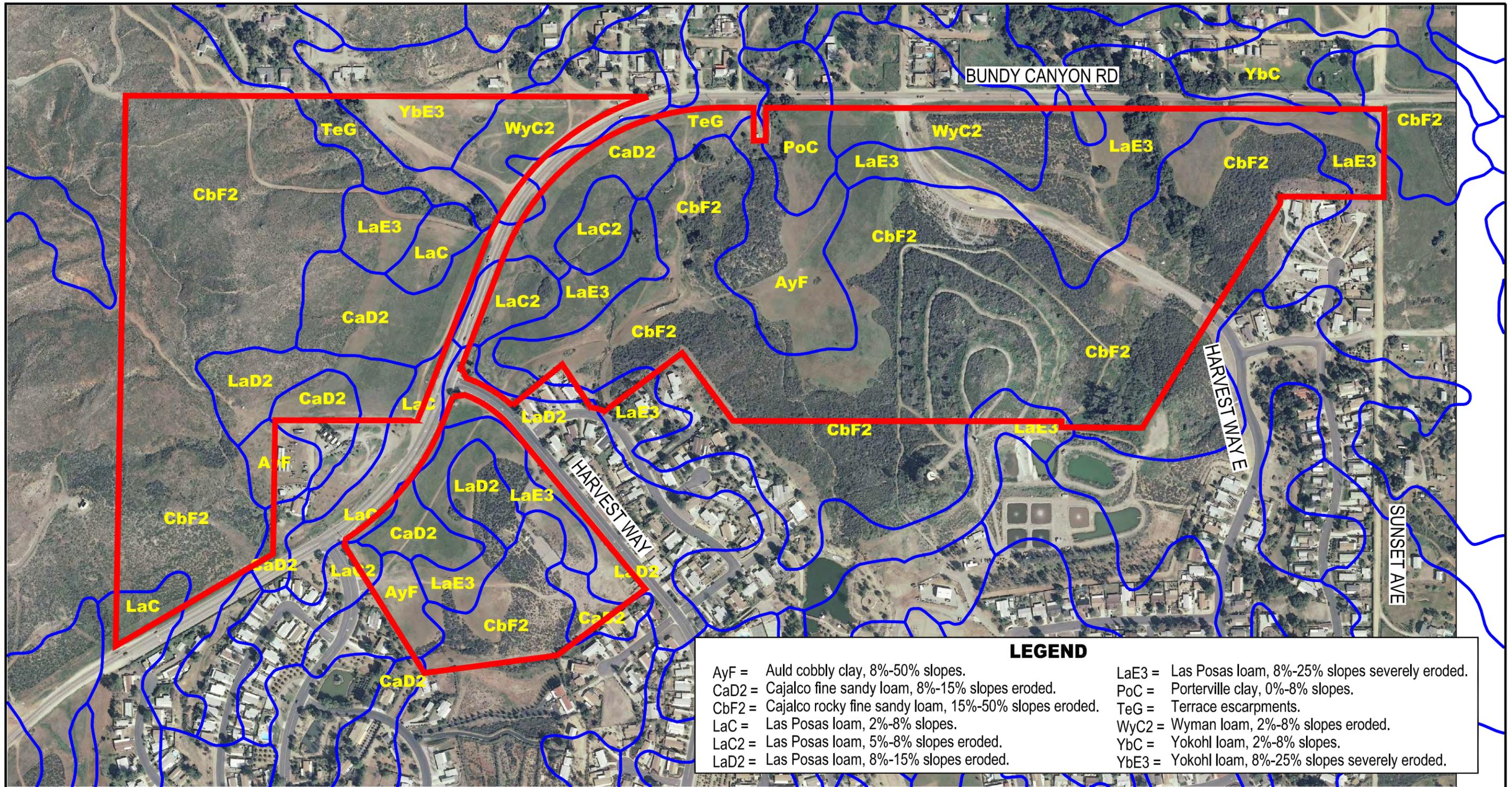
Review of the “Soil Survey of Western Riverside Area, California” revealed that the surficial soils at the site are included in the Cajalco-Temescal-Las Posas Association (Soils of the Southern California Coastal Plain). Within this association, 12 soil types have been mapped on the site (**Soils Map**):

- AyF – Auld cobbly clay, 8 to 50 percent slopes.
- CaD2 – Cajalco fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded.
- CbF2 – Cajalco rocky fine sandy loam, 15 to 50 percent slopes, eroded.
- LaC – Las Posas loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes.
- LaC2 – Las Posas loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes, eroded.
- LaD2 – Las Posas loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded.
- LaE3 – Las Posas loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded.
- PoC – Poterville clay, 0 to 8 percent slopes.
- TeG – Terrace escarpments.
- WyC2 – Wyman loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, eroded.
- YbC – Yokohl loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes.
- YbE3 – Yokohl loam, 8 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded.

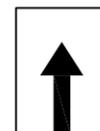
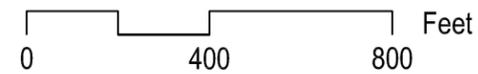
Vegetation Associations and Species Composition

Based on the MSHCP Habitat Accounts in Volume 2 of the MSHCP, the Vegetation Associations present on the site are Chaparral (87.15 acres), Grasslands (71.55 acres) and Riparian Forest/Woodland/Scrub (4.55 acres) (**Biological Resources Map**).

Chaparral vegetation is the most abundant and widespread vegetation type in Western Riverside County, covering approximately 35% (435,000 acres) of the Plan Area. Large contiguous stands of chaparral occur along the Santa Ana Mountains in the western portion of the Plan Area, and along the San Bernardino, San Jacinto, and Agua Tibia Mountains in the eastern and southern portions.



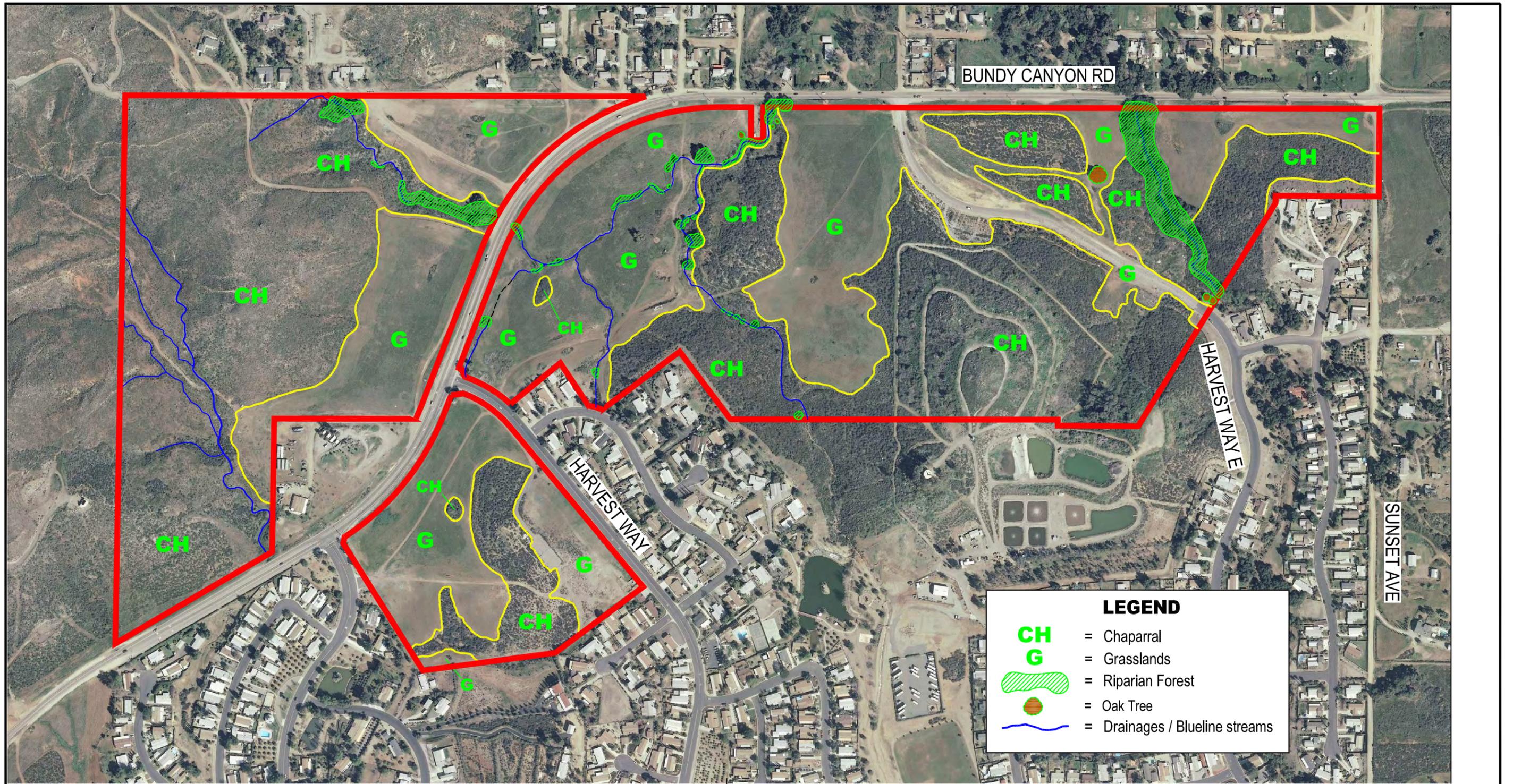
Base Map Source: Soil Survey - Western
Riverside Area, California



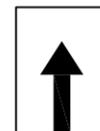
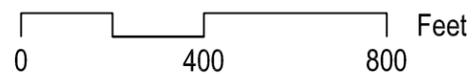
SOILS MAP

TRACT 28416

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Site area: 163.25 acres



BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES MAP

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Four types of Chaparral have been mapped for the Plan Area based on variation in species composition: Chamise Chaparral, Red Shank Chaparral, Semi-Desert Chaparral, and Chaparral (Undifferentiated). Most of the Chaparral vegetation in the Plan Area is mapped as Undifferentiated Chaparral. This vegetation covers approximately 363,000 acres, and encompasses 29% of the Plan Area.

Chaparral (Undifferentiated) is the Mapped Subassociation present on the site. It is dominated by a more diverse mixture of species rather than being dominated solely by chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum* var. *fasciculatum*). It was previously divided into large and small patches by agricultural land uses. In the more undisturbed mesic areas, there are still typical large dense stands of 3 to 4-meter-high evergreen, sclerophyllous Chaparral species. However, many of the smaller patches have been reduced to remnants. Where separated and isolated by agricultural land uses, the dominant Chaparral species are stressed and dying. The growth form is open, and the understory is comprised of a high percentage of non-native grasses and weeds that have succeeded from the surrounding Grasslands.

The mixture of species growing on the site includes coastal sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), thick-leaved lilac (*Ceanothus crassifolius* var. *crassifolius*), hairy lilac (*Ceanothus oliganthus* var. *oliganthus*), sand pygmy-stonecrop (*Crassula connata*), valley cholla (*Cylindropuntia californica*), California witch's hair (*Cuscuta californica* var. *californica*), Interior California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* subsp. *foliolosum*), yellow bush-penstemon (*Keckiella antirrhinoides* subsp. *antirrhinoides*), *tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), prickly pear (*Opuntia xvaseyi*), spiny redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*), and chaparral yucca (*Yucca whipplei*).

Understory species include *cultivated oats (*Avena sativa*), *shortpod mustard (*Brassica geniculata*), *brome grasses (*Bromus diandrus* and *B. madritensis* subsp. *rubens*), *tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), *bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), jimsonweed (*Datura wrightii*), fascicled tarplant (*Deinandra fasciculata*), long-stemmed golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum* var. *confertiflorum*), California everlasting (*Gnaphalium californicum*), California matchweed (*Gutierrezia californica*), slender sunflower (*Helianthus gracilentus*), *weedy cudweed (*Gnaphalium luteo-album*), Coastal deerweed (*Lotus scoparius* subsp. *scoparius*), caterpillar phacelia (*Phacelia cicutaria*), and Granny's hairnet (*Pterostegia drymarioides*).

Grasslands occur throughout most of Western Riverside County, and cover approximately 11.8% (154,421 acres) of the Plan Area. The Grassland vegetation subassociation growing on the site is **Non-native grassland**. Non-native grasslands occur throughout the majority of the Plan Area (11.6%), usually within close proximity to urbanized or agricultural land uses.

* Denotes non-native species throughout.

Non-native grasslands primarily are composed of annual grass species introduced from the Mediterranean basin and other Mediterranean-climate regions with variable presence of non-native and native herbaceous species. Species composition of Non-native grasslands may vary over time and place based on grazing or fire regimes, soil disturbance and annual precipitation patterns. Non-native grasslands typically produce deep layers of organic matter which is inversely related to the abundance of non-native and native forbs. Non-native grasslands also typically support an array of annual forbs from the Mediterranean-climate regions. Low abundances of native species are sometimes present within Non-native grasslands. These species usually include disturbance specialists with several different growth forms (i.e., subshrubs, succulents and herbaceous annuals).

Non-native grassland is now present in seven separate patches scattered throughout the site. Native Chaparral, Coastal Sage Scrub and Valley and Foothill Grassland were likely cleared in the past for agricultural land uses. It appears that dry crops were grown at the site (oat hay). In recent years, agricultural production has ceased. Because agricultural areas are quickly succeeded by non-native grasses and weeds, they are mowed or disced periodically for fire prevention purposes. Areas located adjacent to Bundy Canyon Road and the existing homes are cleared more often and are basically maintained as bare ground. Less critical areas are left fallow and now support a mixture of *cultivated oats (*Avena sativa*) and non-native grasses and weeds.

Species include *cultivated oats (*Avena sativa*), *shortpod mustard (*Brassica geniculata*), *brome grasses (*Bromus diandrus* and *B. madritensis* subsp. *rubens*), *tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), *common horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*), dove weed (*Croton setigerus*), fascicled tarplant (*Deinandra fasciculata*), grassland goldenbush (*Ericameria palmeri*), leafy daisy (*Erigeron foliosus* var. *foliosus*), eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), *weedy cudweed (*Gnaphalium luteo-album*), alkali heliotrope (*Heliotropium curassavicum* subsp. *oculatum*), telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), California juniper (*Juniperus californica*), *prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), *common horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), *oleander (*Nerium oleander*), *Russian-thistle (*Salsola tragus*), Peruvian pepper tree (*Schinus molle*), *Mediterranean schismus (*Schismus barbatus*), *common groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*), virgate wreath-plant (*Stephanomeria virgata* subsp. *virgata*), vinegar weed (*Trichostema lanceolatum*), and *rattail fescue (*Vulpia myuros* var. *myuros*).

Riparian Forest/Woodland/Scrub subtypes are spatially distributed in drainages throughout much of Western Riverside County, and cover approximately 1.1 percent (14,545 acres) of the Plan Area. Southern Cottonwood/Willow Riparian Forest makes up the largest proportion of the riparian vegetation in the Plan Area comprising nearly one-half of the acreage (6,610 acres). Large complexes containing several of the riparian forest, woodland and scrub types are located in several portions in the Plan Area. The stream channels within the San Mateo Canyon watershed and the Cleveland National Forest generally support Riparian Forest, Southern Sycamore/Alder Riparian Woodland and Riparian Scrub in connected stands. The Temecula area supports a

diversity of riparian vegetation types among urban and agricultural land uses along Temecula Creek, Sandia Canyon and portions of Wolf Valley.

Based on species composition, the Mapped Subassociation occurring on the site is the **Riparian Forest**. Riparian Forest can include any combination of riparian tree and shrub species along perennial stream channel banks, including alder, willows, cottonwood, sycamore, oaks, bay laurel, and black walnut. Where the stream channel receives perennial flows in some years but intermittent flows in others, white alder drops out of the vegetation. Where the stream channel receives only intermittent flow, willow species and western cottonwood become less common and the western sycamore, coast live oak and California bay laurel tend to move down into the channel. Along ephemeral stream channels, coast live oak and Southern California black walnut can grow within the channel as a continuum or ecotone from uplands on north-facing slopes.

On the site, Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*) dominates the Riparian Forest vegetation. Other associated riparian species include Western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya* var. *californica*), mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), giant wildrye (*Elymus condensatus*), California flowering ash (*Fraxinus dipetala*), Western sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), *sourclover (*Melilotus indicus*), *tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), Western cottonwood (*Populus fremontii* subsp. *fremontii*), California scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), narrow-leaved willow (*Salix exigua*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*) arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis* var. *lasiolepis*), Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), and *Mediterranean tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), hoary nettle (*Urtica dioica* subsp. *holosericea*), and cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium* var. *canadense*)

Animals Observed

Wildlife was neither abundant nor diverse on the site. Most species were observed moving through the trees, but a few were seen in the Chaparral. Species included the Western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), Western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), Western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), Northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*), California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicana*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), Desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida*), and Desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*).

Pocket mouse (*Perognathus* sp.), kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys* sp.) and white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus* sp.) burrows were discovered in the Chaparral understory.

Note: The California horned lark was observed at the site. It is on the List of MSHCP Covered Species Adequately Conserved.

ASSESSMENT OF HABITAT SUITABILITY FOR BURROWING OWLS

Based on the Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area (March 29, 2006), an independent assessment was made of the presence of suitable burrowing owl habitat on the site, including a 150-meter (approximately 500 feet) buffer zone around the project boundary (**Step I of the Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions**).

Burrowing owl habitat can be found in shortgrass prairies, annual and perennial grasslands, lowland scrub, agricultural lands and rangelands, prairies, coastal dunes, deserts, scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation, and some artificial areas (i.e., golf courses, cemeteries, irrigation ditches, etc.). Suitable owl habitat may also include trees and shrubs if the canopy covers less than 30 percent of the ground surface, and they may also occur in forb and open stages of pinyon-juniper and ponderosa pine habitats. They require large open expanses of sparsely vegetated areas on gentle rolling or level terrain with an abundance of active small mammal burrows. As a critical habitat feature, they require the use of rodent or other burrows for roosting and nesting. Burrows are the essential component of burrowing owl habitat. Natural and artificial burrows provide protection, shelter and nests for burrowing owls.

The assessment determined that the site included marginally suitable burrowing owl habitat consisting of relatively large open expanses of sparsely vegetated annual grassland on gentle rolling terrain with some active small mammal burrows. Critical habitat features were minimal, but included California ground squirrel burrows and similarly-sized burrows, and manmade structures. The buffer zone was either developed or the habitat was unsuitable (i.e., densely vegetated sage scrub and chaparral, steep slopes, etc.).

DATE AND TIME OF VISIT(S), INCLUDING NAME OF THE QUALIFIED BIOLOGIST CONDUCTING SURVEYS, WEATHER AND VISIBILITY CONDITIONS, AND SURVEY METHODOLOGY

All suitable habitats were carefully surveyed for the presence/absence of the burrowing owl. Thorough searches were conducted during morning hours in an attempt to directly observe this species, and followed **Step II of the Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions**.

The **methodology** used to prepare this Nesting Season Survey involved conducting complete visual and walk-over field surveys to determine if the site contained occupied habitat. Surveys were conducted by walking through suitable habitat on the site. Survey transects were spaced to allow 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface. The distance between transect center lines was no more than 30 meters (± 100 feet).

Four surveys were conducted between August 10 and August 31, 2010. Visits to the site were repeated once per week on four consecutive weeks. Because the annual grassland is growing in seven patches separated by either Chaparral or Riparian Forest

vegetation, a preliminary site visit was undertaken to determine the best transect routes. Transects began at four different starting and ending points to maximize time and efficiency of the surveys (**Survey Transect Map**). All surveys were conducted during weather that was conducive to observing owls outside of their burrows, and avoided heavy rain, high winds or dense fog. The surveys were not conducted within five days of rain.

All surveys were conducted by Principe and Associates. Paul A. Principe holds a current Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit (TE 786497-7) and California Resident Scientific Collecting Permit (#801108-03 and Permanent ID #SC-002215). As a Consulting Biologist, Principe has been conducting surveys in Southern California since 1977.

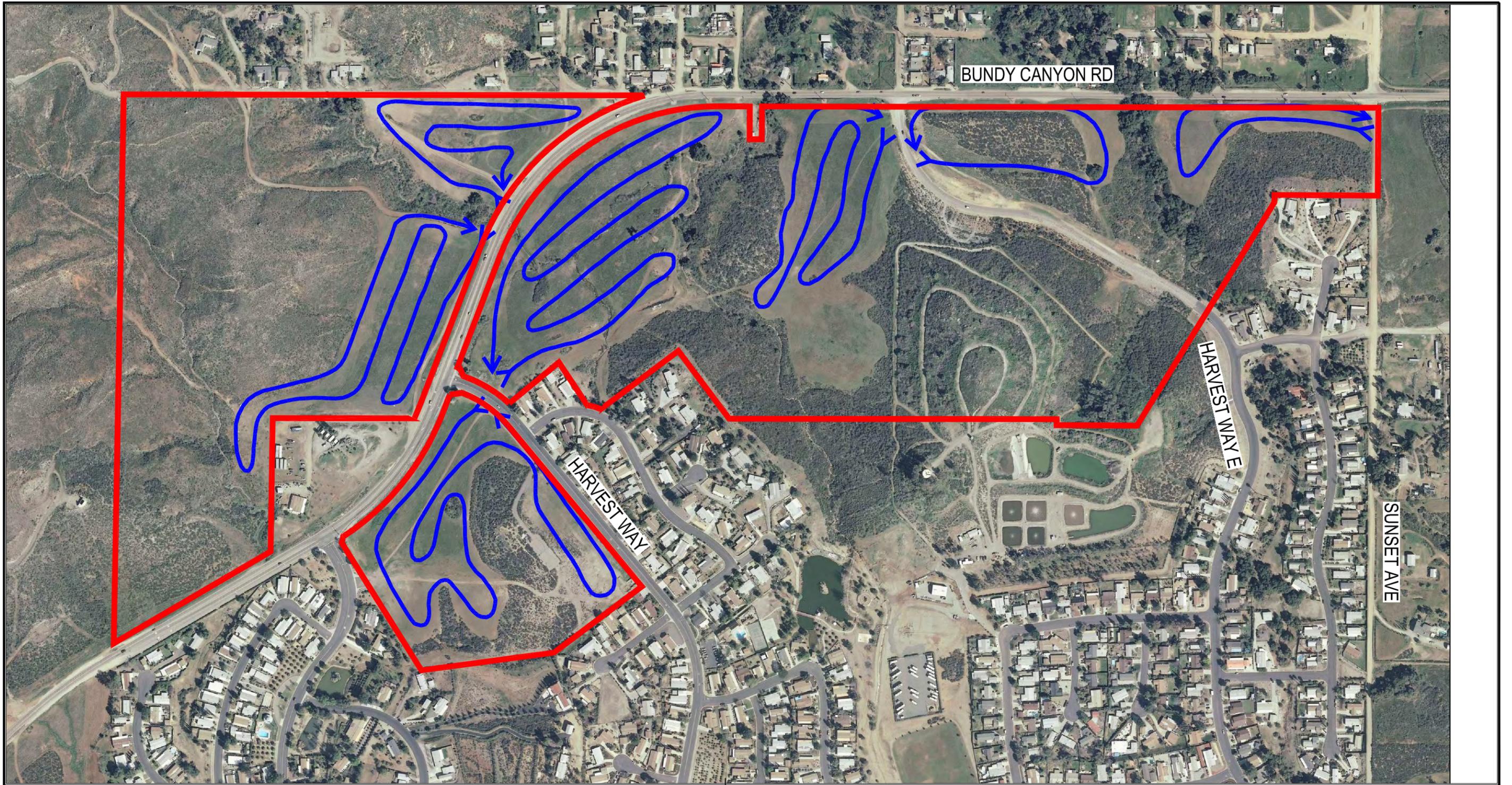
Following are the number and dates of surveys, start and stop times of surveys and the weather conditions at the beginning and end of each survey (shaded temperature in degrees Fahrenheit includes the wind chill factor, and wind speed in miles per hour is given as the range measured over a few minutes with a Kestrel ® 2000):

1. August 10, 2010: Clear, 53°F and 0-1 mph winds (0545 hours).
Sunrise at approximately 0610 hours.
Sunny, 62°F and 0-1 mph winds (0810 hours).
2. August 17, 2010: Clear, 72°F and 0-1 mph winds (0545 hours).
Sunrise at approximately 0615 hours.
Sunny, 80°F and 1-2 mph winds (0800 hours).
3. August 23, 2010: Clear, 72°F and 0-1 mph winds (0545 hours).
Sunrise at approximately 0620 hours.
Sunny, 77°F and 1-2 mph winds (0820 hours)
4. August 31, 2010: Clear, 58°F and 1-2 mph winds (0545 hours).
Sunrise at approximately 0625 hours.
Sunny, 66°F and 0-1 mph winds (0825 hours)

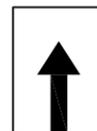
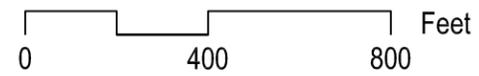
RESULTS OF TRANSECT SURVEYS, INCLUDING A MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF ALL BURROW(S) (NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL) AND OWL(S), INCLUDING THE NUMBERS AT EACH BURROW, IF PRESENT, AND TRACKS, FEATHERS, PELLETS, OR OTHER ITEMS (PREY REMAINS, ANIMAL SCAT)

Burrowing owls were not observed during any of the surveys.

A map has been prepared showing the locations of the relatively large open expanses of sparsely vegetated annual grassland on gentle rolling terrain with some active small mammal burrows capable of being used for roosting or nesting by burrowing owls.



Site area: 163.25 acres



SURVEY TRANSECTS MAP

TRACT 28416

PRINCIPE AND ASSOCIATES

They have been overlaid on an aerial photograph to show their relationship to the vegetation associations present on the site (**Burrowing Owl Habitat Map**). **Site Photographs** showing the burrowing owl habitat at various locations on the site are attached.

BEHAVIOR OF OWLS DURING THE SURVEYS

Burrowing owls were not observed during any of the surveys.

SUMMARY OF BOTH WINTER AND NESTING SEASON SURVEYS INCLUDING ANY PRODUCTIVITY INFORMATION AND A MAP SHOWING TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES AND HOME RANGES

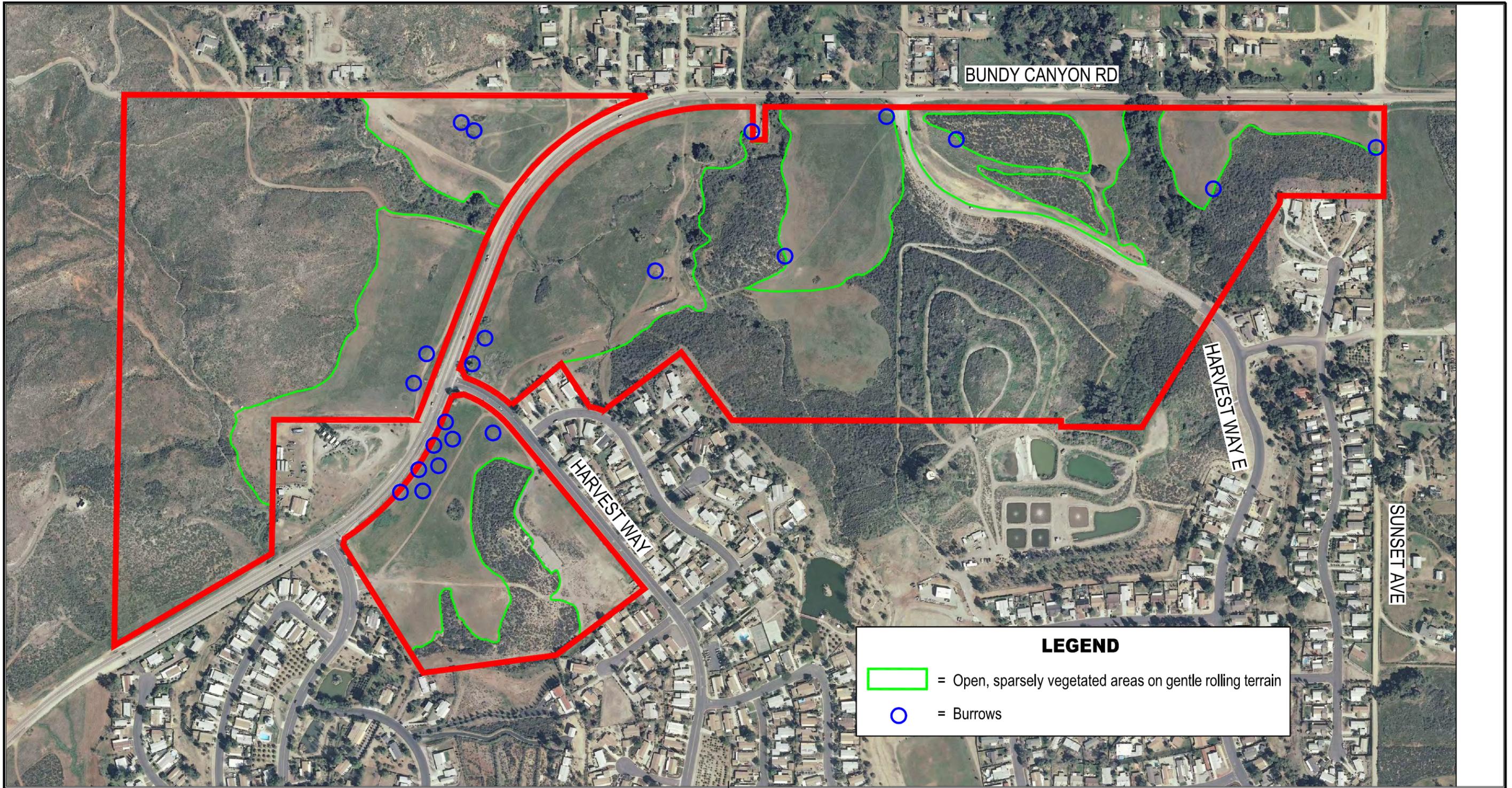
A Survey for Winter Residents was not completed at the site.

During the Nesting Season Survey, burrowing owls were not observed. Critical burrowing habitat capable of being used for roosting or nesting was not being used on the site (i.e., California ground squirrel burrows and similarly-sized burrows, and manmade structures). And, animal sign diagnostic of burrowing owls was not discovered anywhere on the site (i.e., molted feathers, cast pellets, prey remains, eggshell fragments, and/or excrement at or near a burrow entrance). There was no evidence of either active habitat presently being used by burrowing owls, or habitat abandoned within the last three years on the site.

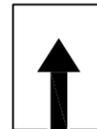
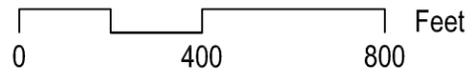
It appears that the constant daily activities at The Farm and the high volumes of traffic on Bundy Canyon Road, Harvest Way and Harvest Way East are possible explanations for the absence of the burrowing owl at the site.

MSHCP CONSIDERATIONS

Completion of this Nesting Season Survey is consistent with Species Conservation Objective 5 of the MSHCP that was developed for the burrowing owl. To ensure direct mortality of burrowing owls is avoided, a pre-construction presence/absence survey should be conducted within thirty (30) days prior to ground disturbance at the site. The proposed project site would then be consistent with Species Conservation Objective 6 of the MSHCP.



Site area: 163.25 acres



BURROWING OWL HABITAT

TRACT 28416

PRINCIPE AND ASSOCIATES

ANY HISTORICAL INFORMATION (NATURAL DIVERSITY DATABASE, DEPARTMENT REGIONAL FILES, BREEDING BIRD SURVEY DATA, AMERICAN BIRDS RECORDS, AUDUBON SOCIETY, LOCAL BIRD CLUB, OTHER BIOLOGISTS, ETC.) REGARDING THE PRESENCE OF BURROWING OWLS ON THE SITE

The burrowing owl occurs within the open lowlands of the central portion of Western Riverside County. It has a scattered distribution throughout the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area outside of montane areas. Breeding and burrow locations have not been identified within the University of California, Riverside (UCR) database, although most observations that have been recorded are probably located near a burrow due to the relatively sedentary nature of the species.

The CNDDDB for the Romoland, California Quadrangle does not include any occurrence records of the burrowing owl at the site or in the hills located in the western portion of the quadrangle. Burrowing owls have been observed in the valleys located in the eastern portion of the quadrangle (i.e., Perris Menifee and Paloma), and further east in the area around Diamond Valley Lake as documented in the University of California, Riverside database and from other sources (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 1996 unpublished data; California Science and Engineering Associates 1996). Based on the information above, clusters of locations, and information from the USFWS (1996 unpublished data), the nearest Core Area to the site may include the Lake Skinner/Diamond Valley Lake area. The site is located over 8.5 miles west of the Lake Skinner/Diamond Valley Lake area.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Date: September 1, 2010

I hereby certify that the statements furnished herein and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required to complete this Nesting Season Survey to the best of my ability, and that the facts, statements and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

PRINCIPE AND ASSOCIATES
Paul A. Principe
Principal



View of the marginally suitable habitat consisting of relatively large open expanses of sparsely vegetated annual grassland on gentle rolling terrain with some active small mammal burrows located north and west of Bundy Canyon Road. Looking southwest-to-northeast.

SITE PHOTOGRAPH 1

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View of additional habitat located north and west of Bundy Canyon Road. Critical habitat features were minimal, but included some ground squirrel and similarly-sized burrows, and manmade structures. Looking east-to-west from the intersection of Bundy Canyon Road and Beverly Street.

SITE PHOTOGRAPH 2

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View of the habitat located south and east of Bundy Canyon Road. Annual grassland and cultivated oats are plowed under to form 100-foot-wide buffer zones adjacent to roads and residences for fire protection purposes. Looking northeast-to-southwest from near the intersection of Bundy Canyon Road and Harvest Way.

SITE PHOTOGRAPH 3

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View of additional habitat located south and east of Bundy Canyon Road. The annual grassland is relatively dense and overgrown in this portion of the site. Looking southwest-to-northeast from near Harvest Way.

SITE PHOTOGRAPH 4

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View of additional habitat located south of Bundy Canyon Road. Cultivated oats still emerge in areas that were previously used for agricultural purposes. Looking southwest-to-northeast toward the intersection of Bundy Canyon Road and Harvest Way East.

SITE PHOTOGRAPH 5

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View of additional habitat located south of Bundy Canyon Road. Looking southeast-to-northwest from near Harvest Way East toward the intersection of Bundy Canyon Road.

SITE PHOTOGRAPH 6

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View of additional habitat located south of Bundy Canyon Road.
Looking east-to-west from the intersection of Bundy Canyon
Road and Sunset Avenue.

SITE PHOTOGRAPH 7

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