



10680 White Rock Road
Suite 100
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

916.366.0632 PHONE
916.366.1501 FAX

www.TRCSolutions.com

October 17, 2014

Candice Longnecker
Granite Construction Company
4001 Bradshaw Road
Sacramento, California 95827

Subject: Reconnaissance-Level Biological Survey for the ±860-Acre Property in Coalinga, Fresno County, California

Dear Candice:

Per your request, TRC conducted a preliminary assessment of the potential occurrence of special-status species and sensitive habitats on the ±860-acre property comprised of APN 07006022S, 07006086S, 07006089S, and 07006085S in Fresno County, CA ("Survey Area"; see Figure 1 – Survey Area Map). Our assessment involved the review of biological survey reports prepared for the Survey Area in 2007 by Environmental Site Restoration (ESR), a query of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), as well as a reconnaissance-level biological resources survey.

General Survey area Description

The Survey Area is highly disturbed with widespread evidence of routine disking and off-road vehicle use. A telephone conversation with Bruce Bunting, Granite's Plant Superintendent, revealed that the property is disked up to three times a year for vegetation management purposes. Vegetation cover ranges from very sparse and almost nonexistent to small, dense patches of ruderal (weedy) species such as Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), wormwood (*Artemisia* sp.) bromes (*Bromus* spp.) and oats (*Avena* sp.). Representative photographs of the survey area are attached.

Aside from Los Gatos Creek, which was completely dry during the survey, no evidence of wetlands or other aquatic features was observed within the survey area. These findings are consistent with the previous biological reports prepared by ESR. Based on Google Earth aerial photographs and quadrangle maps, the Los Gatos Creek appears to terminate just north of Huron, California with no connection to navigable water bodies.

Assessment Methods

Prior to the field survey, the ESR biological survey reports and CNDDB search results (see Figure 2 – CNDDB Map) were used to identify those areas of the survey area with the potential to support special-status species and sensitive habitats.

The Survey Area included the ±540-acre area bound by Cambridge Avenue to the south and South Monterey Avenue to the west, and the adjacent ±320-acre area immediately west of South Monterey Avenue. The larger area was mainly surveyed from a vehicle by driving transects across the property. Brief pedestrian surveys were used occasionally to inspect notable biological resources. Vehicle access to the smaller area was restricted by a perimeter ditch and locked gates, but was visually inspected from the perimeter.

Results

The CNDDB review and biological survey results are listed below in Table 1. Due to the disturbed nature of the Survey Area and lack of suitable habitats, most of the species with CNDDB occurrence records within 3 miles of the Survey Area are unlikely to occur on the property. Furthermore, no special-status species were observed during the field survey.

Table 1: Special-Status Species Assessed for Survey Area

Species	Regulatory Status¹	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence	Survey Results (Present or Absent)
<i>Plants</i>				
California jewelflower <i>(Caulanthus californicus)</i>	FE, SE, 1B.1	Scrub, pinyon/juniper woodland, sandy grasslands from 180 to 3,000 feet elevation. Blooms from February through May.	None; highly disturbed nature of survey area and lack of suitable habitat preclude the presence of this species.	Absent
Hoover's eriastrum <i>(Eriastrum hooveri)</i>	FD, 4.2	Scrub, pinyon/juniper woodland, gravelly grasslands from 150 to 3,000 feet elevation. Blooms from March through July.	None; highly disturbed nature of survey area and lack of suitable habitat preclude the presence of this species.	Absent
Lemmon's jewelflower <i>(Caulanthus lemmonii)</i>	1B.1	Pinyon/juniper woodland, valley/foothill grasslands from 250 to 4,000 feet elevation. Blooms from March through May.	None; highly disturbed nature of survey area and lack of suitable habitat preclude the presence of this species.	Absent
San Joaquin woollythreads <i>(Monolopia congdonii)</i>	FE, 1B.2	Scrub and sandy grasslands from 180 to 2,500 feet elevation. Blooms from February through May.	None; highly disturbed nature of survey area and lack of suitable habitat preclude the presence of this species.	Absent

Species	Regulatory Status ¹	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence	Survey Results (Present or Absent)
<i>Invertebrates</i>				
Hopping's blister beetle <i>(Lytta hoppingi)</i>	No local, state or federal protection.	Inhabits the foothills at the southern end of the Central Valley.	Low; recorded CNDDDB occurrence near survey area is from an unknown date prior to 1985.	Absent
Morrison's blister beetle <i>(Lytta morrisoni)</i>	No local, state or federal protection.	Inhabits the southern portion of the Central Valley.	Low; recorded CNDDDB occurrence near survey area is possibly extirpated per the CNDDDB.	Absent
Redheaded sphecid wasp <i>(Eucerceris ruficeps)</i>	No local, state or federal protection.	Sand dunes in Central Valley.	Low; recorded CNDDDB occurrence near survey area was documented in 1970s.	Absent
<i>Amphibians/Reptiles</i>				
Blunt-nosed leopard lizard <i>(Gambelia sila)</i>	FE, SE; CFP	Resident of sparsely vegetated alkali and desert scrub habitats, in areas of low topographic relief. Seeks cover in mammal burrows, under shrubs or structures such as fence posts; does not excavate own burrows.	Moderate; 1989 CNDDDB occurrence within Los Gatos Creek within a half-mile north of survey area. Other records occur downstream.	Absent
San Joaquin whipsnake <i>(Masticophis flagellum ruddocki)</i>	No local, state or federal protection.	Open, dry habitats with little or no tree cover. Found in valley grassland & saltbush scrub in the San Joaquin Valley. Needs mammal burrows for refuge and oviposition sites.	None; highly disturbed nature of survey area and lack of suitable habitat preclude the presence of this species.	Absent

Species	Regulatory Status ¹	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence	Survey Results (Present or Absent)
Birds				
Swainson's hawk <i>(Buteo swainsoni)</i>	ST	Nests in isolated trees or riparian woodlands adjacent to suitable foraging habitat such as agricultural fields and grasslands.	Low; very few suitable nest trees occur within the survey area and species is not prevalent in vicinity of survey area.	Absent
Tricolored blackbird <i>(Agelaius tricolor)</i>	CSC	Colonial species in the Central Valley and vicinity. Nests primarily in dense blackberry thickets, cattails, and tules.	None; survey area lacks suitable habitat for this species.	Absent
Western burrowing owl <i>(Athene cunicularia hypugaea)</i>	CSC	Nests in subterranean burrows often created by ground squirrels within open, dry grasslands; deserts; and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation.	Low; survey area provides limited suitable nesting habitat.	Absent
Mammals				
San Joaquin kit fox <i>(Vulpes macrotis mutica)</i>	FE, ST	Scrub and valley/foothill grasslands with sandy soil suitable for burrowing.	Low; disturbed nature of survey area and periodic disking reduces likelihood that species would utilize the survey area.	Absent

Species	Regulatory Status ¹	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence	Survey Results (Present or Absent)
Western mastiff bat (<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>)	CSC	Inhabits semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer & deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, and chaparral. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, tall buildings, trees & tunnels.	None; survey area lacks suitable habitat for this species.	Absent

¹Definitions

Federal		California		California Native Plant Society	
FE	Federally endangered	SE	State endangered	1B	Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
FT	Federally threatened	ST	State threatened	2B	Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
FD	Federally delisted	CSC	California species of concern	4	Plants of limited distribution — A Watch List
		CFP	California fully protected	0.1	Seriously endangered in California
				0.2	Fairly endangered in California

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require more information.

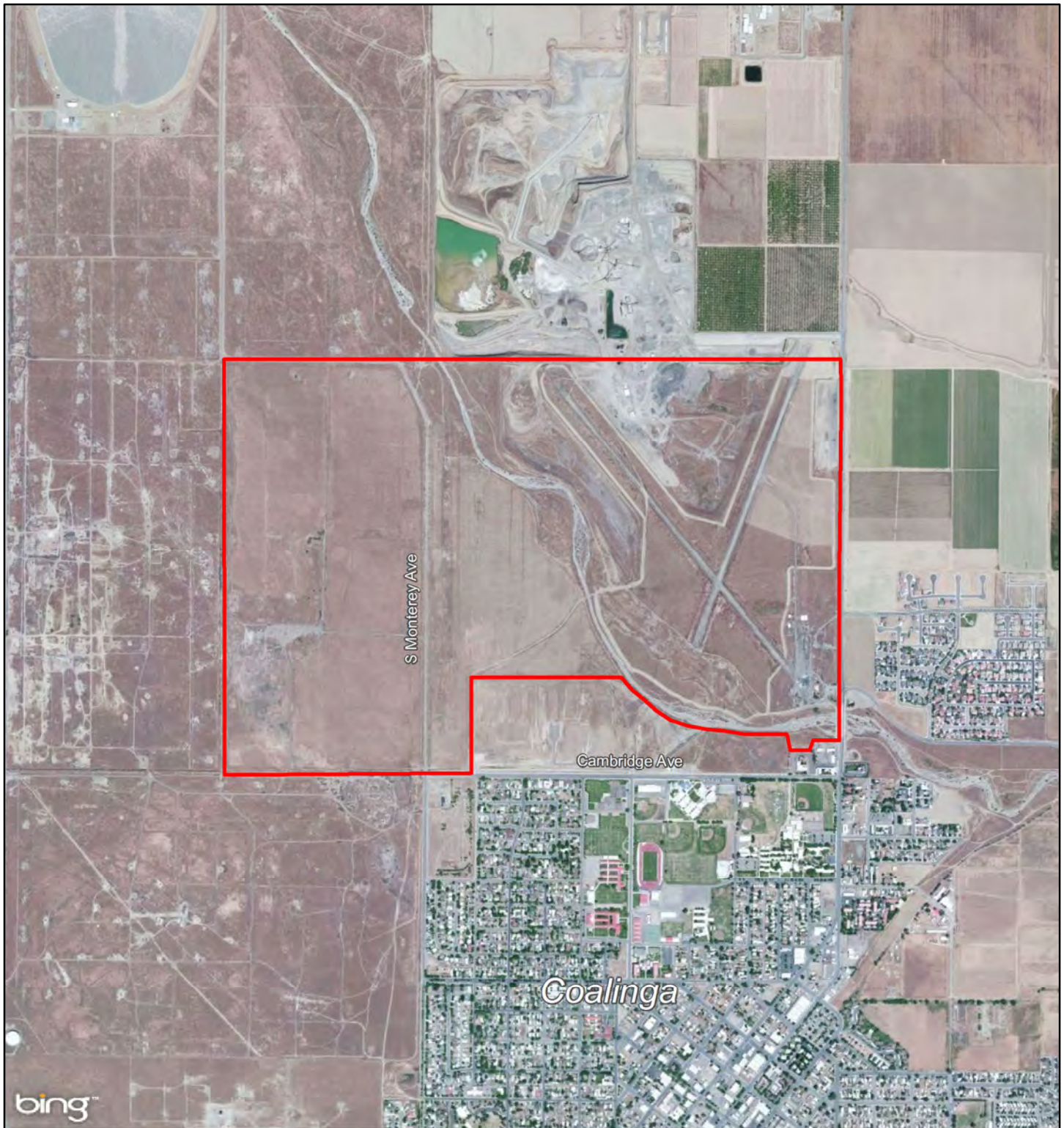
Sincerely,



Michael Farmer
Senior Biologist

Attachments:

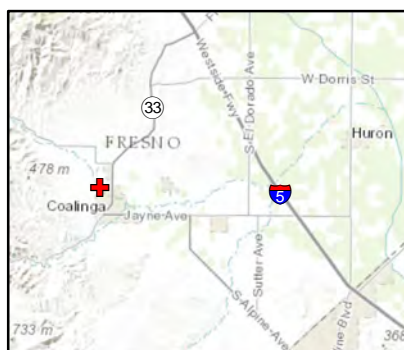
Figure 1 – Survey Area Map
Figure 2 – CNDDDB Map
Representative Photographs



Granite Construction Coalinga Property

Survey Area Map

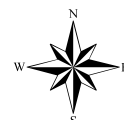
Figure 1

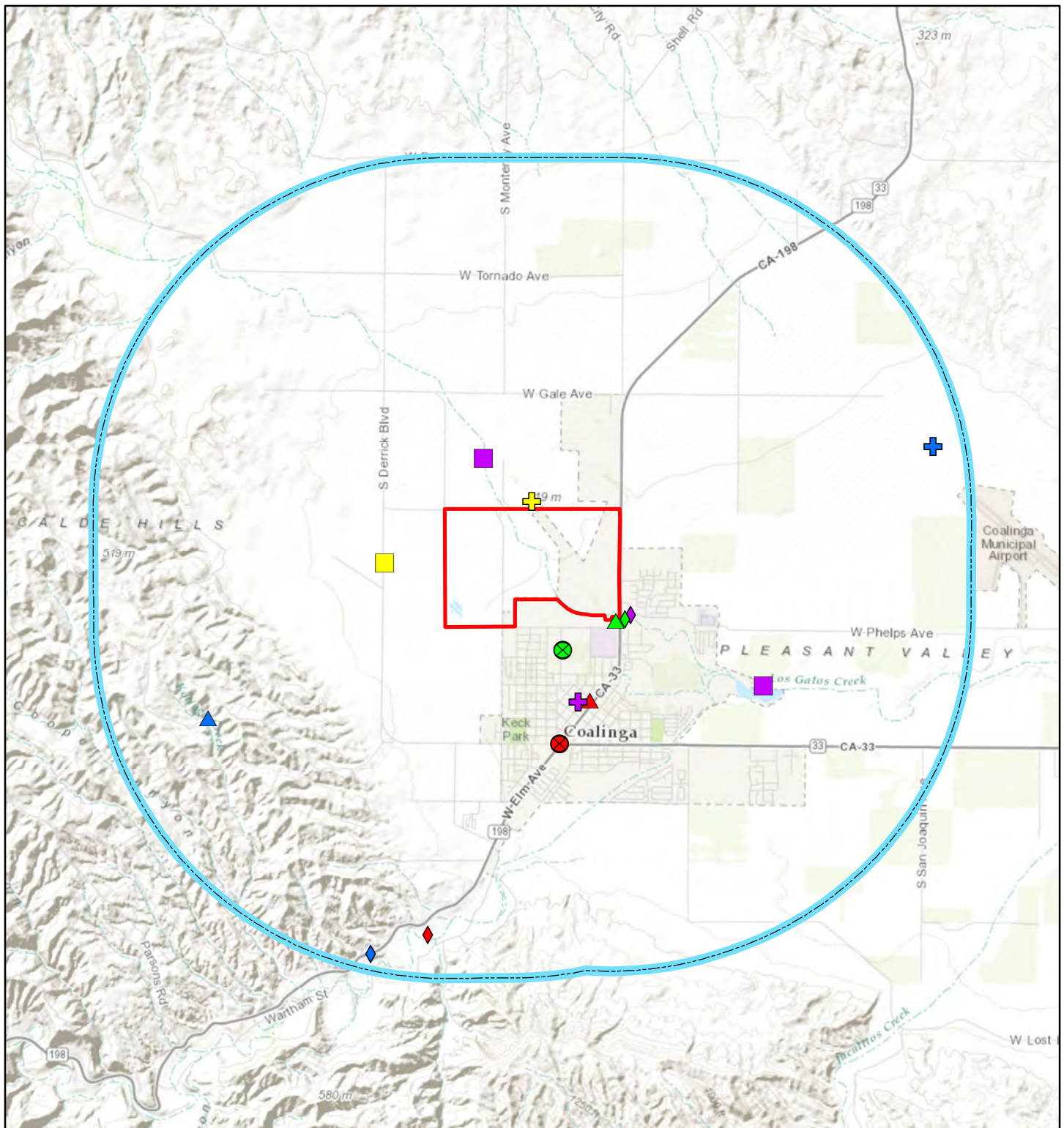


Legend

Survey Area

0 1,800 3,600
Feet





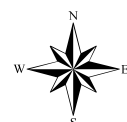
Legend

- | | |
|---|---|
| Survey Area | 3 Mile Buffer |
| ◆ California jewelflower | ■ Blunt-nosed leopard lizard |
| ◆ Hoover's eriastrum | ■ San Joaquin whipsnake |
| ◆ Lemmon's jewelflower | ⊗ San Joaquin kit fox |
| ◆ San Joaquin woollythreads | ⊗ Western mastiff bat |
| ▲ Hopping's blister beetle | + Burrowing owl |
| ▲ Morrison's blister beetle | + Swainson's hawk |
| ▲ Redheaded sphecid wasp | + Tricolored blackbird |

0 1.2 2.4 Miles

Granite Construction Coalinga Property

CNDDDB Map
Figure 2



Coalinga Survey Area

Representative Photographs

All Photos Taken on August 19, 2014



View showing disturbed nature of survey area.



View showing typically vegetation densities within the survey area.

Coalinga Survey Area

Representative Photographs

All Photos Taken on August 19, 2014



View of Los Gatos Creek looking downstream.



View of uninhabited burrows along edges of Los Gatos Creek corridor.