

June 30, 2014

Ms. Stacy Love
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2177 Salk Ave
Carlsbad, California 92008

**RE: RESULTS OF FOCUSED COASTAL CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER
SURVEYS FOR THE PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL PROJECT AT
FAIRVIEW PARK, CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA**

Dear Ms. Love:

This report is being submitted in compliance with the conditions of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) authorized permit issued to biologist Barry Nerhus (TE067347-4) for the performance of coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) (CAGN) surveys in accordance with USFWS survey guidelines. As such, this letter report describes the methodology and findings of surveys conducted for this species on the multi-purpose trail project at Fairview Park, City of Costa Mesa, California (Figure 1, *Regional Map*, attached).

The “study area” totaled approximately 40 acres, which included the proposed multi-purpose trail and a 500-foot buffer. Approximately 27 acres of potentially suitable CAGN habitat occurs within the study area in the form of California sagebrush alliance.

STUDY AREA LOCATION AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The study area is located at Fairview Park, 2525 Placentia Ave, Costa Mesa, California 92626. Specifically, the study area is located between the Santa Ana River Channel and Placentia Ave. The study area can be found within the Newport Beach U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map, as shown in Figure 2, *Vicinity Map*, attached. Topography of the study area is gentle slopes into the Santa Ana flood plain. Elevation of the study area is approximately 65 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Surrounding land uses immediately adjacent to the study area include open space and passive use trails.

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Table 1
Survey Data

Date	Time	Wind (mph) (Start/End)	Temperature (F) (Start/End)	Weather (Start/End)	Results	Surveyor(s)
April 10, 2014	0830-1015	0-1/0-1	60°-63°	0%-0% cc	1 Male CAGN	BN
April 17, 2014	0830-1130	0-1/0-1	60°-65°	100%-100% cc	No CAGN observed	BN
April 24, 2014	0800-1030	0-1/0-1	60°-68°	0%-0% cloud cover	1 Male CAGN	BN
May 01, 2014	0815-1045	0-1/0-1	60°-62°	50%-0% cloud cover	No CAGN observed	BN
May 08, 2014	0800-1030	0-1/0-1	59°-62°	0%-0% cloud cover	No CAGN observed	BN
May 15, 2014	0845-1015	0-1/0-1	60°-64°	0%-0% cloud cover	No CAGN observed	BN

Source: Barry Nerhus, 2014

METHODOLOGY

Methods employed were in conformance with USFWS Coastal California Gnatcatcher Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines, issued July 28, 1997. Accordingly, six (6) diurnal surveys were conducted during the breeding season, at least one (1) week apart. Surveys were conducted between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. within all portions of the study area supporting potentially suitable habitat. The permitted biologist slowly walked through the study area while visually examining the area for CAGN and stopping at appropriate intervals, uttering pishing sounds, and/or playing a digital recording of CAGN vocalizations. The audio was played for several seconds at each interval, followed by a brief pause to listen for a response. The location(s), age, sex, and breeding status of CAGN observations (if any) were mapped on a 1:24,000 scale aerial photo. No nest searches were preformed.

RESULTS

Permitted biologist Barry Nerhus (TE067347-4) conducted the focused surveys for the CAGN. Surveys were conducted a total of six times between April 10 to May 15, 2014. Surveys were conducted between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 11:30 A.M., with approximately 3.5 acres being surveyed per hour along the survey route, as shown in Figure 3, *Vegetation Map and Survey Route*. Temperatures during surveys ranged between 59 and 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Weather conditions were suitable for surveys, with skies ranging from clear to 100 percent overcast, and winds below one (1) mile per hour (mph). Survey details can also be found listed in Table 1, *Survey Data*, above.

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One male CAGN was observed during surveys 1 and 3 conducted within the study area. No female CAGN or nesting behavior was observed. Brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) were observed during the surveys. A list of all avian species observed within the study area during surveys is included in the *Avian Compendium*, attached.

I certify that the information in this survey report and attached exhibits fully and accurately represents my work. Should you have any questions regarding the methodology or findings in this report, please do not hesitate to contact Barry Nerhus at (714) 393-6249 or by e-mail at bnerhus@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Barry Nerhus
Biologist
TE-067347-4

Attachments
Vegetation Map
Survey Area Map 1
Survey Area Map 2

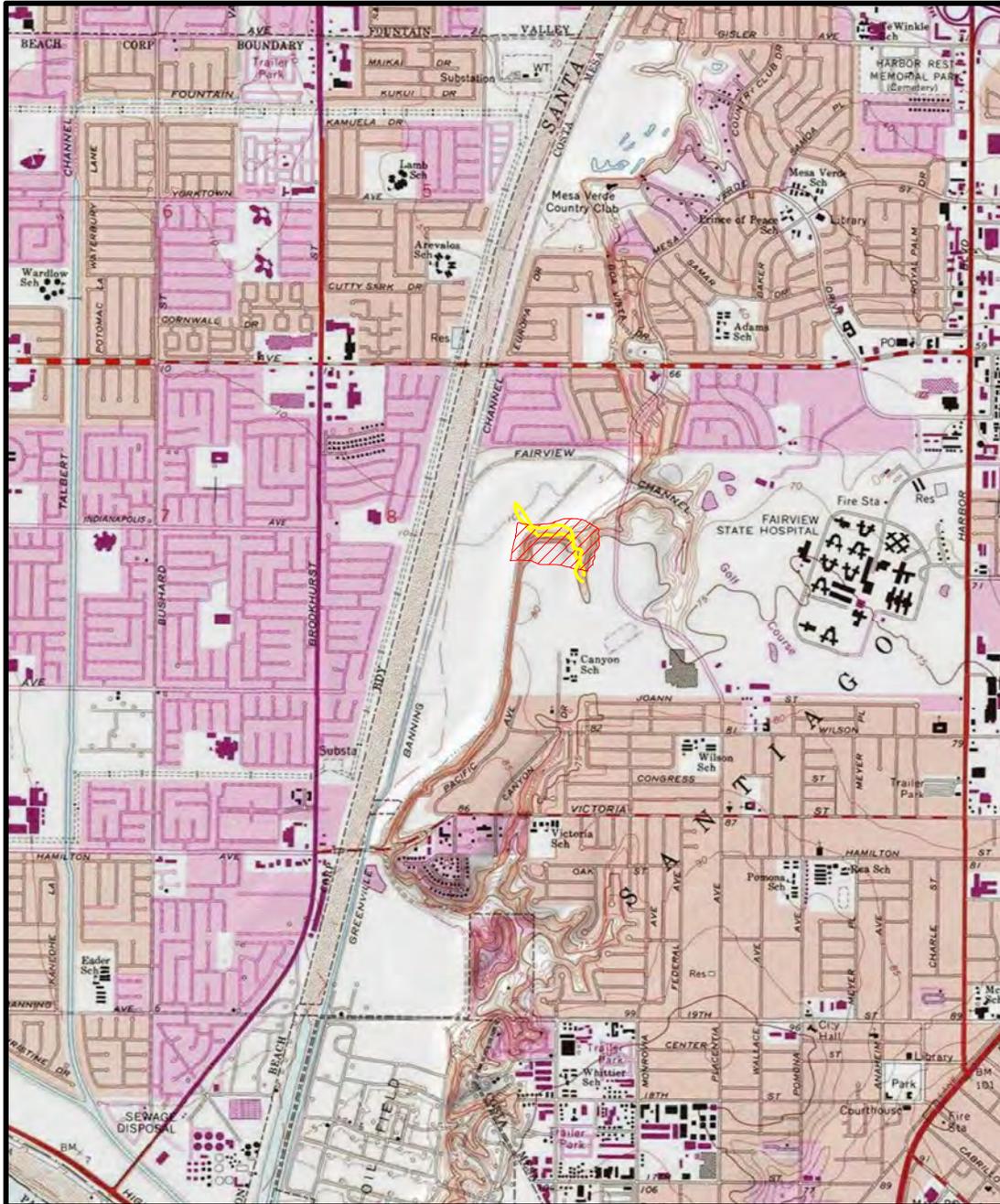


Coastal Sage Scrub and Non Native Grassland Areas
Fairview Park, Costa Mesa, Ca

 *Coastal Sage Scrub = 20.15 acres*

 *Non Native Grassland = 23 acres*





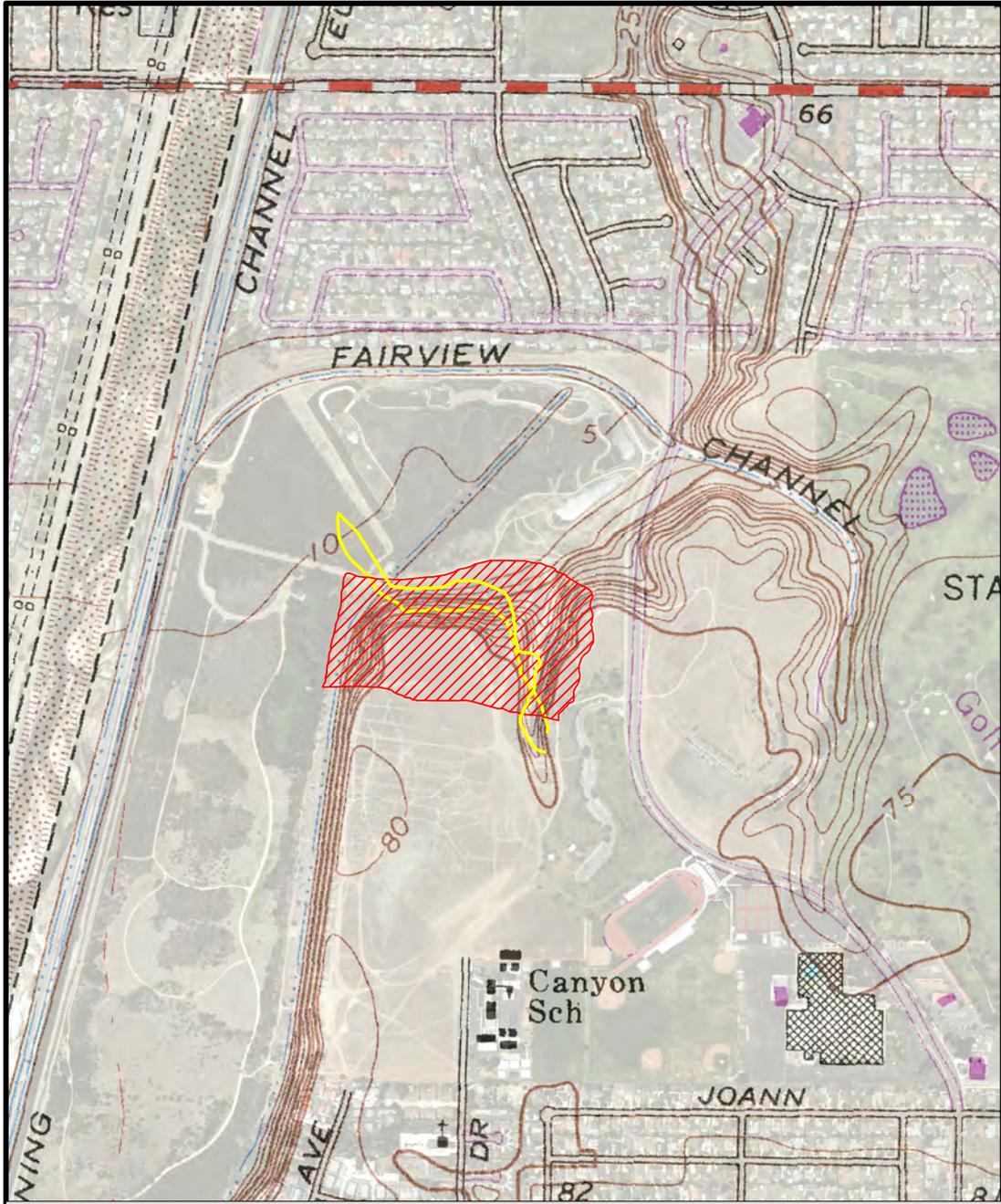
California Gnatcatcher Survey Area
Fairview Park, Costa Mesa, Ca

 **Survey Area**
 **Flight Range**

Scale
 1:24,000
 USGS 7.5 min quad

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0 250 500 1,000 Meters



**California Gnatcatcher Survey Area
Fairview Park, Costa Mesa, Ca**

Service Layer Credits:

-  **Survey Area**
-  **Flight Range**

Scale
1:24,000
USGS 7.5 min quad
1 inch = 200 meters