



BERKELEY  
CARLSBAD  
FRESNO  
IRVINE  
LOS ANGELES  
PALM SPRINGS  
POINT RICHMOND  
RIVERSIDE  
ROSEVILLE  
SAN LUIS OBISPO

September 7, 2017

Mr. Rod Jones  
c/o Mr. Jason Greminger  
CCI  
160 Industrial Street, Suite 200  
San Marcos, California 92078

Subject: Results of an MSHCP 30-day Pre-construction Burrowing Owl Survey for the Rockport Ranch Project (LSA Project No. ABT701)

Dear Mr. Jones:

LSA is providing this letter to document the results of a Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) 30-day pre-construction burrowing owl survey for the Rockport Ranch Project site. The 79-acre project site includes Assessor's Parcel Numbers 364-190-004 and 005, and is located at 29875 Newport Road and 30455 Briggs Road, in the City of Menifee, Riverside County, California (see attached Figure 1).

The burrowing owl pre-construction survey was conducted on August 19, 2017, by LSA Senior Biologist Denise Woodard, who is the principal investigator of this study. No burrowing owls or features potentially occupied by burrowing owls were detected during the survey.

## BACKGROUND

### Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owls are found in open, dry grasslands; agricultural and range lands; desert habitats; and grass, forb, and shrub stages of pinyon and ponderosa pine habitats. They nest in abandoned burrows of ground squirrels or other animals, in pipes, rock and debris piles, and in other similar features.

Burrowing owls and their nests and eggs are protected from "take" (meaning destruction, pursuit, possession, etc.) under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 and under Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800 of the California Fish and Game Code. Activities that cause destruction of active nests, or that cause nest abandonment and subsequent death of eggs or young, may constitute violations of one or both of these laws.

## METHODS

The pre-construction survey for burrows and owls was conducted in accordance with accepted guidelines (*Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area*, Riverside County Environmental Programs Department, March 29, 2006). The survey was conducted on August 19, 2017, in the morning and evening by LSA Senior Biologist Denise Woodard. The morning survey was conducted between 6:30 and 8:30 and the evening survey was conducted between 5:30 and 7:30. Weather conditions were mild during the survey, with overcast skies and temperatures ranging from 61 to 66 degrees Fahrenheit during the morning hours, and with clear skies and temperatures in the low 80 degrees Fahrenheit during

evening hours, winds ranged from 3 to 5 miles per hour. No rain had occurred on the site within the previous five days.

The survey was conducted by walking throughout all suitable habitat areas on the 79-acre project site/survey area. Transects were spaced at 50 to 70 feet, which allowed for 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface. Binoculars were used as needed.

## RESULTS

The survey area is an abandoned dairy farm and, as a result, vegetation is highly disturbed and best described as ruderal. Dominant plant species identified on the site include Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), tumbleweed (*Amaranthus albus*), and London rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*). Ornamental trees and landscaping associated with existing residences were noted on the northern portion of the study area. Attached Figure 2 shows the survey area and photograph locations, and attached Figure 3 provides site photographs.

Bird species observed during the survey include mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), white-faced ibis (*Plegadis chihi*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), and Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*).

No burrowing owls or features potentially occupied by burrowing owls were detected during the survey.

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished herein and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (951) 781-9310 or [denise.woodard@lsa.net](mailto:denise.woodard@lsa.net) with any questions or comments you may have.

## LSA ASSOCIATES, INC.



Denise Woodard  
Associate/Senior Biologist

Attachments: Figure 1: Regional and Project Location  
Figure 2: Survey Area and Photograph Locations  
Figure 3: Site Photographs

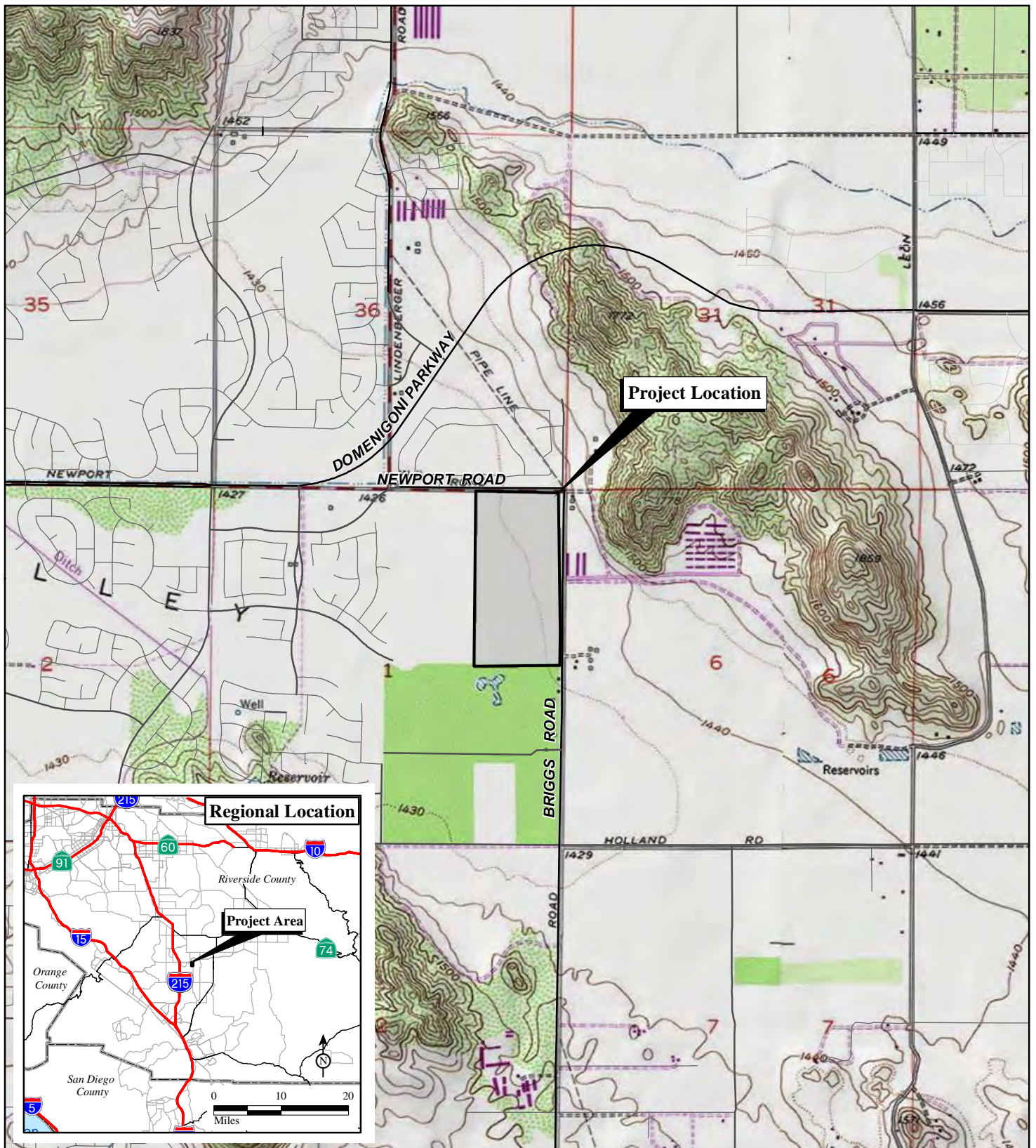


FIGURE 1

LSA



0 1000 2000  
FEET

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quads: Romoland (79), CA; Winchester(79), CA; Riverside County, 2015.

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Newport Ranch  
Burrowing Owl Pre-construction Survey  
Regional and Project Location





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# LEGEND

- Survey Area
- ↶ Photo Location



0 200 400  
FEET

SOURCE: Google Earth, 2016

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FIGURE 2

*Newport Ranch*  
*Burrowing Owl Pre-construction Survey*  
Survey Area and Photograph Locations



Photograph 1:  
*View of disced field on the northerly  
portion of the study area.*



Photograph 2:  
*View of a detention basin on the  
northwesterly portion of the study  
area.*



Photograph 3:  
*View of general site conditions and  
ruderal vegetation.*



LSA

FIGURE 3A

Photograph 4:  
*View of a detention basin containing water  
and ruderal vegetation in the middle  
westerly portion of the study area.*



Photograph 5:  
*View of general site conditions.*



Photograph 6:  
*View of general site conditions.*



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FIGURE 3B



BERKELEY  
CARLSBAD  
FRESNO  
IRVINE  
LOS ANGELES  
PALM SPRINGS  
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RIVERSIDE  
ROSEVILLE  
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September 22, 2017

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## RESULTS

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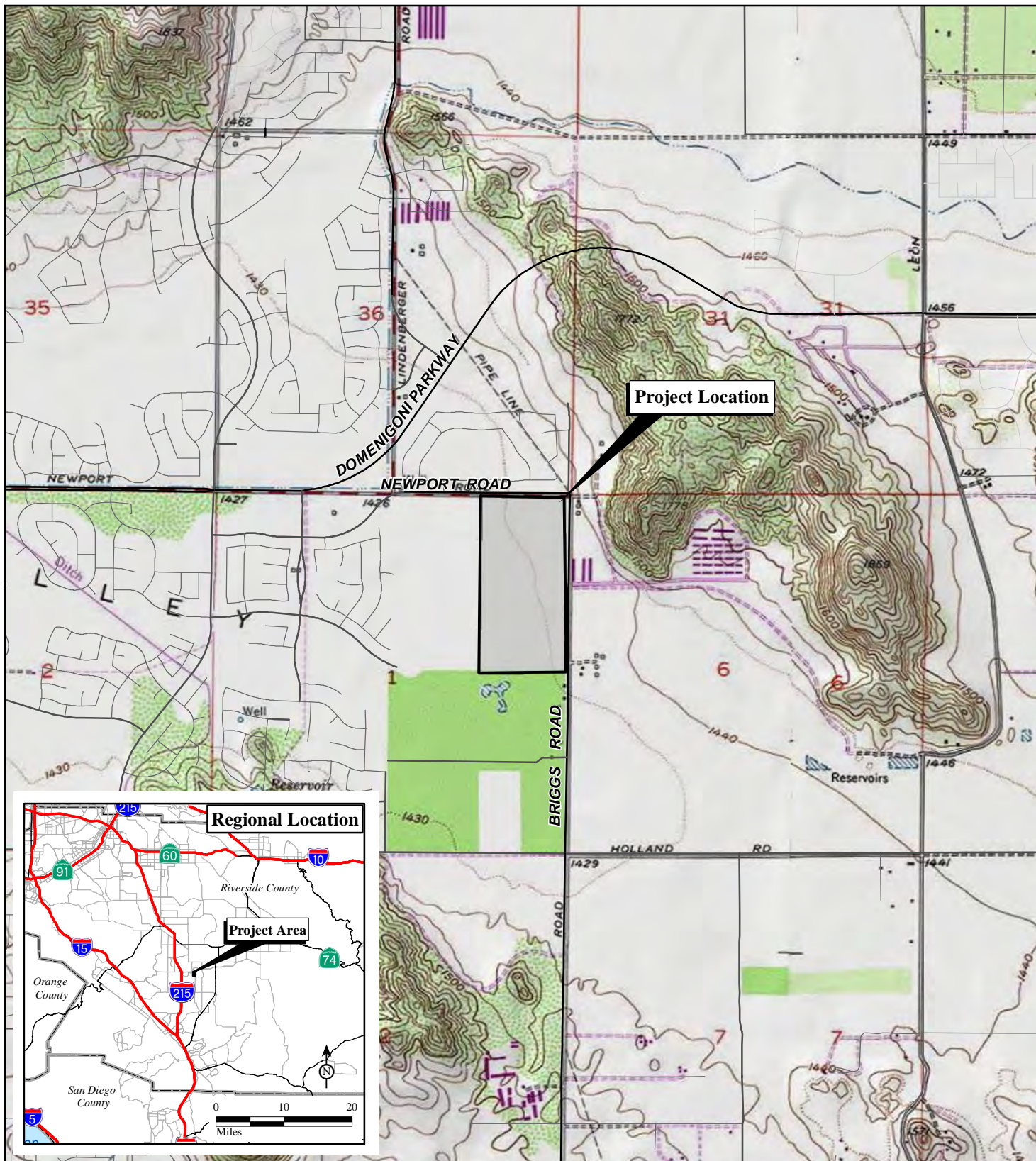


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LSA



0 1000 2000  
FEET

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quads: Romoland (79), CA; Winchester(79), CA; Riverside County, 2015.

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Newport Ranch  
Burrowing Owl Pre-construction Survey  
Regional and Project Location





LSA

# LEGEND

- Survey Area
- ↶ Photo Location



0 200 400  
FEET

SOURCE: Google Earth, 2016

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LSA

FIGURE 3B

*Newport Ranch  
Burrowing Owl Pre-construction Survey  
Site Photographs*