Natural Resource Consultants

August 8, 2002

Ms. Christine Moen
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
2730 Loker Avenue West
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Subject: Results of Monitoring Surveys for Coastal California Gnatcatchers on the Coyote Hills East Site, Located in the City of Fullerton, Orange County, California.

Dear Ms. Moen:

In accordance with Unocal Land and Development's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Coyote Hills East site, Natural Resource Consultants (NRC) was retained to conduct monitoring surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) on the Coyote Hills East site during the 2002 breeding season. The purpose of NRC's surveys was to determine the status and distribution of coastal California gnatcatchers on the Coyote Hills East site. This report describes the methods, results, and conclusions of NRC's surveys.

Site Location and Description

The Coyote Hills East site (the site) is located in the City of Fullerton, Orange County, California. The site is bordered to the north by Bastanchury Road, to the east by State College Boulevard, to the west by Brea Boulevard, and to the south by residential housing. Land uses surrounding the site include residential homes, commercial businesses, and a city park.

The Coyote Hills East site includes the Coyote Hills Golf Course, oil extraction facilities, residential homes, and natural open space. The golf course, oil facilities, and homes comprise approximately 276 acres of the site; the approximately 120 acres remaining are natural and revegetated coastal sage scrub. Where it occurs naturally, coastal sage scrub is dominated almost entirely by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), and in a few areas it is dominated by prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia littoralis*). In revegetated areas coastal sage scrub exhibits a mixed dominance, which includes bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*), California sagebrush, fasciculate buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*).

2002 Survey Methods

NRC biologist, Mr. Tom Benson (TE009066-0), who is permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to conduct surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher, conducted the 2002 monitoring surveys on the Coyote Hills East site. NRC conducted three surveys (February 21, 22, 28, March 1, 14 and 15) on site, according to the terms of the HCP for the site. All areas supporting coastal sage scrub (approximately 120 acres) on site were carefully searched for the presence or absence of coastal California gnatcatchers. During the third survey, NRC focused its attention on previous sightings where the number, composition, and/or use-areas of gnatcatchers

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were unclear. All California gnatcatchers seen or heard were plotted on a 1:2400 scale topographic map of the site; behavior, age, and sex, when known, were recorded in a field notebook. All animals observed during NRC's surveys were recorded in a field notebook, and weather conditions were recorded periodically during the surveys.

COASTAL CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER SURVEY INFORMATION

Date	Time	Survey Hours	Sky	Approx. Wind (mph)	Approx. Temp. (°F)
2/21/02	0700-1200	5.00	clear	0-10	55-75
2/22/02	0700-1100	4.00	clear	0-5	60-75
2/28/02	0700-1130	4.50	overcast	0-3	55-70
3/1/02	0630-1145	5.25	cloudy	0-3	55-70
3/14/02	0630-1145	5.25	partly cloudy	0-5	50-65
3/15/02	0630-1000	3.50	partly cloudy	0-5	50-65

Survey Results

Coastal California gnatcatchers were observed at a total of 35 different locations on the Coyote Hills East site during NRC's surveys. These 35 sightings include 31 pairs and 4 unpaired males. Twenty territories occur in naturally-occurring coastal sage scrub, 12 territories occur in revegetated coastal sage scrub, and 3 territories occur in both. Each location is shown in the attached exhibit and described below.

CAGN1 – An adult pair observed February 21, 28, and March 14 in revegetated coastal sage scrub (css) in the northeast portion of the disjunct area at southern end of the site.

CAGN2 – An adult pair observed February 21, 28, and March 14 in natural css in the central portion of the disjunct area at the southern end of the site.

CAGN3 – An adult pair observed February 21 and March 14 in natural and revegetated css in the southwest portion of the disjunct area at the southern end of the site.

CAGN4 – An adult pair observed February 21 and 28 in natural css just north of the Panorama Trailhead in the southern portion of the site.

CAGN5 – An adult pair observed February 21, 28, and March 14 in natural css north of the Panorama Trail in the southern portion of the site.

CAGN6 – An adult pair observed February 21, 28, and March 14 in natural css north and south of the Panorama Trail in the east-central portion of the site.

CAGN7 – An adult pair observed February 21 and March 14 in natural and revegetated css mostly north of the Panorama Trail near the 7th Tee in the east-central portion of the site.

CAGN8 – An adult pair observed on February 21, 22, 28, March 1, and 14, in revegetated css south of the 2nd Tee in the northern portion of the site.

CAGN9 – An adult pair observed on February 21, 28, and March 14 in natural css south of the 2nd Fairway in the northeastern portion of the site.

CAGN10 – An adult pair observed on February 21, 28, and March 14 in natural and revegetated css northeast of the 7th Tee in the northeastern portion of the site.

CAGN11 – An adult pair observed on February 21, 28, and March 14 in natural css in the northeastern corner of the site.

CAGN12 – An adult male observed on February 21, 28, and March 14 in natural css in the northeastern corner of the site.

CAGN13 – An adult pair observed on February 21, March 1, and 15 in revegetated css south of Summit House Restaurant at the eastern end of the site.

CAGN14 – An adult pair observed on February 21 and 28 in revegetated css east of the 6th Fairway in the eastern portion of the site.

CAGN15 – An adult pair observed on February 21 and March 14 in revegetated css east of the 6th Green in the eastern portion of the site.

CAGN16 – An adult pair observed on February 22, March and 15 in natural css south of the 8th Tee in the southern portion of the site.

CAGN17 – An adult pair observed on February 22, March 1 and 15 in natural css south of the 8th Fairway in the southern portion of the site.

CAGN18 – An adult pair observed on February 22 and March 15 in natural css on a ridge in the southern portion of the site.

CAGN19 – An adult pair observed February 22, March 1, and 15 in natural css on the northeast slope of an L-shaped ridge in the southern portion of the site.

CAGN20 – An adult pair observed February 22 and March 15 in natural css at the north end of an L-shaped ridge in the southern portion of the site.

CAGN21 – An adult male observed on February 22, March 1, and 15 in natural css north of Ridgetop Lane in the southern portion of the site.

CAGN22 – An adult pair observed on February 22, March 1, and 15 in natural css south of the 11th Fairway in the southwestern portion of the site.

CAGN23 – An adult pair observed on February 22 and March 1 (building a nest) in natural css north of the 15th Tee in the western portion of the site.

CAGN24 – An adult male observed on February 22, March 1 and 15 in natural and revegetated css northeast of the 18th Tee in the west-central portion of the site.

CAGN25 – An adult pair observed on February 22, March and 15 in revegetated css south of Ridgetop Lane in the southern portion of the site.

CAGN26 – An adult pair observed on February 28 and March 14 in revegetated css in the northwest portion of the disjunct area at the southern end of the site.

CAGN27 – An adult pair observed on February 28 and March 14 in natural css south of the Panorama Trail in the southern portion of the site.

CAGN28 – An adult male observed on February 28 and March 14 in revegetated css south of the 5th Fairway in the southeastern portion of the site.

CAGN29 – An adult pair observed on February 28 and March 14 in revegetated css south of the 5th Fairway in the southeastern portion of the site.

CAGN30 – An adult pair observed on March 1 and 15 in revegetated css south of Summit House Restaurant at the eastern end of the site.

CAGN31 – An adult pair observed on March 1 and 15 in natural css on the southwest slope of an L-shaped ridge in the southern portion of the site.

CAGN32 – An adult pair observed on March and 15 in natural css north of Ridgetop Lane in the southern portion of the site.

CAGN33 – An adult pair observed on February 22 and March 1 in revegetated css south of the 15th Tee in the western portion of the site.

CAGN34 – An adult pair observed on March 1 and 15 in natural css south of the Driving Range in the northern portion of the site.

CAGN35 – An adult pair observed on March 14 in revegetated css south of the 5th Tee in the southeast corner of the site.

Two sensitive species, including coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus bruneicapillus sandiegoense*) and Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*), were observed during NRC's surveys. These species are listed as Species of Concern by the California Department of Fish and Game, and are not listed as threatened or endangered by the USFWS. No other species listed as

threatened or endangered by the USFWS or CDFG were observed on site. No brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), except those in traps, were observed on site during NRC's surveys.

Conclusions

Thirty-one paired coastal California gnatcatchers and 4 single male coastal California gnatcatchers currently occupy the Coyote Hills East site.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please contact me directly at 949.497.0931.

Sincerely,

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSULTANTS

Tom Benson