

**APPENDIX B**  
**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE REPORT**

June 5, 2006

4058-01

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Christopher A. Joseph & Associates  
Environmental Planning and Research  
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Los Angeles, CA 90064

**Subject:     *Focused Surveys for Belding's Savannah Sparrow, White-tailed Kite, Loggerhead Shrike and Burrowing Owl for the Plaza El Segundo Phase II Project, City of El Segundo, Los Angeles County, California***

Dear Mr. Fajnor:

This report documents the results of five protocol-level presence/absence surveys for Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) conducted for the Plaza El Segundo Phase II project by Dudek & Associates, Inc. (Dudek) in spring 2006. The surveys were conducted throughout approximately 21.7 acres of undeveloped land within the Honeywell and Air Products properties in the City of El Segundo, California.

The Belding's savannah sparrow is a state-listed endangered species. It is closely associated with coastal salt marsh habitat supporting pickleweed (*Salicornia virginica*) in southern California. The species is threatened primarily by loss, degradation, and fragmentation of coastal salt marsh habitat. The white-tailed kite is a California Department of Fish and Game fully protected species. It typically nests in riparian woodland, live oaks or groves of sycamores bordering grasslands or open fields; and forages over any open, grassy area. The loggerhead shrike is a California Department of Fish and Game California Special Concern species and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird of Conservation Concern. It is a fairly common resident in grassland, agricultural land, broken chaparral, beach areas with scattered bushes, desert wash and desert-edge scrub. It requires expanses of open ground for foraging near scattered bushes or low trees for nesting and perching sites. The

burrowing owl is a California Department of Fish and Game California Special Concern Species and a Fish and Wildlife Service Bird of Conservation Concern. It is an uncommon and declining resident of agricultural land, grassland and coastal dune habitat and requires rodent burrows, usually California ground squirrel burrows, as a habitat component.

## **LOCATION AND EXISTING CONDITIONS**

The Plaza El Segundo Phase II project site consists of several parcels of differing ownerships with a total acreage of approximately 62.9 acres located in the City of El Segundo, County of Los Angeles, California. The property is situated on the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute Venice quadrangle, UTM 11 371391E 3752402N (WGS84/NAD83). Due to the developed or highly disturbed condition of most of the site, only the Honeywell parcel C and Air Products Parcel E areas were included in the survey, a total of 21.7 acres.

The study area is highly disturbed, relatively flat and surrounded by dense urbanization associated with the greater Los Angeles area. Topographic relief onsite ranges from approximately 100 to 140 feet above mean sea level. Adjacent land uses include commercial and industrial development on all sides of the property.

## **VEGETATION COMMUNITIES**

Vegetation mapping was not part of the scope of work for this study, however, existing vegetation mapping provided by Christopher A. Joseph and Associates for the study area includes: Coyote brush scrub, Non-native grassland, non-native ice plant/deerweed scrub/non-native grassland, unvegetated land, disturbed coastal scrub, dune lupine-goldenbush scrub and ruderal/disturbed habitat types. Generally, the vegetation map depicts the Air Products property as dominated by non-native grassland with small patches of coyote brush scrub, and the Honeywell property as dominated by a fairly even mixture of unvegetated land, non-native ice plant, deerweed scrub, non-native grassland, dune lupine-goldenbush scrub and ruderal/disturbed habitat. Since the vegetation mapping was recorded, it appears that the Honeywell property has become more disturbed, supporting larger areas of bare, unvegetated land; and the Air Products property now supports a larger distribution of deerweed scrub. These communities are depicted on the vegetation map provided in the EIR (Figure IV.D-2).

## METHODS

The focused survey for Belding's savannah sparrow, white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike and burrowing owl was conducted for the project by Dudek biologist Jeff Priest (JDP) according to the schedule in *Table 1* below. No federal permit is required to conduct surveys for the focal species included in this study.

The focused survey for Belding's savannah sparrow was conducted following the currently accepted Belding's savannah sparrow survey recommendations of the California Department of Fish and Game (*May 9, 2001*). Recommendations include: a survey period of mid-February through end of April with a provision that the survey period may be extended if weather is favorable (*e.g.* brisk mornings); survey times between 0600 and 1000; weather brisk with sunshine optimal; and the survey repeated five times if the species is not detected. The use of audio tape playback to elicit response from Belding's savannah sparrow must be accompanied by a valid Memorandum of Understanding issued by the Department of Fish and Game which specifically authorizes that activity. Audio tape playback was not used for this survey. Because Belding's savannah sparrow was not detected during any of the surveys, five visits were conducted.

Surveys for white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike and burrowing owl were conducted concurrently with the surveys for Belding's savannah sparrow. Surveys were conducted on foot by a biologist experienced with the focal species and avian survey techniques. Additionally, a thorough burrow survey was conducted during the first visit and all burrows observed were visited during each subsequent visit with special attention given to the detection of burrowing owl sign.

The route used to complete the survey was arranged to ensure complete coverage of the study area. Binoculars (10x42 power) were used to aid in detecting and identifying bird species. The weather conditions were favorable and within recommended limits as shown in *Table 1* below.

**TABLE 1.**  
**SURVEY DATES AND CONDITIONS**

DATE	HOURS	PERSONNEL	CONDITIONS
4/26/06	0615-0945	JDP	50% cloud cover, wind 0-3 miles per hour (mph), 55-62 degrees Fahrenheit (F)

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4/28/06	0600-0850	JDP	100% cloud cover, wind 0-2 mph, 58-62 degrees F
5/3/06	0610-0838	JDP	100% cloud cover, wind 0-2 mph, 60-62 degrees F
5/11/06	0610-0830	JDP	100% cloud cover, wind 0-1 mph, 59-62 degrees F
5/12/06	0607-0800	JDP	100% cloud cover; wind 0-2 mph; 59-64 degrees F

## RESULTS

Belding's savannah sparrow was not detected during any of the surveys. Further, this species is not expected to occur because no habitat suitable for this species (*i.e.*, salt marsh) is present within or adjacent to the study area.

No white-tailed kites, loggerhead shrikes, or burrowing owls were detected during the surveys. California ground squirrel burrows suitable for burrowing owl were present, however, they were inspected during each visit and no burrowing owl sign was present during any of the five surveys.

Thirty-three species of wildlife were observed during the surveys. The lack of avian diversity is reflective of the highly disturbed nature of the study area and extensive urbanization that surrounds the site. A full list of wildlife species observed during the survey is provided in *APPENDIX A*. Please feel free to contact me or Dr. Anita Hayworth at (760) 942-5147 with questions, or if you require additional information.

Very truly yours,

DUDEK & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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Jeff D. Priest  
Wildlife Biologist

att: *Figures 1-3*  
*Appendix A*

cc: *Dr. Anita Hayworth,* *DUDEK*

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## **REFERENCES**

Unitt, P. A. 1984. Birds of San Diego County. Memoir 13, San Diego Society of Natural History. 287 pp.

# APPENDIX A

## *List of Wildlife Species Observed or Detected at the Project Site*

### WILDLIFE SPECIES - VERTEBRATES

#### REPTILES

##### IGUANIDAE - IGUANID LIZARDS

*Sceloporus occidentalis* - western fence lizard

*Uta stansburiana* - side-blotched lizard

#### BIRDS

##### PHALACROCORACIDAE - CORMORANTS

*Phalacrocorax auritus* - double-crested cormorant (fly-over)

##### FALCONIDAE - FALCONS

*Falco sparverius* - American kestrel

##### CHARADRIIDAE - PLOVERS

*Charadrius vociferus* - killdeer

##### LARIDAE - GULLS & TERNS

*Larus* sp. – gull (fly-over)

##### COLUMBIDAE - PIGEONS & DOVES

\* *Columba livia* - rock dove

*Zenaida macroura* - mourning dove

## **TROCHILIDAE - HUMMINGBIRDS**

*Calypte anna* - Anna's hummingbird  
*Calypte costae* - Costa's hummingbird

## **TYRANNIDAE - TYRANT FLYCATCHERS**

*Myiarchus cinerascens* - ash-throated flycatcher  
*Sayornis nigricans* - black phoebe  
*Sayornis saya* - Say's phoebe  
*Tyrannus vociferans* - Cassin's kingbird  
*Tyrannus verticalis* - western kingbird

## **HIRUNDINIDAE - SWALLOWS**

*Hirundo rustica* - barn swallow  
*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* - cliff swallow

## **CORVIDAE - JAYS & CROWS**

*Corvus brachyrhynchos* - American crow  
*Corvus corax* - common raven

## **AEGITHALIDAE - BUSHTITS**

*Psaltriparus minimus* - bushtit

## **MIMIDAE - THRASHERS**

*Mimus polyglottos* - northern mockingbird

## **STURNIDAE - STARLINGS**

\* *Sturnus vulgaris* - European starling

## **PARULIDAE - WOOD WARBLERS**

*Geothlypis trichas* - common yellowthroat  
*Wilsonia pusilla* - Wilson's warbler

## **EMBERIZIDAE - BUNTINGS & SPARROWS**

*Pipilo crissalis* - California towhee  
*Zonotrichia leucophrys* - white-crowned sparrow

## **ICTERIDAE - BLACKBIRDS & ORIOLES**

*Sturnella neglecta* - western meadowlark

## **FRINGILLIDAE - FINCHES**

*Carpodacus mexicanus* - house finch

*Carduelis psaltria* - lesser goldfinch

**PASSERIDAE - OLD WORLD SPARROWS**

\* *Passer domesticus* - house sparrow

\* signifies introduced (non-native) species

**MAMMALS**

**SCIURIDAE - SQUIRRELS**

*Spermophilus beecheyi* - California ground squirrel

**GEOMYIDAE - POCKET GOPHERS**

*Thomomys bottae* - Botta's pocket gopher

**CANIDAE - WOLVES & FOXES**

*Canis latrans* - coyote

**WILDLIFE SPECIES - INVERTEBRATES**

**BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS**

**LYCAENIDAE - BLUES, HAIRSTREAKS, & COPPERS**

*Glaucopsyche lygdamus australis*- southern blue butterfly