

Katie Duffield

From: Perez, Paola@Wildlife <Paola.Perez@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 4:49 PM
To: Katie Duffield; Porter, Eric
Cc: Karl Osmundson; Debbie Lundy; Tim Ross; Burlaza, Melanie@Wildlife
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Willow Road (aka Rock Pile) Property Gnatcatcher Suitability Summary

Hello Katie,

CDFW concurs with the email summary of the Willow Road Property. We also agree with USFWS regarding gnatcatcher use of the property as outlined in the 2024 Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) Survey Report for the Willow Road Property submitted by Helix Environmental Planning, Inc.

Thank you for the report and your summary.

Paola Perez
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast Region
(858) 354-2413

From: Porter, Eric <Eric_Porter@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 12:45 PM
To: Katie Duffield <KatieD@helixepi.com>; Perez, Paola@Wildlife <Paola.Perez@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Cc: Karl Osmundson <KarlO@helixepi.com>; Debbie Lundy <Debbie.Lundy@HELIXWATER.org>; Tim Ross <Tim.Ross@HELIXWATER.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Willow Road (aka Rock Pile) Property Gnatcatcher Suitability Summary

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Good Afternoon Katie,

Thank you for the report. The report confirms presence of breeding coastal California gnatcatchers within the southern end of the subject property. Coastal sage scrub, known to support gnatcatchers, is shown to be widespread throughout the property. Gnatcatcher use of the property appears to decline to the north, which is expected as the species prefers gentler slopes.

Given the distribution of native vegetation throughout the property and the property's position within a landscape of conserved or otherwise undeveloped parcels, we agree that it has significant conservation potential.

Thank you,

Eric

From: Katie Duffield <KatieD@helixepi.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 2:50 PM
To: Porter, Eric <Eric_Porter@fws.gov>; Perez, Paola@Wildlife <Paola.Perez@Wildlife.ca.gov>

Cc: Karl Osmundson <KarlO@helixepi.com>; Debbie Lundy <Debbie.Lundy@HELIXWATER.org>; Tim Ross <Tim.Ross@HELIXWATER.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Willow Road (aka Rock Pile) Property Gnatcatcher Suitability Summary

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Hi Eric and Paola!

As discussed on July 22, 2024, and presented in the attached 2024 45-day coastal California gnatcatcher survey report, gnatcatcher was determined to occur within the approximately 233.0-acre Willow Road Property (also referred to as the "Rock Pile Property") comprising Accessor's Parcel Number (APN) 391-061-28 located in the unincorporated community of Lakeside, San Diego County, California. The Property is located entirely within Final Critical Habitat for the gnatcatcher and occurs within the planning boundaries of the adopted South County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), specifically, within the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul segment. Although not overlaying the Property itself, undeveloped land designated as Pre-Approved Mitigation Area (PAMA) surrounds the Property to the north, east, and west. Biological Resource Core Area (BRCA) 9 also surrounds the Property, as do several open space preserves, including Louis A. Stelzer County Park to the immediate west and El Capitan Open Space Preserve approximately 0.3 mile to the northeast. The Property supports approximately 177.0 acres of Diegan coastal sage scrub, of which approximately 168.0 acres were determined to be suitable for gnatcatcher and were targeted during the 2024 survey effort. Other land cover and habitat types found to occur on the Property include southern mixed chaparral (47.0 acres), non-native grassland (3.0 acres), disturbed habitat (5.0 acres), and urban/developed land (1.0 acre). A single gnatcatcher pair was observed during the 2024 breeding season within an approximately 15.0-acre area in the southwestern portion of the Property. The Property contains potential for additional breeding gnatcatcher pairs and well as gnatcatcher foraging, dispersal, and migration through the area with connectivity to other known populations in the region, including a known occurrence reported approximately 0.5 mile to the northwest in the El Capitan Open Space Preserve.

Kindly respond with your concurrence or any revisions to the summary above. Thank you for your continued support on this effort.

Thank you!

Katie Duffield

Biology Project Manager

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

7578 El Cajon Boulevard

La Mesa, CA 91942

619.462.1515 tel

858.395.7397 cell

619.462.0552 fax

KatieD@helixepi.com

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