



Nest Survey Report

Date: 03/29/2017

Biologist(s): Amy Trexler (AT) and Shelley Lawrence (SL); Brynne Mulrooney (BM)

Survey Area/Location/Structures:

Segment 5 - Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 (AT and SL)

Segment 5 – Sections 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 (BM)

Proposed Construction within Survey Area:

Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults.

Is Vegetation Clearing Required? Yes: No:

Was Complete Survey Coverage Achieved? Yes: No:

Details of modifications to the survey area if complete coverage was not achieved: N/A

Survey Conditions:

	Start	End
Time	6:45 am	4:20 pm
Temperature (°F):	51 °	78 °
Wind Speed (mph):	0-2 mph	0-5 mph
Cloud Cover (%):	0	0
Precipitation Type (if any) and duration:	n/a	n/a

Habitat(s) and Vegetation Description within Survey Area:

- Southern coast live oak riparian forest
- Southern willow riparian forest
- Coastal sage scrub
- Ornamental
- Disturbed

Description of Survey Methodology:

The biologists conducted active and passive surveys within a survey buffer of 0.25 mile for white tailed kite, 500 feet for raptors, coastal California gnatcatcher, and least Bell's vireo, 250 feet for passerine birds in open space, and 150 feet for common passerines in residential, commercial and industrial areas. Active survey methods included walking meandering transects through the habitats while observing bird behavior with the aid of binoculars and directly searching in vegetation, the ground, the towers/poles, and other potential nest substrates. Passive survey methods included stationary observation periods from select vantage points that provided maximum visibility of the survey areas, using binoculars as necessary. If potential nesting behavior was observed within the survey buffers, specific shrubs were directly searched for nests in the areas where birds may have been observed exhibiting higher levels of activity or potential breeding behavior. All potential raptor nesting areas within the survey buffers were searched directly and/or with the aid of binoculars. Visibility, access, time of year and weather conditions were all conducive to collecting comprehensive breeding data, and ample time was spent surveying all potential nest sites.



Suitable Raptor Nesting Habitat:
 Suitable CAGN Nesting Habitat:
 Suitable LBV Nesting Habitat:

Yes: No:
 Yes: No:
 Yes: No:

Survey Results

Nest(s) Located (complete table below if yes)*:
 (Include previously located nests and current status)

Yes: No:

Nest ID ¹	Species ²	Listing Status ³	Nest Stage ⁴	Observation Notes ⁵	Latitude (decimal degrees)	Longitude (decimal degrees)
03212017_BSL_01	American kestrel (AMKE)	Common	Building, Incubating	3/21- Pair observed entering into north arm of existing steel tower (Z119817). Nest material blew out of nest cavity; CB 3/29- One adult observed perched on top of tower; possibly incubating	32.88932	-117.20317
03212017_ACT_01	Bushtit (BUSH)	Common	Incubating	3/21- Adult observed building nest in coast live oak tree. 3/29- No activity observed at nest, possibly incubating.	32.88953	-117.20024
03212017_ACT_02	House finch (HOFI)	Common	Building	3/21- Pair observed carrying nesting material into ornamental Italian cypress tree. 3/29- Pair observed foraging in area.	32.89008	-117.20090
03212017_ACT_03	House finch (HOFI)	Common	Building	3/21- Pair observed carrying nesting material into ornamental shrub. 3/29- Pair observed foraging on ground near nest.	32.89000	-117.20047
03212017_BSL_03	Red-tailed hawk (RTHA)	Common	Incubating	3/21 and 3/29 - Adult observed on nest in western sycamore slightly above street level. Mate foraging nearby.	32.890656	-117.194337
03242017_ACT_01	Bushtit	Common	Building, Incubating	3/24- A flock of 3 birds (potentially	32.89202	-117.18609



	(BUSH)			nesting bird and helpers) were foraging in area of nest; one bird visited and tended to the nest. 3/29- No activity observed, possibly incubating.		
03242017_ACT_02	Anna's Hummingbird (ANHU)	Common	Incubating	3/24- Female observed sitting in nest. 3/29- No activity observed.	32.89191	-117.18571
03242017_ACT_03	Lesser goldfinch (LEGO)	Common	Building	3/24- Female observed building nest while male stayed close by. 3/29- Male and female observed in area, and nest is approximately 85% complete.	32.89196	-117.18555
03242017_ACT_04	Bushtit (BUSH)	Common	Building, Incubating	3/24- Pair observed foraging in area of nest; nest is new with fresh, green vegetation. 3/29- No activity observed, possibly incubating.	32.89129	-117.18485
03292017_BLM_01	Red-tailed hawk (RTHA)	Common	Incubating	3/29- Adult observed on nest in western sycamore.	32.88905	-117.19857
03292017_SML_01	Anna's Hummingbird (ANHU)	Common	Incubating	3/29- Female observed sitting in nest.	32.88941	-117.20079
03292017_SML_02	Mourning Dove (MODO)	Common	Incubating	3/29- Female observed sitting in nest.	32.88950	-117.20061
03292017_SML_03	Anna's Hummingbird (ANHU)	Common	Building	3/29- Adult observed tending to nest; approx. 40% complete.	32.88937	-117.19962
03292017_SML_04	Bushtit (BUSH)	Common	Building	3/29- Adult observed tending to nest; approx. 95% complete.	32.88940	-117.19967

1 – Date (mmdyyy)_Biologist Initials (ABC)_Number ID (01)

2 – Include common name and four letter AOU species code



3 – Federally Endangered (FE), Federally Threatened (FT), Common

4 – Building, Incubating, Nestling, Fledged, Complete/Inactive

5 – Observation Notes: Item Carry (IC- nest material, food items, fecal sacs that indicate nesting in progress), Agitated/Territorial Behavior (ATB – indicating potential nest sites or an intent to nest), Courtship Behavior (CB – copulation, chasing flights, displays, etc.), Pair in Suitable Habitat (PSH – utilizing all or portions of the buffer zone), Other

Avian Species Observed (complete common name):

Acorn woodpecker (ACWO), American crow (AMCR), American kestrel (AMKE), Anna’s hummingbird (ANHU), Bewick’s wren (BEWR), black phoebe (BLPH), black-headed grosbeak (BHGR), blue-gray gnatcatcher (BGGN), brown-headed cowbird (BHCO), bushtit (BUSH), California towhee (CALT), Cassin’s kingbird (CAKI), cedar waxwing (CEDW), common yellowthroat (COYE), European starling (EUST), hooded oriole (HOOR), house finch (HOFI), house wren (HOWR), killdeer (KILL), lesser goldfinch (LEGO), mallard (MALL), mourning dove (MODO), northern mockingbird (NOMO), Nuttall’s woodpecker (NUWO), orange-crowned warbler (OCWA), pacific-slope flycatcher (PSFL), red-tailed hawk (RTHA), song sparrow (SOSP), spotted towhee (SPTO), western gull (WEGU), white-crowned sparrow (WCSP), white-throated swift (WTSW), wrentit (WREN), and yellow-rumped (Audubon’s) warbler (YRWA).

Additional Notes (see Avian Species Observed and Observation Notes for definition of abbreviations):

- Song sparrow, bushtit, spotted towhee, lesser goldfinch, house finch, hooded oriole, California towhee, and pacific-slope flycatcher: pairs observed in suitable habitat and displaying territorial behavior

Nesting WTKI within 0.25 miles:

Yes:

No:

Nesting Raptor, CAGN, or LBV within 500 feet:

Yes:

No:

Nesting Passerine within 250 feet (open space only):

Yes:

No:

Nesting Passerine within 150 feet (residential, commercial, residential areas):

Yes:

No:

Establishment of Nest Buffer and Justification:

03212017_BSL_01: American kestrel – 500-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). Nest within temporary workspace (no structure work proposed). Nest within a tall (40-50 ft.) SDG&E steel structure, which is within a recently restored construction site, with an active construction yard approximately 450 feet to the northwest. Adult observed perched on tower. No nest activity observed, possibly incubating.

03212017_ACT_01: Bushtit – 250-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). Nest is shielded from the work zone because it lies approximately 30 feet below the grade of the road and work zone, near base of large retaining wall within coast live oak tree. Construction work would not be visible from nest location, and noise effects would be negligible. No nest activity observed, possibly incubating. Nest appears 100% complete.

03212017_ACT_02: House finch – 150-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). Nest is within ornamental vegetation immediately adjacent to busy roadways and commercial buildings. Adults observed foraging in area near nest location. No additional monitoring suggested during construction because these birds appear to be tolerant of human activity and because the nest is somewhat screened from the work zone by additional ornamental vegetation.

03212017_ACT_03: House finch – 150-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). Nest is within ornamental vegetation immediately adjacent to busy roadways and commercial buildings. Adults observed foraging on ground near nest location. No additional nest monitoring suggested during construction because these birds appear to be tolerant of human activity and because the nest is somewhat screened from the work zone by additional ornamental vegetation.



03212017_BSL_03: Red-tailed hawk – 500-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). Nest within large western sycamore rooted on the canyon bottom, but nest slightly above eye-level from street grade. Nest is near busy, active roadways and commercial buildings, but screened from view somewhat by a dense stand of *Eucalyptus* trees. Incubating adult did not leave nest or exhibit distressed behavior in surveyor's presence within 150 feet of nest.

03242017_ACT_01: Bushtit – 250-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). Nest is located within a coast live oak tree. No activity was observed at nest, possibly incubating. Nest appears 100% complete.

03242017_ACT_02: Anna's hummingbird – 250-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). No activity observed at nest. Female was not observed on the nest and the pair was not observed in the vicinity of the nest (observation time was approximately 10 minutes). Nest is 100% complete.

03242017_ACT_03: Lesser goldfinch – 250-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). Female and male were observed near nest; nest is not yet complete. Ambient noise levels were high at the time of the survey (traffic and jet noise). Birds engaged in normal, non-distressed behavior during the surveyor's presence. Nest approximately 85% complete.

03242017_ACT_04: Bushtit – 250-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). Nest is within low hanging coast live oak branches covered in wild cucumber vines. Nest appeared new with fresh, green vegetation woven into the nest. No nest activity observed, possibly incubating. Nest appears 100% complete.

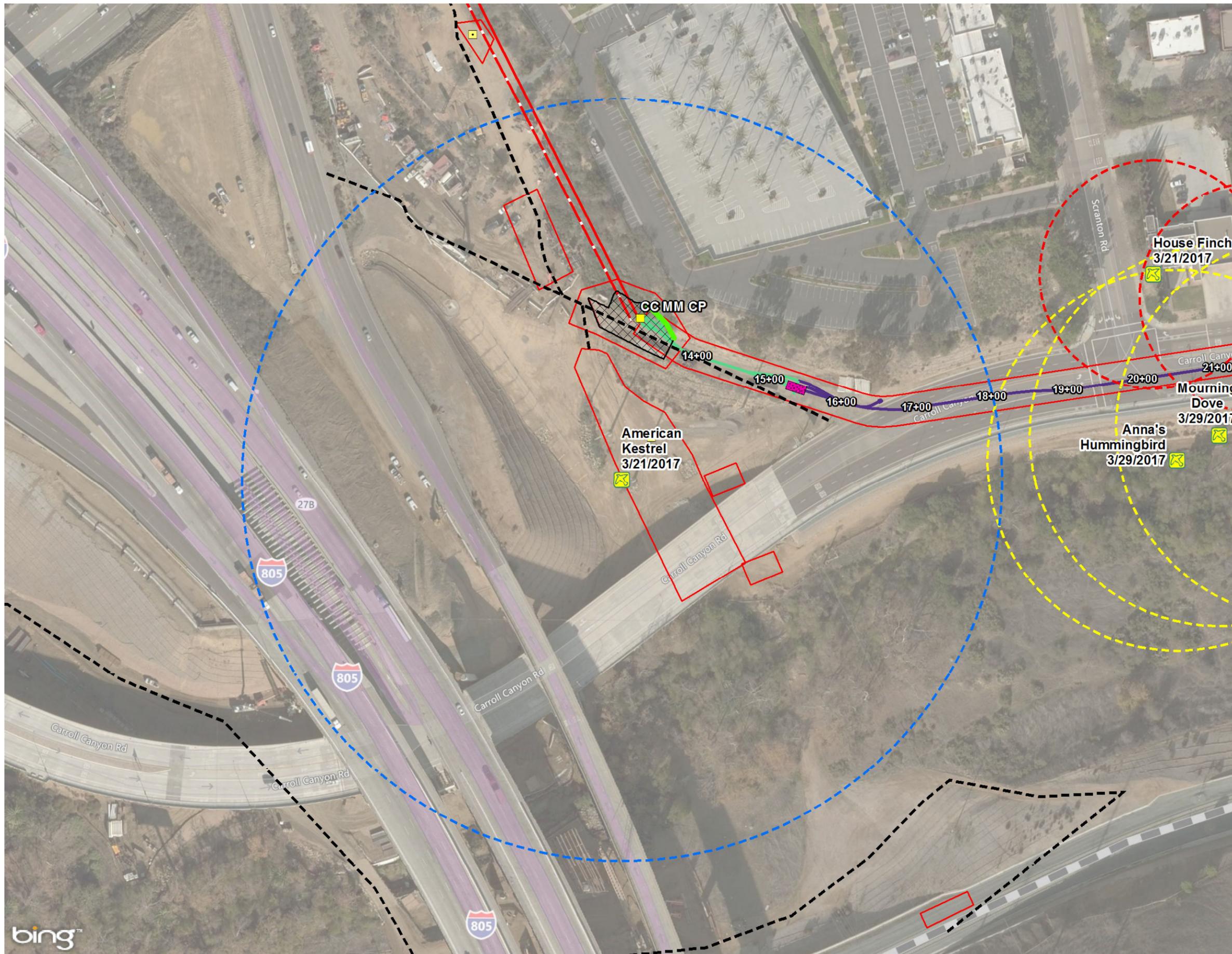
03292017_BLM_01: Red-tailed hawk – 500-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). Nest is located within a tall western sycamore tree between Carroll Canyon Creek and the railroad tracks. An adult was observed sitting in the nest. Ambient noise levels were high at the time of the survey, including rail traffic.

03292017_SML_01: Anna's hummingbird – 250-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). Nest is shielded from the work zone because it lies approximately 30 feet below the grade of the road and work zone, near base of large retaining wall within a black willow tree. Construction work would not be visible from nest location, and noise effects would be negligible. Ambient noise levels were high at the time of the survey (traffic and nearby non-project related construction). The female engaged in normal, non-distressed behavior (incubating) during the surveyor's presence.

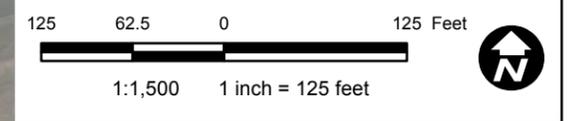
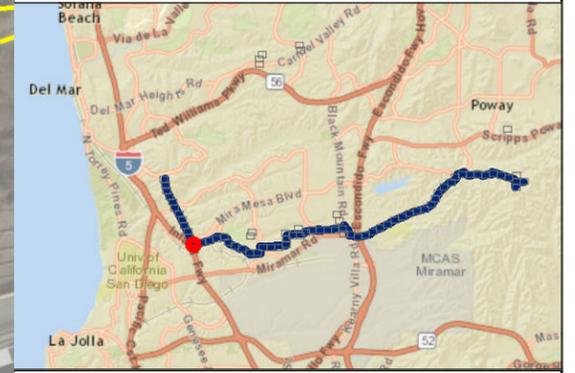
03292017_SML_02: Mourning dove – 250-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). Nest is shielded from the work zone because it lies approximately 30 feet below the grade of the road and work zone, near base of large retaining wall within a Peruvian pepper tree. Construction work would not be visible from nest location, and noise effects would be negligible. Ambient noise levels were high at the time of the survey (traffic and nearby non-project related construction). The female flushed from the nest when surveyors passed by within 10ft.

03292017_SML_03: Anna's hummingbird – 250-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). Nest is located within a tall western sycamore tree in a densely vegetated area. Ambient noise levels were high at the time of the survey (traffic and jets). Adult engaged in normal, non-distressed behavior (nest building/tending) during the surveyor's presence. Nest appears 40% complete.

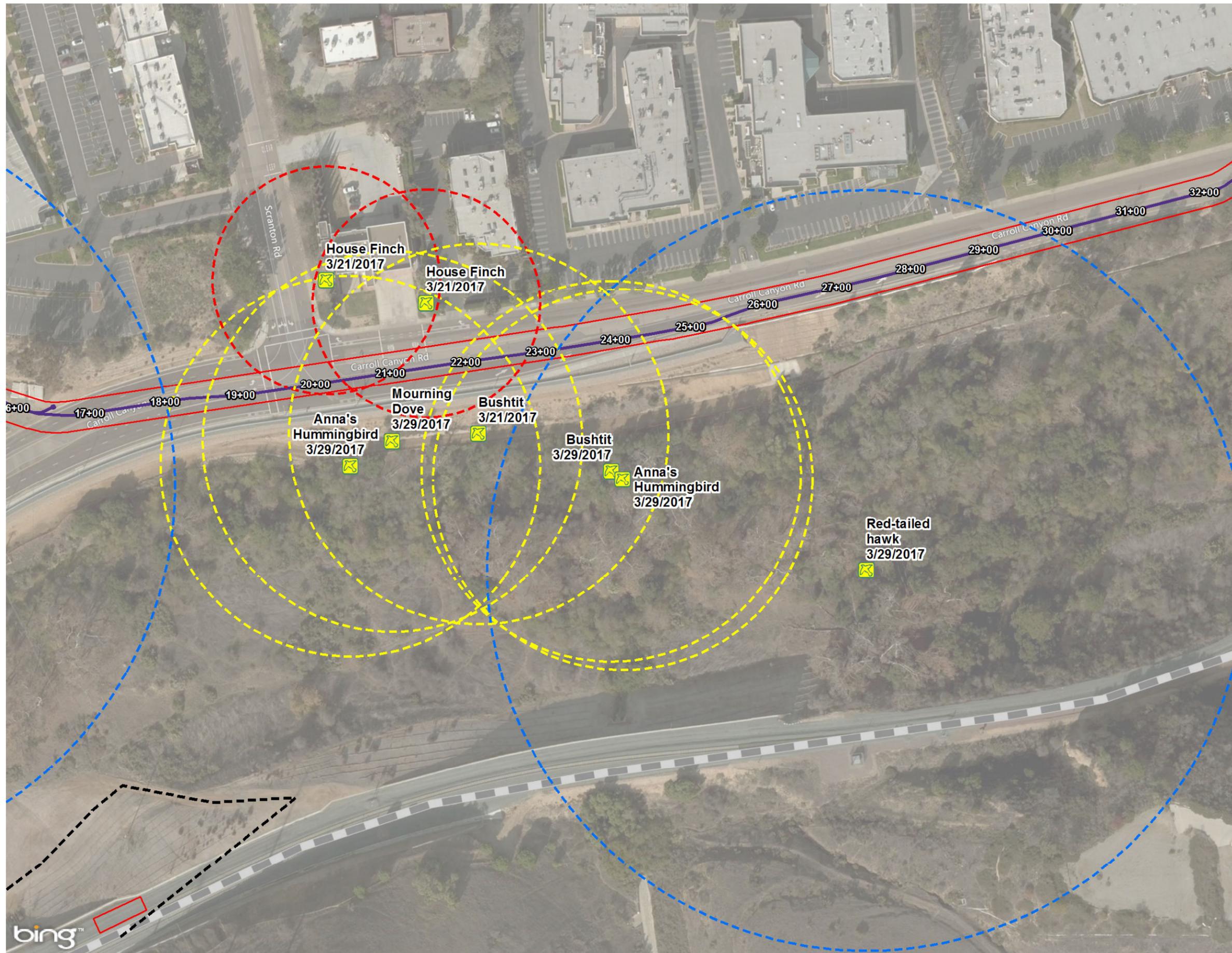
03292017_SML_04: Bushtit – 250-foot buffer required within work area (work within area would require a buffer reduction request). Nest is located within a tall coast live oak tree in a densely vegetated area. Ambient noise levels were high at the time of the survey (traffic and jets). Adult engaged in normal, non-distressed behavior (nest building/tending) during the surveyor's presence. Nest appears 95% complete.



- Legend**
- Bird Nests**
- Tracking**
- Active
- Bird Nest Buffers**
- 150 ft
 - 250 ft
 - 500 ft
 - AC Mitigation Location
- Structures**
- Proposed Structure
 - Retaining Wall
 - Access Roads
 - Permanent Impact
 - Temporary Work Space
 - Underground Vault
- Segment B**
- Segment 5, Section 1
 - Segment 5, Section 2
- Segment C**
- 230 kV New
 - 230 kV Reconductor



**Sycamore to Peñasquitos
230kV Transmission Line Project
Nesting Birds Survey Report**



Legend

Bird Nests

Tracking

Active

Bird Nest Buffers

150 ft

250 ft

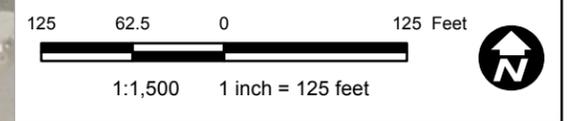
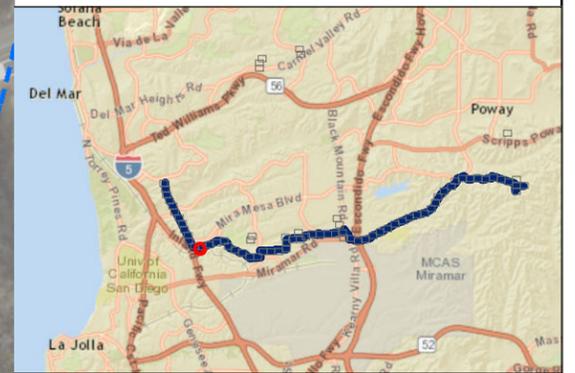
500 ft

Access Roads

Temporary Work Space

Segment B

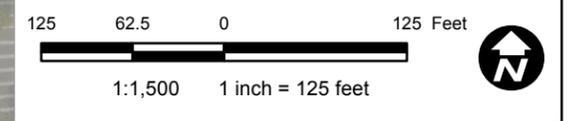
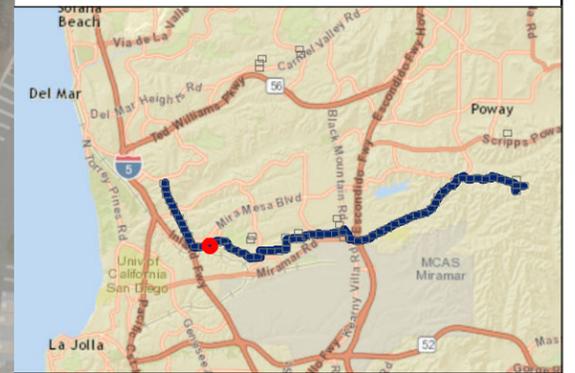
Segment 5, Section 2



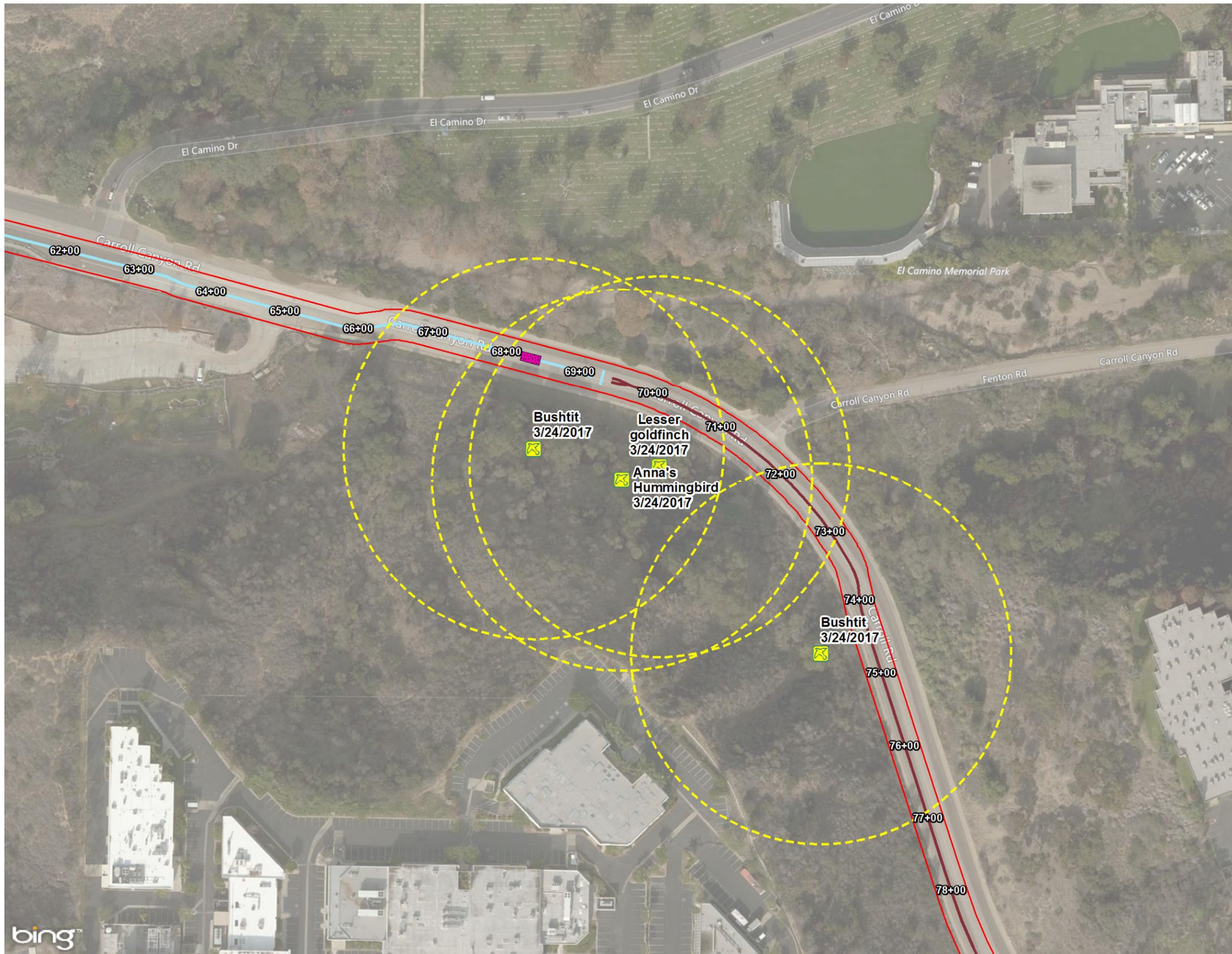
**Sycamore to Peñasquitos
230kV Transmission Line Project
Nesting Birds Survey Report**



- Legend**
- Bird Nests**
- Tracking**
- Active
- Bird Nest Buffers**
- 500 ft
 - Entrance Point
 - Staging Yard
 - Temporary Work Space
 - Underground Vault
- Segment B**
- Segment 5, Section 2
 - Segment 5, Section 3



**Sycamore to Peñasquitos
230kV Transmission Line Project
Nesting Birds Survey Report**



Legend

Bird Nests

Tracking

Active

Bird Nest Buffers

250 ft

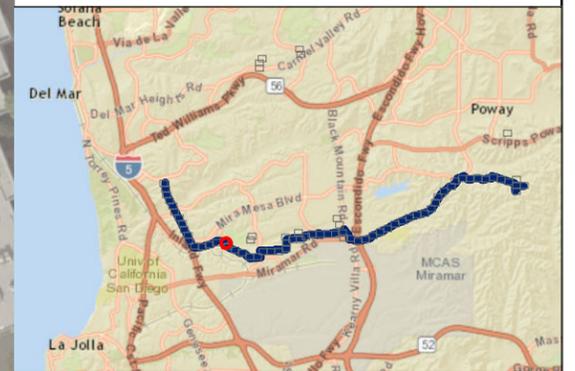
Temporary Work Space

Underground Vault

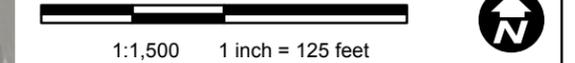
Segment B

Segment 5, Section 4

Segment 5, Section 5



125 62.5 0 125 Feet



**Sycamore to Peñasquitos
230kV Transmission Line Project
Nesting Birds Survey Report**