

July 27, 2010

Mr. Andrew Keller  
Southern California Edison  
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, G01 Quad 3A  
Rosemead, California 91770

**VIA EMAIL**  
**Andrew.Keller@sce.com**

**Subject:** Results of the Lyon's Pentachaeta Habitat Assessment Survey for the Presidential Substation Project, Ventura County, California

Dear Mr. Keller:

This Letter Report presents the findings of a Habitat Assessment for the federally and State-listed Endangered Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*) on the Presidential Substation Project site (hereafter referred to as the "Project site"), located in the Cities of Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley, and in unincorporated Ventura County, California (Exhibit 1). The Project is located on the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS's) Thousand Oaks and Simi 7.5-minute quadrangle maps (Exhibit 2). The purpose of the Habitat Assessment was to determine if suitable habitat is present for Lyon's pentachaeta on the Project site.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project will consist of a new substation and a new 66-kilovolt (kV) subtransmission line route. In addition, the Project will include the removal of approximately 89 distribution poles and 9 subtransmission poles located within existing rights-of-way, and their replacement with approximately 66 subtransmission poles to accommodate a new 66-kV subtransmission line that would feed the Project from 2 existing 66-kV subtransmission lines. Construction of the new subtransmission line would occur within approximately 3.5 miles of existing right-of-way.

## METHODS

BonTerra Consulting Botanist Jeff Crain conducted the Habitat Assessment on June 3, 2010. The survey area includes an Alternative Substation Site, the land the substation is located on (Day parcel), and a 50-foot buffer on either side of the Proposed Subtransmission Line Route (Exhibit 3). Per Southern California Edison (SCE), the survey area did not include the Proposed Substation Site (Humkar parcel) due to access issues, and this site was surveyed for pentachaeta in 2009. Known reference populations for Lyon's pentachaeta were visited prior to the survey visit.

Botanical surveys were floristic in nature and consistent with the current guidelines created by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG 2009). All plant species observed were recorded in field notes. Plant species were identified in the field or collected for subsequent identification using keys in Hickman (1993) and Munz (1974). Taxonomy follows Hickman (1993) and current scientific data (e.g., scientific journals) for scientific and common names.



## BACKGROUND

### Lyon's Pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*)

Lyon's pentachaeta typically blooms between March and August (CNPS 2010). This low slender annual herb occurs at elevations between approximately 100 and 2,100 feet above mean sea level; it prefers coastal habitats, including chaparral, coastal scrub, and rocky clay grasslands, and is known to occur in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (CNPS 2010).

On November 14, 2006, the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published the Final Rule designating critical habitat for Lyon's pentachaeta (USFWS 2006). This designation includes approximately 3,396 acres in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, California. The Proposed Substation Site is located in Subunit 1C of the Simi Valley Critical Habitat Unit (Exhibit 3).

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Vegetation types within the survey area include coastal sage scrub, disturbed coastal sage scrub, non-native grassland, marsh, oak woodland, California walnut woodland, agriculture, ornamental/developed, ruderal, and disturbed. The soil types within the survey area include Cibo clay, Calleguas-Arnold complex, Cropley clay, Gilroy clay loam, Gilroy very rocky loam, Hambright very rocky loam, Linne silty clay loam, Mocho loam, San Andreas sandy loam, San Benito clay loam, and Vina loam.

## SURVEY RESULTS

Lyon's pentachaeta was not observed during the survey, and no suitable habitat is present within the survey area. In addition, Mr. Crain conducted focused plant surveys on a portion of the Proposed Subtransmission Line Route and at the Proposed Substation Site in April, May, and June, 2009; this species was not observed. This species requires exposed soils with a microbotic crust and a mosaic of bare ground patches (>10 percent) in an area with less than 60 percent cover (USFWS 2006). These conditions are not present within the survey area; therefore, suitable habitat is not present in the survey area and focused surveys are not recommended. However, suitable habitat for Lyon's pentachaeta does exist on the Proposed Substation Site, and focused surveys should be conducted prior to construction.

If you have any comments or questions, please call Stacie Tennant or Jeff Crain at (714) 444-9199.

Sincerely,

BONTERRA CONSULTING



Stacie A. Tennant  
Senior Project Manager

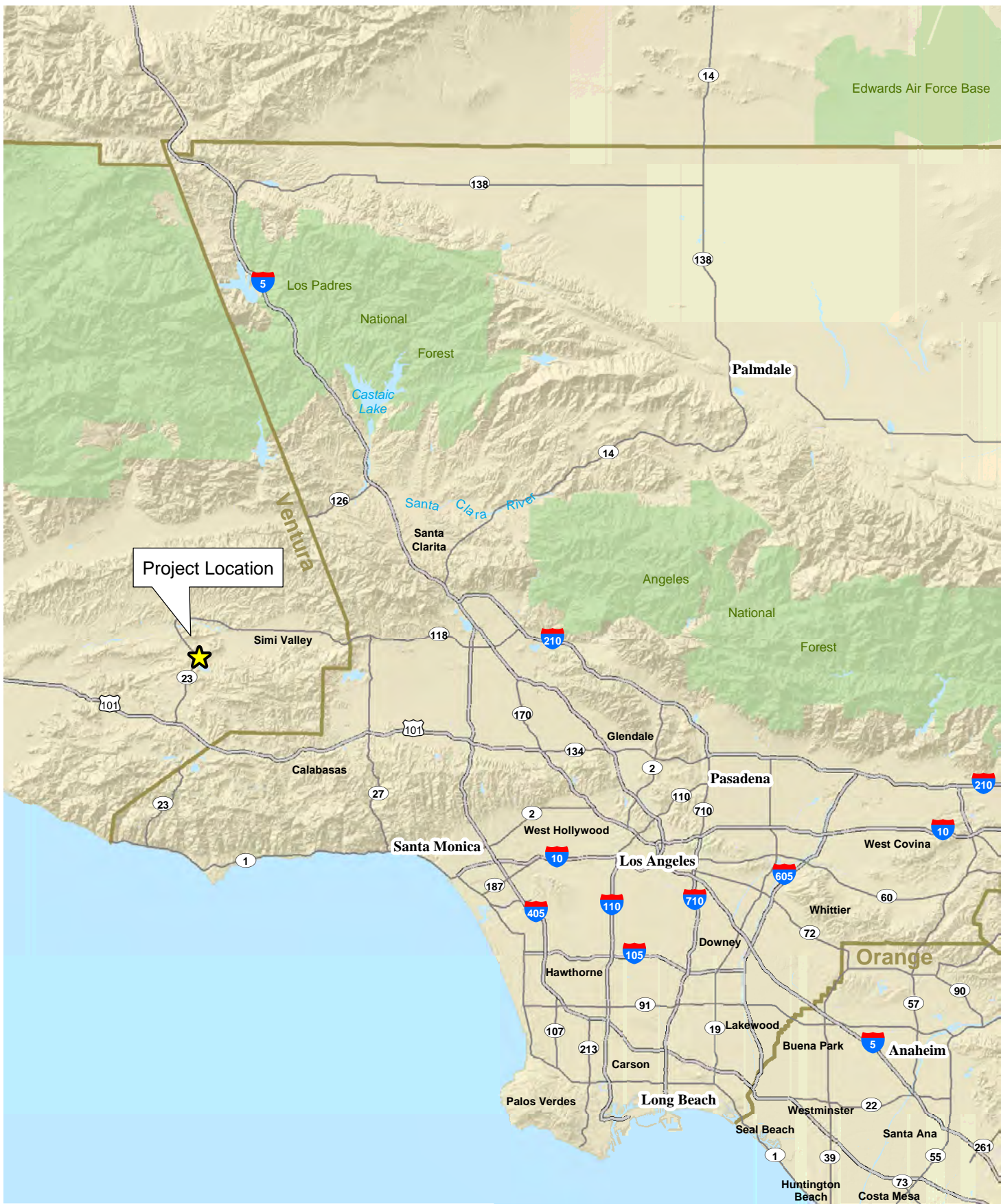


Jeffrey S. Crain  
Botanist/Restoration Ecologist

Enclosures: Exhibit 1 – Regional Location  
Exhibit 2 – USGS Quadrangle  
Exhibit 3 – Local Vicinity

## REFERENCES

- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 2010. California Natural Diversity Database. Records of Occurrence for Thousand Oaks and Simi quadrangle maps. Sacramento, CA: CDFG, Natural Heritage Division.
- . 2009 (November 24). *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities*. Sacramento, CA: CDFG.
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2010. Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California. Records of Occurrence for Thousand Oaks and Simi quadrangle maps. Sacramento, CA: CNPS. <http://www.cnps.org/inventory>.
- Hickman, J.C., Ed. 1993. *The Jepson Manual of Higher Plants of California*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Munz, P.A. 1974. *A Flora of Southern California*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2006 (November 14). Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for *Astragalus brauntonii* and *Pentachaeta lyonii*; Final Rule. *Federal Register* 71(219): 66373–66423. Washington, D.C.: USFWS.



## Regional Location

Presidential Substation Project

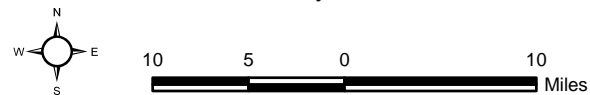
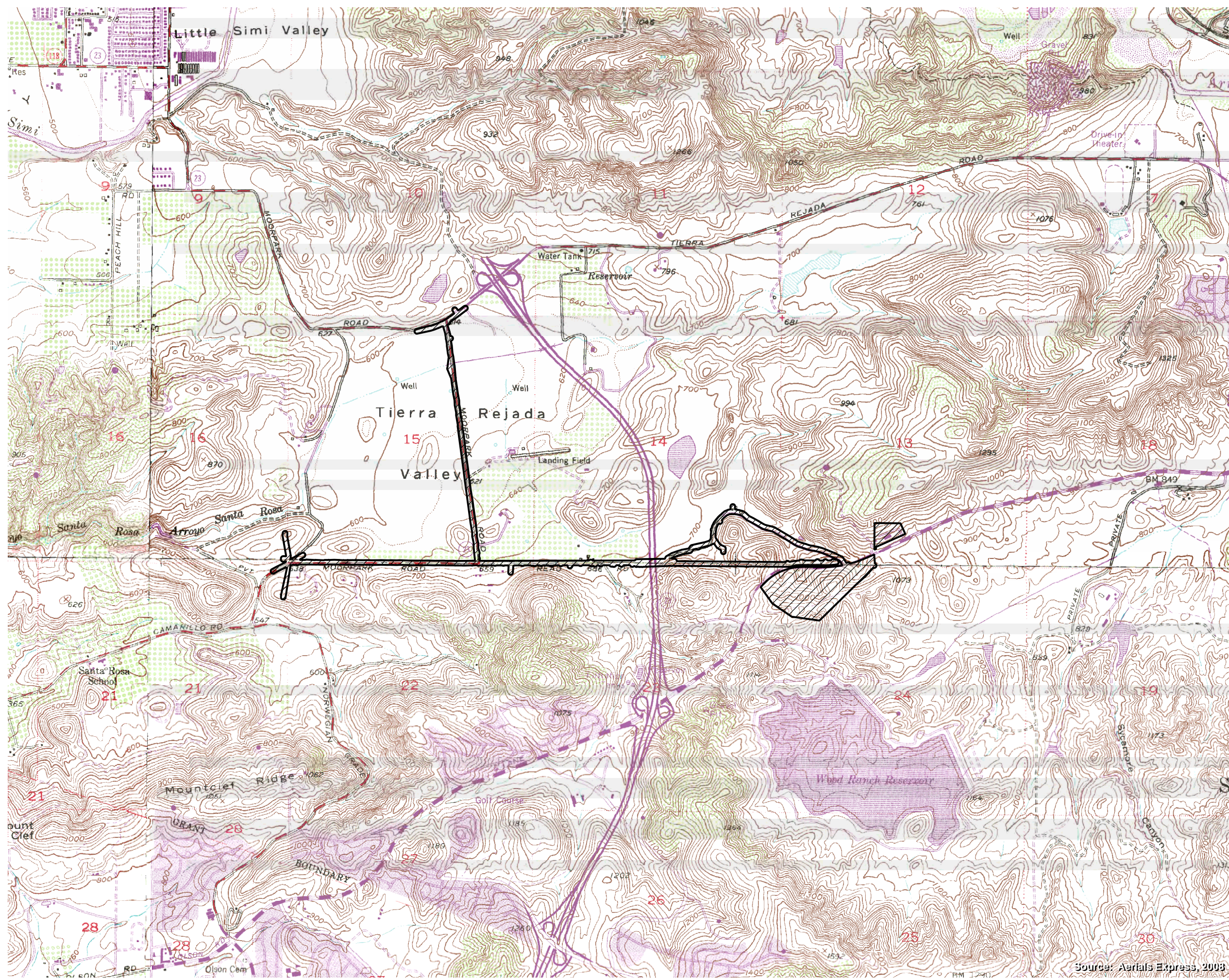


Exhibit 1





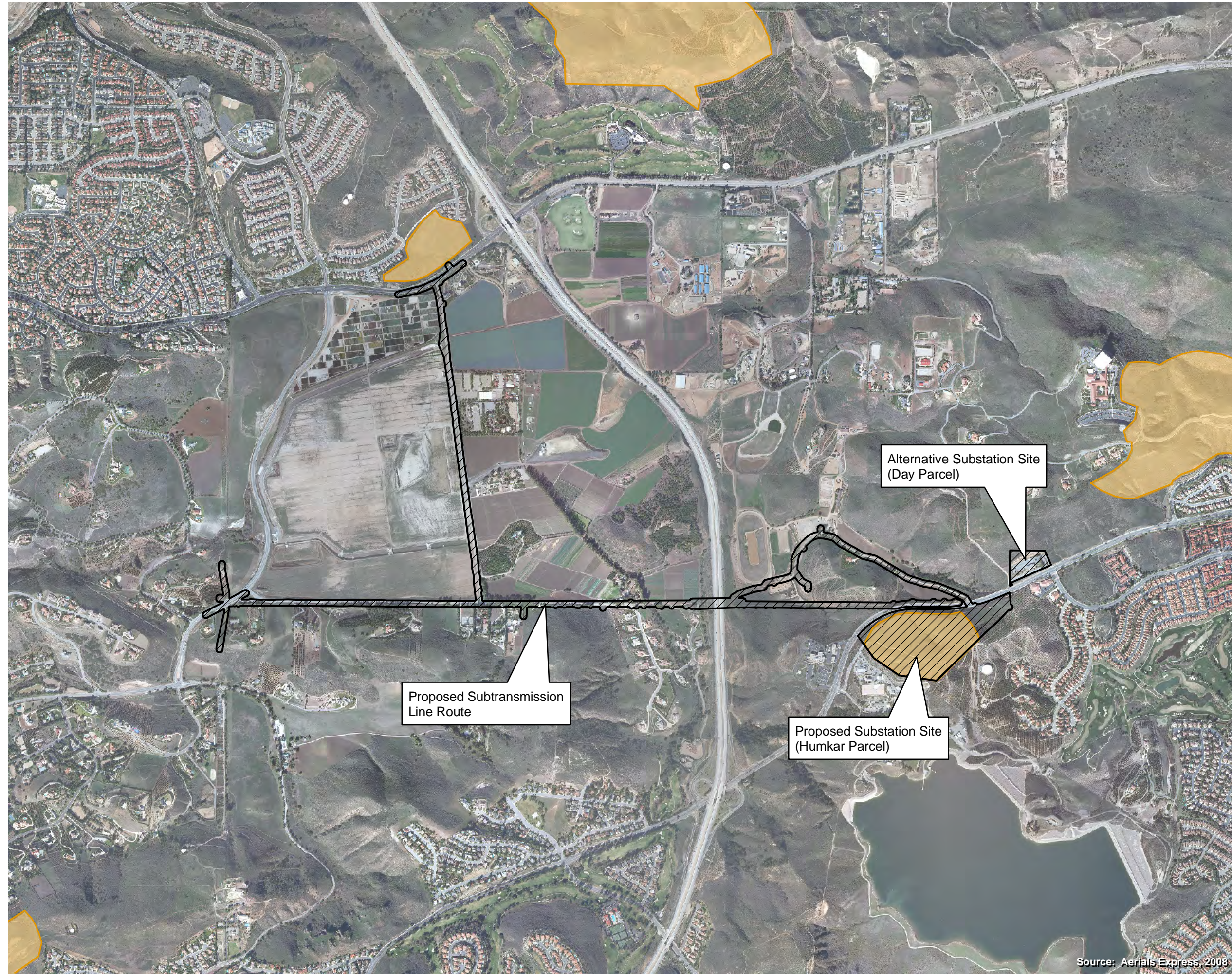
 Project Boundary

USGS Quadrangle Exhibit 2

Presidential Substation Project

0 2,000 Feet



**Bonterra**  
CONSULTING



Alternative Substation Site  
(Day Parcel)

Proposed Subtransmission  
Line Route

Proposed Substation Site  
(Humkar Parcel)

-  Project Boundary
-  Lyons Pentachaeta  
Critical Habitat 2009F

Local Vicinity Exhibit 3

Presidential Substation Project



Source: Aerials Express, 2008

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