



## **Nest Buffer Reduction Request**

**To: Billie Blanchard, California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)**

**Cc: Jeff Thomas (Panorama), Sheila Hoyer (Panorama)**

**Subject: Mitigation Measure (MM) Biology-7 Nest Buffer Reduction Request**

**From: Brynne Mulrooney, Qualified Biologist**

**Date: 03/30/2017**

In accordance with MM Biology-7 of the Sycamore-Penasquitos 230 kV Transmission Line Project (Project) SDG&E is requesting nesting bird buffer reductions to accommodate scheduled potholing, sawcutting, and trenching activities associated with construction of the underground alignment of the Project. If granted, the duration of these buffer reductions would be effective from 4/2/2017 until ground disturbing activities are complete within the reduced buffer or the nest becomes inactive, whichever occurs sooner.

A total of 14 common bird species nests have been identified between STA 14 + 00 and STA 77+00 as identified in the Nest Survey Report dated March 30, 2017. Table 1 contains the following information for each recorded nest SDG&E is requesting a buffer reduction for:

- Species
- Location
- Pre-existing conditions present on site
- Description of the work to be conducted within the reduced buffer
- Size and expected duration of proposed buffer reduction
- Reason for the buffer reduction

If SDG&E does not receive a response to the request for a buffer reduction within 1 business day, SDG&E will proceed with the buffer reduction recommended by the Qualified Biologist until the CPUC's independent biologist can review and approve or deny the buffer reduction request. If SDG&E proceeds with a reduced buffer, nests will be monitored on a daily basis during construction activities. If the buffer request is denied, or the Qualified Biologist determines that the nesting birds(s) are not tolerant of project activity, the specified buffer(s) listed in MM Bio-7 will be implemented.

If you have any questions regarding the details of this request, please contact the Qualified Biologist making the buffer reduction request at the contact information below:

Brynne Mulrooney

C: 305-849-2765

[bmulrooney@balkbiological.com](mailto:bmulrooney@balkbiological.com)

Balk Biological, Inc.

322 Encinitas Blvd. #290

Encinitas, CA 92024

Sycamore to Penasquitos 230 kV Transmission Line Project Nesting Bird Buffer Reduction Request

Date: 03/30/2017

Nest Information									Buffer Reduction Request						
Nest ID <sup>1</sup>	Species <sup>2</sup>	Listing Status <sup>3</sup>	Nest Stage <sup>4</sup>	Observation Notes <sup>5</sup>	Latitude (decimal degrees)	Longitude (decimal degrees)	Estimated Fledge Date	Nesting Bird Behavior	Standard Buffer	Buffer Reduction Necessary for Construction	Pre-Existing Conditions Onsite	Reason for Buffer Reduction/Biologist Recommendation	Duration of Buffer Reduction	Work Activity Description	Monitoring Approach
03212017_BSL_01	American kestrel (AMKE)	Common	Building, Incubating	<p>3/21- Pair observed entering into north arm of existing steel tower (Z119817). Nest material blew out of nest cavity; CB</p> <p>3/29- One adult observed perched on top of tower; possibly incubating</p>	32.88932	-117.20317	Unknown	Building and possibly incubating nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	500 feet	30 feet	Nest is located adjacent to I-805 within a recently restored construction site, with an active construction site approximately 450 feet northwest.	Nest is in proximity to busy freeway, railroad tracks, off-ramps, major streets, and commercial buildings. Birds have been exposed to high levels of noise and human activity. Recommendation is to approve buffer with daily monitoring for duration of construction.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults. Work requiring road closure may occur at night.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)
03212017_ACT_01	Bushtit (BUSH)	Common	Incubating	<p>3/21- Adult observed building nest in coast live oak tree.</p> <p>3/29- No activity observed at nest, possibly incubating.</p>	32.88953	-117.20024	Unknown	Incubating nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	250 feet	85 feet	Nest is located between Carroll Canyon road and railroad track, and is below grade of Carroll Canyon Road.	Construction work is not visible from nest location, and noise effects would be negligible. Birds have been exposed to high levels of noise and human activity. Recommendation is to approve buffer with daily monitoring for duration of construction.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults. Work requiring road closure may occur at night.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)
03212017_ACT_02	House finch (HOFI)	Common	Building	<p>3/21- Pair observed carrying nesting material into ornamental Italian cypress tree.</p> <p>3/29- Pair observed foraging in area.</p>	32.89008	-117.2009	Unknown	Building nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	150 feet	95 feet	Nest is located on Carroll Canyon road adjacent to I-805 and within 50 feet of a fire station.	Birds have been exposed to high levels of noise and human activity. Recommendation is to approve buffer with daily monitoring for duration of construction.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults. Work requiring road closure may occur at night.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)
03212017_ACT_03	House finch (HOFI)	Common	Building	<p>3/21- Pair observed carrying nesting material into ornamental shrub.</p> <p>3/29- Pair observed foraging on ground near nest.</p>	32.89	-117.20047	Unknown	Building nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	150 feet	50 feet	Nest is located on Carroll Canyon road adjacent to I-805 and within 50 feet of a fire station.	Birds have been exposed to high levels of noise and human activity. Recommendation is to approve buffer with daily monitoring for duration of construction.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults. Work requiring road closure may occur at night.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)

Sycamore to Penasquitos 230 kV Transmission Line Project Nesting Bird Buffer Reduction Request

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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	Unknown	Incubating nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	500 feet	150 feet	Nest is located within open space area south of Carroll Canyon Road. Nest is near busy, active roadways and commercial buildings.	Nest is near busy, active roadways and commercial buildings, but screened from view somewhat by a dense stand of Eucalyptus trees. Noise associated with potholing activities would typically be limited to short duration sawcutting occurring over a period of less than 30 minutes in any one location. Recommend approval for potholing activities. Recommend re-evaluation prior to any other ground disturbing activities.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults. Work requiring road closure may occur at night.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)
03242017_ACT_01	Bushiti (BUSH)	Common	Building, Incubating	3/21- A flock of 3 birds (potentially 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.	32.89202	-117.18609	Unknown	Building and possibly incubating nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	250 feet	85 feet	Nest is located south of Carroll Canyon road within open space. Nest is near busy, active roadway.	Nest is near busy, active roadway but may be adversely impacted by exposure to construction noise. Noise associated with potholing activities would typically be limited to short duration sawcutting occurring over a period of less than 30 minutes in any one location. Recommend approval for potholing activities. Recommend re-evaluation prior to any other ground disturbing activities.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults. Work requiring road closure may occur at night.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)
03242017_ACT_02	Anna's Hummingbird (ANHU)	Common	Incubating	3/21-Female observed sitting in nest.  3/29- No activity observed.	32.89191	-117.18571	Unknown	Incubating nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	250 feet	90 feet	Nest is located south of Carroll Canyon road within open space. Nest is near busy, active roadway.	Nest is near busy, active roadway but may be adversely impacted by exposure to construction noise. Noise associated with potholing activities would typically be limited to short duration sawcutting occurring over a period of less than 30 minutes in any one location. Recommend approval for potholing activities. Recommend re-evaluation prior to any other ground disturbing activities.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults. Work requiring road closure may occur at night.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)
03242017_ACT_03	Lesser goldfinch (LEGO)	Common	Building	3/21-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	Unknown	Building nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	250 feet	55 feet	Nest is located south of Carroll Canyon road within open space. Nest is near busy, active roadway.	Nest is near busy, active roadway but may be adversely impacted by exposure to construction noise. Noise associated with potholing activities would typically be limited to short duration sawcutting occurring over a period of less than 30 minutes in any one location. Recommend approval for potholing activities. Recommend re-evaluation prior to any other ground disturbing activities.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults. Work requiring road closure may occur at night.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)

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03242017_ACT_04	Bushitit (BUSH)	Common	Building, incubating	3/21- 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	Unknown  Standard incubation is 12-13 days; standard nestling period is 18 days	Building and possibly incubating nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	250 feet	40 feet	Nest is located south of Carroll Canyon road within open space. Nest is near busy, active roadway.	Nest is near busy, active roadway but may be adversely impacted by exposure to construction noise. Noise associated with potholing activities would typically be limited to short duration sawcutting occurring over a period of less than 30 minutes in any one location. Recommend approval for potholing activities. Recommend re-evaluation prior to any other ground disturbing activities.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Nighttime Construction. Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults.  Buffer reduction is being requested to allow construction to remain on schedule for completion date per CPUC permit.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)
03292017_BLM_01	Red-tailed hawk (RTHA)	Common	Incubating	Adult observed on nest in western sycamore.	32.88905	-117.19857	Unknown  Standard incubation is 28-35 days; standard nestling period is 42-46 days	Incubating nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	500 feet	330 feet	Nest is located south of Carroll Canyon road and approximately 200 feet north of railroad track.	Noise effects from construction would be negligible as nest is over 200 feet from construction work areas. Birds have been exposed to high levels of noise due to proximity to railway. Recommendation is to approve buffer with daily monitoring for duration of construction.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Nighttime Construction. Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults.  Buffer reduction is being requested to allow construction to remain on schedule for completion date per CPUC permit.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)
03292017_SML_01	Anna's Hummingbird (ANHU)	Common	Incubating	Female observed sitting in nest.	32.88941	-117.20079	Unknown  Standard incubation is 16 days; standard nestling period is 20 days	Incubating nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	250 feet	140 feet	Nest is located between Carroll Canyon road and railroad track, and is below grade of Carroll Canyon Road.	Construction work is not visible from nest location, and noise effects would be negligible. Birds have been exposed to high levels of noise and human activity. Recommendation is to approve buffer with daily monitoring for duration of construction.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Nighttime Construction. Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults.  Buffer reduction is being requested to allow construction to remain on schedule for completion date per CPUC permit.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)
03292017_SML_02	Mourning Dove (MODO)	Common	Incubating	Female observed sitting in nest.	32.8895	-117.20061	Unknown  Standard incubation is 14 days; standard nestling period is 12-15 days	Incubating nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	250 feet	110 feet	Nest is located between Carroll Canyon road and railroad track, and is below grade of Carroll Canyon Road.	Construction work is not visible from nest location, and noise effects would be negligible. Birds have been exposed to high levels of noise and human activity. Recommendation is to approve buffer with daily monitoring for duration of construction.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Nighttime Construction. Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults.  Buffer reduction is being requested to allow construction to remain on schedule for completion date per CPUC permit.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)
03292017_SML_03	Anna's Hummingbird (ANHU)	Common	Building	Adult observed tending to nest; approx. 40% complete.	32.88937	-117.19962	Unknown  Standard incubation is 16 days; standard nestling period is 20 days	Building nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	250 feet	200 feet	Nest is located between Carroll Canyon road and railroad track, and is below grade of Carroll Canyon Road.	Construction work is not visible from nest location, and noise effects would be negligible. Birds have been exposed to high levels of noise and human activity. Recommendation is to approve buffer with daily monitoring for duration of construction.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults.  Buffer reduction is being requested to allow construction to remain on schedule for completion date per CPUC permit.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)

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03292017_SML_04	Bushit (BUSH)	Common	Building	Adult observed tending to nest; approx. 95% complete.	32.8894	-117.19967	Unknown  Standard incubation is 12-13 days; standard nestling period is 18 days	Building nest. Appear tolerant of human activity.	250 feet	190 feet	Nest is located between Carroll Canyon road and railroad track, and is below grade of Carroll Canyon Road.	Construction work is not visible from nest location, and noise effects would be negligible. Birds have been exposed to high levels of noise and human activity. Recommendation is to approve buffer with daily monitoring for duration of construction.	For entire duration of proposed work (4/2/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Proposed construction activities include pot-holing and excavation and trenching for installation of new underground 230kV line and vaults.  Buffer reduction is being requested to allow construction to remain on schedule for completion date per CPUC permit.	Nest will be monitored each morning, following nighttime construction in the vicinity. Monitoring will include direct observation of nest, detection of adult birds at or around nest, notation of adult birds' behavior, and determination of nest status (active, fledged, failed, unknown, etc.)
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