



## **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: Amy Trexler, Qualified Biologist**

**Date: 04/11/2017**

In accordance with MM Biology-7 of the Sycamore-Penasquitos 230 kV Transmission Line Project (Project) San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) is requesting nesting bird buffer reductions to accommodate scheduled potholing, saw cutting, and trenching activities associated with construction of the underground alignment of the Project. Please note these buffer reductions would be effective from 4/10/2017 until ground disturbing activities are complete within the reduced buffer or the nest becomes inactive, whichever occurs sooner.

A total of 2 common bird species nests have been identified between STA 68 + 00 and STA 75+00. These nests were observed while monitoring previously recorded nests in an active construction area. The attached table 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

Also, please find attached a map showing the location of the documented nest, the standard nest buffer limits identified in MM Biology-7, and the reduced buffer limits being recommended by the Qualified Biologist.

As these nests were found in an active construction area, SDG&E has implemented the buffer reduction recommended by the Qualified Biologist. 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:

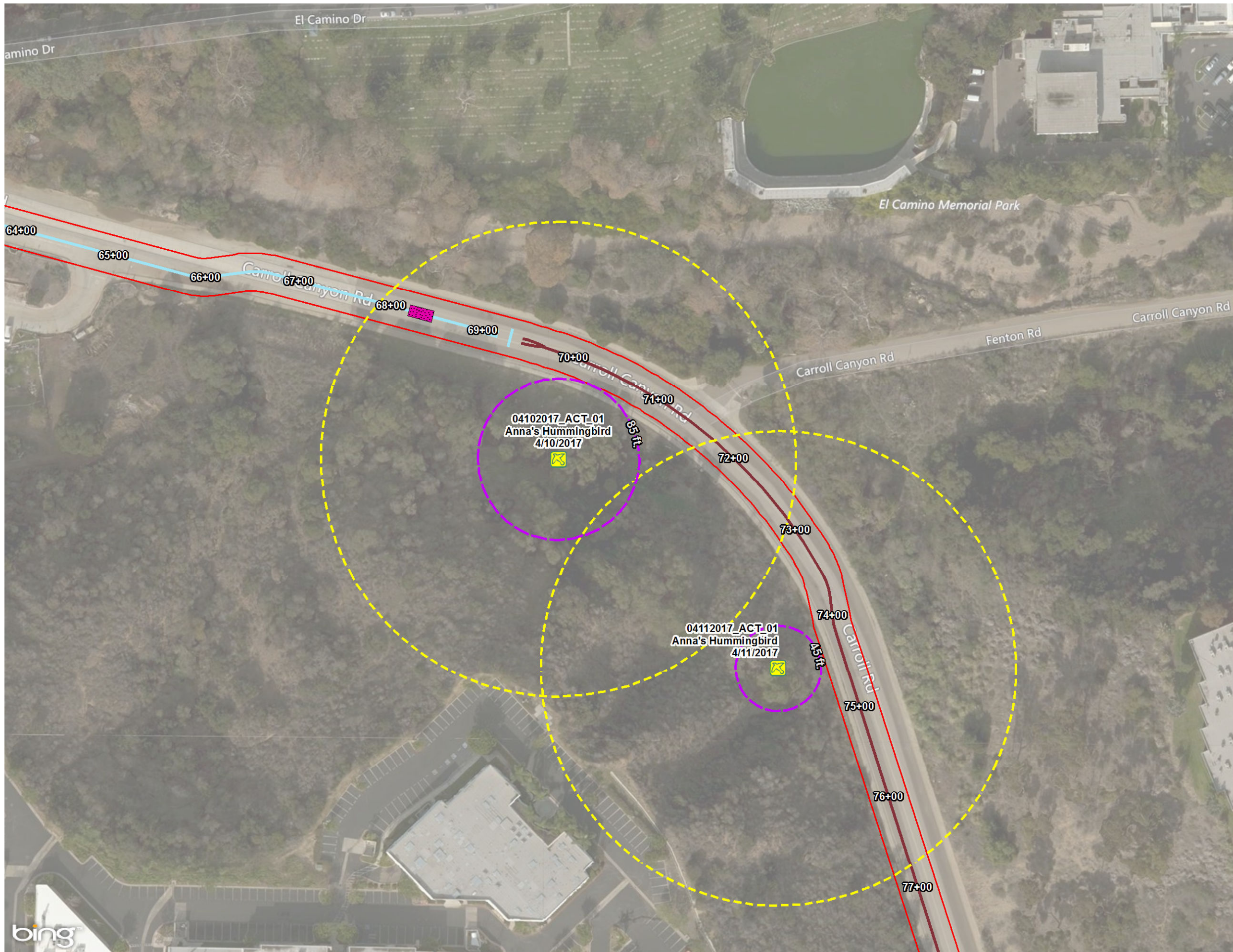
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Sycamore to Penasquitos 230 kV Transmission Line Project Nesting Bird Buffer Reduction Request

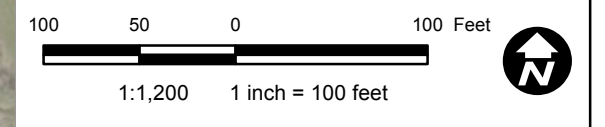
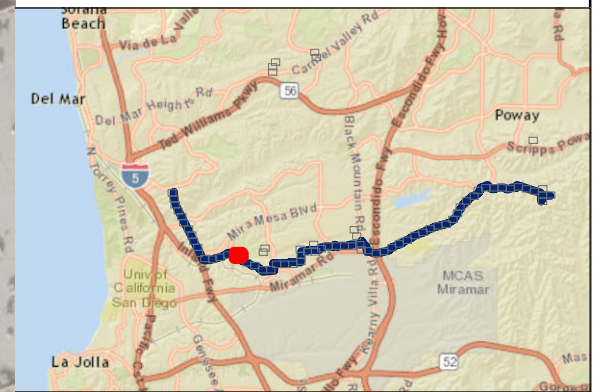
Date: 04/11/2017

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	Reduced Buffer Necessary for Construction	Pre-Existing Conditions Onsite	Reason for Buffer Reduction/Biologist Recommendation	Duration of Buffer Reduction	Work Activity Description	Monitoring Approach
04102017_ACT_01	Anna's Hummingbird (ANHU)	Common	Incubating	4/10- Female observed sitting in nest	32.89193	-117.18563	Unknown Standard incubation is 12- 13 days; standard nestling period is 18 days	Incubating nest. Appears tolerant of construction & human activity.	250 feet	85 feet	Nest is located south of Carroll Canyon road at street level. Nest is near busy, active roadway.	Nest is located in active construction area and is tolerant of work activities. It is also near busy, active roadway. 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 (4/11/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Construction activities include saw cutting, 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.	Nests will be monitored in the morning within 4 hours of sunrise immediately following construction from a distance using binoculars or a spotting scope whenever possible to minimize nest disturbance. If nest cannot be adequately monitored from a distance, the CPUC qualified biologists (qualified biologist) will approach the nest to gather nest data. When approaching a nest, the qualified biologist will first determine whether there are any potential nest predators nearby, such as raptors, corvids, jays, and brown-headed cowbirds. If no predators are observed, the qualified biologist will approach the nest and collect nest data. The qualified biologist will observe the nest for a sufficient amount of time based on their professional judgment (usually between 30-60 minutes if an adult is not immediately observed on the nest) to determine nest status and will record the nest status (e.g., nest building, incubating, nestlings, etc.), and observe avian behavior (carrying food, agitation or distress, etc.). If the qualified biologist is unable to make a determination on nest status and has not detected the nest pair in the vicinity of the nest, the qualified biologist will continue to monitor the nest daily for a period of 5 days. If the qualified biologist is not able to determine nest status after 5 days due to lack of activity at the nest (including the observation of fledgling groups in the vicinity of the nest), the biologist will determine the nest is no longer active.
04112017_ACT_01	Anna's Hummingbird (ANHU)	Common	Building	4/11-Adult observed building nest. Nest approx. 95% complete.	32.89133	-117.18487	Unknown Standard incubation is 12- 13 days; standard nestling period is 18 days	Actively building nest. Appears tolerant of construction & human activity.	250 feet	45 feet	Nest is located south of Carroll Canyon road at street level. Nest is near busy, active roadway.	Nest is located in active construction area and is tolerant of work activities. It is also near busy, active roadway. 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 (4/11/17 - 8/31/17), or until nest is no longer active	Construction activities include saw cutting, 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.	Nests will be monitored in the morning within 4 hours of sunrise immediately following construction from a distance using binoculars or a spotting scope whenever possible to minimize nest disturbance. If nest cannot be adequately monitored from a distance, the CPUC qualified biologists (qualified biologist) will approach the nest to gather nest data. When approaching a nest, the qualified biologist will first determine whether there are any potential nest predators nearby, such as raptors, corvids, jays, and brown-headed cowbirds. If no predators are observed, the qualified biologist will approach the nest and collect nest data. The qualified biologist will observe the nest for a sufficient amount of time based on their professional judgment (usually between 30-60 minutes if an adult is not immediately observed on the nest) to determine nest status and will record the nest status (e.g., nest building, incubating, nestlings, etc.), and observe avian behavior (carrying food, agitation or distress, etc.). If the qualified biologist is unable to make a determination on nest status and has not detected the nest pair in the vicinity of the nest, the qualified biologist will continue to monitor the nest daily for a period of 5 days. If the qualified biologist is not able to determine nest status after 5 days due to lack of activity at the nest (including the observation of fledgling groups in the vicinity of the nest), the biologist will determine the nest is no longer active.





- Legend**
- Bird Nests**
  - Tracking**
    - Active
  - Reduced Bird Nest Buffers**
    - Proposed Reduced Buffer
  - Standard Bird Nest Buffers**
    - 250 ft
    - Temporary Work Space
    - Underground Vault
  - Segment B**
    - Segment 5, Section 4
    - Segment 5, Section 5



**Sycamore to Peñasquitos  
230kV Transmission Line Project  
Nesting Bird Observations  
Buffer Reduction Request**