



***CIRCLE MOUNTAIN BIOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS, INC.***

**P.O. BOX 3197, WRIGHTWOOD, CA 92397**

**PHONE/FAX: (760) 249-4948**

**Email: [sharon\\_dougherty@circlemountainbiological.com](mailto:sharon_dougherty@circlemountainbiological.com)**

**Website: <http://www.circlemountainbiological.com>**

30 October 2017

Mr. Moussa Waw  
c/o Steeno Design Studios  
11774 Hesperia Road  
Hesperia, CA 92345

RE: Updated Biological Survey APN 0467-101-12, Helendale, CA

Dear Mr. Waw,

This letter documents the results of the updated focused survey for Agassiz's desert tortoise and burrowing owl on your 1.72-acre property, APN 0467-101-12, located at the southwestern corner of National Trails Highway and Vista Road, in the community of Helendale, San Bernardino County, California. The property was originally surveyed in June of 2016 by Circle Mountain Biological Consultants, Inc. (CMBC), and the results of that survey were presented in a report, "Focused Survey for Agassiz's Desert Tortoise, Habitat Assessments for Burrowing Owl and Mohave Ground Squirrel, and General Biological Resource Assessment for a 1.72-acre Site (APN 0467-101-012) in the Community of Helendale, San Bernardino County, California," dated June 2016. This letter is considered a supplement to that report.

On 26 October 2017, Sharon Dougherty of CMBC completed a survey of the site and adjacent areas, following US Fish and Wildlife Service (2010) protocols for detection of desert tortoise and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (California Department of Fish and Game 2012) protocols for burrowing owl surveys. The results of the current survey include detection a desert tortoise burrow approximately 490 feet northeast of the subject property. No other sign of desert tortoise or of burrowing owl was found. In 2016, CMBC found an older desert tortoise scat in the about 200m southwest of the burrow location. A map is attached showing results of both the 2016 and 2017 surveys.

CMBC's conclusions and recommendations remain the same as described in the 2016 report. "Given the presence of desert tortoise [sign] in the surrounding area, it is possible that an animal could move through the site on an occasional basis, but given the poor quality of habitat on the site, it is unlikely that a tortoise would become resident on the site."

“CMBC considers that impacts to tortoises can be avoided if the site is fenced with tortoise fencing and clearance surveys for desert tortoise are completed prior to brushing the site, and if the fence is maintained during construction. It is prudent to contact USFWS to review this report to agree or disagree with this conclusion.”

In addition, to avoid violation of Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, “CDFW typically requires that vegetation not be removed from a project site between March 15 and September 15 to avoid impacts to nesting birds. If it is necessary to commence project construction between March 15 and September 15, a qualified biologist should survey all shrubs and structures within the project site for nesting birds, prior to project activities (including construction and/or site preparation).”

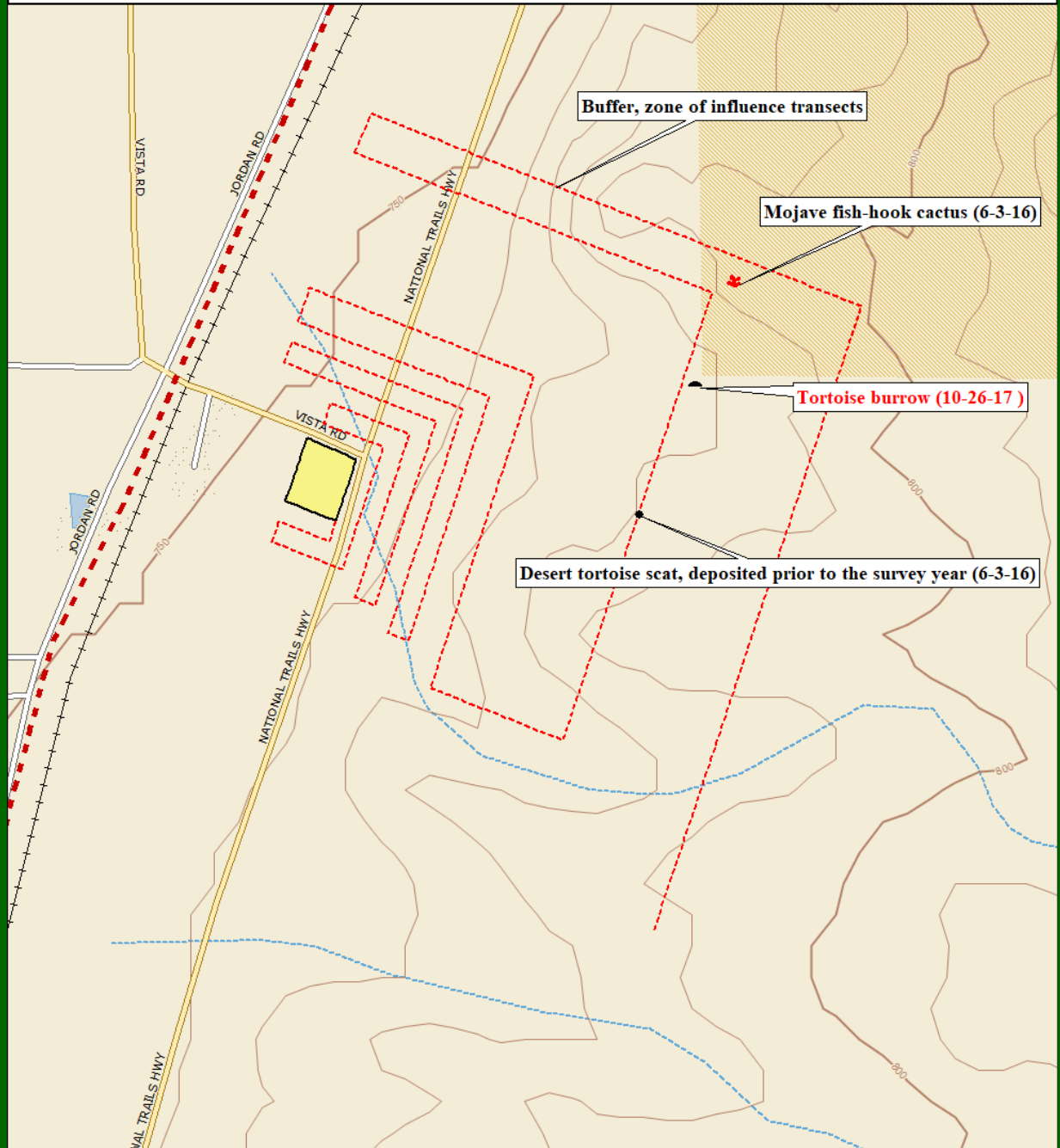
Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Sharon Dougherty  
Circle Mountain Biological Consultants, Inc.

# Figure 1. APN 0467-101-12: Site Map with Sensitive Species Location & Tortoise Sign



Map produced by Circle Mountain Biological Consultants, Inc. June 2016 (Updated October 2017)



Data use subject to license.  
© DeLorme. Topo North America™ 10.  
www.delorme.com

