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MCAS EL TORO
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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

Date: 2 Jul 97

From: Lynn Marie Hornecker

To: Marjorie Nelson (USFWS)
(760) 431-9624/(760) 431-9440

Subj: Biological Monitoring Reports
Interim Actions at Landfill Sites
Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro

1. Transmitted for your information are advance copies of biological monitoring reports for the field activities that are being conducted at the abandoned landfills, Installation Restoration Program Sites 2 and 17, at the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro.
2. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (619) 556-0250, x241 if you have questions pertaining to this transmittal. Thank you very much.


Lynn Marie Hornecker

Atch
Biological Monitoring Reports (May-June 1997)

CF:
John Lovio (SWDIV Natural Resources)
Bill Sedlak (OHM)
Project File (RAC I DO #75)

BIWEEKLY BIOLOGICAL
MONITORING REPORT

to OHM REMEDIATION SERVICES for MCAS El Toro CERCLA Sites 2 and 17

Report No. 2

Period Covered: 5/17-5/30/97

Project No: OHM-01.2

TASKS BY LOCATION:

Site 2: Not covered in this report.

Site 17: Previously, two gnatcatcher nests have been monitored at this site. The first nest ("Borings 1 and 2") was located approximately 250 to 300 feet southeast of boring numbers 1 and 2, which are located in the southeast corner of Site 17. The second nest ("Section 2") was located in the northern end of Site 17, approximately 200 feet north of the service road to the Communication Hill road. The nests have been under observation since March 20 and April 11, 1997, respectfully.

Borings 1 and 2 nest: Previously, this pair fledged their young successfully. During the current monitoring period (on 5/22/97), presumably this pair of gnatcatchers and a family group (male, female, and a bird of the year) were observed in an area approximately 200 feet southeast of the original nest (i.e., further away from the construction of site 17). The family group may have been from a nest on the west side of Magazine Road, since they appeared from and returned toward that direction. On 5/29/97, presumably the Borings 1 and 2 pair of gnatcatchers was observed nest-building in the area described above (i.e., 200 feet southeast of the original nest). This site was flagged. No other gnatcatchers were observed in the immediate area but a lone individual was observed some distance northeast of the above new nest and across (on the northeast side of) the adjacent service road.

Section 2 nest: Previously, this pair fledged their young successfully. During the current monitoring period (on 5/22/97), a family group (male, female, and two birds of the year) were observed in the area to the north and northeast of the original nest. In addition, a second pair of gnatcatchers and a nest with four half-grown nestlings (now referred to as the "Section 2A" nest) were observed approximately 400 feet south of the above pair's original nest. This new nest is approximately 150 feet southwest of an active dirt pile on the service road leading to Communication Hill. As a precautionary measure, barricades and yellow flagging were placed to detour traffic away from the new nest. On 5/29/97, three of the above nestlings were observed in the process of leaving the nest. The fourth nestling was not seen but could have easily been out of the immediate nest area at the time of our observations.

Other Locations: N/A

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED: None

OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED: See previous biweekly report.

RECOMMENDATIONS: As previously recommended, provide the Service with a copy of this and the last status report, and request that construction be allowed to proceed on the remainder of Site 17 (i.e., both sections 2 and 3).

Prepared By: Dave Claycomb/Jeff Lincer

Date Submitted: 5-30-97

HELIX

environmental planning inc

8100 La Mesa Blvd., Suite 290

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**BIWEEKLY BIOLOGICAL
MONITORING REPORT**

to OHM REMEDIATION SERVICES for MCAS El Toro CERCLA Sites 2 and 17

Report No. 3**Period Covered: 5/31-6/13/97****Project No: OHM-01.2****TASKS BY LOCATION:****Site 2:** Not covered in this report.

Site 17: Borings 1 and 2 nest area. During the current monitoring period (6/12/97), a pair of gnatcatchers and at least one bird of the year (BOY) were observed 200 feet to the south and further away from of the original Borings 1 and 2 nest (assigned the name "Pair 1 & 2 S"). Another pair of gnatcatchers with four nestlings was observed in an area approximately 250 feet northeast of the original nest. This new nest was given the name "Pair 1 & 2 NE."

Section 2 nest area. On 6/5/97, the Section 2 pair family group was not observed in the original nest area nor to the north or northeast of the original nest. On 6/5/97, the second pair of gnatcatchers from this area (the "Section 2A" pair) with at least three of the four BOYs were observed feeding in coastal sage scrub, approximately 200 feet northwest of the pair's original nest. On 6/12/97, presumably this pair and at least two of the BOYs, were observed feeding almost 400 feet northwest of the original nest.

Other Locations: N/A**PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED:** N/A**OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED:** Biological opinion has been finalized.**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Inform Service that construction has begin.**Prepared By:** Dave Claycomb/Jeff Lincer**Date Submitted:** 6-30-97

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**WEEKLY BIOLOGICAL
MONITORING REPORT**

to OHM REMEDIATION SERVICES for MCAS El Toro CERCLA Sites 2 and 17

Report No. 4**Period Covered: 6/14-20/97****Project No: OHM-01.2****TASKS BY LOCATION:****Site 2:** Not covered in this report.**Site 17:** On 6/17 & 18/97, Mr. Mike Komula (Project Acoustician) established noise levels for the construction equipment being used on the site.

Borings 1 & 2 area. On 6/19/97, it appeared that Pair 1 & 2 NE had fledged its young. A male and a second bird (probably a BOY), presumably from Pair 1 & 2, was observed approximately 300 feet SSE of the cowbird trap. No evidence of nest building was observed.

Triangle Area. This is the area formed by the two service roads at the south end of the Site 17 central valley. A male and a female were observed feeding over a large area of coastal sage scrub but exhibited no evidence of nest building or feeding nestlings.

Communication Hill South. This is the area formed by the slope on the south side of Communication Hill. A male and a female were also observed feeding in coastal sage scrub but exhibited no evidence of nest building or feeding nestlings.

Section 2 nest area. On 6/17/97, the Pair 2 A adults and at least 3 BOYs were opportunistically observed feeding in the central valley of Site 17.

Other Locations: N/A**PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED:** N/A**OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED:** N/A**RECOMMENDATIONS:** N/A

*Note: From this point on, and per the Biological Opinion, construction monitoring reports will be weekly during the gnatcatcher breeding season and monthly during the non-breeding season.

Prepared By: Dave Claycomb/Jeff Lincer**Date Submitted:** 6-30-97