

**APPENDIX MRA-9**  
*2010 Focused Surveys*

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## MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Troy White, Dudek  
**From:** Megan Enright, Dudek  
**Title:** Appendix H-3, 2010 Focused Surveys  
**Subject:** 2010 California Gnatcatcher and Focused Rare Plant Surveys for the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Project, City of Malibu, California  
**Date:** July 20, 2010  
**Attachment(s)** Appendix A, Cumulative List of Wildlife Species  
Figure 1, Regional Map  
Figure 2, Vicinity Map  
Figures 3a and 3b, Rare Plant Survey Area  
Figures 4a and 4b, California Gnatcatcher Survey Area  
Figures 5a and 5b, Results

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This memorandum discusses the methods and results of a single-pass coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) survey and focused rare plant surveys conducted in spring 2010 within portions of Corral Canyon Park and the Malibu Bluffs Conservancy Property (Malibu Bluffs) in the City of Malibu, California. Surveys were conducted by Dudek in April 2010 to supplement existing information regarding the biological resources present in the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Project area. No state or federally listed plant species were detected during rare plant surveys, although California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 4 Catalina mariposa lily (*Calochortus catalinae*) observations were recorded. The single-pass California gnatcatcher survey was negative, and California gnatcatcher is considered to have low potential to nest on site or disperse through the study area. Two California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Species of Special Concern (SSC), yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) and yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), were observed during the gnatcatcher survey.

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location

The Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan includes Malibu Bluffs and Corral Canyon Park. Malibu Bluffs encompasses 84 acres of blufftop land in the City of Malibu and contains a large expanse of undeveloped open space directly adjacent to Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu

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Road, and the shoreline (Figure 1). The property is surrounded by privately owned land to the west; the City of Malibu's 10-acre Malibu Bluffs Park and private land to the east; Malibu Road, residential development, and the shoreline to the south; and Pacific Coast Highway and Pepperdine University to the north. Corral Canyon Park encompasses approximately 772 acres of coastal land in the City of Malibu (Figure 2).

Corral Canyon Park extends east to the Santa Monica Mountains "ridgeline" in Malibu Creek State Park. The park is surrounded by privately owned land, with the exception of Dan Blocker County Beach, which lies just south along the shoreline (Figure 2).

## **2.0 METHODS**

### **2.1 Focused Rare Plant Survey**

The primary goal of the special-status plant surveys was to determine the presence of federally or state-listed early spring-blooming species with potential to occur within Corral Canyon Park and Malibu Bluffs.

Plant species bloom at slightly different times each year depending on temperature, rainfall patterns, elevation, and other environmental factors. To ensure that certain special-status plants would be detectable if present in the study area, reference population checks are conducted at known population locations of these plant species during a time frame when they are known to be blooming or exhibit other phenological characteristics that allow for species identification. Prior to conducting surveys, Dudek visited a reference population for the federally and state-listed endangered Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*).

Dudek biologist Kathleen Dayton conducted focused rare plant surveys on the entire Conservancy's Malibu Bluffs property as well as the Corral Bluffs campsites and the trail/road from the American Disabilities Act drop-off to the Corral Bluffs within Corral Canyon Park on April 26–28, 2010 (Figures 3a and 3b). When a special-status species plant species was observed, the occurrence was mapped using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit with sub-meter accuracy.

### **2.2 California Gnatcatcher Survey**

The coastal California gnatcatcher is a federally listed threatened species and a CDFG SSC. It is closely associated with coastal scrub habitat and is threatened primarily by loss, degradation, and fragmentation of this habitat. In the United States, the coastal California gnatcatcher is found in coastal Southern California west of the Transverse and Peninsular ranges. In Los Angeles

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County, only small numbers persist and there are no occurrence records from the Santa Monica Mountains (Atwood and Bontrager 2001). The nearest California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) occurrence record is 6 miles west of the study area. In addition, studies have suggested that coastal California gnatcatchers avoid nesting on very steep slopes (greater than 40%) (Bontrager 1991).

A single pass presence/absence survey for the coastal California gnatcatcher was conducted within the study area (Figures 4a and 4b) on April 27, 2010. The survey was conducted in all areas of suitable coastal scrub habitat. The study area supports less than 80 acres of suitable coastal California gnatcatcher habitat within Corral Canyon Park and the Conservancy's Malibu Bluffs. The survey was conducted by Dudek wildlife biologist Brock A. Ortega (Permit No. TE-813545-5).

Other than being a single-pass survey, the survey followed the federal survey protocol (USFWS 1997) regarding acreage covered (i.e., no more than 80 acres per day) and environmental conditions for areas not enrolled in the Natural Communities Conservation Plan. The survey was conducted during clement weather conditions (100% cloud cover, 59°F to 63°F, 0- to 3-mile-per-hour breezes). A tape of recorded California gnatcatcher vocalizations played approximately every 50 to 100 feet was used to induce responses from potentially present coastal California gnatcatchers. (If a gnatcatcher is detected, tape-playback is terminated to minimize potential for harassment.) A 200-scale (1 inch = 200 feet) or 300-scale (1 inch = 300 feet) aerial map of the site overlaid with the mapped vegetation polygons was available to map any California gnatcatchers or other special-status wildlife species detected. Binoculars (7×50 and 8×32) were used to aid in detecting and identifying bird species. All mapped locations of special-status wildlife species detected during this survey were digitized by Dudek using ArcGIS. A cumulative list of all wildlife species recorded during this survey and previous surveys within the entire Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan area is included in Appendix A. This list includes wildlife species observed by Dudek from 2006 through 2010, along with species observed by independent biologist Fred Roberts in 2002, and those identified during stream surveys conducted by the National Park Service.

### **3.0 RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Focused Rare Plant Survey**

Catalina mariposa lily, CNPS List 4.2, was the only special-status plant species observed within the study area during the April 26–28, 2010, focused rare plant surveys. There are five separate occurrences of Catalina mariposa lily on site. Two separate occurrences had between 1 and 5 individuals; one occurrence had between 5 and 10 individuals; and two separate occurrences had

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between 75 and 100 individuals. These occurrences were primarily along the northwest-facing slope east of the riparian corridor, but also along the edge of the grasslands in the northwestern portion of the site and within the scrub in the eastern portion of the site west of the parking area (Figure 5a). This perennial herb (bulb) species tends to occur in chaparral, valley grassland, foothill woodland, and coastal scrub habitats below 600 meters (1,970 feet) above mean sea level.

### **3.2 Coastal California Gnatcatcher Survey**

The single-pass survey conducted for the coastal California gnatcatcher in April 2010 was negative. Gnatcatcher individuals (*Polioptila* sp.) had previously been observed on the Conservancy's Malibu Bluffs site on August 28, 2009, by a biologist who does not hold a federal permit to conduct surveys for the coastal California gnatcatcher. Based upon range information and a lack of reported occurrences in the study area and vicinity (CDFG 2010), and other survey data, it is most likely that the observation was the non-special-status blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*). The blue-gray gnatcatcher was previously documented by Dudek in Corral Canyon Park in 2006, 2007, and again in 2009. The blue-gray gnatcatcher and coastal California gnatcatcher can be confused due to their similar behavior and calls (unless the mew-like call of the California gnatcatcher is heard), especially during the non-breeding season when the breeding male California gnatcatcher's distinctive black cap may not be visible.

Although the study area supports suitable coastal scrub habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher, it is considered to have low potential to nest on site or disperse through the study area given that the study area is at the northern edge of its range. In addition, although there are patches of potential coastal California gnatcatcher habitat in the study area, much of this habitat is on steep slopes, and/or is dominated by tall shrubs and sages, or is disturbed by non-native plant species. As noted above, the nearest CNDDDB occurrence record for the coastal California gnatcatcher is approximately 6 miles west of the study area in the Calabasas area. There are also two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2009) occurrence records approximately 15 miles from the study area in the Oxnard area. However, these 6- and 15-mile distances are within the observed and predicted dispersal capability of this species, respectively (Bailey and Mock 1998), so the possibility of the coastal California gnatcatcher occurring in the study area cannot be ruled out.

Two SSC, yellow warbler and yellow-breasted chat, were detected within the survey area and are mapped on Figure 5b.

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**ATTACHMENT A**  
*Cumulative List of Wildlife Species*

**Attachment A**  
**Cumulative List of Wildlife Species**

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**WILDLIFE SPECIES – VERTEBRATES**

**AMPHIBIANS**

**BUFONIDAE – TRUE TOADS**

*Anaxyrus boreas* – western toad

**HYLIDAE – TREEFROGS**

*Pseudacris cadaverina* – California treefrog

*Pseudacris regilla* – Northern Pacific treefrog

**REPTILES**

**IGUANIDAE – IGUANID LIZARDS**

*Sceloporus occidentalis* – western fence lizard

*Phrynosoma blainvillii* – Blainville's horned lizard

*Uta stansburiana* – common side-blotched lizard

**COLUBRIDAE – COLUBRID SNAKES**

*Hypsiglena ochrorhyncha* – coast nightsnake

*Lampropeltis getula* – common kingsnake

*Lampropeltis zonata* – California mountain kingsnake

*Pituophis cantifer* – gophersnake

*Thamnophis hammondi* – two-striped gartersnake

**VIPERIDAE – VIPERS**

*Crotalus oreganus* – western rattlesnake

**BIRDS**

**PELECANIDAE – PELICANS**

*Pelecanus occidentalis* – brown pelican

**ARDEIDAE – HERONS**

*Ardea alba* – great egret

*Ardea herodias* – great blue heron

**ANATIDAE – WATERFOWL**

*Anas platyrhynchos* – mallard

**SCOLOPACIDAE – SHOREBIRDS**

*Numenius phaeopus* – whimbrel

## APPENDIX A (Continued)

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### **CATHARTIDAE – NEW WORLD VULTURES**

*Cathartes aura* – turkey vulture

### **ACCIPITRIDAE – HAWKS**

*Accipiter cooperii* – Cooper's hawk

*Buteo jamaicensis* – red-tailed hawk

*Buteo lineatus* – red-shouldered hawk

### **FALCONIDAE – FALCONS**

*Falco sparverius* – American kestrel

### **PHASIANIDAE – PHEASANTS AND QUAILS**

*Callipepla californica* – California quail

### **RALLIDAE – RAILS AND GALLINULES**

*Fulica americana* – American coot

### **LARIDAE – GULLS AND TERNS**

*Larus* sp. – gull

### **COLUMBIDAE – PIGEONS AND DOVES**

*Columba livia* – rock pigeon (rock dove)

*Zenaida macroura* – mourning dove

### **TYTONIDAE – BARN OWLS**

*Tyto alba* – barn owl

### **STRIGIDAE – TRUE OWLS**

*Megascops kennicottii* – western screech owl

### **CAPRIMULGIDAE – GOATSUCKERS**

*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* – common poorwill

### **APODIDAE – SWIFTS**

*Aeronautes saxatalis* – white-throated swift

### **TROCHILIDAE – HUMMINGBIRDS**

*Archilochus alexandri* – black-chinned hummingbird

*Calypte anna* – Anna's hummingbird

*Selasphorus rufus* – rufous hummingbird

### **PICIDAE – WOODPECKERS**

*Colaptes auratus* – red-shafted flicker

*Melanerpes formicivorus* – acorn woodpecker

### **TYRANNIDAE – TYRANT FLYCATCHERS**

*Contopus cooperi* – olive-sided flycatcher

*Empidonax difficilis* – western flycatcher

## APPENDIX A (Continued)

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*Myiarchus cinerascens* – ash-throated flycatcher

*Sayornis nigricans* – black phoebe

*Sayornis saya* – Say's phoebe

*Tyrannus vociferans* – Cassin's kingbird

*Tyrannus verticalis* – western kingbird

### **HIRUNDINIDAE – SWALLOWS**

*Hirundo rustica* – barn swallow

*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* – cliff swallow

*Stelgidopteryx serripennis* – northern rough-winged swallow

### **CORVIDAE – JAYS AND CROWS**

*Apelocoma californica* – western scrub-jay

*Corvus brachyrhynchos* – American crow

*Corvus corax* – common raven

### **PSITTACIDAE – TRUE PARROTS**

\* *Nandayus nenday* – black hooded parakeet

### **PARIDAE – TITMICE**

*Baeolophus inornatus* – oak titmouse

### **AEGITHALIDAE – BUSHTITS**

*Psaltriparus minimus* – bushtit

### **TROGLODYTIDAE – WRENS**

*Catherpes mexicanus* – canyon wren

*Thryomanes bewickii* – Bewick's wren

*Troglodytes aedon* – house wren

### **REGULIDAE – KINGLETS**

*Regulus calendula* – ruby-crowned kinglet

### **SYLVIIDAE – GNATCATCHERS**

*Poliophtila caerulea* – blue-gray gnatcatcher

### **TURDIDAE – THRUSHES AND BABLERS**

*Catharus guttatus* – hermit thrush

*Catharus ustulatus* – Swainson's thrush

*Sialia mexicana* – western bluebird

*Turdus migratorius* – American robin

### **TIMALIIDAE – LAUGHING THRUSH AND WRENTIT**

*Chamaea fasciata* – wrentit

## APPENDIX A (Continued)

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### **MIMIDAE – THRASHERS**

- Mimus polyglottos* – northern mockingbird
- Toxostoma redivivum* – California thrasher

### **VIREONIDAE – VIREOS**

- Vireo gilvus* – warbling vireo

### **PARULIDAE – WOOD WARBLERS**

- Dendroica coronata* – yellow-rumped warbler
- Dendroica petechia* – yellow warbler
- Dendroica occidentalis* – hermit warbler
- Dendroica townsendi* – Townsend's warbler
- Geothlypis trichas* – common yellowthroat
- Icteria virens* – yellow-breasted chat
- Phylloscopus trochilus* – Wilson's warbler
- Vermivora celata* – orange-crowned warbler

### **EMBERIZIDAE – BUNTINGS AND SPARROWS**

- Aimophila ruficeps canescens* – Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow
- Junco hyemalis* – Oregon junco
- Melospiza melodia* – song sparrow
- Passerina amoena* – Lazuli bunting
- Passerella iliaca* – fox sparrow
- Pipilo crissalis* – California towhee
- Pipilo maculatus* – spotted towhee
- Zonotrichia leucophrys* – white-crowned sparrow

### **CARDINALIDAE – CARDINALS AND GROSBEAKS**

- Pheucticus melanocephalus* – black-headed grosbeak

### **ICTERIDAE – BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES**

- Icterus bullockii* – Bullock's oriole
- Icterus cucullatus* – hooded oriole
- Molothrus ater* – brown-headed cowbird
- Quiscalus mexicanus* – great-tailed grackle

### **FRINGILLIDAE – FINCHES**

- Carpodacus mexicanus* – house finch
- Carduelis psaltria* – lesser goldfinch
- Carpodacus purpureus* – purple finch

### **PASSERIDAE – OLD WORLD SPARROWS**

- \* *Passer domesticus* – house sparrow

## APPENDIX A (Continued)

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### **STURNIDAE – STARLINGS**

- \* *Sturnus vulgaris* – European starling

## MAMMALS

### **LEPORIDAE – HARES AND RABBITS**

- Sylvilagus bachmani* – brush rabbit

### **SCIURIDAE – SQUIRRELS**

- Spermophilus beecheyi* – California ground squirrel

### **GEOMYIDAE – POCKET GOPHERS**

- Thomomys bottae* – Botta's pocket gopher

### **MURIDAE – RATS AND MICE**

- Microtus* sp. – vole

### **CANIDAE – WOLVES AND FOXES**

- Canis latrans* – coyote
- Vulpes vulpes* – red fox

### **PROCYONIDAE – RACCOONS AND RELATIVES**

- Procyon lotor* – common raccoon

### **CERVIDAE – DEERS**

- Odocoileus hemionus* – mule deer

## WILDLIFE SPECIES – INVERTEBRATES

### BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

### **NYMPHALIDAE – BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES**

- Vanessa cardui* – painted lady

### **PAPILIONIDAE – SWALLOWTAILS**

- Papilio zelicaon* – anise swallowtail

### **PIERIDAE – WHITES AND SULFURS**

- Anthocharis sara sara* – Pacific sara orangetip
- Pieris rapae* – cabbage white
- Pontia protodice* – checkered white

### **RIODINIDAE – METALMARKS**

- Apodemia mormo virgulti* – Behr's metalmark

## APPENDIX A (Continued)

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### **LYCAENIDAE – BLUES, HAIRSTREAKS, AND COPPERS**

*Glaucopsyche lygdamus australis* – southern blue

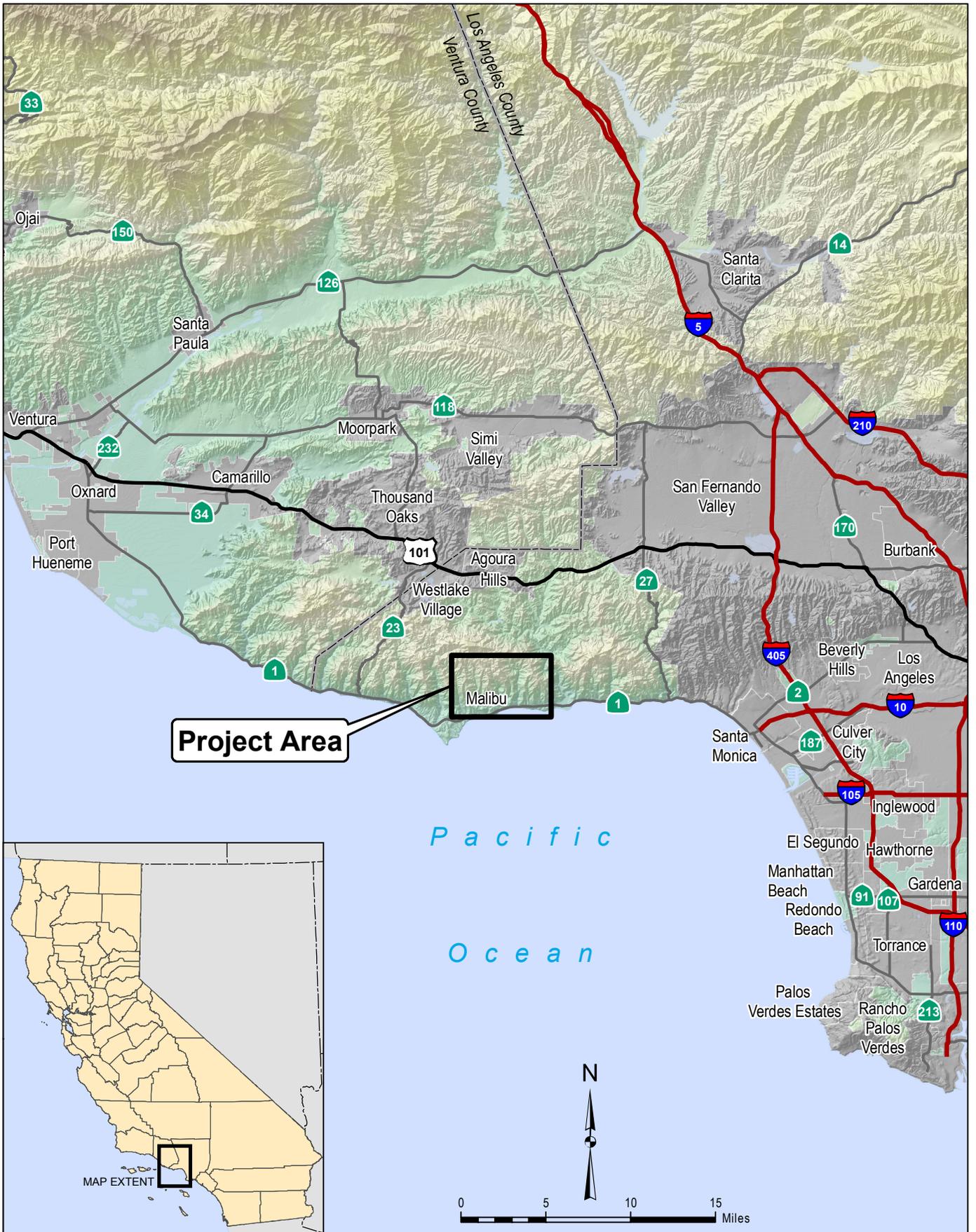
*Hemiargus ceraunus gyas* – Edward's blue

### **NYMPHALIDAE – BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES**

*Coenonympha tullia californica* – common California ringlet

*Danaus plexippus* – monarch

\* signifies introduced (non-native) species



**Project Area**

Pacific  
Ocean

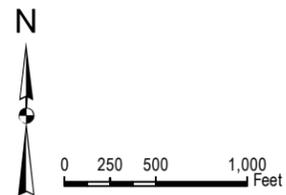
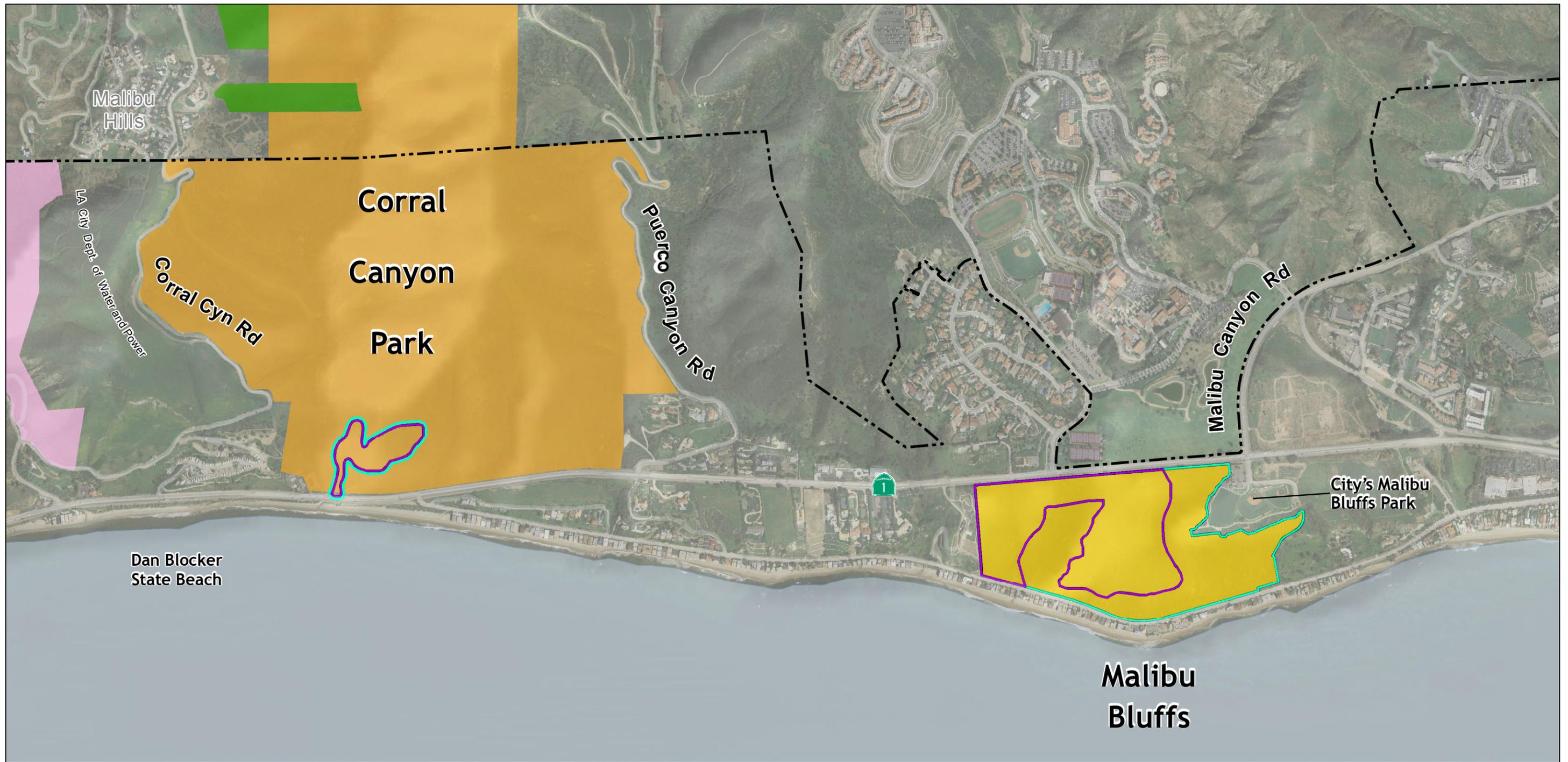
MAP EXTENT

0 5 10 15 Miles

**FIGURE 1**  
**Regional Map**

**DUDEK**

2010 California Gnatcatcher and Focused Rare Plant Surveys for the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Project



- Survey Area
- CAGN Survey Area
- Malibu City Limits
- National Park Service Owned Land
- Other Protected Land
- Corral Canyon Park (SMMC/MRCA - 772.2 acres)
- Malibu Bluffs Open Space (SMMC - 83.7 acres)

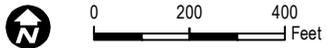
SOURCE: Aerial: DigitalGlobe 2008, MRCA 2009

**FIGURE 2**  
Vicinity Map



Malibu  
Bluffs

 Survey Area



**DUDEK**

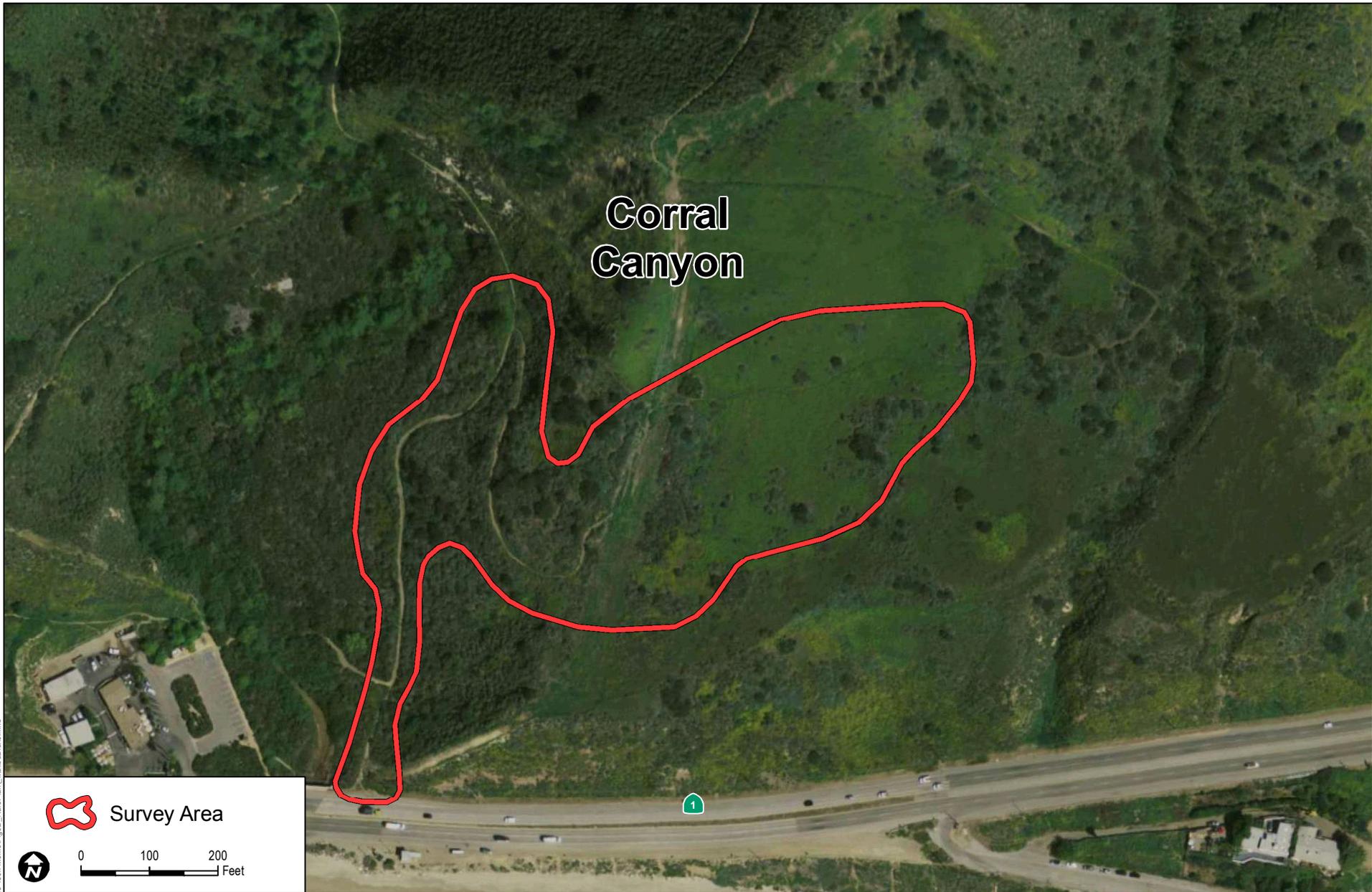
SOURCE: DigitalGlobe 2008.

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JULY 2010

2010 California Gnatcatcher and Focused Rare Plant Surveys for the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Project

**FIGURE 3A**  
**Rare Plant Survey Area**

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Corral  
Canyon

 Survey Area



**DUDEK**

SOURCE: DigitalGlobe 2008.

4835-01  
JULY 2010

2010 California Gnatcatcher and Focused Rare Plant Surveys for the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Project

**FIGURE 3B**  
**Rare Plant Survey Area**

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Malibu  
Bluffs

 Survey Area



**DUDEK**

SOURCE: DigitalGlobe 2008.

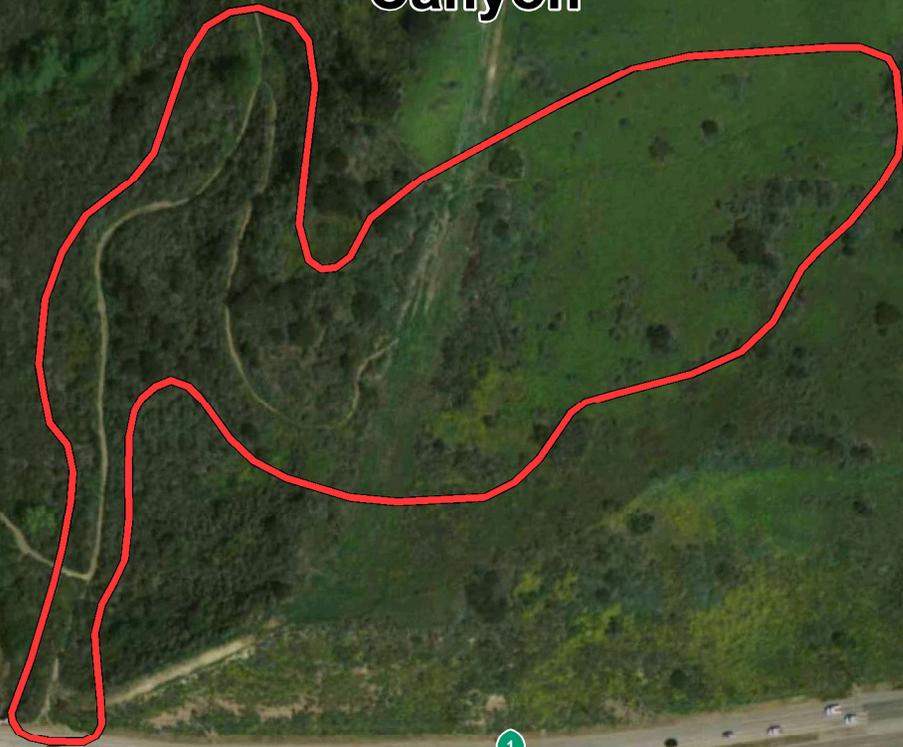
4835-01  
JULY 2010

2010 California Gnatcatcher and Focused Rare Plant Surveys for the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Project

**FIGURE 4A**  
**California Gnatcatcher Survey Area**

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Corral  
Canyon



Survey Area



0 100 200  
Feet

**DUDEK**

SOURCE: DigitalGlobe 2008.

4835-01  
JULY 2010

2010 California Gnatcatcher and Focused Rare Plant Surveys for the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Project

**FIGURE 4B**  
**California Gnatcatcher Survey Area**

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**CNPS List 4 Plant Species, (xx) = Population Count/Range**

- Caca - Catalina mariposa lily (*Calochortus catalinae*)
- Survey Area

0      200      400  
Feet

**DUDEK**

SOURCE: DigitalGlobe 2008.

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JULY 2010

2010 California Gnatcatcher and Focused Rare Plant Surveys for the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Project

**FIGURE 5B**  
**Rare Plant Survey Results**

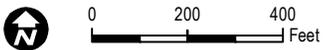
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**Special-Status Wildlife**

- YBCH = Yellow-breasted chat (Breeding)
- YEWA = Yellow warbler (Breeding)

  Survey Area



**DUDEK**

SOURCE: DigitalGlobe 2008.

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2010 California Gnatcatcher and Focused Rare Plant Surveys for the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Project

**FIGURE 5B**  
**California Gnatcatcher Survey Results**

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