

## LOS ANGELES POCKET MOUSE SURVEY

### Phase 1: Habitat Assessment

Habitat assessments for the Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*; LAPM) shall be conducted by a qualified biologist, defined as a biologist who possesses a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for live-trapping of heteromyid species in southern California, such as the Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*), San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*), and/or Pacific pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris pacificus*). The project area will be systematically surveyed on foot to determine the presence and map the distribution of any suitable habitat for the Los Angeles pocket mouse within the project boundaries. Suitable habitat for the LAPM includes Riversidean sage scrub, coastal sage scrub, Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub, desert scrub, chaparral, grassland, and playas and vernal pools on sandy soils, typically found within or adjacent to, but not limited, sandy washes or areas of windblown sand. Because diagnostic surface sign of this species (e.g., burrows, scat, tracks, etc.) is difficult to detect and attribute specifically to the LAPM, the absence of such sign is not evidence of absence. Suitable habitat areas will be identified and mapped. At the completion of the Phase 1 task, the biologist will advise the project applicant if a trapping program is needed to confirm the presence/absence of the LAPM in the project area.

### Phase 2: Live-trapping Study for the Los Angeles Pocket Mouse

A live-trapping program for the LAPM will be conducted in mapped suitable habitat (as described above) in the project area by a qualified biologist, as defined above. A similar trapping protocol as specified by the USFWS for the federally-listed endangered Pacific pocket mouse shall be used. Trapping guidelines are as follows:

- Live-trapping studies shall be conducted during the period that the LAPM is most likely to be active on the surface; between May 1 and September 15 (Provisional subject to input)
- The live-trapping program shall be conducted over five (5) consecutive nights if no LAPM are captured. The trapping program at a given site shall be terminated if an LAPM is trapped prior to the fifth night. If more than one site is present in a project area, trapping would continue up to five nights in areas where LAPM have not yet been trapped.
- At a given site, all traps must be located in areas that best typify LAPM habitat, as defined above. Traps shall be checked at least twice per night, once near midnight and again at sunrise. Animals will be held only so long as to identify to species, sex, and age-class and then released at the trap site. Trapping will be conducted under mild weather conditions, with minimum temperatures greater than 50<sup>0</sup> Fahrenheit and atmospheric conditions relatively dry, and calm. Trapping shall not be conducted in extended periods of wind, rain or fog that may jeopardize the lives of LAPM.

- All traps shall be 9-inch or 12-inch Sherman live traps or traps of similar design and efficiency. Sherman 9-inch traps may only be used if they were purchased before March 13, 1990. Such similar non-Sherman traps shall be approved by the CDFG prior to their use. All trap models shall be modified to eliminate or substantially reduce the risk of injury (e.g., tail lacerations). Traps that have been used for trapping outside Riverside County shall be sterilized before use in Riverside County.
- No mutilation marking scheme (e.g., toe-clipping, ear clipping) shall be allowed. No invasive technique (e.g., PIT-tagging) will be allowed unless authorized by the CDFG.

Following the live-trapping study, the biologist shall submit all trapping reports and associated information required by the CDFG MOU.