



## **Merkel & Associates, Inc.**

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May 2, 2014  
M&A #09-048-01

Ms. Cheryl Goddard  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
County of San Diego  
9150 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 200  
San Diego, CA 92123

### **Re: Year 5, 1st Quarterly Progress Report for the Salt Creek Coastal Cactus Wren Habitat Enhancement/Restoration Project**

Dear Cheryl:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a progress report of the Salt Creek Coastal Cactus Wren Habitat Enhancement/Restoration Project. Merkel & Associates (M&A) visited the site on April 18, 2014. Both the 1.0-acre and 0.4-acre areas continue to thrive. Most of the cacti looked healthy and they appeared to have grown since our last quarterly site visit in September. Coastal sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) appears to be filling in between cacti at the 0.4-acre site. New seedling growth of San Diego viguiera (*Bahiopsis laciniata*), flat top buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *fasciculatum*), and matchweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*) were also noted in this area.

Two cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) nests were observed at the 1.0-acre site. Both nests were in cacti that were planted prior to the site's restoration effort. These plants occur adjacent to the access road and are one to two feet taller than most of the cacti that were planted as part of this project. Nonetheless, these are the first wren nests observed within the boundary of the restoration effort. No eggs were observed in these nests. They will be reviewed again later this month during this year's quantitative bird assessment, and their status will be assessed at that time.

I have attached photos of the restoration areas for your review. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Kince@merkeline.com](mailto:Kince@merkeline.com) or (858) 560-5465.

Sincerely,

Kyle L. Ince  
Project Biologist

**PHOTO PAGES**



**Photo Point 1.** Viewing east at 0.4-acre site.



**Photo Point 2.** Viewing north at 1.0-acre site.





**Photo Point 3.** Coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) nest at 1.0-acre site, southern end.



**Photo Point 4.** Coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) nest at 1.0-acre site, northern end.