

**MOA between County of SLO and CDFG
Exhibit B**

**Los Osos Wastewater Treatment Facility
Project-Specific Survey Protocol for
Morro Bay Kangaroo Rat
Updated 4-3012**

1. This protocol is intended to comply with the 1996 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("Service") and California Department of Fish and Game ("Department"/CDFG) Morro Bay kangaroo rat (MBKR) survey protocols, as specified below for the project, to enhance the probability of detection over that of two visual surveys and trapping. As with all surveys conducted per the protocol, all requirements of the protocols shall be observed, including (but not limited to) the following:
 - a. Surveys shall be conducted by an experienced surveyor approved by the Service and the Department.
 - b. Survey results are good for two years.
 - c. Any deviations from the recommended protocol shall be approved in writing by the Service and the Department prior to implementation.
2. Area surveyed will be: (1) The area of the proposed leach field for the County's Wastewater Treatment Facility, including any potential habitat within a buffer area of one home range (200 yards) around the facility (also referred to as the "Broderson Parcel"), including private property only where access to the private property can be reasonably acquired. This area is considered to be core MBKR habitat, in a large block and contiguous with other suitable habitat lands also known to have been inhabited by MBKR. (2) The Mid-town parcel, including any potential habitat within a buffer area of one home range (200 yards) around the restoration site, including private property only where access to the private property can be reasonably acquired. This area is considered to be potential habitat, in a large block, but adjacent to habitat which is not known to have been occupied by MBKR in the last 30 years. And (3) Other areas of potential habitat that could be affected by construction of infrastructure as determined by the County in coordination with the Department and the Service; these parcels are small in size and generally remote from habitat which is known to have been occupied by MBKR in the last 30 years. All sites shall be surveyed prior to vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities on the specific affected site.
3. The survey must include the following for the results to be accepted by the Department and the Service:
 - a. Visual surveys:
 - i. The visual surveys shall occur between April 1 and June 30.
 - ii. Visual surveys shall be conducted as specified in the 1996 protocol, for diagnostic sign of MB kangaroo rat, including

- potential burrows, seed caching, dust baths, scat, tracks, and/or tail drags, etc.
- iii. Any scat observed which is considered to be potential sign of MBKR shall be collected and submitted to the Department for analysis to determine if it is that of MBKR; and the Service and the Department shall be notified immediately.
 - iv. Areas where potential sign of MBKR is observed shall be marked so that track plate/camera stations may be placed in that location per (b.)(iv.) below.
- b. Track plate and camera stations:
- i. The track plate/camera station surveys shall be conducted between April 1 and July 30.
 - ii. For large sites (over 5 acres) site, a grid shall be established within the site including the buffer, with the intersections of the grid approximately 200 feet from adjacent intersections in both directions. The intersections of the grid comprise the potential sampling sites; for the purpose of placing track plate/camera stations; track plates/ cameras shall be located in suitable habitat in the vicinity of the sampling site. Twenty stations total shall be established in the Broderson area, as described in (b.)(iii.) below. Twenty stations shall be placed in the mid-town site, as described in (b) (iii.) below.
 - iii. If possible sign is found during the visual surveys, the area where the sign was found shall be location of a track plate/ camera station. On the larger sites, after stations are assigned to areas with potential sign, other locations shall be assigned randomly to the possible sampling sites in the vicinity of the intersections of the grid, until a total of 20 stations are established. Should any randomly selected sampling site fall outside of potential kangaroo rat/coastal scrub habitat (e.g., within horse paddocks, roads, or other areas of human habitation) the station shall be reassigned to the next randomly selected location where suitable habitat is present.
 - iv. Each station shall include a track plate which has been smoked or treated to detect small mammals, and a wildlife motion-detection camera suitable for the detection of MBKR and other small mammals. The equipment shall be set up at sunset, and data collected as soon after sunrise as practical. Equipment may be removed during the day to avoid vandalism or theft.
 - v. Track plate/camera stations shall be deployed and checked each night for 7 days; the survey days shall be consecutive, **except**, track plate/camera stations shall not be deployed if weather and ground conditions are not appropriate for their use, e.g., rain, high winds, etc.

- c. Trapping:
 - i. Trapping shall be conducted per the 1996 survey protocols except changes as approved by the Department and the Service.
 - ii. Trapping may be done between April 1 and August 30.
 - iii. Any captured Morro Bay kangaroo rats shall be documented with photos, hair samples collected for analysis by the Service or the Department, and animals released back to the wild. The Service and the Department shall be notified immediately to determine any additional appropriate action for any captured animals. Hair samples shall be submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CDFG immediately.
 - d. Required surveys:
 - i. On the Broderson site, completed surveys shall consist of all three elements, including visual surveys (3. a. above), track plate /camera stations (3. b. above), and trapping (3. c. above).
 - ii. On the mid-town site, completed surveys shall consist of visual surveys (3. a. above), track plate /camera stations (3. b. above); and if possible sign is detected with visual and/or track plate /camera stations, shall also include trapping (3. c. above).
 - iii. On other areas of potential habitat that could be affected by construction of infrastructure as determined by the County in coordination with the Department and the Service, completed surveys shall consist of visual surveys (3. a. above); and if possible sign is detected with visual surveys, shall also include track plate /camera stations (3. b. above); and if possible sign is detected with visual surveys and/or track plate /camera stations, shall also include trapping (3. c. above).
 - iv. If diagnostic sign is detected during visual surveys and/or track plate /camera station surveys, the County shall confer with the Department and the Service regarding further survey activities.
 - e. Surveys results:
 - i. If surveyed as described in this protocol and no diagnostic sign was found and no MBKR were trapped, survey results are considered valid for two years unless otherwise extended, in writing, by the Department and Service.
 - ii. If surveyed as described in this protocol and survey results indicate MBKR is present, survey results are considered valid until new surveys show the species is not longer present on the site.
4. A report shall be prepared following each of the three phases of the survey period (visual, track plate/camera stations, and trapping), including all information required in the survey protocol; reports shall be submitted within 5 days of completion of each phase of the survey, for review by USFWS

- and CDFG. Reports shall include details identified in the survey protocol, including results of the completed work in the previous phase, as well as planned tasks for the next phase of the survey. Reports shall be reviewed by the Service and the Department after each phase, and tasks for next phase will be approved during this review. Reports shall be submitted via Electronic Mail (email) to Mr. Bob Stafford of the Department at BStafford@dfg.ca.gov; Ms Julie Vance at jvance@dfg.ca.gov, Mr. Brandon Sanderson at bsanderson@dfg.ca.gov and Ms. Julie Vanderwier of the Service at Julie_Vanderwier@fws.gov. GPS points shall be taken at all track plate, camera, and trap locations as well as areas with potential sign. These data shall be included in all reports submitted to the Service and Department. In order to expedite surveys at the Mid-town site, verbal and email communication between the surveyors and Department staff may substitute for written reports, provided that such communications include all the required information, and are followed up by written reports as described above. The Department will have the appropriate staff available by phone and email to ensure timely completion of surveys of the Mid-town survey.
5. A final report shall be prepared following the completion of all work which includes information specified in the survey protocol as well as a copy of field notes with trap check information, and submitted within 14 days of completion of all survey work.
 6. The Department and the Service, in coordination, reserve the right to reject Morro Bay kangaroo rat surveys conducted under this protocol as inadequate if: (1) specific methods described above are not implemented and prior written exception has not been obtained per (1.) (c.) above; or (2) survey methods used are inconsistent with this protocol.