



# GREGORY C. AINSWORTH

Director, Senior Managing Biologist

Gregory Ainsworth directs the Southern California Biological Resources Group. Greg has provided biological resource consulting on numerous community development projects, solar and wind development, infrastructure, and water agency projects. He is a certified arborist and wetland delineator and an approved biologist on several city and county approved lists. Greg technical strengths include biological resource and fatal flaw assessments, rare plant surveys and vegetation mapping, special-status wildlife surveys, avian risk assessments, native plant restoration, wetland delineations, and permitting. He has worked on numerous projects involving CEQA and the Endangered Species Act and has extensive knowledge of habitats found between the California deserts and the coastal shoreline.

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## Relevant Experience

### Education

M.C.R.P., Environmental Planning, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

B.S., Environmental Horticulture Science, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

### 11 Years Experience

### Certifications

International Certified Arborist (Cert# WE 7473A)

California Department of Fish and Game Scientific Collection Permit

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Section 10(a)(1)(A) Recovery Permit (Pending)

Wetland Delineation & Management (ACOE, #2128), 2003

### Specialized Training

Snowy plover nesting and roosting surveys, Los Angeles Audubon, 2004-present

Desert Tortoise Workshop, The Desert Tortoise Council, 2006

Mohave ground squirrel Workshop, The Wildlife Society, 2005

California Native Plant Society Plant Survey Techniques, 2004 and 2006

**Grossmont High School Tree Survey, San Diego, CA. *Arborist.*** Greg conducted a tree survey for a proposed high school alternative location for the Grossmont Union High School District. The locations of oak trees and mature riparian woodland species located on the alternative high school site were assessed and mapped by Greg, our certified arborist. A subsequent tree report was prepared and all attribute data (e.g., tree number, size, health, balance) collected were provided in the report. The report identified the number of trees that were removed, encroached, and preserved by the proposed alternative high school location.

**Helix Water District, El Monte Groundwater Recharge, Mining and Reclamation Project EIR, San Diego, CA. *Arborist.*** Greg conducted a tree survey and identify trees that should be removed based on poor health conditions and which should be preserved based on overall value and aesthetics. He collected specific information during the assessment such as: type of species, trunk diameter, estimated height and radius of canopy, physical conditional and overall health rating. A subsequent tree report was prepared and all attribute data collected were provided in the report. The report identified the number of trees that were removed, encroached, and preserved.

**Western Wind Energy Corporation, Aero Windswept Lower Resource Energy Project Biota Surveys, Tehachapi, CA. *Project Manager.*** Greg is the project director and daily manager of all data collection, reporting, and permitting service being provided on this project. Biota surveys have included rare plant surveys, wildlife surveys including burrowing owl, desert tortoise, Mojave ground squirrel, bats, bird use counts, and raptor surveys (in accordance with CEC Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Development). Greg is the primary author of the biological technical report and avian risk assessment being prepared to support the project's EIR.

**San Diego Gas and Electric, Manzanita Wind Generation Project, San Diego County, CA. *Project Manger of Biological Resources.*** Greg is managing all focused surveys for the proposed gen-tie line, substation locations, switchyard,

## Relevant Experience (Continued)

and other ancillary features. Focused studies under the management of Greg include: avian studies (bird use counts, small bird counts and migration counts), Quino checkerspot butterfly and Hermes copper butterfly, rare plant surveys, wetland delineation, vegetation mapping, and biological constraints analysis. Greg will be managing the preparation of the PEA for the proposed project and participating in Section 7 consultation related to potential impacts to the Golden Eagle.

**Sunshine Canyon Landfill Arborist Support and Revegetation Plan, Los Angeles, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** Greg is conducting annual monitoring for several mitigation requirements that include City of Los Angeles oak tree mitigation, PM10 tree buffer mitigation, big cone Douglas fir mitigation, coastal sage scrub restoration, coastal sage scrub and chaparral revegetation required by the Air Quality Control Management District. Greg prepared a restoration and revegetation plan introducing native coastal sage scrub and chaparral vegetation between the landfill and adjacent neighborhoods. Greg is monitoring the implementation of the plan for the next five years. Greg is providing on-call services that include: preconstruction bird surveys, protected tree surveys for proposed grading activities, and identification of suitable native revegetation sites throughout the landfill property.

**City of Calabasas, On-Call Services, Calabasas, CA. *Arborist.*** Greg is the City of Calabasas' on-call arborist. His services include providing oak tree damage assessments for the Code Enforcement Department, review of oak tree reports prepared by city-approved arborists, and preparation of oak tree damage and appraisal reports.

**Department of Water Resources, Piru Creek Special Use Permit Renewal, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, CA. *Senior Biologist.*** Greg is providing environmental compliance and permitting for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the renewal of a Special Use Permit to operate and maintain access to an existing stream gauging station to measure flows into Pyramid Lake. The permit would also include necessary improvements at the gauging station. Greg conducted a habitat assessment for potentially occurring special-status species, a focused plant survey, protocol survey for the federally endangered arroyo toad, wetland delineation, and wildlife migration corridor analysis. Greg managed the preparation of a Biological Assessment and Environment Assessment in accordance with the Endangered Species Act and the NEPA, respectively. Greg will be engaging in Section 7 consultation with the USFWS for potential impacts on the arroyo toad.

**Department of Water Resources, Templin HWY Culvert Repair, Los Angeles County, CA. *Senior Biologist.*** ESA is providing environmental compliance and permitting for the Department of Water Resources for their installation of a new culvert below Templin Highway. The proposed culvert is within a blue line stream that falls under the jurisdiction of the USACE, RWQCB and the CDFG. Greg conducted a wetland delineation for Waters of the U.S. and State jurisdictional waters and is preparing permits in accordance to the Clean

## **Relevant Experience (Continued)**

Water Act (401/404) and California Department of Fish and Game Code (1602), Streambed Alteration Agreement.

**Metropolitan Water District City of La Verne Tree Ordinance Compliance and Breeding Bird Surveys, La Verne, CA. *Senior Biologist.*** Greg conducted a significant tree survey, prepared a tree report, and submitted a tree permit to the City of La Verne for the Metropolitan Water District Weymouth Treatment Plan Main Line Project. Greg conducted a preconstruction breeding bird and nest survey for the proposed project and identified appropriate buffers to avoid impacts to breeding birds.

**California Public Utilities Commission, SCE Presidential Substation EIR, Ventura County, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** Greg is co-managing the preparation of an EIR for the SCE Presidential Substation Project located in Ventura County. The proposed project would involve construction of a substation and associated subtransmission source lines. The proposed subtransmission line route passes through a rural residential area and is being met with organized opposition. ESA has implemented a rigorous public and agency outreach program to engage the stakeholders in the CEQA process. Key biological resource issues to be addressed in the EIR include state- and federally-endangered fairy shrimp species, the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher, and the federally-listed plant: Lyon's pentachaeta.

**California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Arroyo Toad Monitoring Plan, Los Padres National Forest, CA. *Biological Technician and Technical Analyst.*** Greg is providing three consecutive years' of biological monitoring and technical analysis for DWR's monitoring program for the federally endangered arroyo toad and other special-status species including California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, and two-striped garter snake in middle Piru Creek in the Los Padres National Forest. Greg managed the implementation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved monitoring plan, and is conducting field surveys to monitor arroyo toad reproductive success, habitat quality, and hydrological features on middle Piru Creek.

**Private Wind Developers, Los Angeles County, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** Greg has managed and conducted several confidential biological resource fatal flaw assessments for potential wind development projects in the Mojave desert and rural areas of Los Angeles County. Tasks included reconnaissance-level biological field assessments, identification of adjacent land uses and zoning, and preparation of technical biological constraints reports. Greg has provided consultation to wind developers on the local, state, and federal permitting requirements associated with biological resources and wind development.

**Red Mountain Ridge Wind Project, San Diego, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** Greg managed a 30-day fatal flaw analysis for biological, cultural, and paleo resources on a proposed 7.5 square mile wind development project known as the Red Mountain Ridge Wind Project, which includes approximately 8 miles of transmission line. The results of the fatal flaw assessment was used to

## **Relevant Experience (Continued)**

develop a detailed scope and budget for conducting baseline biology and cultural assessments that will support the preparation of an EIR by Kern County's CEQA consultant for a zone change, Wind Energy overlay, CUP for the solar portion, and a variance.

**Bureau of Land Management, Ocotillo Wind Farm Express, El Centro, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** The Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project is a 15,000-acre, 561 megawatt wind energy project including a substation, transmission facilities, administration facilities, operations and maintenance facilities, and temporary construction lay-down areas. The project would be located almost entirely on BLM administered lands in the Imperial Valley, approximately 5 miles west of Ocotillo, Imperial County, California. Greg is serving as a third-party biological consultant under the direction of the BLM El Centro Field Office. Specifically, Greg and ESA are contracted to assist with implementation of the BLM NEPA process including review and support for the project's Plan of Development, Notice of Intent, formal scoping meetings, Plan Amendment to the BLM California Desert Conservation Area Plan, EIS/EIR, required technical studies, Notice of Availability, and ultimately the Record of Decision. Greg is providing field verification to the BLM on data collection efforts being conducted by the applicants biological consultants.

**Solar Millennium Blythe and Palen Solar Power Projects, Blythe, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** The Blythe Solar Power Project will be a concentrated STE generating facility with two adjacent, independent, and identical solar plants of 250 MW nominal capacity each for a total capacity of 500 MW nominal. The project site is located approximately two miles north of Interstate 10 and eight miles west of the City of Blythe in an unincorporated area of Riverside County. Greg served as a third-party biological consultant under the direction of the BLM Palm Springs Field Office. Greg assisted with implementation of the BLM NEPA process including review and support for the project's Plan of Development, Notice of Intent, formal scoping meetings, Plan Amendment to the BLM California Desert Conservation Area Plan, EIS/EIR, required technical studies, Notice of Availability, and ultimately the Record of Decision. Greg provided field verification to the BLM on data collection efforts being conducted by the applicants biological consultants.

**Desert Sunlight Solar Project BLM Support Services, Desert Center, CA. *Biological Resources Task Leader.*** The Desert Sunlight Solar project will be a solar PV energy generating facility with a total capacity of 550 MW. The project is proposed to be located on federal lands managed by the BLM approximately six miles north of the community of Desert Center, in Riverside County. Greg is serving as a third-party biological consultant under the direction of the BLM Palm Springs Field Office. Specifically, Greg and ESA are contracted to assist with implementation of the BLM NEPA process including review and support for the project's Plan of Development, Notice of Intent, formal scoping meetings, Plan Amendment to the BLM California Desert Conservation Area Plan, EIS/EIR, required technical studies, Notice of Availability, and ultimately the Record of Decision. Greg is providing field verification to the BLM on data collection efforts being conducted by the applicants biological consultants.

## Relevant Experience (Continued)

**NextEra Genesis Solar Energy Project, BLM Support Services, Palm Springs, CA. Senior Biologist.** Greg and ESA provided regulatory review for the California South Coast BLM for the Genesis Solar project application. Greg's role in this project included review of the biological resources technical reports that accompanied the permit applications. He determined appropriate mitigation strategies in consultation with project managers to help facilitate compliance with the Endangered Species Act and BLM Wildlife Management Areas.

**Sun Peak Chuckwalla and Superstition Solar, Riverside County, CA. Biological Resources Task Leader.** The Chuckwalla Solar I project is a 200 megawatt photovoltaic power plant located in Riverside County. All components of the proposed facility would be located on public lands managed by the BLM, under the jurisdiction of the Palm Springs Field Office. Specifically, Greg and ESA are contracted to assist with implementation of the BLM NEPA process including review and support for the project's Plan of Development, Notice of Intent, formal scoping meetings, Plan Amendment to the BLM California Desert Conservation Area Plan, EIS/EIR, required technical studies, Notice of Availability, and ultimately the Record of Decision. Greg is providing field verification to the BLM on data collection efforts being conducted by the applicants biological consultants.

**Hollywood Heights Biological Resource Assessment, Los Angeles, CA. Project Manager.** Greg prepared a biological resource assessment for a proposed residential development in the Hollywood Heights area of Los Angeles County. Following a literature and database review of the project area, Greg prepared a technical biological assessment report documenting the methods and results of the database and field assessment and provided mitigation measures and recommendations, where applicable, to reduce potential impacts to biological resources to levels of less than significant (per CEQA thresholds).

**Department of Water Resources, East Branch Enlargement Project, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, CA. Senior Biologist.** Greg conducted habitat assessments for special-status plant and animal species in proposed construction areas, as well as, presence/absence surveys for burrowing owls. He is currently conducting a floristic inventory and rare plant survey within the Department's easement areas. ESA has conducted technical studies to complete the EIR and has begun negotiating permit requirements and restoration planning with resource agencies including the USACE, RWQCB, and USFWS.

**Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, April Road Reservoir Environmental Constraints Analysis, Agoura Hills, CA. Senior Biologist.** Greg is preparing a Biological Constraints Analysis for the proposed April Road Recycled Water Reservoir Site for the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District. The purpose of the assessment is to identify fatal flaws of the site and to characterize key biological resource hurdles. His analysis includes an assessment of potential incompatibilities with Los Angeles County's Sensitive Ecological Areas, impacts to wildlife migration corridors and sensitive plants and wildlife, and potential mitigation options. Greg prepared a draft oak tree appraisal to

## Relevant Experience (Continued)

assessment the potential cost of impacting approximately 200 coast live oak trees and conducted a rare plant survey of the proposed project site.

**County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LADPW), Sorensen Community Park Phase III MND, Los Angeles, CA. Senior Biologist.** Greg prepared the biological resource section of the EIR/EA for the LADPW for Phase III of the Stephen Sorensen County Park Project. Greg conducted and managed special-status wildlife surveys including protocol-level surveys for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and southern grasshopper mouse (*Onychomys torridus Ramona*), terrestrial mammal trapping and relocation, and implementing an employee education and awareness training.

**Orange County Sanitation District, Newport Trunk Sewer Biological Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Newport, CA. Senior Biologist.** Greg provided construction monitoring efforts for sensitive biological resources in the area of the Santa Ana River Marsh. Greg assisted in the demarcation of boundaries for construction through the marsh area and conducted breeding surveys for the federally and state listed Belding's savannah sparrow. He also provided training for the construction workers to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities with regard to protecting sensitive species and habitats in the area.

**Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD), Baker Regional Water Treatment Plant MND. Irvine, CA. Senior Biologist.** Greg prepared the biological resource section of this Initial Study and MND for the IRWD Baker Regional Water Treatment Plant project. The goal of the proposed project is to increase water supply reliability in southern Orange County by creating redundancy of treatment system capacity and distribution infrastructure for potable water in the event of facility outages due to routine maintenance or unforeseen emergencies. Greg conducted a rare plant survey, habitat assessment for potentially occurring special-status species, mapped plant communities and sensitive habitats, and assessment potential mitigation options.

**City of San Juan Capistrano, Terminal Reservoir MND, San Juan Capistrano, CA. Senior Biologist.** Greg conducted a biological resource assessment, floristic inventory and rare plant survey, and prepared the biological resource section of the MND.