

APPENDIX 5.2B

# Biological Surveyor's Resume

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# Sophie Chiang

Associate Biologist

## Education

M.S., Environmental Science, California State University, Fullerton, 2004

B.S., Environmental Analysis & Design, University of California, Irvine, 1996

## Professional Registrations

Endangered Species Act 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit (TE-064359-1) for vernal pool branchiopods, Quino checkerspot butterfly, and coastal California gnatcatcher

California Department of Fish and Game Scientific Collecting Permit (SC-004717)

Federal Bird Marking and Salvage Permit (20431-BF), subpermittee

Endangered Species Act 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit (TE-787376-9) subpermittee for southwestern willow flycatcher

## Distinguishing Qualifications

- Expertise in conducting various surveys for threatened and endangered species
- Expertise in bird identification by sight and sound
- Experience in various field techniques for biological and natural resources
- Experience in mapping local vegetation communities
- Experience in using Global Positioning System Technology (GPS) to map various biological resources

## Relevant Experience

Ms. Chiang is an associate biologist in the Ecosystems Business Group in CH2M HILL's Southern California office. She has more than 8 years of experience conducting a variety of wildlife surveys throughout Southern California. She has conducted focused surveys for coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, Quino checkerspot butterfly, western burrowing owl, and is a subpermittee for southwestern willow flycatcher. She has also managed brown-headed cowbird trapping and removal programs and conducted biological monitoring for various natural resources. She has experience with the following field techniques: radio telemetry, nest monitoring, mist netting, bird banding, raptor trapping and handling, mammal scent stations, mammal track identification, aerial surveys, and wetland delineations. Ms. Chiang has experience in preparation of biological resources reports and other environmental documents pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

## Representative Projects

**Task Lead and Project Team Member; State Route 79 Realignment Project; Riverside County, California; November 2004 to present.** Conducted focused surveys for western burrowing owl and least Bell's vireo. Provided support for vernal pool branchiopod surveys, sensitive amphibian surveys, sensitive plant surveys, wetland delineations, and southwestern willow flycatcher surveys. Other responsibilities include vegetation mapping

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and general wildlife assessments for the approximately 15,000-acre project study area. Reporting requirements include focused survey reports, Natural Environment Study, and Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Equivalency Analysis.

**Project Team Member; Chiquita Canyon Landfill Master Plan Revision; Los Angeles County, California; December 2004 to October 2005.** Conducted vegetation monitoring in compliance with the revegetation and erosion control program of the landfill. Success monitoring included quantitative data collection via the line-intersect method and qualitative data collection via visual inspection. Photo locations were established to photodocument revegetation progress and site changes.

## Experience Prior to CH2M HILL

### **Principal Wildlife Biologist; Chambers Group, Inc.; Irvine, California; 1997-2004.**

Responsibilities included conducting various threatened and endangered species surveys in addition to general biological and botanical surveys. Management experience included supervising junior-level staff, project and budget management, and proposal submittals. Technical reports included Biological Technical Reports, Biological Assessments, Biological Constraints Analyses, Mitigation and Monitoring Plans, Long-Term Management Plans, Environmental Impact Reports, Environmental Impact Statements, Environmental Assessments, Mitigated Negative Declarations, Initial Studies, Habitat Conservation Plans, Section 404 and 401 certifications under the Clean Water Act, and 1603 Streambed Alteration Agreement applications.

**Task Manager and Principal Biologist; Final Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the Big Tujunga Wash Mitigation Bank; Los Angeles County, California.** Assisted in the preparation of the Final Mitigation Monitoring Plan (MMP), a comprehensive document that included the development and implementation of enhancement strategies for the 207-acre Big Tujunga Wash Mitigation Bank. Responsible for the implementation of the public outreach and brown-headed cowbird trapping and removal programs, formal trails establishment, wildlife success monitoring, and upland and riparian habitat restoration and revegetation monitoring. Other programs addressed by the MMP included exotic plant eradication, exotic aquatic wildlife eradication, water quality monitoring, and functional analysis. The mitigation bank provides suitable habitat for sensitive species including: Santa Ana sucker, Santa Ana speckled dace, arroyo chub, Cooper's hawk, and loggerhead shrike.

**Principal Biologist; Restoration of Existing Least Bell's Vireo Habitat and Riparian Vegetation at Camp Pendleton; San Diego County, California.** Coordinated and conducted bird surveys, construction monitoring, and success monitoring for the functional analysis. Restoration of 55 acres took place in fragmented river floodplain adjacent to the Santa Margarita River in existing least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and arroyo toad habitat. Success criteria were based on habitat functionality for the vireo and flycatcher. The Project Team worked alongside the engineering staff to incorporate a new drainage system into the restoration area.

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**Project Biologist; Biological Surveys, Southwestern Pond Turtle Relocation and Monitoring, Water Quality and Sediment Analysis, and Functional Analysis for the San Gabriel River Sediment Management Plan Project; Los Angeles County, California.**

Helped to conduct biological resources surveys along 16 transect locations in the San Gabriel River to obtain presluice and postsluice data. Southwestern pond turtles were captured below Morris Dam, fitted with radio transmitters, and relocated upstream. Terrestrial wildlife surveys also included avian point counts, herpetofauna surveys, and mammal scent stations. Collected data related to the biological, physical, and biogeochemical function along transects in upland, riparian, and aquatic habitats.

**Project Biologist; Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Adult Focused Surveys in Marron Valley; San Diego County, California.**

Conducted adult focused surveys as part of a postfire monitoring effort funded by the Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan. The goal of the postfire monitoring, conducted for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), is to determine local extirpation and possible loss of population resiliency due to the 2003 Otay Fire.

**Project Biologist; Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Adult Focused Surveys in the Cleveland National Forest; Riverside and San Diego Counties, California.**

Conducted adult focused surveys on approximately 1,146 acres of the Cleveland National Forest, along the High Point Fuel Break within the Palomar and Descanso Ranger Districts, located in Riverside and San Diego Counties. Prepared a technical report of findings after the surveys were completed.

**Project Biologist; Focused California Gnatcatcher Presence/Absence Surveys and Biological Assessment for the Cypress Canyon Project Site; Orange County, California.**

Conducted focused protocol surveys for the California gnatcatcher at the 649-acre study site located in Coal Canyon in the City of Anaheim. Assisted in the preparation of the joint Yorba Linda and Cypress Canyon Projects Biological Assessment under Section 7 Consultation with USFWS. Agency consultation and subsequent project approval resulted in the dedication of Coal Canyon to California State Parks in November 2000.

**Principal Biologist; Biological Resources Analysis for the Centerline Light Rail Project for Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, and Irvine; Orange County, California.**

Reviewed previously prepared environmental documents, public and agency comments received on these documents, and comment responses prepared by another consulting firm; conducted field surveys for biological resources; and prepared the Biological Resources section of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR). Biological resources work was conducted in support of the approximately 12-mile elevated and at-grade light rail system proposed from the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center to the University of California at Irvine.

**Project Biologist; On-Call Biological Services for the California Department of Transportation, District 8; San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, California.**

The On-Call Biology contract for California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 8 functioned as an extension of the Caltrans Biological Resources staff to aid them in completing projects efficiently and with the most appropriate experts and technologies available. Conducted focused protocol surveys for coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, and Quino checkerspot butterfly at various project sites.

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**Project Biologist; Natural Gas Pipeline Construction and Restoration Compliance Inspections.** Conducted restoration compliance inspections for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Office of Pipeline Regulation on natural gas pipeline projects throughout the United States. The purpose of the inspections was to evaluate compliance with construction, erosion control, and restoration plans and procedures set forth by FERC, especially within environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands and stream crossings. Compliance inspections were conducted in Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi.

## Professional Organizations/Affiliations

Raptor Research Foundation  
The Wildlife Society, Southern California Chapter  
Sea and Sage Audubon Society  
Western Field Ornithologists

## Honors and Awards

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, California State University, Fullerton Chapter

## Specialized Computer Skills

ArcView 3.2  
CALHOME 1.0

## Professional Development

Shorebird Identification – Sea and Sage Audubon Society (Sylvia Gallagher), 2005  
Warbler Identification – Sea and Sage Audubon Society (Sylvia Gallagher), 2003  
Sensitive Reptiles and Amphibians of Southern California – The Wildlife Society, 2003  
San Diego County Sensitive Butterfly Workshop – Nature Festivals of San Diego County, 2003  
Surveying, Monitoring, and Handling Techniques Workshop – Desert Tortoise Council, 1999  
Desert Bird Identification – Sea and Sage Audubon Society (Sylvia Gallagher), 1998  
Wetland Delineations Training – Wetland Training Institute, 1998  
Natural Gas Pipeline Environmental Compliance Seminar – FERC, 1998  
Endangered Species Act & Habitat Conservation Planning Conference – CLE Int'l, 1998  
Basic Tracking and Wilderness Awareness Training – Earth Skills, 1998

## Languages

Conversational Mandarin Chinese  
Remedial Spanish and French

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## Publications and Presentations

Chiang, S.N. 2004. Home range and habitat use of Cooper's hawks in urban and natural areas of southern California. Masters Thesis, California State University, Fullerton.

Chiang, S.N. 2006. *Urban Bird Ecology Symposium: Home Range and Habitat Use of Cooper's Hawks in Urban and Natural Settings in Southern California*. Presented at the North American Ornithological Conference, Veracruz, Mexico. October.