



March 12, 2019

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[via email: [atearkton@aol.com](mailto:atearkton@aol.com)]

**SUBJECT:** Results of biological assessment at 50 W. Nine Mile Canyon Rd. Pearsonville, Inyo County, California

Dear Mr. Machado,

Bloom Biological, Inc. (BBI) was retained by Luis Machado to complete a biological assessment of approximately 18 acres located at 50 W. Nine Mile Canyon Road, Pearsonville, Inyo County, California. BBI completed the survey on March 8, 2019. This report presents the results of that survey.

## SITE DESCRIPTION

50 W. Nine Mile Canyon Rd. is an approximately 18-acre parcel property located in Pearsonville CA. The parcel is located adjacent to highway 395 (east) and Nine Mile Canyon Road (north) and is a flat undeveloped plot. A map of the site is attached to this report (Attachment A).

## METHODS

BBI biologist Dr. Peter Bloom conducted a survey on the site (approx. 18-acres) on March 8, 2019 from approximately 0730h to 1330h. The temperature was 35-50 degrees F with 10% cloud cover and winds from 10-15 mph. The site was evaluated for the presence of sensitive wildlife species and the habitats with which they are associated. The survey approach involved walking back and forth over the site, stopping to listen and watch intermittently, and documenting all biological resources observed.

The northern Mojave Desert is rich in biodiversity, unless one looks for it in the winter when most organisms are either underground hibernating or have migrated to warmer climates. However, the focus of this investigation was based upon habitat quality and determining the likelihood of the state endangered Mojave Ground Squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*), known to be present in the local region, to determine if protocol surveys might be needed.

## RESULTS

The entire parcel is located in Pearsonville CA and consists mainly of pristine Creosote scrub habitat with evidence of historic and recent ground disturbances at the north end. The landscape is relatively flat, sandy alluvium with small desert washes. Two perennial plants including Creosote (*Larrea tridentate*), and White Bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*) dominate the entire parcel, punctuated by an occasional Silver Cholla (*Opuntia echinocarpa*). Two dominant annual plants include Stork's Bill (*Erodium sp.*) and Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia sp.*). Many other native annuals can be anticipated in spring and summer as they reach their respective flowering intervals.

Mr. Luis Machado

March 12, 2019

Page 2 of 9

Only two species of birds were observed during the survey, neither of which nest on-site, however, another 10 nesting bird species might arrive in spring, and another 60 migratory bird species regularly fly over, and some might pause on-site. All or most of these are non-sensitive species momentarily pausing on site or simply flying through.

Temperatures during visit were too cold for any mammals, reptiles or amphibian to be active, but several partially buried Merriam's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami*) burrows were detected. This species, along with about 7 other small rodent species and rabbits are likely found on-site. Approximately 10 species of reptiles have distributions that suggest they are found in the immediate vicinity. None of these species are considered sensitive by state or federal agencies.

Sensitive mammal species noted in the California Native Diversity Data Base within the parcel include the Mohave Ground Squirrel (MGS). None were observed during the survey. However, after consultation with MGS expert Jeff Johnson which included reviewing the location of the parcel as well as photos taken during the survey, it has been concluded that habitat does exist in the parcel and could support MGS. Further focused protocol level surveys for this listed state endangered species will be necessary. Photographs taken during the survey and documenting the site conditions are provided in Attachment C.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please feel free to call us at 949-272-0905.

Sincerely,



Peter Bloom

Zoologist



Ashley Macomber

Assistant Project Manager

ATTACHMENT A: SITE MAP

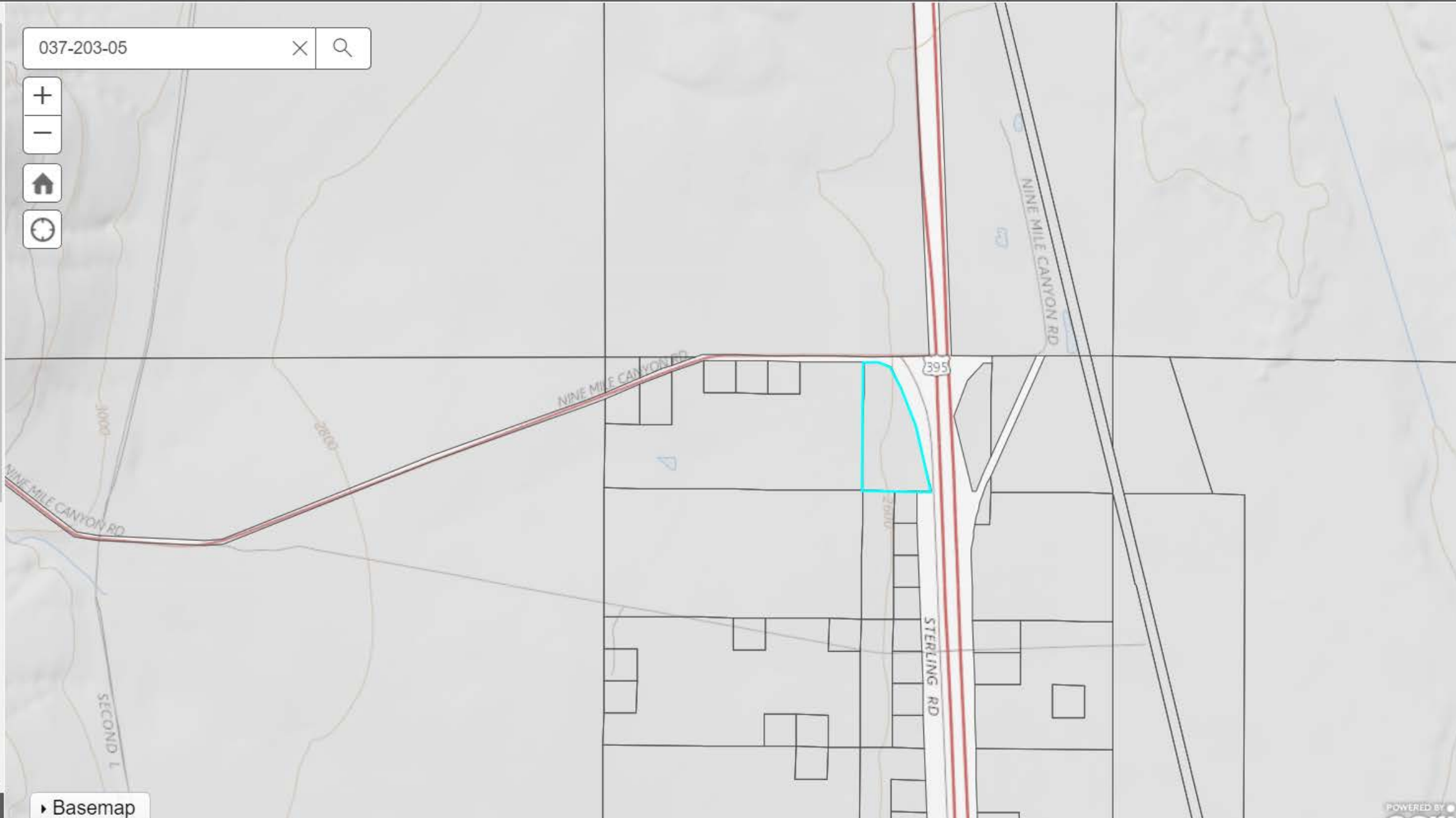
**-- MAP APPEARS ON NEXT PAGE --**

## GIS Data

### GIS Data by Parcel: 037-203-05

Parcel ID Number	037-203-05
General Plan Code	LI
General Plan Designation	Light Industrial
Zoning Code	M2-5.0
Zoning Designation	Light Industrial - 5 acre minimum
Supervisory District	District 5
Supervisor	Matt Kingsley
Supervisor Email	mkingsley@inyocounty.us
Cemetery District	MT WHITNEY CEMETERY
Groundwater Monitoring Service District	
Conservation District	INYO MONO RESOURCE CONSERVATION
Fire Protection District	
Hospital District	SOUTHERN INYO HOSPITAL
Sanitary District	
Water District	
Water-Sanitary District	
Elementary School District	
Unified School District	LONE PINE UNIFIED
Voting Precinct	87
Waste Permit Area	F
Tribal Area	
Census State Number	06
Census County Number	027
Census Tract Number	000800

037-203-05



Basemap

## ATTACHMENT B: FLORAL AND FAUNAL LIST

The following fauna were detected by the BBI biologist during the biological assessment survey on March 8, 2019.

### BIRDS

Common Raven - *Corvus corax*

White-crowned Sparrow - *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

### PLANTS

Creosote, (*Larrea tridentata*)

Silver Cholla (*Opuntia echinocarpa*)

White bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*)

Stork's Bill (*Erodium* sp.)

Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.)



## ATTACHMENT C: SITE PHOTOS



Creosote, (*Larrea tridentata*)  
in background, White bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*)  
in foreground.



Silver Cholla (*Opuntia echinocarpa*)  
1 of 3



Silver Cholla (*Opuntia echinocarpa*) 2 of 3



Silver Cholla (*Opuntia echinocarpa*) 3 of 3



Habitat Overview 1 of 3





On Site Habitat 2 of 3



Site detail of burrows





On Site Habitat 3 of 3



Site Detail