

Welcome to the DTPC Annual



Membership Meeting

January 24, 2026

Roger Dale President

Introductions/Host



AGENDA

- 10:00 am** Roger Dale, President
Call to Order, Introductions, Election of Directors
- 10:15 am** Philip DeSenze, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office
- 10:30 am** Jun Lee, Director of Land Acquisition
DTPC 2025 Accomplishments and 2026 Plans
- 10:50 am** Featured Speakers:
Tim Shields, OrniLogic
Louis Sahagún, Los Angeles Times (retired)
- 11:30 am** DTPC Board
Awards and Recognition

DTPC Board of Directors

- ❖ Tom Astle
Board Member
- ❖ Ron Berger
Board Member & Past President
- ❖ Dr. Kristin Berry
Founding Board Member
- ❖ Tina Erway
Board Member
- ❖ Greg Lathrop
Board Member & Investment Chair
- ❖ Larry Nelson
Board Member
- ❖ Laura Stockton
Founding Board Member & Treasurer
- ❖ Rachel Woodard
Board Member & Secretary

Staff and Key Team Members

- ❖ Jun Lee
Director of Land Acquisition
- ❖ Nadia Mendieta-Roberts
Parcel Monitoring / Naturalist
- ❖ Madison Eklund
Parcel Monitoring / Naturalist
- ❖ Alexia Svejda
Outreach Coordinator
- ❖ Steve Ishii
GIS and IT
- ❖ Marlene Ishii
Membership
- ❖ Sky Esser
Webmaster

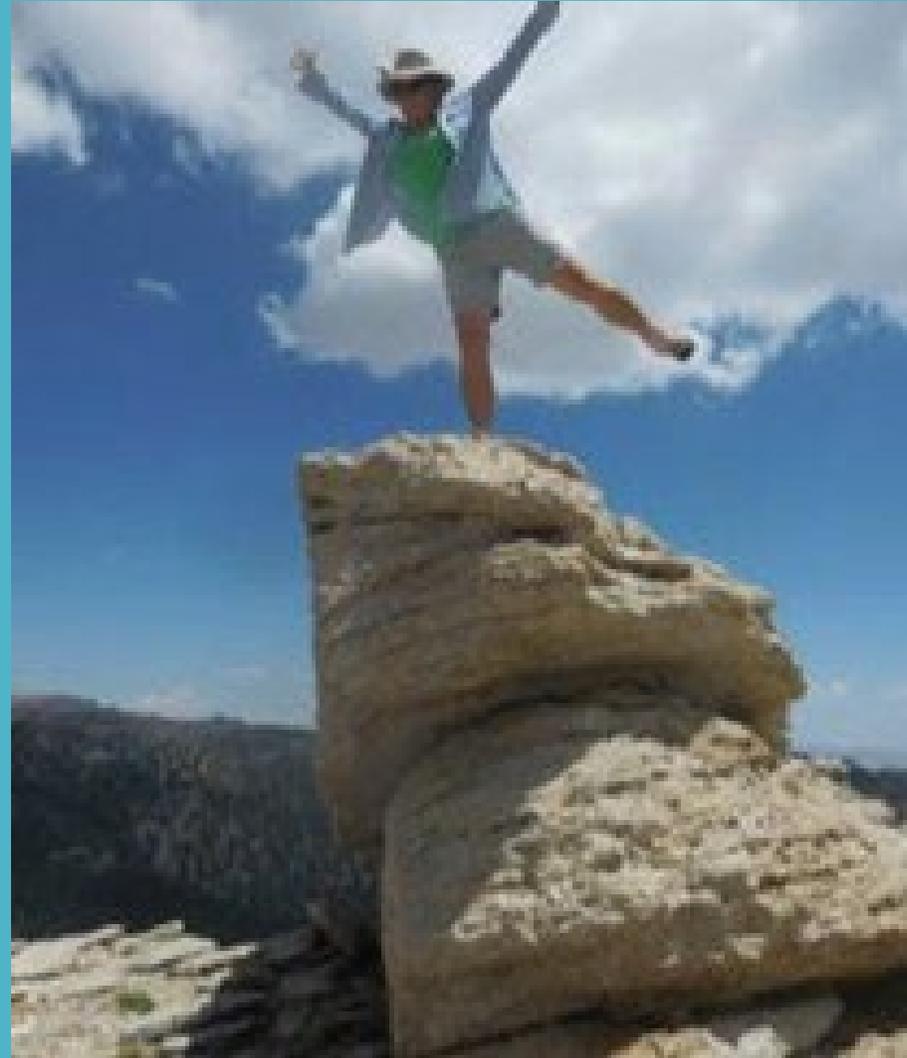
Board Nominations

Kristin Berry (2029)

Greg Lathrop (2029)

Laura Stockton (2029)

**Thank you,
Rachel
Woodard!**



DTPC Board Member since 2013

Anticipated Officers for 2026

Tom Astle – President

Roger Dale – VP/Treasurer

Laura Stockton – Asst. Treasurer

Larry Nelson - Secretary

Ridgecrest Field Office



Phil DeSenze
Field Manager



Priscilla Navarro
Natural Resource Specialist



Conservation Actions 2025



- USFWS raven control – DTRNA egg oiling (ongoing)
- Update to Integrated Invasives Management NEPA
Resource staff continue to update and expand programmatic NEPA, adding target invasive plant species and treatment methods, such as additional herbicides, for use within DTRNA.
- Survey for Invasive, Non-Native Plants at the DTRNA
- Public education through the Naturalist program
- Removed vehicle from DTRNA 1/17/25
- Desert Tortoise area signs installed
- Emergency R5/R50 route closure (still in effect)
- Emergency fence repairs due to flooding



Conservation Actions 2025



- Fencelines surrounding the DTRNA were severely impacted due to several flood events in the fall and winter of 2025.
- A joint (BLM DTPC) emergency work party took place 11/23/25 to fence major washes from high OHV use for busy holiday season.
- BLM Staff opportunistically fix fence breaks
- Work continues in FY26 to fix fence breaks around the DTRNA



Conservation Actions 2025





Conservation Actions 2025



Travel Management Program Implementation

- Continued vegetation restoration, incursions/illegal routes, vertical/horizontal mulching, obstructions, and monitoring.
- 23,413 m² (5.8 acres or 3.9 miles of linear disturbance) actively restored in FY25.
- Restoration by crews in the Red Mountain subregion/Fremont-Kramer ACEC on 95 incursions, installing 1,116 vertical mulch stands and seed pits, and 191 meters of berms to camouflage and block access.
- Some previously restored sites were retreated due to new tracks. Others were naturally weathered and needed touch-up to maintain camouflaging.
- Additional 257 previously restored sites were monitored and not in need of retreatment.



Ridgecrest FO Agreements & Contracts

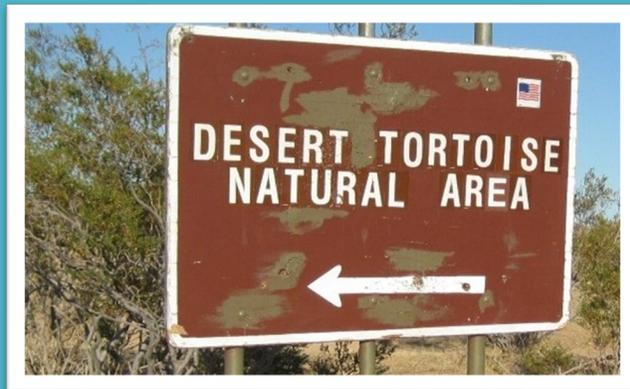
No Current Agreements

Looking into creative ways to fund
programs at the DTRNA





Management update



- Priorities this year (FY26)
 - Continue Naturalist program support
 - Creative funding & staffing solutions
 - Rebuild Fencelines
 - Reopening R5/R50
 - Updating Ridgecrest programmatic Invasives Management plan
 - Continue egg oiling project
 - Habitat restoration
- Future Efforts
 - Update BLM-DTPC Cooperative Agreement (Last updated 2014)
 - Invasive plant mapping and treatment
- Challenges
 - Staffing limitations
 - NOFO Funds from BLM State Office
 - Moving DTRNA withdrawal forward, including the expansion

Questions?



Phil DeSenze
Field Manager
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760-384-5405



Priscilla Navarro
Natural Resource Specialist
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Jun Lee

**Director of Land
Acquisition**



2025 Activities

- 1) Land Acquisition
- 2) Preserve Management
- 3) Research
- 4) Educational Outreach

2025 Land Acquisition Projects

Agency	Location	Acres	Purpose
CALTRANS	Ivanpah, Mojave National Preserve, San Bernardino County	20	Mitigation Agreement for Caltrans OK310 Project
R&L Capital	Inyokern, Kern County	333	Mitigation Agreement for RB Solar Project
R&L Capital	Inyokern, Kern County	100	Mitigation Agreement
SoCalGas	Chuckwalla DWMA, Riverside County	200	Mitigation Agreement for North-South Interconnect Pipeline Project
	TOTAL	653	

Ivanpah, Mojave National Preserve, San Bernardino County (20 acres)



RB Inyokern Solar, Kern County (433 acres)



Chuckwalla DWMA, Riverside County (200 acres)



Land Holdings in 2025

5,410.97 acres in Kern County

1,469.90 acres in San Bernardino County

234.28 acres in Riverside County

7,115.15 TOTAL ACRES



2025 Activities

- 1) Land Acquisition
- 2) Preserve Management
- 3) Research
- 4) Educational Outreach

G-23 CalParks OHV Grant

DTRNA & Expansion Area restoration areas

2 weeks (ACE 6-person crew each week) + DTPC staff and volunteers

Land monitoring

Invasive plant abatement on 2.75 acres

Sign installations & 0.27 miles of fence repairs



DTPC Spring Work Party 2025 Results

24 Volunteers participated including BLM Ridgecrest staff, CTTC, and DTPC members

Approximately 60 new BLM Desert Tortoise BLM signs installed on Eastern Expansion Area perimeter fencing; counted toward 250 required for the DTPC OHV G-23 Grant

Spring Naturalist Trailers set up in time for the March 16th start of the DTRNA visitor season

19 volunteers treated to informal tours of the DTRNA interpretative trails with 4 biologists (Noon, Milena, Tina Erway and Mark Bratton)

Removed approximately 1,940 pounds of trash (lots of wood and pallets, tents/plastics, an outdoor rug, 1 meth pipe) in just a couple of hours.

Dismantled and removed homeless encampment in Section 5

DTPC Fall Work Party 2025 Results

17 Map Boxes installed around DTRNA
perimeter

170 route maps, Raven brochures, and
Tread Lightly brochures

68 signs installed around DTRNA
perimeter



Raven Initiative Goals

Reduce Raven predation on desert tortoises and other species

Prevent egg hatching

Encourage abandonment of nests

Partnerships:

DTPC staff and volunteers monitor Raven nests

Tim Shields & Michael Darer, OrniLogi applies oils on unhatched eggs

American Honda facilitates access to Honda Test Track

Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office provides access to public lands within the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area

Dedicated Funding: [The Christine & Robert Young Raven Management Fund was created in 2025 for on-going funding support](#)

Project Management: Jun Y Lee, DTPC Project Director; Steve Ishii, VMSI, Inc., DTPC Mapping; Wildscape Restoration, Inc. Biologists Talisa Garcia, Project Manager & Marie Tolteca, Assistance Project Manager

DTPC Volunteers: Bob McGowan, Alexia Svejda

American Honda Liaisons: Robert Wisdom & Michael Wesoloski

DTRNA and Adjacent Priority Areas



Ongoing Nest Site Monitoring: 129 nest sites monitored within and around the DTRNA, including areas abutting I-14 and California City



Nests Observed: 62 total, 52 active nests



Hatchlings: 20 total



Eggs Oiled: 146 total



Budget: Total 8,942.80. \$6,902.80 for project management & biological field services and \$2,040 for mapping

Fence Flood Damage

12 major flood-related areas

130 T-posts installed

3,000 lin. Ft of emergency tension wire installed



2025 Activities

- 1) Land Acquisition
- 2) Preserve Management
- 3) Research
- 4) Educational Outreach

Avantus Solar MGS and DT Translocation

2 MGS translocated to
DTRNA SE and
Eastern Expansion
Areas

Multi-year agreement



2025 Activities

- 1) Land Acquisition
- 2) Preserve Management
- 3) Research
- 4) Educational Outreach

Spring Naturalist Season



Naturalists: Nadia Mendieta-Roberts, head naturalist; Madison Eklund, part-time naturalist; and Michaela Patrovsky-Chacon, backup part-time naturalist.

Visitation: 292 groups totaling 741 individuals were recorded at the IC. 82% from California.

OHV Visitors: 10% of visitor groups and of visitors to the DTRNA arrived on off highway vehicles (OHV).

Visitor Tortoise Sightings: A total of 70 (24%) of the 292 visitor groups reported seeing at least one desert tortoise.

Naturalists Tortoise Sightings: At least ten individual desert tortoises (7 adults, 2 juveniles, and 1 deceased).

Naturalist Raven Sightings: 76 of a total of 126 common ravens in 2025 compared to of a total of 200 common ravens in 2024 and 79 of a total of 155 common ravens in 2023.

Thank You!



Featured
Speaker:

Tim Shields
OrniLogic





"Thwarting the Birds of Doom: Hi-tech Raven Control"

**By
Tim Shields
OrniLogic, LLC**

1979



2012









The Land of Opportunity

Barstow:

- Abundant food
- Easily accessible water
- Plenty of shade
- Nest substrates of many kinds

not Barstow:

- Unreliable food supply
- Water rarely available
- Very little shade
- Nest substrate largely confined to cliffs

2016

A once proud Luddite
becomes an eco-technologist



Points of Leverage

- Dependence on subsidy sites
- Ties to the nest
- Paranoid intelligence
- Behavioral plasticity
- Sociability
- High mobility
- Tortoises are no big deal to ravens





Large subsidy sites are obvious



Raven Nests are Obvious



Roosts are
obvious



Remote Egg Oiling

Telescoping pole in use



Drone-based REO



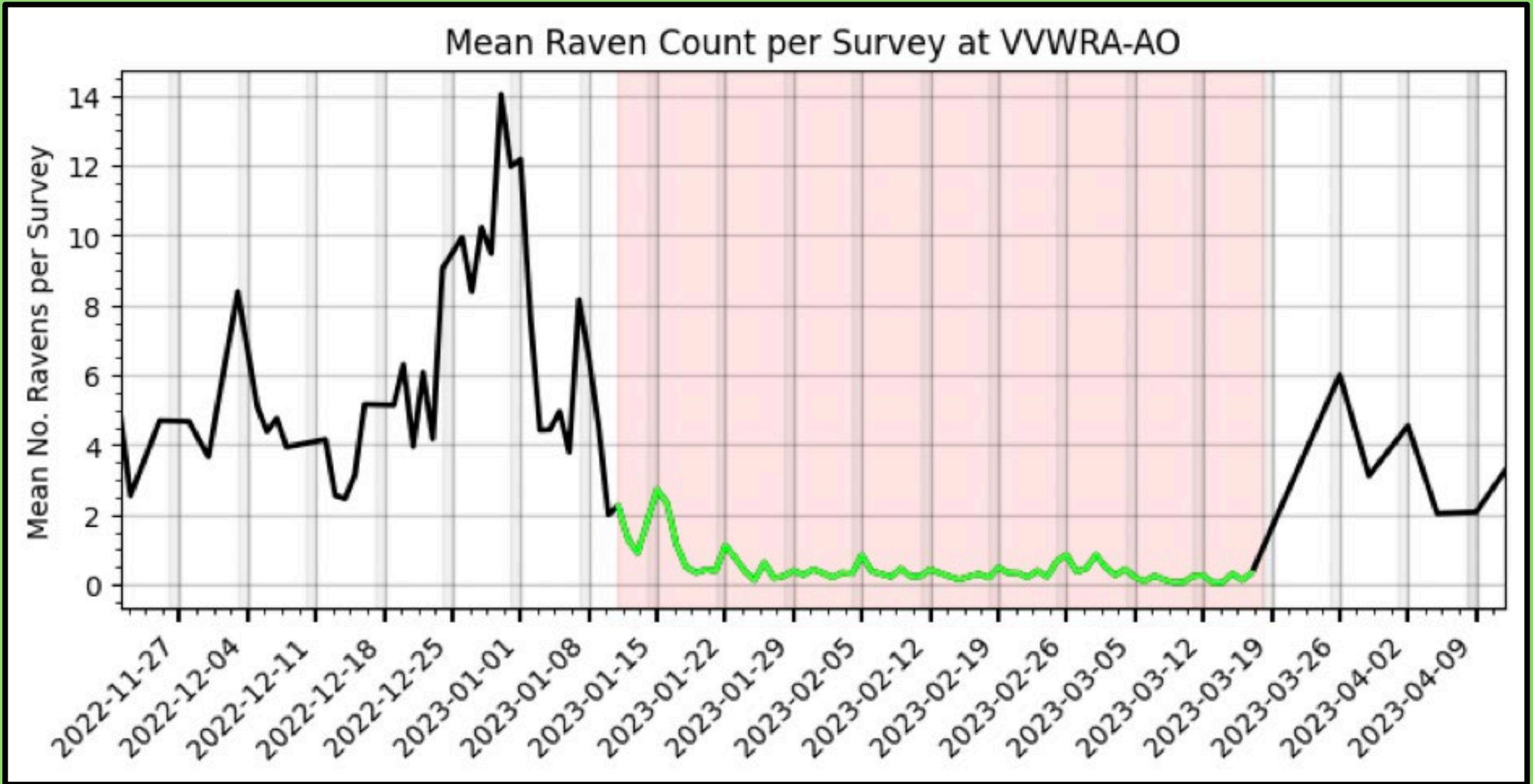
View from the drone

Tortoise Conservation Area	2024 (or most recent) Mean Density (raven km⁻²)	2020 - 2024 [or most recent] Density Difference	2020 - 2024 [or most recent] Percent Change	Slope	R²
Fremont-Kramer	0.78	-1.66	-68%	-0.323	0.5571
Ord-Rodman	0.33	-0.75	-69%	-0.177	0.8686
Superior-Cronese	0.94	-0.62	-40%	-0.145	0.1551
Fenner, Ivanpah, MNP	0.20	-0.42	-68%	-0.117	0.8122
JTNP, Pinto Mountains	0.31	-1.06	-77%	-0.310	0.8054
Chemehuevi	0.18	-0.09	-33%	NA	NA
Chuckwalla	0.10	-0.60	-86%	NA	NA
Average	0.41	-0.74	-63%	-0.2143	0.6397

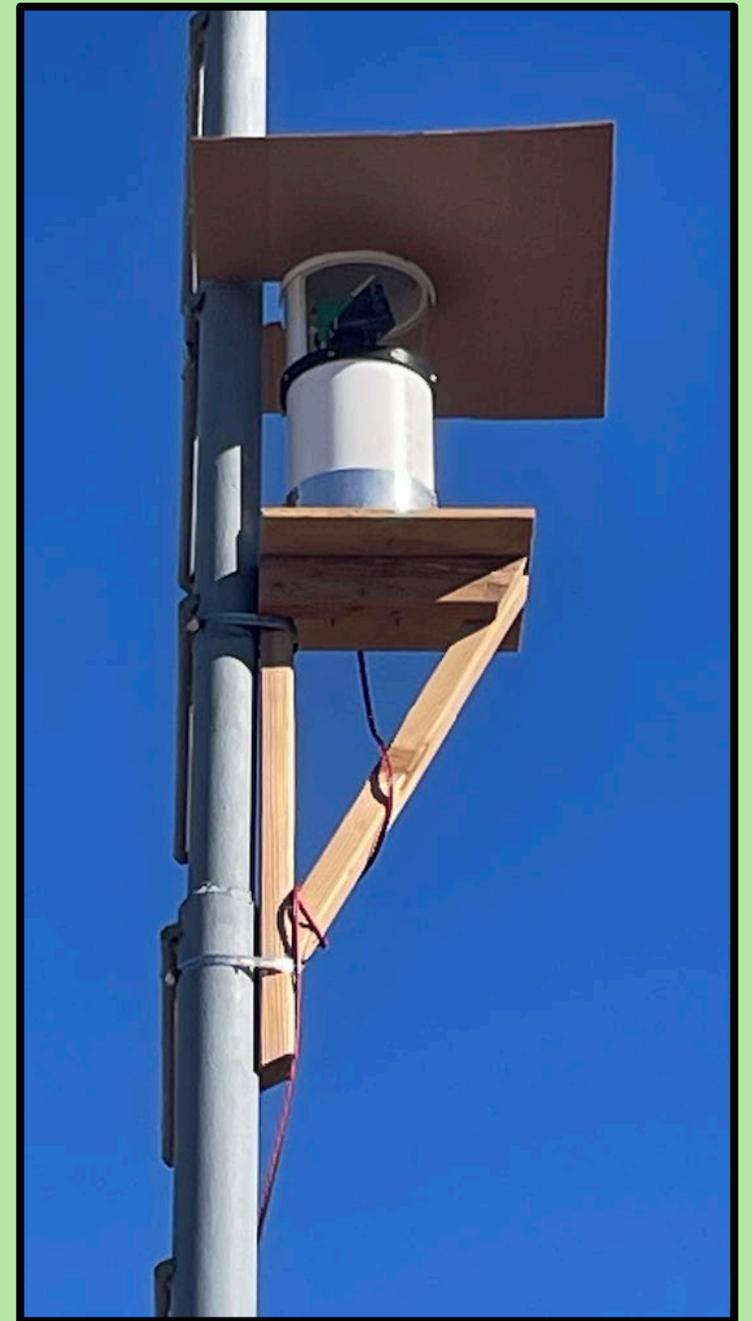
REO yields results! (yes, you may applaud)



Techno-tort
in
action



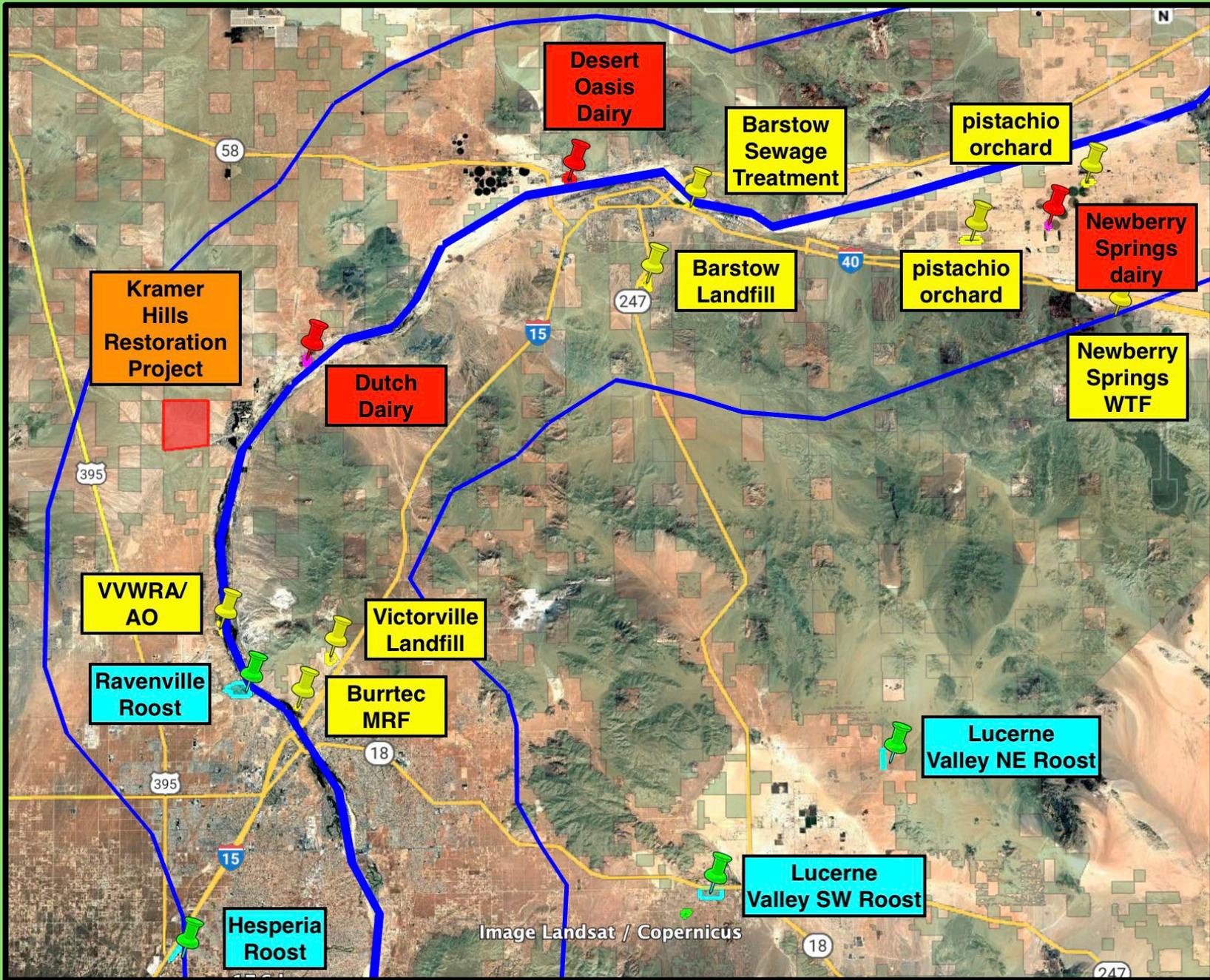
LASERs at Work: Raven Numbers at One Subsidy Site



SMART Lasers: Built in Barstow!



SMART lasers
operated by locals!



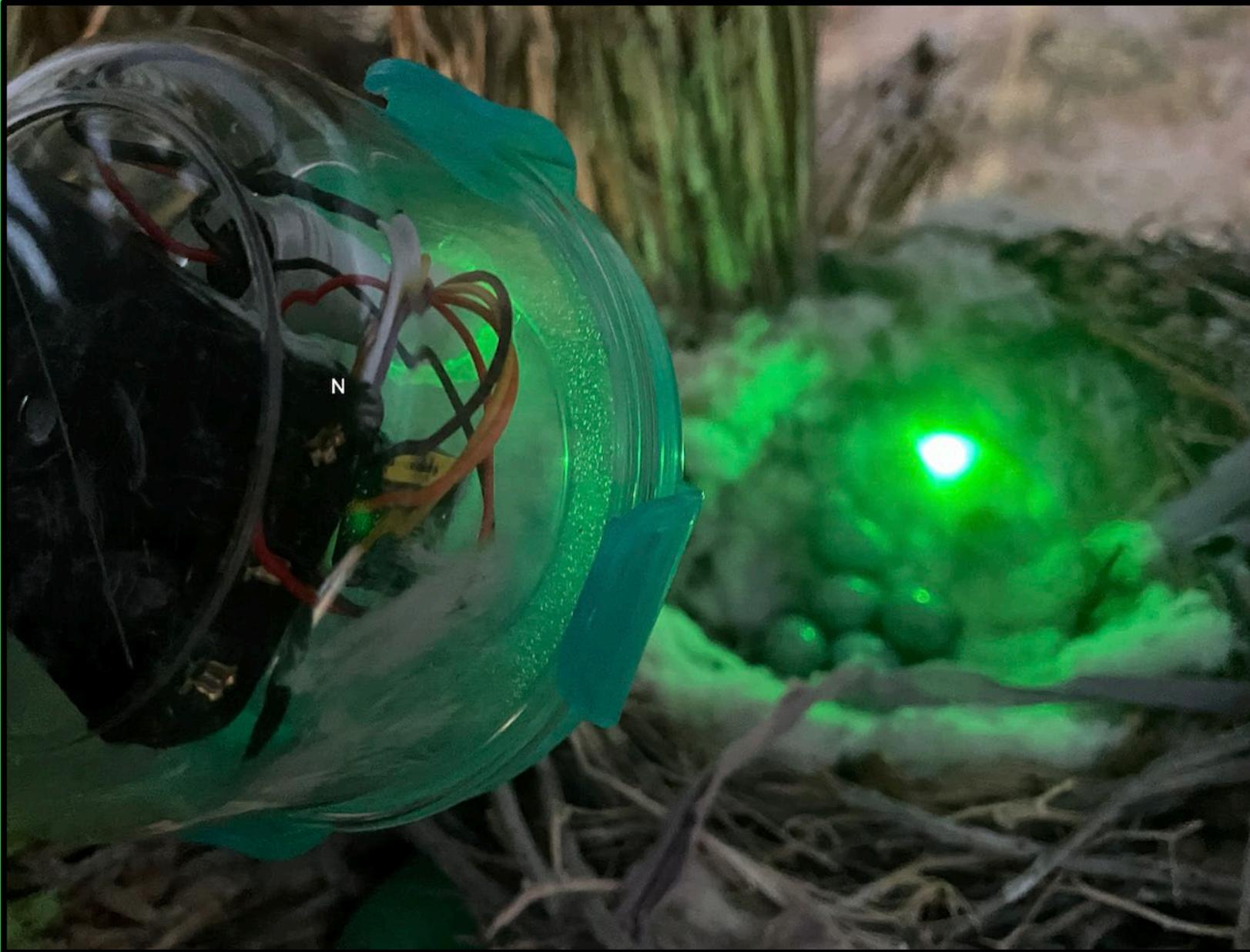
Raven Blitz 25-26



Before and After Laser:
One raven's odyssey



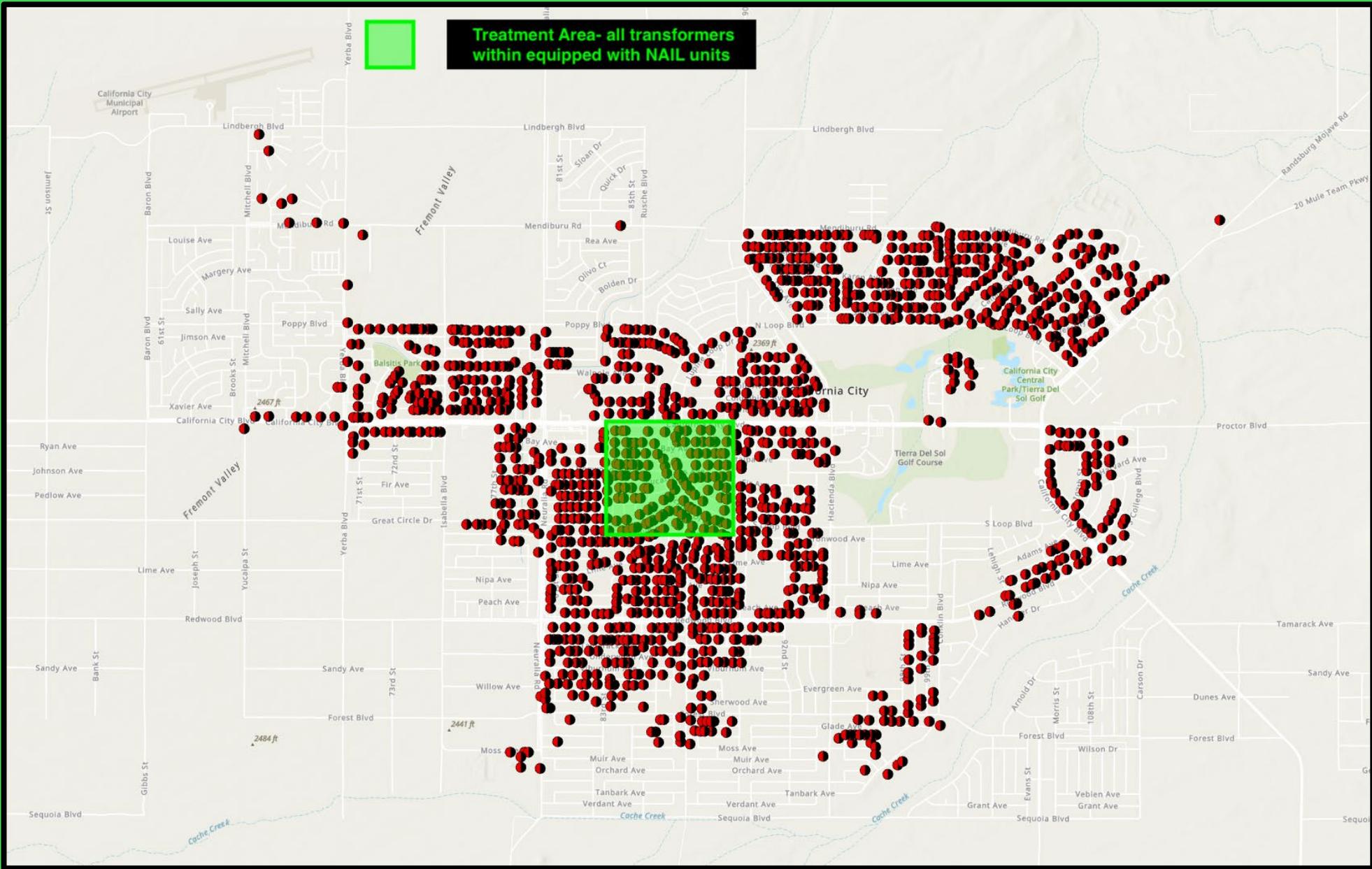
Nest Abandonment Induction Laser (NAIL)



Prototype NAIL
and nest

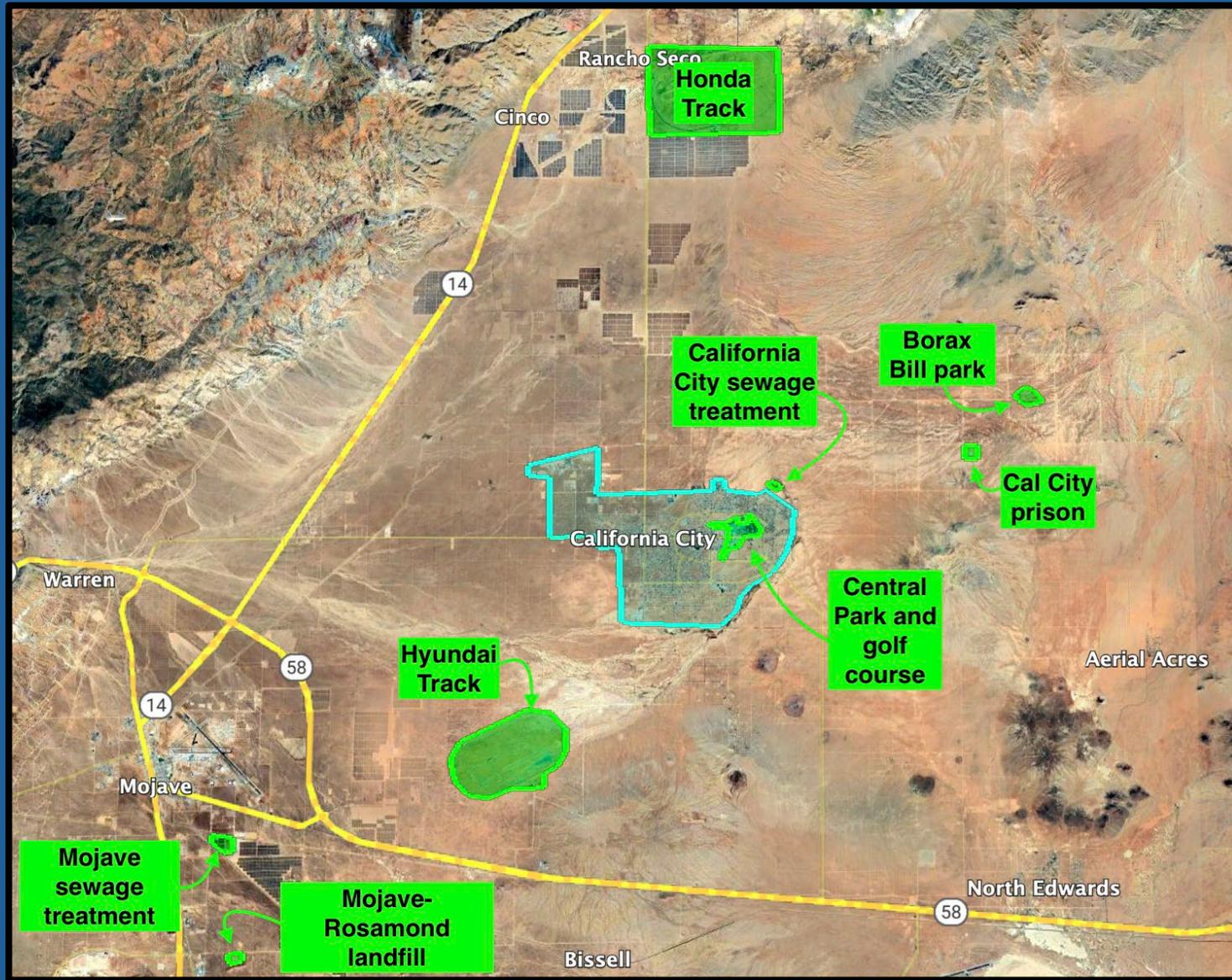


Interests Align



Treatment Area- all transformers within equipped with NAIL units

Cal City NAIL 2026



DTRNA area
raven subsidies
(a partial list)

Acknowledgments

Dr. Kristin Berry
Transition Habitat Conservancy
California Wildlife Conservation Board
DTPC
US Fish and Wildlife Service
CDFW
Honda Corporation
SCE
PG&E
Bureau of Land Management
Victor Valley Wastewater
Recovery Authority
Athens Services

Ken Kolbly
Erica Shafer
Siyel George
Abraham Basulto
Michael Darter
Samantha Hubbard
Curt Anderson
Ariel Herrera
Richard Myers
Stephanie Gastineau
William Boarman
Ryan Boarman
(everyone else)

Featured
Speaker:

Louis
Sahagún



SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND AWARDS



CELIA HOWE PRINT



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Stephen Davis



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Steven Asbury



New DTPC Brochures

DTRNA overview

Invertebrates

The desert tortoise needs your help

Since 1974, the work of the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee (DTPC) has been supported through generous donations by individuals, organizations and government agencies. You can support our work with a tax-deductible donation or by becoming a contributing member.

Online: tortoise-tracks.org
Phone: 442-294-4258



Desert Tortoise
Preserve Committee, Inc.



This brochure was supported by, and produced in collaboration with, the Bureau of Land Management. The Bureau of Land Management's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. For news about the BLM in California, subscribe to their weekly e-newsletter NewsBytes, or call the Ridgcrest office at (760) 384-5400 for more information.



Insects and Arachnids



A metallic green blister beetle (*Lytta* sp.) and plant bug (*Aoplonema princeps*)



**Desert Tortoise Research
Natural Area**

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



Desert Tortoise
Preserve Committee, Inc.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Tom Meader



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Priscilla Navarro



Golden Tortoise Award!



GOLDEN TORTOISE AWARD

Louis
Sahagún



Desert Tortoise

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