BURROWING OWL CONSERVATION

A LOCAL BIOLOGIST’S PERSPECTIVE

Marie Barrett
FACTORS INFLUENCING PRESENCE OF BUOW IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

• Water delivery methods, ditch construction and maintenance practices – Bartok and Conway 2010

• Management of the irrigation system - Rosenberg and Haley (2004)

• Availability of suitable burrowing sites – Columbe 1971
CONSERVATION

• Preservation, protection, or restoration of the natural environment, natural ecosystems, vegetation, and wildlife.
HAZARDS OBSERVED IN FIELD

Vehicles

Debris
HAZARDS (cont)

- GRADING
- EROSION
HAZARDS (cont)

- CONSTRUCTION
- OTHERS
LOCAL CONSERVATION PRACTICES

• PROTECTION OF BURROWS
• WORK WITH LOCAL AGENCIES
• EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH
PROTECTION OF BURROWS

• Shelter natural burrows
ARTIFICIAL BURROWS
SIGNAGE

BURROWING OWL HABITAT
DO NOT DISTURB
LOCAL AGENCIES
IMPERIAL COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

• AT RISK BURROW

CLOSURE AFTER NESTING SEASON
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

- WEAP

All Workers who work in BUOW areas receive training with wallet cards

PUBLIC SERVICE OUTREACH

Rotary/Optimists/Kiwanas
SCHOOL OUTREACH

• Tours, class room presentations, career days
WISH LIST
LOCAL

• INSTALL ARTIFICIAL BURROWS

FENCED PUBLIC AREAS
HOA PROTECTIONS

AGRICULTURAL AREAS

PROTECTED RIGHT OF WAY AREAS
WISH LIST

• NO MORE WATER TRANSFERS
  – ANY WATER REMOVED FROM FARMING AFFECTS HABITAT
  – MONITOR SAN DIEGO/LA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT

• CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

• ACTION
WISH LIST (CONT)

• REHAB CENTER LOCATED IN IMPERIAL VALLEY
THANK YOU

QUESTIONS