

Date: Wednesday, March 08, 2023
Biologist: Nancy J. Richie, Island Environmental & Marine Services, LLC, FWC RAG# 18-00022
Location: 731 South Collier Blvd. Marco Island Collier County FL 34145
Parcel No.: 57871640008 (Marco Beach Unit 10 Block 348 Lot 1) 0.38-acres
Name of Project: "Marco Island Parking Lot – 731 South Collier Blvd."
Species: Burrowing Owl (BUOW) - 2 Potentially Occupied burrows; 2 adult BUOW; Active

UPDATED LISTED SPECIES SURVEY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Property Description: The property is approximately 0.38 acres in area. The vegetation cover is patchy miscellaneous grasses that are routinely mowed with one stand of Saw Palmetto and Sabal Palms present. The soil type is disturbed, urban complex from fill. The property is bordered on the north by an existing public parking lot; to the west, south and east by paved public roadways, South Collier Blvd., Vally Avenue and an alley way, respectively, all maintained by the City of Marco Island.

History: The property was originally surveyed for listed species on May 21, 2021. Two (2) burrows were documented and a Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Permit LSNR-21-00170 was issued for the legal removal of 2 inactive (non-nesting) Burrowing Owl (BUOW) burrows prior to development. The FWC Permit expired June 30, 2022 and was never executed to remove the burrows as the development project was not permitted or initiated but the FWC Mitigation Permit Fee, \$1,900 was paid to the Florida Wildlife Foundation (FWFF).

Current Status: Currently the project for the construction of a new public parking lot located at the above-described commercially zoned property location is moving forward with development plans presented to the City of Marco Island.

Environmental Assessment: A new survey conducted by the FWC Registered Agent after Hurricane Ian on November 02, 2022 concluded that the 2 burrows remained intact and occupied by one adult BUOW after the hurricane storm surge.

Audubon of Western Everglades Owl Watch manager and biologist has documented in the month of February (typically the Marco Island Burrowing Owl nesting season) that there are two (2) BUOW potentially occupied by 2 adult BUOW so considered and active burrow cluster. The Registered Agent has also documented the burrows, as well as the land surveyor for the project, depicting the burrows on the survey. The Burrow Cluster is the same 2 burrows in the same location that were documented in 2021, 2022 and now in 2023. The burrows are posted approximately 20 feet in all directions from the burrow openings with posts and line for conservation. They are monitored by the Agent and Owl Watch.

FWC Permit Status and Timeline for Burrow Removal for Development: A new FWC Permit will be required for the legal removal of the 2 burrows when determined . FWC Registered Agent Nancy Richie, Permit# RAG-15-0002 has been contracted by the property owner and is submitting the updated application to FWC on March 15, 2023. This permit application will take FWC 10 weeks to review and issue, so the new permit will be expected in the second or third week of May 2023. Though the burrows are currently active or nesting, once the young produced are fully fledged (have full flight feathers and not dependent on the adult BUOW or burrow for protection or food) the burrows will transition to inactive (non-nesting) and can be removed when the project permitted by the City of Marco Island, the FWC Permit is issued and the development is initiated.

Burrowing Owl Burrow Locations at 731 South Collier Blvd. Marco Island



Map#	Latitude	Longitude	Description
BO-01	25.91821	-81.72585	Potentially Occupied, Active BUOW Burrow; Intact, 2 adult BUOW evidence of nesting debris
BO-02	25.91815	-81.72584	Potentially Occupied, Active BUOW Burrow; Intact, well maintained, fresh soils on mound

I certify the environmental survey and review for this property were performed in conformance of Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Burrowing Owl and Gopher Tortoise Conservation Guidelines and meets the standards of the City of Marco Island development permit requirements. The reported information is accurate as to the date of the survey.

Respectively submitted,

Nancy J. Richie

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Marine Biologist

FL Fish & Wildlife Registered Agent # RAG-18-00022

FL Fish & Wildlife Gopher Tortoise Agent # GTA-15-00037C

NOAA/NMFS Protected Species Observer

Florida Master Naturalist

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