

**APPENDIX D**

# **Procedures for Removing Burrowing Owls**

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Part of the Burrowing Owl Conservation Strategy includes ensuring that burrowing owls are absent from burrows prior to conducting specific activities that would fill or collapse the burrow. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Implementation Biologist will follow one of the following four procedures to ensure that owls are absent from burrows that will be affected.

## Option 1

Prior to conducting the activities, the biologist will use a scope to determine if an owl is present in a burrow.

If the burrow is unoccupied, the burrows will be made inaccessible to owls, and the activities may proceed.

If the burrow is occupied, the biologist will install a one-way door to remove the owl from the burrow. The biologist will scope the burrow to confirm that the owl has vacated. After confirming that the owl has vacated the burrow, the burrow will be made inaccessible to owls.

## Option 2

Prior to conducting the activities, the biologist will install a one-way door with a trap in burrows that would be affected. The biologist will check the trap approximately every 4 hours until the owl is trapped. The owl will be relocated to suitable habitat; the burrows will be made inaccessible to owls.

## Option 3

At least 3 days before conducting the activities, the biologist will install a one-way door in burrows that would be affected. Prior to conducting the activities, the biologist will use a scope to verify that burrows are vacant. After confirming that the owl has vacated the burrow, the burrow will be made inaccessible to owls.

## Option 4

The HCP Implementation Biologist may use any other procedure approved by the HCP Implementation Team for ensuring that owls are not present in burrows.