



**BURROWING OWL CONSERVATION
NETWORK**

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- PETITION -
CALIFORNIA BURROWING OWL COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

QUICK FACTS

- "Concerted conservation actions are needed to maintain viable burrowing owl populations in California and to help prevent the need to list this species under the state or federal Endangered Species Acts." (CDFG 2008)
- "A range-wide conservation strategy for this species is needed. Any range-wide conservation strategy should establish criteria for avoiding the need to list this species pursuant to either the California or federal Endangered Species Acts through preservation of existing habitat, population expansion into former habitat, recruitment of young into the population, and other specific efforts." (CDFG 1995)
- A study by the Institute for Bird Populations indicated that the Burrowing Owl population in the San Francisco Bay Area and parts of Central California declined by 50% in 10 years between 1983 and 1993 (Trulio and Chromczak 2007).
- A 2002 survey of 111 city-owned or privately-owned sites in the south San Francisco Bay Area where owls were recorded between 1981-1988 showed that 66% of these occupied sites had been lost to urban development (Trulio and Chromczak 2007).
- Burrowing Owls were extirpated during the last 10-15 years from several areas in California, including Napa, Marin, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and Ventura counties, and coastal San Luis Obispo county and Coachella Valley. Few individuals were observed in Sonoma, Santa Barbara, Orange, coastal Monterey, and San Mateo counties (Klute, et al. 2003).
- The Imperial owl population has declined from an estimated 5,600 pairs in the early 1990s to 4,879 pairs in 2007, then dropped sharply to 3,557 pairs in 2008; representing a more than 36% decline (Imperial Irrigation District 2009).
- A 2007 study by the Institute for Bird Populations found that burrowing owl pairs in the San Francisco Bay Area Interior region declined by nearly 28% from the 1991-1993 survey (Wilkerson and Siegel 2010).

For more information or questions, please contact:

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Burrowing Owl Conservation Network is a fiscally sponsored project of Earth Island Institute, a 501(c)3 non-profit, public interest, membership organization that supports people who are creating solutions to protect our shared planet.



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