

Palen SEGS Amendment
REAT Agencies phone call
February 7, 2013



Attendees

BLM: Frank McMenimen, Kim Marsden, Mark Massar, John Kalish

NPS: Ameer Howard, Michael Vamstead

USFWS: Jody Fraser, Jeep Pagel, Tom Dietsch

CDFW: Magdalena Rodriguez, Shankar Sharma

CEC: Ann Crisp (Staff Biologist), Carol Watson (Staff Biologist), Christine Stora (Compliance Project Manager), Jennifer Martin-Gallardo (Staff Counsel), Anwar Ali (Supervisor – Biological Unit)

Introduction

- The scope of Energy Commission review for the Petition to Amend will be limited to aspects of the proposed project that are different than those approved in the Final Decision.

Issues ID Call Summary

- The primary focus of the conference call was the potential impact of elevated solar flux on avian species. The REAT agencies are in agreement that this impact was not addressed in the original project analysis.
- Requirements for survey data for the modified project were discussed in general terms. The completed surveys were not of the scope and scale necessary to address impacts for this modified project, and are insufficient to conduct robust analysis of potential avian impacts.
- Consensus among the REAT agency representatives regarding survey design and protocols will be essential in providing clear and consistent direction to PSH (BrightSource/ Caithness), with the recommendation that data collection begin in the spring of 2013. REAT agencies and the applicant will need to come to agreement regarding how many seasons of survey data will be required for the project prior to issuance of final permits.
- The USFWS and BLM voiced concern regarding the currently proposed project schedule, and noted that BLM's NEPA review will require more time than the Energy Commission timeline.
- BLM may require PSH to redo all biological resource surveys for the ROW grant due to the time that has elapsed since surveys were conducted (including desert tortoise? Waters of the U.S. and or waters of the state, burrowing owl?)

Next Steps

Next phone call will be after informational hearing to discuss Data Requests.