

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**  
**REPORT OF CONVERSATION Page 1 of 1**



**Systems Assessment and  
 Facilities Siting Division**

**FILE: 07-AFC-8**

**PROJECT TITLE: Carrizo Solar Energy Farm**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone	(805) 772-4318	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location:	
<b>NAME:</b>	Brian McCollough	<b>DATE:</b>	2/29/08
<b>TIME:</b>	10:15 AM	<b>WITH:</b> Deb Hilyard, Dave Hacker, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)	
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Endangered species and game issues with the Carrizo Project			

Staff spoke with Deb Hilyard and Dave Hacker of the CDFG regarding the Carrizo Energy Solar Farm application. Deb indicated that she would like more time to look at the AFC, but that draft comments would be going to the region next week, and that more finalized comments would probably be sent the week after that.

They began by commenting on the adequacy of surveys done last year. The plant surveys done last year were not informative, as last year was such a low rainfall year. Deb recommended that botanical surveys be done again for the 2008 season. Deb also commented that the blunt-nosed leopard lizard (BNLL) surveys done last year were done late in the surveying season, and were probably done too late to actually show whether or not BNLL were present on the site. They also commented that there was no evidence of a reference site, which is an important part of the survey protocol, and that inclusion of survey data sheets would be helpful. Deb recommended 2008 BNLL surveys following the protocol, in addition to botanical surveys. We also discussed small mammal surveys, and Deb recommended that trapping be done, as surveys need to be done to prove absence, and San Joaquin Antelope squirrel may be a concern.

Deb commented that potential impacts to the streambed should be avoided if possible, as impact avoidance is the top priority for streambeds, rather than assuming an impact and getting a section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement. She also commented that water use was going to be a concern, as water is very important in the Carrizo. She mentioned that the ground water on the western side of California Valley had good quantity and quality, but the ground water on the eastern edge of the Carrizo, from Soda Lake up to the Temblor Range was poor quality, and had issues, including arsenic. Fish & Game was concerned that project water use may impact surface water features, streams, and the water quality in Soda Lake, as there are many biological resources that would be impacted, including fairy shrimp, migratory birds, plovers, and curlews.

An additional species that may be of concern is the Kern evening primrose sphinx moth, a federally listed species with potential to occur in the project area.

We then discussed mitigation, and Deb mentioned that off-site habitat compensation lands for one species might not compensate for impacts to the multiple species that were impacted by the construction of the project. It might be that separate land purchases would be required to compensate for impacts to kit fox, badger, and potentially BNLL, for example, as land where all of those species co-occur might not be available. Deb also mentioned that impacts to kit fox would need to be mitigated through habitat compensation at a 5:1 ratio.

<b>cc:</b> Rick York Mary Dyas	<b>Signed:</b>	<b>DOCKET</b> 07-AFC-8
	<b>Name:</b> Brian McCollough	
		<b>DATE</b> FEB 29 2008
		<b>RECD.</b> MAR 05 2008