

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	(661) 769-8091	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location:	
NAME:	Brian McCollough	DATE:	3/19/08
TIME:	10:00 AM	WITH:	Dave Hacker, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)
SUBJECT:	Biological resource concerns and survey requirements for the Carrizo Project		

COMMENTS:

Staff spoke with Dave Hacker of the CDFG regarding the Carrizo Energy Solar Farm biological surveys, and the surveys that will be required to characterize and assess the biological resources at the project site. Dave mentioned that he had reviewed the data sheets from the blunt-nosed leopard lizard (BNLL) surveys that were done last year, and found that new surveys would need to be conducted this year, as the BNLL survey protocol was not completely followed.

Staff then discussed further survey requirements, and Mr. Hacker stated that antelope squirrel protocol surveys will need to be conducted this year. Additionally, nocturnal small mammal trapping will need to be done for at least four nights, with a focus on short-nosed kangaroo rat, among other species. As last year was such a dry year, and surveys were completed on only two consecutive days in April, botanical surveys should be done this year to better characterize the species on the project site. Staff mentioned the Kern primrose Sphinx moth, and that David Kelley of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had described dry washes with Camissonia species as potential habitat for the moth.

Dave then mentioned a list of ten special-status species that were not addressed in the AFC, but that have potential to occur on the project site. This list includes short-nosed kangaroo rat, bald eagle (nesting and wintering), ferruginous hawk (wintering), golden eagle (nesting and wintering), loggerhead shrike (breeding), mountain plover (wintering), San Joaquin whipsnake, Kern primrose sphinx moth, coast (California) horned lizard, and the Oregon vesper sparrow (wintering).

Dave expressed dissatisfaction with the wildlife corridor discussion in the AFC, which he felt was inadequate.

Dave discussed how CDFG and San Luis Obispo County had met this week to discuss a potential solar project to be developed adjacent to the Carrizo Solar Energy Farm site. This Optisolar project will be eight square miles in size. Dave expressed concern with not just habitat loss, but the sizable cumulative impacts these projects will have on closing a migratory wildlife corridor, isolating San Joaquin kit fox, pronghorn, and tule elk populations, and potentially threatening them.

cc: Rick York	Signed:
	Name: Brian McCollough

DOCKET
07-AFC-8
DATE MAR 19 2008
RECD. MAR 20 2008