DESERT SUNLIGHT SOLAR PROJECT
WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES
DESERT CENTER, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 14, 2013 – JANUARY 20, 2013

PUBLIC INFORMATION

PREPARED BY

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Summary:

A live burrowing owl individual was found in one of the northern blocks with a potential burrow. A 50m buffer was placed around the burrow and a one-way door was installed at the entrance. The buffer was lifted later in the week after the burrow was deemed inactive. An older potential burrowing owl burrow was identified in the northwest of the site, but was collapsed after closer inspection, deeming it inactive.

30-day burrowing owl pre-construction surveys and nesting bird surveys were completed in the vegetation remaining in the western blocks. Nothing of significance was found.

Tortoises #6005, #6006, and #6214 were all tracked and found in their last known locations. The previously on-site kit foxes were tracked to their off-site den. Some adjustments were made on the MSA gate and further adjustments were made on the inner MSA fence as kit fox deterrence.

Monthly raven surveys were completed this week. MSA bird netting was checked and the the perimeter tortoise fence was also inspected.

Vegetation removal was completed in the northwest portion of the site with the removal of the burrowing owl buffer. Aggregate worked on retention basins in the northwest portion of the site after completing compaction and vault work east of the site. Beta erected steel structures at the substation and erected poles throughout most of the week west of the site.

Most of the 30-day burrowing owl pre-construction surveys on the gen-tie were completed, with the access roads remaining. A few potential burrowing owl burrows were identified and checked throughout the week. No other activities occurred on the gen-tie besides a visit by Aldridge and First Solar.

Monday:

A live burrowing owl individual and potential burrow was found in one of the northern blocks where vegetation was being removed by First Solar. The remaining 30-day burrowing owl pre-construction surveys were completed on the gen-tie line. Aggregate completed compaction and vault work in the eastern part of the site and shifted to the northwest of the site to work on basins. Beta erected steel structures at the substation and poles along the western part of the site.

Tuesday:

A one-way door was installed in the potential burrowing owl burrow. Vegetation was removed around the established buffer and continued to the northwest portion of the site.

Wednesday:
Monthly raven surveys were completed. Tortoises #6005, 6006, and #6214 were tracked. Vegetation removal in the northwest as well as basin work continued.

Thursday:
MSA bird netting was checked. The one-way door at the potential burrowing owl burrow was removed, buffer was lifted, and remaining vegetation in the area was removed.

Friday:
First Solar completed vegetation removal in the northwest portion of the site. 30-day burrowing owl pre-construction surveys began again in the remaining vegetated area on the western side of the site. The MSA inner fence was adjusted with kit fox deterrence. The remainder of the MSA bird netting was checked and the perimeter tortoise fence was checked without issue.

Saturday:
The kit foxes were tracked to their off-site den location. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.

Sunday:
No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.