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

JANUARY 28, 2013 – FEBRUARY 03, 2013

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Summary:

The previously on-site kit fox family has been continually tracked to their off-site den location. Behavior and health and appear to be normal for all the foxes. Kit fox deterrence around the new MSA fence and gate was completed as well as removal of the outer southern MSA fence. On site juvenile was in MSA on Tuesday, gate was left open that night and it was gone the next day. New gate had gap in it which was fixed.

The tortoises were all tracked to their last known locations. Activity was very low even with the warmer weather and precipitation.

30-day pre-construction surveys were completed for all on-site areas with remaining vegetation and nothing of significance was found. One potential burrowing owl burrow of concern along the gen-tie line was found to be inactive after several consecutive checks and collapsed. One more potential burrow of concern was found, checks were done throughout the weekend with no active sign, therefore, the burrow was collapsed on Sunday.

Nesting bird surveys were done this week on the Gen Tie and the blocks with remaining vegetation. Verdins were found to be using their wintering nests, and there is no determination of nesting so far. No active nests were detected and some old nests were dismantled.

Aggregate continued basin work in block 9 and vault work in block 12 & 13, and clearing and grubbing in block 13.Drilling rig was set up at the new pond in block 15, will start drilling Monday. Beta continued erecting steel structures at the substation and poles along West Side Drive for the collections system.

Monday:

Nesting bird surveys were done on the Gen Tie along Kaiser Road. Kit foxes were tracked through Friday and found in the same off-site den location. One burrow was still active on the Gen Tie, but outside of construction area off access road, so it was left alone. Aggregate worked on basins and continued grading in the western block with remaining vegetation. Beta worked on erecting steel structures at the substation throughout the week and erecting poles along West Side Drive. The MSA exterior fence is still being taken down.

Tuesday:

Nesting bird surveys were done on the Gen Tie along Kaiser Road. Burrowing owl burrows were checked and a second inactive burrow was collapsed. On site juvenile kit fox was found in MSA - there was a gap in the gate which was fixed before the end of the day and gate was left open. Aggregate continued basins work in the northern block and vault work and some vegetation removal in the western block. Beta worked on erecting steel structures at the substation throughout the week and erecting poles along West Side Drive.

Wednesday:
All on site kit foxes were found at their normal off site den location. Juvenile kit fox was found with adults, so it is out of the MSA. Nesting bird surveys done on the Gen Tie east of State Route 177, and one burrowing owl burrow was found. Aggregate and Beta continued with same work as yesterday. E-Light was trenching and pulling A/C cable in block 3.

Thursday:
Kit foxes tracked to their normal den. Nest checks were done on Gen Tie. Two relocated tortoises were tracked to their normal dens (6005, 6006). PM survey was conducted on burrowing owl burrow on Gen Tie - no sign or activity. Fence check done, no issues. Construction continued in same blocks.

Friday:
Kit foxes tracked to normal den location. Nest checks done on Gen Tie. MSA bird netting was checked, no issues. Burrowing owl burrow on Gen Tie checked both AM and PM, no active sign. Beta continued erecting poles, First Solar put in posts, tilts and rails in block 12.

Saturday:
Nesting bird surveys were completed in remaining on-site vegetation. Kit foxes tracked to normal den location. Burrowing owl on Gen Tie checked in both AM and PM, no active sign. Beta continued erecting pole structures along West Side Drive.

Sunday:
Burrowing owl burrow on Gen Tie checked in AM with no active sign so burrow was excavated. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.