

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

**DECEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 30, 2012
PUBLIC INFORMATION**



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Summary:

Per agency guidance, hazing activities at the on-site kit fox den continued throughout the remainder of the week. The adult kit foxes moved to an off-site abandoned den early in the week. The juvenile kit fox was slower to follow as it lingered at the on-site den before joining its parents later in the week. After several days of inactivity at the on-site den, the location was excavated with the appropriate monitors present. The off-site kit foxes were tracked a few times during the week and all remained at their typical den locations. CDFG biologists will be handling all activities for these off-site foxes at the start of the new year. The previously on-site foxes will still remain the project's responsibility for a period as their activities are observed post-hazing, as agreed upon by the agencies.

The suspect burrowing owl burrows appeared to have less activity during the week, but when they were close to excavation, burrowing owl activity appeared again. Because there are many periods of inactivity, it is suspected that these are only temporary shelters for the owls. Perimeter buffer surveys on the western portion of the site were completed with no additional burrowing owl sign found.

Monthly health assessments for the salvaged plants occurred without any major issues. The desert dry wash woodland baseline study began near the second well location. Six sites were selected at varying distances in the wash near the well site.

All desert tortoises were tracked this week. All were in the same previously known locations. Tortoise #6006 was found in a new burrow under vegetation.

Vegetation removal occurred north of the site avoiding the kit fox buffer as well as the burrowing owl buffers. Most subcontractors were gone for the holiday until the new year. No activities occurred on the gen-tie line with the exception of emergency staff learning access roads for the entire line.

Monday:

Both adult kit foxes were tracked to an off-site den north of the site. The juvenile still remains at the on-site den with some activity off-site.

Tuesday:

The juvenile kit fox was tracked to the adult off-site den, but it has not yet gone underground. Additional deterrence was applied to the on-site den while it was away.

Wednesday:

Vegetation removal continued in the northeast portion of the site. Tortoise #6006 was tracked to the same location under the vegetation it was found previously, but has dug a burrow in that location. The juvenile kit fox returned to the on-site den. When it left to forage, additional deterrence was applied to the area. Suspect burrowing owl burrows

were checked throughout the week for inactivity. Health assessments for the salvaged vegetation occurred without issue.

Thursday:

Vegetation removal in the northeastern portion of the site continued. The juvenile kit fox was tracked to the off-site den location with its parents. The on-site kit fox den did not show any new activity. The baseline study for the desert dry wash woodland plan began and continued through Saturday.

Friday:

The on-site kit fox den was checked again and showed no new signs of activity. First Solar removed all the vegetation north of the site around the kit fox den buffer north of the and continued vegetation removal around the burrowing owl buffers. Part of the perimeter fence check was completed. MSA bird netting was checked.

Saturday:

The on-site kit fox den was excavated without any problems after the required days of inactivity. All tortoises were tracked and remained near their last known locations. All the kit foxes were tracked without issue. Suspect burrowing owl burrows were checked. The remainder of the perimeter fence was checked without issues. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.

Sunday:

The previously on-site kit foxes were tracked and remain at the off-site den northeast of the site. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.