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

23 JULY – 29 JULY 2012

PUBLIC INFORMATION

PREPARED BY

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Summary:

On Monday, a site-wide stand down occurred to address the issue of the cut-off road made through habitat by several vehicles the previous week. Nothing of concern was harmed, but workers were made aware of the seriousness of going off-road without any monitors so that it will not occur again.

Telemetry for kit foxes continued throughout the week without too many issues, except for a lapse with the tracking equipment itself later in the week- new equipment will arrive in the following week. Observations of the female on-site have shown it leaving the den to forage with one of the female pups and the male pup has not been observed – it is speculated that it may already be independent. Talks with the agencies will occur to encourage the allowance of hazing efforts to ensure that no kit foxes remain on-site before construction reaches the area.

Tortoise #6001 continued to be tracked daily and remains in the same location. All the other tortoises were found in the same last known locations as well.

Temporary interior tortoise fence removal continued and should have approximately 3 more miles left to remove. Aggregate continued work in the retention basin removing dirt with more equipment and compacting and grubbing the southeastern portion of the site. Visits to the northern weather station continued to be accompanied by a biologist throughout the week.

All other daily and weekly biological checks were completed throughout the week. Smaller passerine birds have been observed underneath the pond netting but no other bird mortalities have been observed.

Monday:

Construction continues with Aggregate in the retention pond and the southeast portion of the site as well as some work on keyways in the switchyard. All four foxes and tortoise #6001 were tracked. The perimeter tortoise fence was checked. Visits to the north weather station were accompanied by a biologist daily throughout Friday.

Tuesday:

Aggregate continues work in the same areas as the keyways were covered and gravel was added. Removal of temporary tortoise fence continues. All four foxes and all tortoises were tracked and found in the same general areas.

Wednesday:

Aggregate continues working in the retention basin and the southeast portion of the site through Friday. Tortoise fence removal continued. All four foxes were tracked as well as tortoise #6001.

Thursday:
More temporary tortoise fence was removed. Aggregate continues work in the same areas. All four kit foxes and tortoise #6001 were tracked.

Friday:
Kit fox #73C30 was tracked and den observations were made of the on-site female and the pups. There were visuals of the adult female, both female pups, and the adult male. Tortoises #6001, #6005, and #6006 were all tracked and found in the same last known locations. Bird netting was checked but much equipment in the MSA remains uncovered because much of it is being shifted to different areas.

Saturday:
Kit Fox #73C30 was tracked and den observations occurred showing the female on-site and the female pups, but still no visuals on the male pup. All infrastructures on-site that may encourage bird activity was inspected and nothing was found. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.

Sunday:
Kit fox #73C30 was tracked and observations of the den on-site occurred, but there were no visuals of the female or any of the pups at the den. It is speculated that the family began foraging earlier in the day due to the cooler weather and cloud cover. The interior tortoise fence was checked. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.