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

JULY 30- AUGUST 5, 2012

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Summary:

A big rainstorm came through the area on Tuesday that shut down the site for safety reasons due to lightning and possible flooding. Following the heavy rain storm, site restoration became a big priority as many crews were re-directed to assist in repairing the perimeter tortoise fence and the interior tortoise fence. Much of the damage was primarily in the northern portion of the site. Due to that, the northern portion of the site damaged by the rain is now not biologically cleared until another survey in the fall can confirm that nothing of concern exists in the area after the loss of integrity of the fence.

Telemetry for kit foxes continued throughout the week with new equipment. All foxes have been in relatively stable locations and were not affected negatively by the rain.

All tortoises were tracked prior to the storm and were found in their last known locations. They were all tracked again after the storm and quite a few were observed above ground foraging and drinking water. A few travelled to new burrow locations.

Aggregate continued work in the retention basin removing dirt with more equipment and compacting and grubbing the southeastern portion of the site. They completed one section of site preparation and moved north to the next section. Visits to the northern weather station continued to be accompanied by a biologist throughout the week.

Pre-construction surveys in areas that will have vegetation removed in the near future began over the weekend. There have not been any active burrowing owl and kit fox sign with the exception of one shallow burrow that will be observed for the next few days for any new sign before it is collapsed. Natural deterrent will be applied to any burrows found to prevent kit foxes from returning to these areas. With agency approval, other deterrents may be applied to the project later this week to prevent kit foxes from travelling in these areas where construction will begin in the near future.

All other daily and weekly biological checks were completed throughout the week. Smaller passerine birds have been observed underneath the pond netting and only one bird mortality has been observed after the heavy rains.

Monday:

Construction continued with Aggregate in the retention pond and the southeast portion of the site as well as some work in the switchyard and keyways. First Solar assisted with the installation of additional tortoise fence against the northern security fence of the MSA to deter kit foxes from accessing the southern part of the site through that yard. Kit fox #73C30 was tracked and the female on-site was observed with her mate and the smaller female pup. All tortoises were also tracked and found in the same last known locations. 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 installation of tortoise fence continued until lightning and rain stopped all outdoor activities. Prior to that, the on-site female kit fox was tracked and tortoise #6005 was tracked. As the rain continued, and flooding began, all staff was instructed to leave the site for safety concerns.

Wednesday:
Aggregate continued working in the retention basin and the southeast portion of the site as site restoration from the storm became a priority. The perimeter tortoise fence was assessed on foot to assess the damage. The MSA fence installation became secondary as that crew and others were re-directed to make repairs on the perimeter tortoise fence and the interior tortoise fence. The on-site tortoises and tortoise #6001 were tracked and found to be more active. Three of the four kit foxes were tracked.

Thursday:
More repairs on the fence continued to increase the integrity of the fence and ensure that no areas were missed. Aggregate continued to work in the same areas, and completes one section for site preparation and moves north to the next section. All four kit foxes and all tortoises were tracked again.

Friday:
Final repairs of the internal tortoise fence and the kit fox exclusion fence were made. Bird netting was checked but some of the netting in the MSA was not on some of the supplies due to the damage from the storm, but staff was diligently making repairs. All four kit foxes were tracked today.

Saturday:
All kit foxes were tracked today. Pre-construction surveys began in the areas that will have vegetation removed in the near future. Daily compliance checks were completed without issue. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.

Sunday:
All kit foxes were tracked again. Pre-construction surveys continued and will be heading east of the site. Daily compliance checks were completed without issue. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.