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

AUGUST 13-19, 2012

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Summary:

Daily telemetry for kit foxes continued throughout the week with some movement of the foxes. All tortoises were tracked once and found in the same general location while tortoises #6001, #6005, and #6006 were tracked at least twice to ensure that they were in the same general locations and in good health. Tortoise #6001 has moved locations with the additional humidity and because of its precarious location, was tracked daily.

Pre-construction surveys in areas that will have vegetation removed in the near future continued throughout the week and were completed. The inactive kit fox complex of concern from the previous week as well as the coyote den were both determined to be inactive and were collapsed by hand and sprayed with a natural detterent to prevent future use. There were no species of concern located, but in areas where sign was higher, preventative measures will be taken to decrease the amount food sources that may be available for kit foxes. Ultrasonic emitters were strategically placed along the northern temporary tortoise fence to make it more difficult for the foxes to travel south into the native vegetation for foraging and also encourage them to forage off-site. Emitters are only audible for the animals only when approaching the areas close to the installations.

Aggregate continued to work in the southern retention basins removing dirt with more equipment and compacting and grubbing the southeastern portion of the site. Additional gravel work in the switchyard and the western keyways also occurred. Visits to the northern weather station continued to be accompanied by a biologist throughout the week as tests, repairs on the station, and preventative measures were made around the station for future floods that may occur.

All other daily and weekly biological checks were completed throughout the week.

Monday:

All foxes and tortoises were tracked. The perimeter and interior tortoise fences were checked. Monthly weed perimeter surveys were also completed without any new weeds observed. Aggregate continued working in the southeast bringing soil from one of the southeast basin as gravel was added in the switchyard and work in the western keyways continued.

Tuesday:

All foxes were tracked. Pre-construction surveys were completed in the western part of the site and moved east. Aggregate continued working in the same areas through Thursday, as they were previously, with the addition of a new basin further east. First Solar staff made repairs at the north weather station and also added some preventative measures around the station to prevent future damage from floods.

Wednesday:
All foxes were tracked today. Tortoise #6001 was also tracked and found in the same last known location. The multi-entrance kit fox den found the previous week was deemed inactive and collapsed.

Thursday:
All foxes were tracked as well as tortoise #6001. Ultrasonic emitters were placed on the northern temporary tortoise fence. Pre-construction surveys were completed.

Friday:
All kit foxes and tortoises #6005, #6006, and #6001 were all tracked without issue. The coyote den of concern was collapsed and sprayed with natural deterrent. Bird netting was also checked and efforts to reduce kit fox food sources began on the eastern side of the site.

Saturday:
All kit foxes were tracked as well as tortoise #6001. Raven surveys were conducted and efforts to reduce the food source for kit foxes continued. During this effort, a deceased bat was found and will be identified and possibly given to BLM in the future. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.

Sunday:
All kit foxes were tracked again as well as tortoise #6001. Daily compliance checks were completed without issue. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.