

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

**AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 2, 2012
PUBLIC INFORMATION**



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Summary:

Daily telemetry for kit foxes continued throughout the week with some movement of the foxes. Night tracking of the female fox on-site occurred this week and showed her foraging in the southern vegetation but accessing these areas from outside the site, encouraging her to further explore foraging areas off-site and perhaps aiding in her eventually moving her den off-site. Additional efforts to discourage kit foxes from using the vegetated areas in the southwest as a foraging area continued.

All tortoises were tracked twice this week, while tortoise #6001 was tracked thrice due to the concern of his location, but he remains in the same burrow underneath a desert lavender plant. Most of the tortoises have been more active of late and a few have moved quite a distance from their previous locations. Due to their increase in activity, tracking as well as tortoise fence checking will increase. A thunderstorm passed through the area on Wednesday, but did not rain enough to make any major damage to break the integrity of the tortoise fence, but preventative measures were taken in certain areas where the rain had some affect.

Aggregate exported dirt in the southern retention basins and compacted and grubbed the southeastern portion of the site as more work continued in the western basins with more keyways and material being added in the beginning of the week. However, due to union issues, work was halted until these issues were properly addressed. 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. A pair of western sandpipers has been observed frequenting the pond area and a pair of loggerhead shrikes was observed in the MSA.

Monday:

All foxes and tortoises were tracked. The perimeter fence was checked. Aggregate exported soil from the southeast basins to a southeast construction block as keyways in the western basin were dug and materials were placed. Visits to the north weather station were escorted by a biologist through Friday.

Tuesday:

All kit foxes were tracked today and night tracking for the on-site female fox began this evening through Thursday evening. She was tracked moving off-site and then travelling back on-site to the southern vegetation. Efforts to discourage the kit fox foraging in the southern vegetation continued through Wednesday. Aggregate did not work for the remainder of the week due to union issues.

Wednesday:

All foxes were tracked today as well as tortoise #6001. A thunderstorm passed through the project, halting construction and biological activities a little earlier in the day.

Thursday:

All kit foxes were tracked and the onsite female fox was tracked in the evening. Her movements were similar – still accessing the southern vegetation from outside the site. The perimeter and interior tortoise fences were checked, and all tortoises were tracked.

Friday:

All kit foxes were tracked. Bird netting was checked and the perimeter tortoise fence was also checked again.

Saturday:

All kit foxes were tracked. Daily compliance checks were completed without issue. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.

Sunday:

Only three of the four kit foxes were tracked due to recreational activities of dove hunters. Daily compliance checks were completed without issue. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.