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

SEPTEMBER 3-SEPTEMBER 9, 2012

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Summary:

The remaining resident tortoises from the translocation site, were found and transmittered as required for the project. One female adult tortoise and two male adult tortoises were transmittered and added to the list of project-related tortoises and will be added to the tracking schedule, which will be minimally twice weekly, with the lower temperatures, and may increase with the movements of the tortoises. All other tortoises related to the project have been tracked and were observed to be very active due to the lower temperatures and increase in humidity.

Clearance surveys in the northern section of the site began this weekend to clear the areas of tortoises once again due to the integrity lost from the fence during the last major rainstorm. Nothing unusual has been found thus far.

All kit foxes were tracked daily and were found in their typical dens. The on-site female, her pup, and mate appear to be in good health from recent photos. An additional infrared camera was added to the den of the off-site kit fox east of the site and photos revealed that he also had a litter with two very healthy looking pups and a female mate. Foraging data in the early mornings will be taken in conjunction with tracking activities for all foxes to better assess areas of activity for each fox.

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 were added as well as some work in between the perimeter fence and tortoise fence. PCS shelters were also checked for wildlife prior to moving. Some of the internal tortoise fence was removed with the assistance of First Solar staff from the biologically cleared areas – some still remains and may be completely removed in the following week. Visits to the northern weather station continued to be accompanied by a biologist.

All other daily and weekly biological checks were completed throughout the week and no major issues were observed.

Monday:

All foxes, except the one far north were tracked. Activities to transmitter the remaining resident tortoises began – one adult female tortoise was transmittered.

Tuesday:

The perimeter fence was checked. All tortoises were tracked with the exception of two due to lightning activities. The search for resident tortoises continued and an adult male tortoise was transmittered. Aggregate exported soil from the southeast basins to a southeast construction block as keyways in the western basin were dug and materials

were placed throughout the entire week. Visits to the north weather station were escorted by a biologist Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Wednesday:

The two remaining tortoises were tracked and the search for the last male tortoise to transmitter continued. Internal tortoise fencing was checked.

Thursday:

All kit foxes and translocated tortoises as well as newly transmittered tortoises were tracked. The last resident male adult tortoise was transmittered. Bird netting was checked and the perimeter tortoise fence was checked.

Friday:

All kit foxes and tortoises were tracked. Aggregate worked on a culvert along the western basins as well as smaller basins in between the tortoise fence and security fence. The perimeter fence was checked again.

Saturday:

Clearance surveys began in the northern section of the site. All kit foxes were tracked. Daily compliance checks were completed without issue. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.

Sunday:

Clearance surveys continued in the northern section of the site. The on-site female was tracked. Daily compliance checks were completed without issue. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.