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

SEPTEMBER 24-SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

PUBLIC INFORMATION

PREPARED BY

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Summary:

Clearance surveys in the northern portion of the site were completed this week. Nothing of significance was found during the survey. The area is now biologically clear with the exception of the kit foxes on the northeast portion of the site.

Kit foxes were tracked daily. There were no issues with them this week as they were all found in their typical den locations. Efforts to remove large rodent complexes as kit fox detterence were also completed.

All tortoises were tracked throughout the week and many have been travelling quite a bit, but none were observed in precarious locations close to busy roads being maintained.

All other daily and weekly biological checks were completed throughout the week and no major issues were observed. One bird has been observed at the pond underneath the netting and efforts have been made to help it leave the pond. Daily tortoise fence inspections occurred. The wheel wash is still not working properly but First Solar has provided staff to manually wash all vehicles entering the site.

Aggregate exported dirt in the southern retention basins and compacted and grubbed the southeastern portion of the site as some work continued in the switchyard with additional material being added and shifted. Beta began digging for the substation and removed vegetation in one area to store their spoils. Visits to the north weather station continued to be accompanied by a biologist, but will now not require a biologist since the area is biologically cleared. Travel will be limited to the western roads leading to the north weather station.

Monday:

Clearance surveys in the northern portion of the site were completed. All kit foxes and tortoises were tracked. Aggregate continued site preparatory work in the southeast area of the site while adjustments were made at the switchyard through Thursday. Beta removed some vegetation just north of the arrays to store the dirt removed for the substation.

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Tuesday:

Kit fox deterrence efforts in the eastern portion of the site continued to completion on Thursday. All kit foxes were tracked. First Solar environmental staff was escorted to the north weather station through Tuesday and Wednesday.

Wednesday:

All kit foxes, translocated, newly transmittered, and on-site tortoises were tracked. An eared grebe was observed at the pond.

Thursday:
All kit foxes were tracked. Kit fox deterrence efforts were completed. Bird netting in the MSA was completed. Eared grebe continued to be observed at the pond.

Friday:
All kit foxes and tortoises were tracked. A larger hole in the bird netting at the pond was observed and repaired. Efforts were made at the pond netting to allow the eared grebe to escape more easily.

Saturday:
All kit foxes and on-site tortoises were tracked. Daily compliance checks were completed without issue. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.

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