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

NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 2, 2012

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Summary:

All tortoises have continued to behave normally for the time of year and the tracking schedule will be decreasing further due to the lower activity.

The on-site foxes still remain at the den just north of the MSA. The juvenile kit fox was not observed at the very beginning of the week emerging from the den with its parents, but was later observed later in the week with its parents at the den. Bait stations were set throughout most of the week to the fence line and to the closest off-site artificial den. Security cameras showed an unidentified fox in the MSA. A one-way exit was constructed, baited from the outside, and set with motion cameras, which yielded photos of an unidentified kit fox inside and later outside of the MSA. It was unclear whether the kit fox left the MSA, but there have not been additional photos of kit foxes in the MSA since the first evening. Cameras have continued to be set and checked daily. All other kit foxes were tracked daily and remain at their typical den locations.

Aggregate completed removing vegetation in the eastern portion of the western collections road. An additional access road was made by Aggregate to the southern block of work to prevent traffic congestion as clearing and grubbing work began in that south-central area. Syntech continued survey work along the gen-tie line throughout the week. Work in the substation and the collections system also continued.

Daily checks and fence inspections were completed without issue. The pond with the netting partially removed is still observed multiple times per day as the proper tools and equipment is acquired to safely remove the netting and all supporting wire. First Solar continues to wash all vehicles manually before entering the site.

Monday:

A few translocated tortoises were tracked. All kit foxes were tracked and remained in their typical den locations throughout the week. An unidentified fox was observed in photos from a security camera in the MSA. Den observations for the on-site kit foxes did not show the juvnenile with its parents and the bait stations were setup to the fence line. Aggregate cleared and grubbed in the area just east of the far west collections road through Wednesday. Syntech surveyed and staked through Thursday. Beta continued underground conduit work in the substation and pier foundations for the collections system throughout the week.

Tuesday:

The remainder of the translocated tortoises were tracked. A one-way exit was constructed for kit foxes and set with motion cameras. The juvenile kit fox was observed with its parents at the on-site den at dusk and followed the bait stations with the adult male. Visits by other NPL and First Solar safety staff along the gen-tie also occurred.

Wednesday:

Resident tortoises were tracked. Cameras set at the one-way exit showed an unidentified fox in the MSA and cameras remained set in the MSA. Bait stations were set to the off-site artificial dens. Bird netting was checked in the MSA while all kit fox sign in the MSA was recorded and tracks were swept. Aggregate moved their work to a southwest block while work was being completed in the other block.

Thursday:

Den observations for kit foxes occurred again and the bait stations were set to the off-site artificial dens. Cameras in the MSA did not yield any new photos of foxes Aggregate made an access road from their yard to the southwest block to prevent traffic congestion.

Friday:

Kit foxes were tracked. The cameras in the MSA again did not yield any new kit fox photos for the remainder of the week.

Saturday:

Kit fox tracking and daily checks were completed without issue. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.

Sunday:

Kit fox tracking and daily checks were completed without issue. No construction activities requiring a biological monitor occurred.