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

PROGRESS OF WEEK 30
5 – 11 MARCH 2012
PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Summary:

Golden eagle surveys which began on Feb 27th are still being done. Other bird surveys for smaller passerines have been underway for three weeks. Relatively few species and numbers have been seen. No active nests have been located on the project. The baseline invasive plant survey around the project was completed earlier in the week thus far, the number of invasive plant species appears very low.

Monday 5 Mar:

Golden eagle surveys resumed in the nearby Coxcomb Mountains. Monitoring of the translocated and resident tortoises at the recipient site was also done today.

Tuesday 6 Mar:

The baseline invasive plant survey was completed today. Two calls were received to remove snakes from the project, one of which was a sidewinder rattlesnake.

Wednesday 7 Mar:

The translocated tortoises were checked upon at the recipient site; one tortoise has moved nearly half a mile since yesterday.

Thursday 8 Mar:

Preparations made for installation of additional tortoise fence along the western edge of the project. Also, the weekly fence check around the project perimeter was completed today.

Friday 9 Mar:

Required preconstruction surveys for burrowing owls were completed along the western edge of the project; no owls or owl sign were observed.

Saturday 10 Mar:

Biologists continued routine monitoring of kit-foxes and tortoises, no other activities on site.

Sunday 11 Mar:

The monthly raven and raptor surveys were completed today both on and off the project. There was no other activity.