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

PROGRESS OF WEEK 18
DATE: 12 – 18 DECEMBER 2011
PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Summary:

Biologists were pleased that all the translocated tortoises went into their burrows and seemed to finally settle in for the winter. “Mac-Daddy” in particular is now in hibernation. The control group has been in hibernation now for some time now. The plight of the Kit-foxes living away from the project appeared to be worsening, and so any effort to dissuade our residents was shelled. None of the Kit-foxes observed on The Project have shown any signs of health anomalies. The influx of common ravens has tapered off. Water subsidies seem to be of little or no interest to them, although the remains of any small animals lost to construction are quickly seized upon. The integrated weed management vehicle sprayers seem to be functional but are being improved upon; they will doubtless need additional attention periodically.

Monday 12 Dec:

Wildlife surveys were made along the edges of the Block 8 area, also known as Phase 2H or ‘The Nose’, in preparation for fence construction there. Kit-fox observations are continuing.

Tuesday 13 Dec:

Tortoise # 6001 (Mac-Daddy) finally digs a burrow he likes, and retires for a long winter nap. More preparations are made for fencing around Block 8.

Wednesday 14 Dec:

Pursuant to recent concerns about the canine distemper virus outbreak, there will be increased monitoring of the Kit-foxes residing on The Project. Crown Fence continues work on the security fence.

Thursday 15 Dec:

Establishment of a travel lane and work area around Block 8 was completed today. Raven netting is being installed over and around the main water reservoir.

Friday 16 Dec:

Raven netting still underway over the main water reservoir and Crown Fence crews work along the northeast side of the project filling post-holes with concrete.

Saturday 17 Dec:

Kit-fox observations were made on the project but no other biological activities took place. Being the weekend, only the bird netting workers were on site.

Sunday 18 Dec:

Telemetry checks of the translocated tortoises were made today, all tortoises were found in hibernation and safe. No other activities on the project.