

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	22-SPPE-02
Project Title:	San Jose Data Center 04
TN #:	266907
Document Title:	ROC (Record of Conversation)
Description:	ROC Between Carol Watson_CEC and Darren Howe_NOAA SJDC 04
Filer:	susan fleming
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	10/29/2025 1:04:40 PM
Docketed Date:	10/29/2025



*Siting, Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division*

FILE: Docket

**PROJECT TITLE: San Jose
Data Center 04**

**Docket: 22-
SPPE-02**

TECHNICAL AREA(S): Biological Resources

☐ **Telephone**

Email

Meeting Location: email communications

NAME: Carol Watson, Staff
Biologist, California Energy
Commission (CEC)

DATE: May 16-18,
2023

TIME: Various

WITH

Darren Howe, National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration; San Francisco Bay Branch

SUBJECT:

Agency Coordination in re: Central California Coast
steelhead and their critical habitat, and non-listed Central
Valley Fall Run Chinook salmon

COMMENTS:

Carol Watson, CEC, corresponded via email with representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's San Francisco Bay Branch between May 16 and May 18, 2023. The following response is based on the request for input regarding any potential concerns about impacts associated with the proposed San Jose Data Center Campus project adjacent to the Guadalupe River.

From: Darren Howe - NOAA Federal <darren.howe@noaa.gov>
Sent on: Thursday, May 18, 2023 10:59:19 PM
To: Watson, Carol@Energy <Carol.Watson@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: New Project (San Jose 04) Interagency Questions

Follow up: Follow up
Start date: Friday, May 19, 2023 12:00:00 AM
Due date: Friday, May 19, 2023 12:00:00 AM

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Hi Carol,

I've had a chance to review the biological technical report.

Species - Correct, The Guadalupe River supports ESA-listed Central California Coast steelhead and their critical habitat, and non-listed Central Valley Fall Run Chinook salmon. You can find info on Chinook, including FMPs [here](#).

Runoff - Due to the close proximity to the Guadalupe River and the reconstruction of new hardscape, including parking areas, they'll want a robust water treatment program. I see that NPDES compliance is proposed and this includes bioswales and similar treatment methods. This is good; however, we'd recommend that these get a close review to ensure that they'll be able to handle future runoff. There is recent literature linking tire-rubber-compounds to mortality of salmonids, and we know that severity of



weather events is increasing; leading to more extreme runoff events, so we'd want to be sure that they aren't inadvertently under-designing their system and would result in toxins being added to the river. **Aquatic Conservation** - This site is admittedly ruderal and separated from the river by the levee so the applicant may not be interested in aquatic conservation actions. However, many companies are considering their environmental presence these days, so we often suggest conservation recommendations. By developing this area, the site will be effectively eliminated as a potential future restoration site. To account for this, the applicant may want to demonstrate their environmental stewardship by enhancing nearby river reaches, partnering with others implementing restoration, or contributing financially to local restoration actions. Any of these actions would be expected to benefit native habitat and species, including special status species (depending on location). Similarly, it's a bit tough to tell from the materials, but there might be an opportunity for the applicant to add trees along the bike trail or top of levee in such a way that they may, in time, provide some modest benefit to the river (shading, vegetation input). They may want to consider this and, if possible, plant these areas with native species.

Thanks for the coordination. Hope that helps a bit. I'm available to chat if you'd like.

Regards,
Darren

Darren Howe

he/him/his ([why is this important?](#))

Natural Resource Management Specialist
San Francisco Bay Branch
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region

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NOAA FISHERIES

During the COVID-19 pandemic I am under mandatory telework. I may be working flexible hours to balance family and personal needs. I appreciate your patience if my response time is delayed. If you have a request, please specify important timeframes or deadlines. I will do my best to respond accordingly. Thank you.



cc:		Date: 8/8/2025	Signed: Carol Watson
			Name: /s/