

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	15-AFC-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Mission Rock Energy Center
<b>TN #:</b>	210997
<b>Document Title:</b>	Report of Conversation Between Bio Staff & South Coast
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
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**California Energy Commission  
 Energy Facilities Siting &  
 Environmental Protection Division**  
 REPORT OF CONVERSATION

**File:**

**Project Title:** Mission Rock Energy Center

**(X) TELEPHONE() MEETING LOCATION:**

<b>NAME:</b> Andrea Martine	<b>TIME:</b> 10:30	<b>DATE:</b> 4/8/2016
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<b>WITH:</b> Chris Dellith, Ventura FWS Office, South Coast Division	<b>PHONE</b> 805-644-1766 ext. 227
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**SUBJECT: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Concerns Regarding Biological Resources**

**COMMENTS:**  
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 The two major concerns U.S, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has are for the least Bell’s vireo and the southwestern willow flycatcher.

Areas of concern include any work within 500 feet of riparian habitat or removal of riparian habitat or work in an area of a breeding least Bell’s vireo. The two riparian areas of concern are the Todd and Ellsworth Barrancas.

For tower #3 FWS recommends least Bell’s vireo protocol surveys.

The concern with tower #3 is its proximity to the riparian corridor (Todd Barranca) and the potential for corvids and raptors to nest on the tower and predate on nesting vireos. Conducting least Bell’s vireo protocol surveys would determine whether there are territorial/nesting vireos and if so determine the appropriate mitigation to avoid and minimize impacts.

In addition, conduct protocol surveys for least Bell’s vireo if there is removal of suitable riparian habitat.

Section 7 consultation would be required. FWS believes that with proper conservation measures the project could get to a “not likely to adversely affect” determination for the least Bell’s vireo and the southwestern willow flycatcher. However, the federal nexus/action agency makes the official determination.

If no federal nexus, then the applicant must show that the project is avoiding “take”.

Mitigation measures include work outside the breeding season for least Bell’s vireo when near riparian habitat (within 500’), unless protocol surveys show no sign of least Bell’s vireos.

Habitat assessment is recommended for southwestern willow flycatcher.

FWS has no concerns with the unarmored three-spine stickleback.

Pre-construction surveys would also be recommended for avian species which may nest near any construction work.

<b>COPIES TO:</b>	<b>NAME:</b>
	<b>SIGNATURE</b>

