DOCKETED

Docket Number:	09-AFC-06C
Project Title:	Blythe Solar Power Project - Compliance
TN #:	200126
Document Title:	Report of Interagency Meeting re Avian Data Collection
Description:	Telephone Report of Conversation
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

REPORT OF CONVERSATION ***Page 1 of 1***

Energy Facilities Siting and ***Environmental Protection Division***		**FILE:** 09-AFC-6C **Project Title: Blythe Solar Power Project**
☐ **E-MAIL:** ☒ **Telephone:**	☐ **Meeting Location**	
NAME: Carol Watson	**Date** August 7, 2013	**Time** 9:00 am
WITH: Interagency Meeting: participants listed below		
SUBJECT: **Avian Data Collection**		

Participants:

Agency Representatives: **USFWS**: Tera Baird, Dr. Tom Dietsch **BLM**: Kim Marsden **CDFW:** Dr. Shankar Sharma **CEC**: Carol Watson **NextEra**: Scott Busa Stuart McCurdy Dan Neville Kenny Stein Winifred Perkins Jenny Field	**Tetra Tech (NextEra consultant)**: Tricia Bernhardt Emily Mix Dr. Laura Nagy Dr. Chris Farmer **Attorney (NextEra counsel)**: David Lazerwitz

The purpose of the meeting was for NextEra to provide the REAT agencies' biological resources staff with an overview of their proposed avian survey methodology (included below). This data collection effort has been recommended by the REAT agencies, and the data will be used to develop a Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (BBCS), prior to construction of the project. NextEra provided the agencies with survey rationale and a draft plan for initial review and comment. The agencies have expressed initial support of the proposed methodology, and in conjunction with NextEra, will continue to develop and refine the survey approach as follows:

1. NextEra will provide an Avian Survey Plan in mid-August. The survey plan will include the following components, as requested by agency staff:

    a. Map of point count stations

    b. List of surveyors and qualifications (resume or CV)

    c. Augmented description of survey methodology, based on NextEra's August 7, 2013 draft avian survey methodology; including consideration of capturing the spring migratory season with radar

2. The REAT agencies and NextEra understand and agree that survey efforts may commence while refinements to the Avian Survey Plan are ongoing—ideally, data collection would start in August, 2013.

MEMORANDUM

TO: REAT Agency Biologists

FROM: Tetra Tech Inc. and Blythe Solar Energy Center, LLC

DATE: August 7, 2013

SUBJECT: Blythe Solar Power Project Avian Survey Plan for the BBCS

We would like to discuss and ultimately come to an agreement with the REAT agencies on this approach as soon as possible to capture the fall 2013 season. Please see our proposed survey information below.

Survey Type	**Question(s) to be Answered**	**Tt Recommended Method**	**Advantages to Survey Type**
Avian Point Count Surveys – Diurnal	• What is the species composition and use of the site from species using the local area (i.e., not migrants)?	• Fall: Sept. –Nov (3 months) • Winter: Dec –Feb (3 months) • Bi-weekly sampling • BSPP – 2 seasons: fall, winter • 6 weeks of survey per season • 5 plots consisting of 4 pts each (20 pt count locations total) • Data will be collected in a manner to allow for distance sampling, if needed • 10 min count duration	• Allows for detection of use by passerines, particular effective for resident species • Cost effective for sampling a large area • Picks up some level of raptor use
Migration Surveys (raptors and waterfowl)	• What species are migrating through the project? • What is the seasonality of migration times by species?	• 1 location, 8 hrs per day • 3 days per week • Fall: Aug-Nov	• Ability to ID taxa that are moving through • Ability to determine rough seasonality of movement of raptors and daytime migrating waterbirds • Supplements data from

			point counts for other species • One location from elevated pebble terrace will allow for a wide view • Desert setting is very uniform in this area; one location from elevated pebble terrace to the east is sufficient
Radar	• What is the passage rate of migrants over the site? Provides data for a single location that can be compared over time or with other locations	• One Detect Merlin unit • X-band and s-band marine radar, continuously run 24-hour per day, 7 days per week during peak migration periods • 3 months for fall migration	• One of the few ways to evaluate movement at night • Capable of monitoring daylight hours

cc:		**Signed:**
		Name: Carol Watson, Planner II, Environmental Office