

From: Brian_Croft@fws.gov
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2009 3:54 PM
To: Susan Sanders
Cc: 'Bruce Kinney'; colin_grant@ca.blm.gov; 'Becky Jones'; 'John Kessler';
Larry_LaPre@ca.blm.gov; 'Misa Milliron'; 'Rick York'; 'Scott Flint'; 'Tonya Moore';
tom_hurshman@blm.gov
Subject: Re: ISEGS - DT Translocation - Conf Call Cancelled

John

The Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office has reviewed the latest report on desert tortoise surveys and vegetation surveys in the proposed translocation areas that were completed by CH2MHill and Southern Nevada Environmental Inc for the Ivanpah ISEGS project. Based on the information provided, we feel that there is enough information to evaluate the effects of the relocation of desert tortoises immediately west of the project site and the proposed translocation of desert tortoises from the project site to the identified translocation areas. Based on the results of the surveys, it appears that translocation would be most appropriate in sites N1, N2, N3, and N4 because of higher quality habitat and low density resident populations. The Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office still strongly believes in the need for highway fencing along I-15 prior to translocation because of the potential for long-distance movements following release. We assume that this continues to be part of the project description. If this has changed, we should discuss this issue further as this may become a requirement for take minimization in our BO if it is not addressed up-front. Please let me know if you would like to discuss any of this further.

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