
RECORD OF CONVERSATION

WITH: MICHELLE MORENO* 760 431-9440 XT 356
FROM: USFWS, CARLSBAD
SUBJECT: ORANGE GROVE – BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE ISSUES
DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2007
BY: SUSAN SANDERS

DOCKET 07-SPPE-2	
DATE	<u>DEC 03 2007</u>
RECD.	<u>DEC 04 2007</u>

I explained the basic elements of the project and summed up the conclusions of the Biological Resources section in the Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE) application, and asked her if surveys might be warranted to determine presence/absence of coastal California gnatcatchers. Ms. Moreno thought that protocol surveys would be needed to confirm absence of gnatcatchers from the project area if there is habitat on site, and nearby records for this species.

Arroyo toad might also be considered present in upland habitat in project area because this species can move up to 1 km from aquatic habitat. There is no survey protocol for arroyo toad upland habitat; therefore the USFWS assumes suitable upland habitat within 1 km of arroyo toad records is occupied. Mitigation for arroyo toad upland habitat loss is typically 1:1 for agricultural lands, higher for coastal sage scrub.

If on-site mitigation for habitat loss is anticipated, the applicant will need a formal restoration plan prepared by experts, complete with success criteria and details on plant palettes, guidelines for installation and maintenance, and other specifics. If they are mitigating for sage scrub and other habitat types off-site, such a restoration plan probably would not be needed.

Ms. Moreno encouraged the applicant to contact her at any time to discuss the project. I told her I would send her the link to the CEC site that had the SSPE application so she could read more about the project.

** I originally contacted Chris Otabal, the USFWS staffer who spoke with the applicant about the project. He directed me to Ms. Moreno, saying she would be the one at USFWS assigned to this project.*