

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**  
**REPORT OF CONVERSATION Page 1 of 2**



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| Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division   | File: 11-AFC-04  |                |
|   | Project Title: Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility |                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone:  | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location:                 |                |
| Name(s): Scott White, Rick York, Laura Zaninovich, and Heather Blair  | Date 4/19/12   | Time 3:00 p.m. |
| With: Jon Goin, Philip Howard (URS), John Konecny (Consultant to URS), Todd Stewart and Kevin Bertrand (BrightSource Energy), Brian Biering (Ellison, Schneider & Harris – representing BrightSource Energy), Nisa Marks and Jody Fraser (USFWS)  |  |                |
| Subject: Conference Call Notes : Gila Woodpecker Survey Protocols   |  |                |
| <p><b>GILA WOODPECKER</b></p> <p>1. Review information to date</p> <p>a. 2011 point count dates &amp; locations</p> <p>All: Reviewed &amp; discussed mapped locations provided by JG.</p> <p>JG: Some of the observations may have been same birds on different dates.</p> <p>SW: Please provide summary of 2011 data in 2012 survey report, including locations &amp; dates.</p> <p>b. 2012 survey results to date (incl. Sorensen/Marks observation)</p> <p>PH, JK: have completed 4 survey rounds to date throughout microphyll woodland; no Gilas so far, quite a few ladder-back woodpeckers. Also no active woodpecker nesting cavities seen.</p> <p>JG: Describe how to differentiate between an old cavity vs. an active one?</p> <p>PH: We search for fresh feathers or chippings, etc., around cavity. Ash-throated flycatcher is the only cavity-nesting species seen so far.</p> <p>NM: have identifications of ladder-backs mainly been by sight or call?</p> <p>PH: For every woodpecker, they spend enough time to ID positively.</p> <p>3. Describe 2012 survey methods</p> <p>PH, JK: Surveyors walk throughout the woodland on transectsthroughout site and out to ¼ mi buffer, broadcasting Gila call every 50 m, stop/listen at each call point; recording all birds observed and recording breeding bird locations. Survey period is throughout the day. They have spent extra time around locations where Gila woodpeckers were seen in 2011 and at site where Sorensen and Marks reported Gila woodpecker last week.</p> <p>SW: Are Gila woodpeckers active throughout day? Are mid-day survey hours OK?</p> <p>JK: Gila woodpeckers most active early &amp; late in day, but comfortable that day-long survey period is ok.</p> <p>SW: The observation by Pete Sorensen and Nisa Marks was around mid-day?</p> <p>NM: Yes, around 12:30 or 1:00; that bird was calling.</p> |  |                |

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JG: How close do you need to get to confirm ID? Is there a potential for mis-id?

JK: IDs generally not difficult, visual ID good within about 20-30 m. Calls generally distinctive, though some calls may be similar to ladder-back. See above, that all woodpecker observations are positively ID'd.

**3. Gila woodpecker biology q&a – any info. on territory sizes, home ranges, nest site fidelity, nesting behavior correlated with climate, etc.?**

PH, JK: Ladder-back has larger home range than Gila.

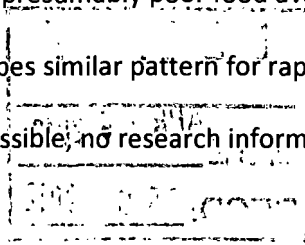
JK: Recommends looking for Gila woodpecker at reference locations – check nesting & call response.

PH: They've been seen this year at McIntyre Park – reported there this year.

SW: Is it likely that Gila woodpeckers would not nest and not exhibit much territorial behavior, due to poor rainfall year (and presumably poor food availability)?

JP: Describes similar pattern for raptors, but not aware of Gila woodpecker information.

PH, JK: Possible, no research information known.



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|  | <b>Signed:</b>         |
|  | <b>Name: Rick York</b> |