From: Chris Huntley <CHuntley@aspeneg.com>
To: 'Rick York' <Ryork@energy.state.ca.us>, 'Stephen Adams' <SAdams@energy.s...
Date: 8/25/2010 2:28 PM
Subject: FW: Calico Information (with changes)
Attachments: Calico Information

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FYI.

-----Original Message-----
From: Tonya Moore [mailto:tmmoore@dfg.ca.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2010 10:35 AM
To: Chris Huntley
Subject: Fwd: Calico Information (with changes)

Howdy,

Here is the information that I stated I would provide. I know it is late but I could not get the appropriate people to review until now. Also, please forgive me of any language errors within my answer to the committee questions; I had to type up really quickly. As always please call me if you have any questions.

The Department of Fish and Game has determined that the Calico Project will be taking up to 682 tortoises (adults, sub-adults and juveniles) and 436 eggs. This includes the capture, disease testing and relocation of desert tortoise on the project site, the control group site and the resident translocation site. This number is an estimate of what could occur with the understanding that this number could be higher than the actual desert tortoise impact that will occur. However, the take may not pass the estimated number of take without reinitiating consultation.

The Department does not currently have enough information to analyze the impacts to the recipient population. However, the Department believes that if the translocation areas are clearly and specifically identified by using the following criteria the project could meet the full mitigation criteria:

(1) The translocation sites must offer a level of protection equivalent to or higher than DWMAs or ACECs.
(2) The sites cannot be located near any existing or proposed roads, cattle grazing, human populations or future proposed projects that are in the process or are being approved at the time of translocation.
(3) Disease testing of tortoises on the resident population should occur. If the resident tortoises test positive for any illness, then a larger area should be surveyed to ensure that the desert tortoise (even with buffers) is not surrounded by potentially diseased animals. Translocation sites with high potential for disease should not be considered as acceptable locations unless testing determines animals are not actually diseased.
(4) The vegetation on the translocation site should be equivalent or better to the project site including type of plants, density of plants and the abundance of typical tortoise habitat.
(5) The site should have some sort of sex ratio estimated. It is not advised that all males or all females be placed in the same site unless it is known that this process will not cause a resident population to be high in one sex.
(6) The translocation sites should be surveyed to identify potential predators, invasive species (animals and plants), and human disturbance and ensure that any of these situations are not occurring in higher abundance than the proposed project site.
(7) The soils of the translocation site should also be evaluated to ensure a similar composition to the site.

Since, the BO states that diseased tortoises will be going to the Desert Tortoise Recovery Center in Nevada, the CEC certification must analyze the potential impacts from exporting listed tortoises out of the state in order to cover this type of take. In addition, if any of the diseased tortoises exported out of the state to the Desert Tortoise Recovery Center will be or may be reimported into the state if they are subsequently deemed to be free of disease, or if any of the eggs or offspring of exported tortoises will be or may be imported into the state at some future time, the CEC certification must analyze the potential

impacts of such reimportations.

The draft translocation plan needs more detail and modification before being finalized.

Tonya