

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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08-AFC-13	
DATE	MAY 10 2010
RECD. FILE	MAY 25 2010



Energy Facilities Siting and Environmental Protection Division	Project Title: Calico Solar Energy Project	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone:	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location:
NAME: Scott D. White	Date 10 May 2010	Time 4:00 pm

WITH: Mr. James Andre, Director, University of California Natural Reserve System, Granite Mountains Reserve

SUBJECT: Biological resources

Jim Andre confirms that, in his opinion, there is an undescribed *Lupinus* species in the central Mojave. He has collected it several places, including the Calico project site and the valley to the east, where Broadwell Dry Lake is located. He has not written up a formal description and has not looked at morphology or genetics to decide whether it would be best considered a new species or maybe a new subspecies of *L. concinnus*. He also has not sent specimens to outside experts for their review or opinion.

Assuming that this is in fact an undescribed taxon, Mr. Andre felt that it probably would warrant CNPS status either on List 1 or List 4. He hasn't reviewed its distribution and abundance thoroughly enough to say more conclusively. He tells me there are several specimens at the UC Riverside Herbarium and he described the plant for me. It shouldn't be difficult to look for additional herbarium specimens, which probably would be filed as *L. concinnus* but possibly as other similar species, including *L. arizonicus*. One might be able to estimate its geographic range by looking through the RSA and UCR cabinets.

Mr. Andre worked on the Calico site for one day to help train field staff. He collected specimens of this plant on the site, at the base of the Cady Mountains. A voucher is located in the Granite Mountains Research Center herbarium, and a duplicate has been submitted to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, though it probably would not have been accessioned into the collection yet. I don't know if other members of URS's field crew found these plants at additional locations; if so, whether locations were recorded by GPS coordinates; or whether specimens have been preserved for verification.

I also asked Mr. Andre about *Penstemon albomarginatus* (white-margined beardstongue). His opinion is that this plant is rare enough and threatened enough to warrant state or federal listing as threatened or endangered. He agrees that it warrants full protection on-site. Even with such protection, he is concerned that the project could interrupt sand transport across the valley to the dune system downwind, where most of its regional population is located, within the BLM Pisgah ACEC. If so, then the project could cause long-term chronic habitat degradation.

He had some insight into two *P. albomarginatus* unverified occurrence reports. He did some field work at the 29 Palms Marine Corps base in the late 80s or early 90s. He did not find the species during that field work, but he felt that Lavik Lake is the only part of the base that could provide suitable habitat. This observation supports the reported Lavik Lake occurrence based on McFadden's specimens (NYBG). Mr. Andre felt that the A.A. Heller

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P. albomarginatus specimens, collected "between Cadiz and Danby" (i.e., Fenner Valley) probably are mis-labeled, and more likely were collected farther west. He has looked for *P. albomarginatus* repeatedly in Fenner Valley and hasn't found it.

Finally, Mr. Andre told me that Barry Sinervo of UC Santa Cruz is working on a formal description of a side-blotched lizard subspecies that is locally endemic to the Pisgah area and recommended that we contact Sinervo for further information. Depending upon details of its habitat and distribution, this new subspecies could occur on the proposed Calico project site.

cc: Staff:

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. White".

Name: Scott D. White