

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
REPORT OF CONVERSATION Page 1 of 1



**Energy Facilities Siting and
 Environmental Protection
 Division**

FILE: 08-AFC-02

PROJECT TITLE: Beacon Solar Energy Project

DOCKET
08-AFC-2

DATE DEC 30 2008

RECD. DEC 31 2008

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone	(530) 304-4121	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location:	
NAME:	Alice Karl Desert Tortoise Expert	DATE:	12-30-08
		TIME:	2:00 p.m.
WITH:	Susan Sanders, Biologist		
SUBJECT:	Desert Tortoise – Indirect Impacts		

I asked Dr. Karl for additional information regarding potential impacts to desert tortoise associated with "fence-walking" and possible increased risk of predation from coyotes. This topic was addressed briefly on pages 26-27 of the revised Incidental Take Permit application that we received last week.

Dr. Karl said that fence-walking typically occurs when a tortoise is moved out of its home range; often, it is when a tortoise is trying to return home. It may also occur when a tortoise is fenced out of part of its typical use area. While there have not been any quantitative scientific studies of this behavior of which she is aware, it has been observed with the Fort Irwin relocation, during the Hyundai test track translocation activities, with captive tortoises, and by other researchers. Based on her experience and conversations with other researchers, Dr. Karl believed this behavior is short-lived and intermittent.

Regarding the coyote predation on tortoise that are fencing walking, Dr. Karl said that coyotes can prey on tortoises any time they are outside their burrows, but that a spike in coyote predation is associated with a reduction in their preferred prey (which is not desert tortoise). In 2008 there was an exceptionally high level of coyote predation because of 2007 drought conditions, exacerbated by a crash in rabbit and rodent numbers after a peak in 2005 and 2006.

Dr. Karl thought fence walking was very unlikely at Beacon because the plant site is not within the home range of any desert tortoise, given the lack of habitat and lack of records of any live tortoises within the plant site during the 2007/2008 surveys.

I asked Dr. Karl about her recommendations if a tortoise was detected during the clearance surveys that would be conducted on the site prior to grading. She recommended that they be moved to the nearest suitable habitat outside the fence line. She would not even consider this a relocation because given the absence of habitat no tortoise would have their home range within the plant site; moving the tortoise would simply be returning a transient individual to their home range. Dr. Karl will ask Jenn Guigliano to send us the write-up she prepared describing her recommendations for moving tortoises found during clearance surveys.

cc: Rick York, CEC Siting Division Eric Solario, CEC Siting PM	Prepared by: Susan Sanders
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PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 11/10/05) FILED WITH ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 12/31/08
AA



BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
For the *BEACON SOLAR ENERGY
PROJECT***

Docket No. 08-AFC-2

**PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 11/10/08)**

INSTRUCTIONS: All parties shall either (1) send an original signed document plus 12 copies or (2) mail one original signed copy AND e-mail the document to the address for the Docket as shown below, AND (3) all parties shall also send a printed or electronic copy of the document, which includes a proof of service declaration to each of the individuals on the proof of service list shown below:

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, April Albright, declare that on December 31, 2008, I deposited copies of the attached Report of Conversation between Susan Sanders and Alice Karl in the United States mail at Sacramento, CA with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

Transmission via electronic mail was consistent with the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 20, sections 1209, 1209.5, and 1210. All electronic copies were sent to all those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


April Albright

Attachments