

**MEETING WITH THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
AND THE CA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
AGENDA**

**Thursday, September 18, 2008**

**9:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m. (pre-meeting)**

**10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

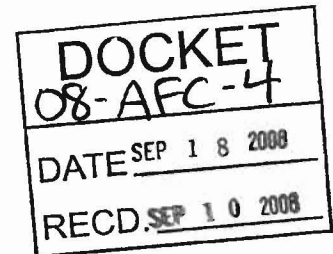
**Department of Planning and Land Use – DPLU Chief's Conf. Room  
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B, San Diego**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. - Pre-meeting**

**1. 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.           Item/Project # 1 on Agenda**

**2. 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.           Item/Project # 2 on Agenda**

**3. 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Orange Grove Project, Grading Plan: L-15454**



The project is a grading plan associated with the construction and operation of the Orange Grove Power Plant Project. The Orange Grove Project is needed by SDG&E to support reliability and meet growing load requirements within its service territory. The site is located off of State Route (SR) 76, approximately 3.5-air miles northeast of Interstate (I) -15 and about 5-miles east of the City of Fallbrook. The Assessor's parcel number that the site occurs within is (APN) 110-072-26.

The project proposes grading associated with the construction of a 96-megawatt (MW) simple-cycle electric generating plant and ancillary facilities, including a proposed gas line and an underground electric transmission line. The CDFG may consider the transmission line interconnection horizontal drilling beneath the drainage west of the site to be within their jurisdiction and may require a Section 1602 Stream Bed Alteration Agreement.

A biological resources report for the project area was prepared by Orange Grove Energy, L.P. and dated June 2008. The report describes the biological resources in the vicinity of the project, evaluates potential project impacts and proposes mitigation measures to address these impacts. Based on a review of all available literature, biological resource agency databases, and field surveys, three special status species are known to occur within the project site or project linear facilities.

The construction of the Orange Grove Project Power Plant will result in impacts (and proposed mitigation ratio) to 9.3 acre of Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (2:1), 9.0 acre of urban developed (N/A), 2.1 acre of disturbed (N/A), 1.0 acre of agriculture (N/A), 11.2 acre of orchard (N/A) and 3.4 acre of non-native grassland (0.5:1). Project construction will impact one established Engelmann oak tree, a few Engelmann oak saplings and several small coast live oaks during site grading.

A pair of nesting coastal California gnatcatchers was documented within approximately 200 feet of the project linear facilities west of the site. Project impacts to coastal California gnatcatcher from construction noise and activities during the breeding season (March 15 through June 30) may be significant. Indirect impacts to the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and the Least Bells Vireo may occur during project implementation due to construction noise and activities that will occur along those portions of the pipeline route within 300 feet of the

riparian forest south of SR 76. Indirect impacts to the Arroyo toad will be avoided through the implementation of a limited construction period that will avoid the toads aestivation (active) period (i.e., March 15 to July 1).

The County will require a 2:1 compensation ratio for impacts to Diegan coastal sage scrub. Orange Grove Energy is researching approved mitigation banks within San Diego County and will coordinate with DPW and USFWS through the HLP process upon approval.

A limited construction period (i.e., February 15 to August 30) will also be implemented within 500 feet of the documented nests of the coastal California gnatcatcher pair. If construction is to occur within coastal sage scrub between February 15 and August 30 (the breeding season) a survey will be conducted to identify nesting gnatcatchers. Construction will be directed to stay a minimum of 500 feet away from the nesting gnatcatcher young until they have fledged.

Avoidance of impacts to the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and the Least Bells Vireo will occur through the implementation of a limited construction period in suitable habitat areas (i.e., no construction in these areas between March 15 and September 15) or directional drilling of this portion of the pipeline route to avoid indirect impacts within 300 feet of the suitable habitat for these species.

Impacts to Engelmann oaks and coast live oaks will be mitigated through implementation of a project landscaping plan that will landscape portions of the project site with Engelmann oaks.

Impacts to approximately 53 native trees on the project site will be avoided through project implementation protection measures. Immediately prior to construction, all native trees in the vicinity of the project area will be flagged and a preconstruction conference will be held with all on-the-ground construction staff and the project foreman to ensure that they are aware of these trees and to avoid impacts to these trees.

The project is being brought to batching by County staff to receive preliminary concurrence on the proposed mitigation strategy before Draft NCCP/4(d) findings are prepared.

**Staff:** Tom Duffy

**Attachments:**

- Application for Certification, Orange Grove Project, Biological Resources Report, dated June 2008. Orange Grove Energy, L.P.
- Vegetation Map, Orange Grove Energy, L.P.