

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
REPORT OF CONVERSATION Page 1 of 1

California Energy Commission
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09-AFC-7C
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<u>Energy Facilities Siting and Environmental Protection Division</u>	FILE:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-MAIL:	Project Title: Palen Solar Power Project; 09-AFC-7C (Compliance Proceeding)	
NAME: Carol Watson, Planner II, Siting Division	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location	
	Date March 21, 2013	Time 12:27pm
WITH: Joel Pagel, USFW, Palm Springs, Jody Frasier, USFWS, Palm Springs		
SUBJECT: Turkey Vulture Migration over the Palen Project Site		
<p>From: Pagel, Joel <joel_pagel@fws.gov<mailto:joel_pagel@fws.gov><mailto:joel_pagel@fws.gov<mailto:joel_pagel@fws.gov>>> Date: Thu, Mar 21, 2013 at 12:27 PM Subject: Turkey vulture kettle(s) near Palen; field observation To: Tera Baird <tera_baird@fws.gov<mailto:tera_baird@fws.gov><mailto:tera_baird@fws.gov<mailto:tera_baird@fws.gov>>>, Jody Fraser <jody_fraser@fws.gov<mailto:jody_fraser@fws.gov><mailto:jody_fraser@fws.gov<mailto:jody_fraser@fws.gov>>>, Mark Massar <mmassar@blm.gov<mailto:mmassar@blm.gov><mailto:mmassar@blm.gov<mailto:mmassar@blm.gov>>>, Pete Sorensen <pete_sorensen@fws.gov<mailto:pete_sorensen@fws.gov><mailto:pete_sorensen@fws.gov<mailto:pete_sorensen@fws.gov>>>, Thomas Dietsch <thomas_dietsch@fws.gov<mailto:thomas_dietsch@fws.gov><mailto:thomas_dietsch@fws.gov<mailto:thomas_dietsch@fws.gov>>>, Magdalena Rodriguez <Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov<mailto:Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov><mailto:Magdalena.Rodriguez@wildlife.ca.gov>>>, "Shankar Sharma (shankar.sharma@wildlife.ca.gov<mailto:shankar.sharma@wildlife.ca.gov><mailto:shankar.sharma@wildlife.ca.gov<mailto:shankar.sharma@wildlife.ca.gov>>>)" <shankar.sharma@wildlife.ca.gov<mailto:shankar.sharma@wildlife.ca.gov><mailto:shankar.sharma@wildlife.ca.gov<mailto:shankar.sharma@wildlife.ca.gov>>>, Kim Marsden <kmarsden@blm.gov<mailto:kmarsden@blm.gov><mailto:kmarsden@blm.gov<mailto:kmarsden@blm.gov>>>, Scott White <Swhite@aspeneg.com<mailto:Swhite@aspeneg.com><mailto:Swhite@aspeneg.com<mailto:Swhite@aspeneg.com>>>></p> <p>Hi folks,</p> <p>Just want to transcribe our sighting yesterday of several kettles of Turkey Vultures which we saw during our field visit near Palen yesterday around 1145 h/ Temp was about 80 degrees F, winds calm, 100% cc (high stratus).</p>		



Near the Corn Springs road turnoff, I documented (with binoculars and spotting scope) two large kettles of Turkey Vultures which came from the eastern I-10 corridor/Chuckwalla Valley near the south end of the Palen Mountains. One kettle had approximately 30, and the other had about 15. There were probably many more which I was unable to count in this mass movement due to being distracted by our conversation.

The birds went from the south end of the Palen Mtns, south across the highway and about one or two miles to the west of the Corn Springs, and then used the thermals off of the north side of the Chuckwalla Mountains near Black Butte. We had moved by then to near the Red Bluff substation, and had observed them as we drove west on the gravel road to the substation. The TV's flew in the direction of Indio and Palm Springs.

During our visit, we also saw one perched RTHA near the highway at the Corn Springs road turnoff.

Also, as a fyi, kettles of TV's have been seen in the central valley moving north into OR. This is just part of the annual migration, however for the Palen site it was interesting as the birds were about 500 - 1000 ft agl.

Scott, could you share this with your counterparts.

Thanks,

jeep
Joel E. Pagel, Ph.D.
Raptor Ecologist

cc:		Signed:
		Name: Carol Watson