

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	23-AFC-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP)
<b>TN #:</b>	251204
<b>Document Title:</b>	Report of Conversation - Burrowing Owl Approach to Data Adequacy for Berkshire Hathaway Geothermal Projects
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	Marichka Haws
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
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<b>Docketed Date:</b>	7/27/2023

# CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION



*Siting, Transportation, and Environmental Protection Division*

**23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Berkshire Hathaway Geothermal Projects: Morton Bay, Elmore North, and Black Rock

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Telephone</b>	Private	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Meeting Location:</b> telephonic
<b>NAME:</b> Carol Watson, Staff Biologist	<b>DATE:</b> 6-16-2023	<b>TIME:</b> 8:51 am
<b>WITH:</b> Magdalena Rodriguez, CDFW		
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Burrowing Owl Approach to Data Adequacy for Berkshire Hathaway Geothermal Projects		

CDFW conveyed that, for the three geothermal projects, Berkshire Hathaway (the project owner) has contacted CDFW regarding burrowing owl approach as recommended by CEC staff via Data Adequacy recommendations (TN #250067, #250071, and #250066). As the applicant has missed the window of time to conduct surveys, the CDFW supports a survey protocol deviation from the standard 2012 CDFG burrowing owl survey guidelines (CDFG 2012), and would support, based on the project owners' plan, conducting the first two protocol surveys now, as part of submittal of biological survey data for Data Adequacy. The following 3rd recommended protocol survey would then be captured in the winter, when surveys for overwintering (non-migratory) birds are present.

The purpose of the surveys is to allow CEC staff, for the purposes of CEQA, to understand the local abundance and distribution of burrowing owl for the purposes of Data Adequacy, and to evaluate and develop appropriate BMPS, impact analysis, etc, as necessary, for forthcoming data requests. The CEC staff agree with this approach.

**REFERENCE:**

CDFG 2012 – California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. Available online at:  
<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=83843&inline=true>.

<b>CC:</b>	<b>Prepared by:</b> Carol Watson
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