

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	23-AFC-02
Project Title:	Elmore North Geothermal Project (ENGP)
TN #:	251205
Document Title:	Report of Conversation - Burrowing Owl Approach to Data Adequacy for Berkshire Hathaway Geothermal Projects
Description:	N/A
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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"/> Telephone	Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location: telephonic
NAME: Carol Watson, Staff Biologist	DATE: 6-16-2023	TIME: 8:51 am
WITH: Magdalena Rodriguez, CDFW		
SUBJECT: 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>.

CC:	Prepared by: Carol Watson
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