

Sara Keeler - Re: Golden eagles/Mariposa Energy Project

From: <Heather_Beeler@fws.gov>
To: Skeeler@energy.state.ca.us
Date: 10/13/2010 11:57 AM
Subject: Re: Golden eagles/Mariposa Energy Project
CC: Jennifer_C_Brown@fws.gov

Hi Sara,

If you are 100% confident there are no golden eagle nests within 1 mile of construction activities then the project should be ok during that phase. Did anyone do surveys? If there are trees, there may be nesting eagles. I ask as I'm not sure how you define you "on site" area. If there are eagle nests within ~2 miles, increased human disturbance could be an issue but if you say that there is a lot of topography that might not be a problem. All power lines should follow the APLIC guidelines Loss of foraging habitat seems like the biggest concern. I wonder if you the project proponent would be willing to conduct a Habitat Equivalency Analysis or offer some form of mitigation. What company is building this plant? We're being conservative about eagles and Eagle Act compliance.

Thanks,
Heather

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Sara Keeler <Skeeler@energy.state.ca.us>

To <Heather_Beeler@fws.gov>, <Jennifer_C_Brown@fws.gov>
cc

10/12/2010 04:39 PM

Subject Golden eagles/Mariposa Energy Project

Jennifer, Heather,

This is to follow up on a conversation I had with Jennifer earlier this year about a project I am working on in relation to the Golden Eagle Act.

The Mariposa Energy Project would be a natural gas-fired power plant, east of the Altamont Hills in north-eastern Alameda County. There is no suitable golden eagle nesting habitat on-site, however it does provide foraging habitat and eagles are known to forage on and around the site.

The plant site would be about 10 acres, and would affect an additional 12 acres during the 1.5 year

construction period. It would install a 0.7-mile, 230kV transmission line consisting of about 8 monopoles. Overall height of the project is not expected to pose a collision risk, due to the topography of the site (in a valley) and other transmission line features already on the site.

When I talked with Jennifer earlier this year, she indicated that this would not be subject to the Eagle Act, primarily because of the size of the project. I would just like to verify this is still the case.

Thank you for your time,
Sara

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