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04-IEP-1G
DATE AUG 12 2005
RECD AUG 12 2005

Docket Optical System - Docket Number 04-IEP-1G

From: <LKIFF@aol.com>
To: <docket@energy.state.ca.us>
Date: 8/12/2005 5:17 PM
Subject: Docket Number 04-IEP-1G

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in connection with Docket Number 04-IEP-1G and, specifically, a staff document entitled "Assessment of Avian Mortality" (CEC-700-2005-015), by Melissa Dorn.

From a careful examination of this report, I have concluded that it represents sound scholarship and that its findings are scientifically supportable. Therefore, it is quite important that it be placed in the public record and published by the CEC, and its recommendations should be implemented.

Although I am presently a resident of the State of Idaho, I enjoyed a 30-year career in ornithology in the Los Angeles area after finishing my graduate work at UCLA. I served as the Director of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (now in Camarillo, Ventura County) for 26 years, and I was also the Head of the Bird and Mammal Department of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and Team Leader of the California Condor Recovery Team.

During my years in California, I was intimately involved in many conservation issues involving birds of prey and served on several advisory committees to the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I am well acquainted with the avian issues at Altamont Pass, as, by now, are most raptor biologists throughout the world. Indeed, this site is widely regarded as the most problematic facility of its kind in existence from the standpoint of avian conservation.

Because of Altamont's notoriety, because of the chance to recommend suitable mitigation actions, and because of your agency's fundamental obligation to the public, I urge you to ensure inclusion of the Dorn staff report in your deliberations and in the record.

Thank you for considering these views.

Sincerely,

Lloyd F. Kiff