



May 2011 Monthly Compliance Report Appendix E

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 19, 2011

To: Amy Golden, CEC Biological Resources Lead
Dale Rundquist, CEC Compliance Project Manager

From: David Kisner, CPV Sentinel Energy Project Designated Biologist

Subject: **Condition of Certification BIO-11.4
Preconstruction Nesting Bird Surveys**

On May 17, 2011, URS (David Kisner) conducted a search for nests at the CPV Sentinel Energy Project (CPVS) site, construction laydown area, Powerline Road (including the project's transmission line corridor), 16th Avenue, the future access road (Melissa Lane), and the portion of the natural gas line co-located with the access road. The survey area included a minimum of 200-foot buffer from these areas. In addition, all structures (i.e., power towers, trees, and wind turbines) within 1,000-feet of these areas were scanned with binoculars and/or spotting scope. The survey was performed from 8:00 am to 1 p.m. The wind was relatively strong during the survey, but this condition is not atypical for the area and the survey conditions were considered conducive to identifying nesting birds and bird activity in the project area.

The survey did not include the following portions of the gas line: (1) the east-west portion of the natural gas line located along Dillon Road, and (2) the north-south portion of the natural gas line located along the unpaved road leading to the Indigo Energy Facility (which the exception of a spot check done at intersection of Dillon Road and the unpaved road leading to the Indigo Energy Facility to spot check for the previously observed burrowing owl territory). Surveys were not conducted along these portions of the natural gas line because construction in these areas is proposed to start outside of the bird nesting season. If construction in the non-surveyed area occurs during the nesting bird season, the survey will be repeated in these non-surveyed areas prior to any construction activity.

During the May 2011 surveys, bird abundance and diversity was extremely low. Birds seen during the survey period consisted of two individuals of rock dove, one individual mourning dove, five individual common ravens (family group), one individual western tanager, three burrowing owls (discussed below), two loggerhead shrike (discussed below) and one lesser nighthawk.

No active bird nests were observed during the survey other than the two known burrowing owl territories (i.e., territory south of Devers substation and territory near the Dillon Road/unpaved road intersection). A pair of loggerhead strikes was observed during the survey, but did not appear to be nesting in any of the project areas. As mentioned above, there was very little bird activity in the area, which URS believes was due in part to the number of wood rats in the area



and windy nature of the site. The wood rat density seemed quite high and ground nest birds could be predated by the rats. Additionally, the wind also would seem to make it difficult for a bird to build a nest in the shrubbery due to the constant movement.

Details of the observations are provided further below.

Burrowing Owl – Devers Substation

A pair of owls was seen south of the Devers Substation immediately south of the v-ditch. This is assumed to be the same birds detected in April 2011. The nest burrow appears to be 50 feet farther to the west than originally assumed, but otherwise there is no other change to this territory from previous observations in April.

The owls did not seem to respond to normal passenger vehicles and did not exhibit any indications of “stress” (i.e. head bobbing or bobbing) when observed. Both owls were sitting near the burrow – one in the entrance and the second 6 feet away in the lee of a dead shrub.

Burrowing Owl – Dillon Road and Unpaved Road

A single owl was seen south of Dillon Road and west of the unnamed dirt road north of the Indigo Energy Facility. The owl was seen sitting on the east side of the swale eating a mouse. After consuming the mouse, the owl stepped into a burrow and out of site.

Loggerhead Shrikes – East of Project Site

A pair of loggerhead shrikes was seen within the eastern portion of the project site. The entire project area was searched for a nest but no nests were found within the project area. If the birds are still nesting, based on the birds’ behavior and areas in which the birds were seen, it appears the nest could be within the wind farm located east of the project site.