



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, California 92011

In Reply Refer To:
FWS-ERIV-2008-B-0026/2008-SL-0035

OCT 25 2007

Penny Jennings Eckert, Ph.D.
Tetra Tech EC, Inc.
19803 north Creek Parkway
Bothell, Washington 98011

Subject: Request for Information on Endangered and Threatened Species for the
Project Genesis, Imperial County, California

Dear Ms. Eckert:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the information provided in your letter dated October 4, 2007, and received at our office on the same date, to assess the potential presence of federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed species that may occur on the Project Genesis Solar Power Plant in Imperial County, California on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public lands. To assist you in evaluating the potential occurrence of these species within the areas of interest, we are providing the enclosed list.

We do not have site specific information for your project area however, to assist you in evaluating whether or not the proposed project may affect listed species we are providing the attached table of Federal listed species that may occur in the general project area. We also recommend that you seek assistance from a biologist familiar with the habitat conditions and associated species in and around the project site to assess the actual potential for direct, indirect and cumulative impacts likely to result from the proposed activity.

We note that there are State and BLM sensitive specie concerns in this area. Therefore, the Service recommends that you contact the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) as well as BLM to obtain a list of sensitive species that may occur in the area of the project site. Surveys may be required for sensitive species pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Assessment (CEQA) analysis for a proposed development. For example, burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) are commonly found on sites such as the project area. The state provides survey guidelines and mitigation requirements if this species is found on-site.

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Thank you for your inquiry. Should you have any questions regarding this letter or your responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act, please call Peggy Bartels of my staff at (760) 431-9440.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Therese O'Rourke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Therese O'Rourke
Assistant Field Supervisor

cc Craig Weightman, California Department of Fish and Game
Mark Massar, North Palm Springs Bureau of Land Management

**Federal Listed Species
occurring on or near
Genesis Solar Power Project
Riverside County, California**

WILDLIFE		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Desert Tortoise	<i>Gopherus agassizi</i>	CH, T

Status

E: endangered
T: threatened

CH: critical habitat
PCH: proposed critical habitat