

**PALOMAR ENERGY PROJECT (01-AFC-24)
CEC STAFF DATA REQUEST NUMBER 24**

Technical Area: Biological Resources

Response Date: April 8, 2002

REQUEST:

Please provide a discussion as to how mitigation for special status wildlife species (e.g. western spadefoot toad and California gnatcatcher) on the ERTC industrial park site (and Planning Area 1 – Palomar site) will be coordinated with the Escondido Sub-area Plan Implementing the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program. This discussion should provide adequate information to clearly indicate how mitigation for impacts to the western spadefoot toads and California gnatcatchers presently occurring on the Palomar site will be accounted for in overall mitigation for the ERTC industrial park and in relation to goals and objectives of the Escondido Sub-area Plan.

RESPONSE:

Specific mitigation measures for ERTC impacts on special status wildlife species will be developed as part of the City and US Fish and Wildlife Service review and approval process for the ERTC project. These review and approval processes have not yet reached the stage where such mitigation measures have been prepared. Following are possible mitigation measures for special status wildlife species that are designed to satisfy guidelines outlined in the draft Escondido Subarea Plan.

To mitigate impacts to Coastal Sage Scrub and California Gnatcatchers, the draft Escondido Subarea plan stipulates a 2:1 mitigation ratio for gnatcatcher occupied sage scrub, and conservation of an equal number of gnatcatchers. The ERTC site currently supports approximately 45.1-acres of gnatcatcher occupied sage scrub, and four pairs of gnatcatchers. To mitigate for project impacts to these resources approximately 90.2 acres of sage scrub and a total of eight gnatcatchers will need to be conserved. Acquisition of mitigation property is underway from Daley Ranch, Whelan Ranch or other private properties.