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-LA-4684.1

DOCKET
05-AFC-2
DATE JAN 13 2006
RECD JAN 19 2006

JAN 13 2006

Eric Knight, Project Manager
Energy Facilities Siting and Compliance Office
1516 9th Street, MS-15
Sacramento, California 95814

Subj: Application for Certification (05-AFC-2) for the Walnut Creek Energy Park, City of Industry, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Mr. Knight:

We have reviewed the Application for Certification (05-AFC-2) for the Walnut Creek Energy Park (WCEP), City of Industry, Los Angeles County, California. The proposed project is a natural gas-fired simple-cycle power plant on an 11.48-acre parcel currently occupied by a commercial distribution warehouse. The WCEP would be connected to Southern California Edison's (SCE) electrical system at the existing Walnut Substation, located approximately 250 feet south of the project site. This connection would require 600 feet of 230-kilovolt transmission line and two transmission towers to be located adjacent to the substation within SCE's transmission line corridor. The applicant, Walnut Creek Energy, LLC, a subsidiary of Edison Mission Energy, is seeking approval from your agency to construct and operate the 500-megawatt power plant.

The biological studies provided with the Application for Certification state that the proposed project will have no effect to listed or sensitive species or their habitats due to the complete absence of suitable habitat on the site. Based on our review of the project description and information regarding habitat and species at the project site, we concur with the applicant's determination that the proposed project will have no effect to federally listed species or their designated critical habitat. Therefore, the interagency consultation requirements of section 7 of the Act have been satisfied. However, obligations under section 7 of the Act should be reconsidered if: 1) new information reveals effects of the agency action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; 2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner that was not considered; or 3) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.

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We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed project. If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Christine Medak of this office at (760) 431-9440 ext. 298.

Sincerely,

for Karen A. Goebel
Assistant Field Supervisor