Draft Outline for Statewide Guidelines for Reducing Wildlife Impacts From Wind Energy Development in California

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1. Introduction

• Need, purpose and scope

• Relationship to state, federal laws

• Other guidelines and references
2. Pre-permitting Assessment

Assess seasonal/annual variation in bird and bat use and sensitivity of the site to provide:

- Fatal-flaws assessment;
- Information for siting turbines & infrastructure;
- Information for impact analysis;
- Baseline for post-construction survey.
2a. Preliminary Information Gathering

- Assess validity of data from adjacent sites;
- Consult with CDFG, USFWS, local experts;
- Record searches;
- Reconnaissance site survey.
2b. Pre-permitting Field Surveys

Recommendations for frequency, duration, scope of study based on site sensitivity, level of information, size of project.

Evaluation of field methods and study design including:

- Diurnal avian use and behavior surveys;
- Nocturnal studies for bats, night-flying birds;
- Sampling protocol, statistics for fatality estimates.
3. Impact Analysis

• Direct impacts: bird/bat collision, construction, habitat loss;

• Indirect impacts: disturbance, behavioral avoidance;

• Cumulative impact analysis.
4. Post-construction Surveys

- Count fatalities, compare pre-construction estimates;

- Evaluate effectiveness of mitigation measures and provide feedback for adaptive management;

- Provide standardized information for monitoring reports to agencies.
4a. Fatality Monitoring, Use of Site

- Carcass count – address search interval, searcher bias, scavenger removal, search radii, metrics for carcass count;

- Ongoing point count, transects, or nocturnal surveys.
**4b. Interpreting & Reporting Monitoring Data**

- Availability of report for public, agency review;

- Technical Advisory Committee for data interpretation, adaptive management;

- Statewide reporting/tracking wind facility mortality.
5. Mitigation

• Avoidance/Minimization Measures

• Post-Construction Measures

• Compensatory Mitigation
6. Guidelines Updates and Revisions

- Mechanism for ongoing feedback
- Process to update/revise guidelines
Your Input on Guideline Development

• Important issues omitted from outline?

• Topics included that should be eliminated?

• Issues for in-depth discussions at future workshops?