

Subject: DFG's guidance on the Borrego Springs Pipeline Feasibility

Study 2009

From: Paul Schlitt <PSchlitt@dfg.ca.gov>

Date: Mon, September 19, 2011 2:03 pm

To: <jerry@borregowd.org>

Jerry,

I've attached a map that our GIS staff person prepared for your use. It shows the potential sensitive plant/ animal resources that could occur within the proposed pipeline alignment. It is by no means intended to capture everything, however it does provide you those sensitive plant/animal occurrences on file with the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). I also routed your proposal to our senior biologist (Randy Botta) who covers that portion of San Diego County. Randy indicated that based the description of the project alignment and the scale provided in your map, he did not feel that any portion of the pipeline alignment falls within lands managed by Region 5 and that there appears to be no potential impact on bighorn sheep from Region 5 perspective. He did advise me that you should contact Region 6 (CDFG's Bermuda Dunes Office, Eddy Konno (ekonno@dfg.ca.gov) (760) 200-9174) since the alignment appears to cross some of the Department's land holdings (i.e., San Felipe Creek Ecological Reserve) covered by Region 6. I apologize that I don't have more specific guidance on those issues, however I'm sure that the Region 6 staff should be able to assist you.

As for the attached CNDDDB bubble map (see specific plants/animals listed below), again it's very broad in scale, however it gives you general guidance on the potential sensitive species that could be encountered within the project area and should meet your report purposes at this time. Site-specific surveys that cover all plant/animal resources would be required at the time of any formal project submittal. Those surveys would obviously result in large number of plant/animal observed then what is depicted on the map that we provided. All subsequent surveys should include the specific type(s) and amount of vegetation that would be directly impacted at the time of construction and proposed mitigation requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act.

I did contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad office on your behalf and was advised that you should contact the Palm Desert field office (specifically Carol Roberts, e-mail: Carol_A_Roberts@USFWS.gov) for further guidance on USFWS concerns with this project. The Service might be able to provide you with a similar list of plant/animal resources that they have regulatory responsibilities over.

Here's a list of the plants/animals depicted on our CNDDDB map. I've included a web link that contains some general species information for each of the plants.

Plants

Brown Turbans (Malperia tenuis) <http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/rareplants/158.html>

Peirson's Pincushion (Chaenactis carphoclinia) <http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/rareplants/052.html>

Coves' Cassia (Senna covesii) <http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/rareplants/222.html>

Orcutt's Woody-aster (Xylorhiza orcuttii)

<http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/rareplants/234.html>

Animals

Supplemental information can be found on the department's wildlife species matrix link below:

Carlson's dune beetle (*Anomala carlsoni*)

Colorado Desert fringe-toed lizard (*Uma notata*)

Colorado Valley woodrat (*Neotoma albigula venusta*)

flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*)

leopard frog (*Lithobates yavapaiensis*)

prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/WAP/matrix_results.asp?cnddb=cnddb&sc=1&se=1&fe=1&fep=1&ft=1&ftp=1&fd=1&fdp=1&iucn=1&blm=1&usfs=1&fws=1&cdf=1&dfg=CSC&fsc=1&xerces=1&other=1&checkall=on

I hope this information helps. Let me know if I can assist you any further.

Regards,

Paul