

Southern California Edison
ELM Project A.18-05-007

DATA REQUEST SET A1805007-ED-SCE-DEF-002

To: ENERGY DIVISION
Prepared by: Rey Gonzales
Title: Environmental Project Manager
Dated: 08/27/2018

Question 68:

The BRTR and the focused desert tortoise survey report attached to it do not indicate whether surveys for burrowing owl or other special-status wildlife were conducted, or how incidental observations of other wildlife species were recorded during desert tortoise surveys. There is no list of wildlife species observed, and only two incidental observations of special-status wildlife are noted (one incidental observation each of desert bighorn sheep and burrowing owl, both during botanical surveys).

Q.68. Please provide a compilation of all wildlife species observed (from wildlife biologists' field notes), including locations of all special-status status species and their sign (such as burrows with sign of occupancy by burrowing owls).

Response to Question 68:

Attached is a compilation of all wildlife species incidentally observed during fieldwork efforts for the Proposed Project. Please see Attachment ELM_Q#68_Wildlife Species Report.pdf.

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The following list is a compilation of all wildlife species incidentally observed during fieldwork efforts for the Proposed Project.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Invertebrates	
Tarantula	<i>Aphonopelma</i> spp.
Reptiles	
Common side-blotched lizard	<i>Uta stansburiana</i>
Desert iguana	<i>Dipsosaurus dorsalis</i>
Desert spiny lizard	<i>Sceloporus magister</i>
Desert tortoise	<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>
Gopher snake	<i>Pituophis</i> sp.
Great Basin whiptail	<i>Aspidoscelis tigris</i>
Southern desert horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma platyrhinos calidiarum</i>
Long-nosed leopard lizard	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>
Long-nosed snake	<i>Rhinocelchus lecontei</i>
Mojave rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus scutulatus</i>
Southwestern speckled rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus mitchelli</i>
Western diamond-backed rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus atrox</i>
Western fence lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>
Western skink	<i>Eumeces skiltonianus</i>
Western zebra-tailed lizard	<i>Callisaurus draconoides rhodostictus</i>
Whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus</i> spp.
Birds	
Anna's hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>
Ash-throated flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>
Black-chinned hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>
Black-tailed gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila melanura</i>
Black-throated sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>
Cactus wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>
California quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>

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Common Name	Scientific Name
Common raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Dusky flycatcher	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>
Gambel's quail	<i>Callipepla gambelli</i>
Great horned owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
Horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
House finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Rock wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>
Say's phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>
Song sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
Spotted towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>
Townsend's warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>
Western kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalus</i>
Western tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>
White-winged dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>
Mammals	
Antelope ground squirrel	<i>Ammospermophilus</i> spp.
Black-tailed jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>
California vole	<i>Microtus californicus</i>
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
Desert bighorn sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i>
Desert cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>
Mule deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>

The locations of two of the three special-status wildlife species—desert tortoise and western burrowing owl—that were incidentally observed are included in the table that follows.

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Common Name	Date Observed	Location (UTM Zone 11 - Meters)	
		Easting	Northing
Burrowing Owl	3/29/2017	557,969.725	3,849,208.093
Burrowing Owl	3/29/2017	558,000.5037	3,849,199.45
Desert Tortoise	3/30/2017	550,161.4526	3,842,127.066
Desert Tortoise	3/30/2017	550,065.1107	3,842,071.849
Desert Tortoise	4/6/2017	675,018.4604	3,869,777.366
Desert Tortoise	4/7/2017	687,346.9122	3,921,791.872

The Desert Tortoise Pre-Project Survey Report (Attachment E of the Revised Biological Resources Technical Report [BRTR]) contains additional locations of desert tortoise observations.¹ Location data for the third special-status species that was incidentally observed—desert bighorn sheep—were not collected for safety reasons.

¹ No desert tortoises were observed during the 2017 desert tortoise surveys. Therefore, the Addendum to the Desert Tortoise Pre-Project Survey Report (Attachment F of the Revised BRTR) does not contain any additional locations of observations of the species.

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Question 70:

The PEA and attachments do not indicate special-status wildlife observations or habitat suitability at any of the proposed disturbance sites or potential staging yard locations.

Q.70. Please provide Mojave fringe-toed lizard (MFTL) habitat evaluations and any MFTL observations at each proposed disturbance site or potential staging yard location.

Response to Question 70:

The Mojave fringe-toed lizard was not observed during the survey efforts conducted for the Proposed Project. Suitable habitat for the species was evaluated based on field observations, the location of recent and historic California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) records, the species' known range, and aerial imagery.

Two general locations within the Proposed Project area contain suitable loose or windblown (aeolian) sand habitat to support the Mojave fringe-toed lizard and have nearby recent CNDDDB occurrence records. The first is located along a segment of the Lugo – Mohave 500 kV Transmission Line that is adjacent to the Kelso Dunes in the Mojave National Preserve in California. Specifically, this includes a majority of the work areas between towers M104-T1 and M108-T2, helicopter landing zone LZ 114 through tower M108-T2, and all associated access roads.

The second general location is near the Ludlow and Newberry Springs Series Capacitor Sites—located approximately 2.5 miles north of Pisgah Crater and immediately north of Interstate 40 in California. This includes the work areas for both capacitors; stringing sites M69-T1 STR-AS1, M69-T1 STR-BS1, M72-T1 STR-AS1, M72-T1 STR-BS1; helicopter landing zones LZ 83 through LZ 87; the work area for towers M68-T2 and M72-T1; and all associated access roads.

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Question 71:

The PEA and attachments do not indicate special-status wildlife observations or habitat suitability at any of the proposed disturbance sites or potential staging yard locations.

Q.71. For each of the following species, please indicate if suitable habitat is found at any of the proposed disturbance areas or yard locations and, if so, for which ones was suitable habitat identified and of what type (such as habitat for roosting, nesting, or foraging):

- **banded Gila monster,**
- **Bendire's thrasher,**
- **golden eagle, and**
- **pallid bat.**

Response to Question 71:

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Focused surveys for the banded Gila monster, Bendire's thrasher, golden eagle, and pallid bat were not conducted, and none of these species were observed incidentally during other surveys for the Proposed Project. Suitable habitat for these species was evaluated based on field observations, the location of recent and historic California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and Nevada Natural Heritage Program (NNHP) records, the species' known ranges, and aerial imagery.

Banded Gila Monster

As described in the Biological Resources Technical Report (BRTR), the banded Gila monster inhabits rocky crevices and steep canyons associated with high-elevation desert mountain ranges. It utilizes desert washes and associated riparian vegetation for foraging, where it feeds on young mammals, birds, reptiles, and eggs. Banded Gila monster generally winters at more elevated locations on rocky slopes, and spends summers in adjacent valleys or bajadas. Banded Gila monsters face some pressure from habitat loss, due to their restrictive habitat needs.

Habitat for banded Gila monster in the BRSA is limited to desert mountain ranges, including the Providence Mountains in California, and the Dead Mountains, the Newberry Mountains, the McCollough Range, and the Highland Range in Nevada. Three general locations within the

Proposed Project area contain suitable habitat to support the banded Gila monster and have nearby recent CNDDDB or NNHP occurrence records.

- A segment of the Lugo – Mohave 500 kV Transmission Line within the Providence Mountains in the Mojave National Preserve in California. Specifically, this includes a majority of the work areas between towers M114-T3 and M120-T3; helicopter landing zones LZ 126 through LZ 130; stringing sites M114-T4 STR-BS1, M118-T1 STR-AS1, and M118-T2 STR-BS1; and all associated access roads.
- A segment of the Eldorado – Mohave 500 kV Transmission Line located in the Newberry Mountains in Nevada. This includes work areas between towers M2-T2 and M11-T1; helicopter landing zones LZ 178 through LZ 192; stringing sites M2-T1 STR-BS1; M4-T1 STR-AS1, M4-T1 STR-BS1, M6-T2 STR-BS1, M9-T3 STR-AS1, and M9-T3 STR-BS1; and all associated access roads.
- A segment of the Eldorado – Mohave 500 kV Transmission Line located in the Highland Range in Nevada. This includes work areas between towers M7-T2 and M9-T3, and M36-T4 through M51-T4; helicopter landing zones LZ 206, LZ 207, and LZ 210 through LZ 218; stringing sites M36-T4 STR-AS1, M36-T4 STR-BS1, M40-T1 STR-AS1, M40-T1 STR-BS1, M43-T3 STR-AS1, M43-T3 STR-BS1, M46-T3 STR-AS1, M46-T3 STR-BS1, M49-T4 STR-AS1, and M49-T4 STR-BS1; and all associated access roads.

Bendire's Thrasher

As described in the BRTR, Bendire's thrasher inhabits open grassland, desert scrub, shrubland, or woodland with scattered trees. It is closely associated with plants of the *Yucca* and *Opuntia* genera, and it selectively occupies areas with higher densities of these plants. Bendire's thrasher typically avoids rocky outcrops or areas with steep slopes, apparently favoring flat areas with densely packed dirt. This species is known to inhabit elevations from 1,900 to 5,800 feet, but mostly occurs between 3,100 and 5,000 feet.

Suitable Bendire's thrasher habitat that is located within the disjunct breeding range of this species is scattered through the Proposed Project area in California, along with nearby historic CNDDDB records as follows.

- Suitable habitat is scattered along the Lugo – Mohave 500 kV Transmission Line in the eastern Mojave Desert in California, spanning approximately between towers M108-T3 and M160-T1, between helicopter landing zones LZ 121 and LZ 168, between stringing sites M111-T3 STR-AS1 and M157-T1 STR-BS1, and all associated access roads.
- Limited suitable habitat within the species' range is also present along the Lugo – Mohave and Eldorado – Lugo 500 kV Transmission Lines in Fifteenmile Valley, west of Lucerne Valley in the western portion of the Proposed Project area. This includes work areas between towers M19-T1 and M21-T3, helicopter landing zones LZ 26 and LZ 27, the Bear Valley staging area, and all associated access roads.
- Limited suitable habitat within the species' known range is located in Lucerne Valley near tower M36-T3, helicopter landing zone LZ 45, stringing sites M36-T1 STR-AS1

and M36-T1 STR-BS1, and all associated access roads.

Golden Eagle

As described in the BRTR, the golden eagle prefers mountainous or hilly terrain, and hunts over open spaces for small mammals, snakes, birds, or carrion. This species typically nests on rocky cliffs, steep hillsides, tall trees, and other high structures, including transmission towers. This species may vacate hot deserts during the summer months to nest in desert mountains, then return to winter in basin areas. In the desert, an individual's territory may extend as far as 119 square miles.

Suitable foraging habitat for the golden eagle is present throughout the Proposed Project area in California and Nevada in the form of dry, open areas. Nesting habitat is present within mountainous and hilly areas, and also on transmission towers, as indicated by recent and historic CNDDDB and NNHP records of nests within 5 miles of the Proposed Project area. Due to the large range size of this species, the entire Proposed Project area is located within suitable habitat for the species, with the exception of disturbed and developed areas that would not contain a prey base.

Pallid Bat

As described in the BRTR, the pallid bat inhabits low desert shrublands, juniper woodlands, grasslands, and cottonwood-riparian zones throughout western North America. It is generally found at elevations between 100 and 7,000 feet. This species needs open, dry areas with rocky areas for roosting. Pallid bat may also roost in abandoned, man-made structures.

Suitable roosting habitat for the pallid bat is distributed throughout the Proposed Project area in California and Nevada in the many rocky areas and mineshafts. The abundance of open, dry areas surrounding the rocky areas provide ample foraging habitat throughout the Proposed Project area, as well. Due to the large range size of this species, the entire Proposed Project area is located within suitable habitat for the species, with the exception of disturbed and developed areas that would not contain a prey base.

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Question 72:

Q.72. If geographic areas of Cultural and Paleontological surveys are available in GIS format, provide a GIS data set that can be combined with previously provided project GIS data to identify these areas relative to project elements and work activities.

Response to Question 72:

GIS shapefiles of the boundaries of the cultural and paleontological survey areas are provided as an attachment.

Please see Attachment: ELM_Q#72_CANV_APE_SCE_08212018.gdb.zip

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Question 73:

SCE has responded satisfactorily to questions on hazards and hazardous materials, but one omission is noted that is relevant to the project area.

Several known Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) sites are known to exist in the Mojave area in the vicinity of the proposed project. FUDS are not discussed in the PEA. The FUDS sites cleanup is being overseen by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Information about the FUDS program, interactive GIS, and a basic inventory of FUDS sites can be found at: <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Formerly-Used-Defense-Sites>

If not done previously, consider contacting the local FUDS/Corps office to verify current status of any sites at or adjacent to the Project.

Q.73. Please provide a discussion of FUDS sites closest to the proposed project and the potential to encounter unexploded ordnance (UXO) or heavy metals in the soil during project construction. Address how this hazard will be avoided and how unanticipated discoveries will be handled.

Response to Question 73:

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Data from the USACE was reviewed to determine if there are known FUDS sites in proximity to the Proposed Project. Four known FUDS sites, as summarized in the table contained in the attached file "ELM Q#73_FUDS Table.pdf", were found within 2 miles of the Proposed Project work spaces. Because the closest of these sites is approximately 0.4 mile from any Proposed Project work space, no impacts from unexploded ordnance or heavy metals are anticipated.

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FUDS Site Name	FUDS Site Description	Proximity to Proposed Project (miles)	Nearest Proposed Project Work Space
Goffs Campsite	Goffs Campsite, approximately 426 acres, consists of a railhead, ammunition storage area, and campsite, all located in an undeveloped region of San Bernardino County, California, approximately 35 miles west of Needles.	0.4	Goffs Yard
Victorville Precision Bombing Range (PBR) No. 6	Victorville PRB No. 6, approximately 1,490 acres, includes target zones and buffer areas located in an undeveloped region of San Bernardino County, California, approximately 16 miles east of Victorville. Military munitions and explosives of concern (e.g., unexploded ordnance) are known or suspected to be present at this location.	0.8	Guard Structure
Victorville PBR No. 7	Victorville PBR No. 7, approximately 640 acres, includes a former bombing range in an undeveloped region of San Bernardino County, California, approximately 24 miles east of Victorville. Military munitions and explosives of concern (e.g., unexploded ordnance) are known or suspected to be present at this location.	1.5	Landing Zone 44
Daggett Army Airfield	Daggett Army Air Field, approximately 1,100 acres, includes an airfield, lubricating oil storage and distribution facilities, and associated support buildings. It is currently owned and operated by the County of San Bernardino's Public Works Group and is located in San Bernardino County, approximately 11 miles southeast of Barstow and four miles southeast of Daggett.	1.5	Coolwater Yard