Comment Set B0018, cont.
The Nevada Hydro Company Inc

B0018-37 cont.

REVISED "ADDITIONAL MITIGATION MEASURES"
LEAPS TRANSMISSION-ONLY ALTERNATIVE
(Continued)

Number	Mitigation Measure
B-2c BIO-APM-18	**Avoid sensitive features.** In areas designated as sensitive by the Applicant or the resource agencies, to the extent feasible structures and access roads would be designed to minimize impacts to sensitive features. These areas of sensitive features include but are not limited to high-value wildlife habitats, sensitive vegetation communities, and high value plant habitats, and/or to allow conductors to clearly span the features, within limits of standard structure design. If the sensitive features cannot be completely avoided, structures and access roads would be placed to minimize the disturbance to the extent feasible. When it is not feasible to avoid constructing poles or access roads in high value wildlife habitats, the Applicant would perform a site survey to determine presence or absence of endangered species in sensitive habitats. The Applicant would submit results of this survey to the USFWS and consult on mitigation measures for potential impacts, prior to constructing structures or access roads. However, this survey would not replace the need for the Applicant to perform detailed on-the-ground surveys as otherwise required by BIO-APM-1 [3-1d]. Where it is not feasible for access roads to avoid sensitive water resource features, such as streambed crossings, such crossings would be built at right angles to the streambeds. Where such crossings cannot be made at right angles, roads constructed parallel to streambeds would be limited to a maximum length of 500 feet at any one transmission line crossing location. Such parallel roads would be constructed in a manner that minimizes potential adverse impacts on "waters of the U.S." Streambed crossings or roads constructed parallel to streambeds would require review and approval of necessary permits from the ACOE, CDFG, and RWQCB. [BIO-APM-18]
B-3a(LE)	**Prepare and Implement a Weed Control Plan.** The Applicant shall prepare and implement a comprehensive, adaptive Weed Control Plan for pre-construction and long-term invasive weed abatement. Where the Applicant owns the ROW property, the Weed Control Plan shall include specific weed abatement methods, practices and treatment timing developed in consultation with the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, San Diego County Agriculture Commissioner's Office and the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC). On the ROW easement lands administered by public agencies (Lead Agencies, USDA Forest Service and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project), the Weed Control Plan shall incorporate all appropriate and legal agency-stipulated regulations. The Weed Control Plan shall be submitted to the ROW land-holding public agencies for final authorization of weed control methods, practices, and timing prior to implementation of the Weed Control Plan on public lands. ROW easements located on private lands shall include adaptive provisions for the implementation of the Weed Control Plan. Prior to implementation, the Applicant shall work with the landowners to obtain authorization of the weed control treatment that is required. The Weed Control Plan shall include the following: [1] A pre-construction weed inventory shall be conducted by surveying the entire ROW and areas immediately adjacent to the ROW as well as at all ancillary facilities associated with the project for weed populations that: (1) are considered by the Riverside County Agriculture Commissioner and/or San Diego County Agriculture Commissioner as being a priority for control and (2) aid and promote the spread of wildfires (such as cheatgrass [*Bromus tectorum*], Saharan mustard [*Brassica tournefortii*] and medusa head [*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*]). These populations shall be mapped and described according to density and area covered. These plant species shall be treated prior to construction according to control methods and practices for invasive weed populations designed in consultation with the Riverside County Agriculture Commissioner and San Diego County Agriculture Commissioner's Office. [2] A pre-construction weed inventory shall also be conducted by surveying areas that will be directly impacted by the project for weed populations that are rated High or Moderate for negative ecological impact in the California Invasive Plant Inventory Database (Cal-IPC, 2006). These plant species shall be treated prior to construction according to control methods and practices for invasive weed populations designed in consultation with Cal-IPC. [3] Weed control treatments shall include all legally permitted chemical, manual and mechanical methods applied with the authorization of the Riverside County Agriculture Commissioner and/or San Diego County Agriculture Commissioner and the ROW easement land-holding agencies where appropriate. The application of herbicides shall be in compliance with all State and federal laws and regulations under the prescription of a Pest Control Advisor (PCA) and implemented by a Licensed Qualified Applicator. Where manual and/or mechanical methods are used, disposal of the plant debris will follow the regulations set by the Riverside County Agriculture Commissioner and/or San Diego County Agriculture Commissioner. The timing of the weed control treatment shall be determined for each plant species in consultation with the PCA, the Riverside County Agriculture Commissioner, San Diego County Agriculture Commissioner, and Cal-IPC with the goal of controlling populations before they start producing seeds. For the lifespan of the project, long-term measures to control the introduction and spread of noxious weeds in the project area shall be taken as follows. [A] From the time construction begins until two three years after construction is complete, annual surveying for new invasive weed populations and the monitoring of identified and treated populations shall be required in the survey areas described above. After this time, surveying for new invasive weed populations and monitoring of identified and treated populations shall be required at an interval of every two years. However, the treatment of weeds shall occur on a minimum annual basis. [B] During project construction and operation/maintenance, all seeds and straw materials shall be certified weed free, and all gravel and fill material shall be certified weed free by the Riverside County Agriculture Commissioner's Office and/or San Diego County Agriculture Commissioner's Office. [C] During project construction and operation/maintenance, vehicles and all equipment shall be washed (including wheels, undercarriages, and bumpers) before and after entering all project areas. In addition, tools such as chainsaws, hand clippers, pruners, etc. shall be washed before and after entering all project areas. All washing shall take place where rinse water is collected and disposed of in either a sanitary sewer or landfill.

Comment Set B0018, cont.
The Nevada Hydro Company Inc

B0018-37 cont.

REVISED "ADDITIONAL MITIGATION MEASURES" LEAPS TRANSMISSION-ONLY ALTERNATIVE
(Continued)

Number	Mitigation Measure
B-3a(LE) (Cont.)	A written daily log shall be kept for all vehicle/equipment/tool washing that states the date, time, location, type of equipment washed, methods used, and staff present. The log shall include the signature of a responsible staff member. Logs shall be available to the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project for inspection at any time and shall be submitted to the Lead Agencies on a monthly basis.
B-4a(LE)	**Erosion Control Plan**. A plan including the requirements defined in USFS-15, as presented in the Applicant's PEA, shall also be developed for non-Forest Service lands.
B-5a(LE)	**Conduct rare plant surveys, and implement appropriate avoidance/minimization/compensation strategies**. A qualified biologist shall survey for special status plants in the spring prior to initiating construction activities in a given area. A report of special status plants observed shall be prepared and submitted for approval by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project prior to activities which may impact the plant resources. These surveys would be conducted on non-federal lands in Riverside County according to the guidelines established in the Riverside County MSHCP to assure consistency with the plan. All special status plant populations shall be staked or flagged by a qualified biologist approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. All stakes, flagging, or fencing shall be removed no later than 30 days after construction is complete. Impacts to federal or State listed plant species shall first be avoided where feasible, and, where not feasible, impacts shall be compensated through salvage and relocation (salvage and relocation for plants in CNF shall be determined in consultation with, and approval of, USDA Forest Service) via a restoration program and/or off-site acquisition and preservation of habitat containing the plant at a 2:1 ratio. Avoidance may not be feasible due to physical or safety constraints. The Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project shall decide whether the Applicant can restore rare plant populations or shall acquire habitat with rare plant populations off site (locations to be approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. On lands under the jurisdiction of the Riverside County MSHCP, a "Determination of Biological Equivalent or Superior Preservation" (DBESP), or equivalent, shall be completed and approved to assure consistency with the requirements of that plan. A qualified biologist shall prepare a Restoration Plan that shall indicate where restoration would take place. The restoration plan shall also identify the goals of the restoration, responsible parties, methods of restoration implementation, maintenance and monitoring requirements, final success criteria, and contingency measures. The Applicant shall work with the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project until a plan is approved by all. Impacts to moderately sensitive plant species (i.e., USDA Forest Service Sensitive , CNPS List 1 and 2 species) shall first be avoided where feasible, and, where not feasible, impacts shall be compensated through reseeding (with locally collected seed stock) or relocation to temporarily disturbed areas (reseeding and relocation of plants in CNF shall be determined by the USDA Forest Service). Avoidance may not be feasible due to physical or safety constraints. Mitigation Measure B-1a(LE) would also provide habitat-based mitigation for these impacts. Where reseeding or salvage and relocation is required, the Applicant shall identify a qualified Habitat Restoration Specialist to be approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. The Habitat Restoration Specialist shall prepare and implement a Restoration Plan for reseeding or salvaging and relocating special status plant species to be approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project in writing prior to impacting the plant resources. The Applicant shall work with the above-listed agencies until a plan is approved by all. The reseeding or relocation of plants shall be maintained and monitored for five years after installation, or until established success criteria are met, to assess progress and identify potential problems with the mitigation. Remedial action (e.g., additional seeding, weeding, erosion control, use of container stock, supplemental watering, etc.) shall be taken during the maintenance and monitoring period if necessary to ensure the success of the restoration. If the restoration fails to meet the established performance criteria after the five-year maintenance and monitoring period, maintenance and monitoring shall extend beyond the five-year period until the criteria are met or unless otherwise approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. A Habitat Management Plan for any required, off-site mitigation shall be prepared by a biologist approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. The Habitat Management Plan must be approved in writing by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project prior to the initiation of any activities which may impact special status plant resources. The Applicant shall work with the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project until a plan is approved by all. The Habitat Management Plan shall provide direction for the preservation and in-perpetuity management of all acquired off-site mitigation parcels.

Comment Set B0018, cont.
The Nevada Hydro Company Inc

B0018-37 cont.

REVISED "ADDITIONAL MITIGATION MEASURES" LEAPS TRANSMISSION-ONLY ALTERNATIVE (Continued)

Number	Mitigation Measure
B-5a(LE) (Cont.)	The Habitat Management Plan shall include, but shall not be limited to: [1] Legal descriptions of all off-site mitigation parcels approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. [2] Baseline biological data for all mitigation parcels. [3] Designation of a land management entity approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project to provide in-perpetuity management. [4] A Property Analysis Record prepared by the designated land management entity that explains the amount of funding required to implement the Habitat Management Plan. [5] Designation of responsible parties and their roles (e.g., provision of endowment by the Applicant to fund the Habitat Management Plan and implementation of the Habitat Management Plan by the designated land management entity). [6] Management specifications including, but not limited to, regular biological surveys to compare with baseline; exotic, non-native species control; fence/sign replacement or repair, public education; trash removal; and annual reports to the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project.
B-5b BIO-APM-8	**Conduct biological monitoring**. Prior to construction, plant population boundaries designated as sensitive by USFWS or CDFG and other resources designated sensitive by the Applicant and resource agencies would be clearly delineated with clearly visible flagging or fencing, which shall remain in place for the duration of construction. Flagged areas would be avoided to the extent practicable during construction activities in that area. Where these areas cannot be avoided, focused surveys for covered plant species shall be performed in conformance with Mitigation Measure B-1d, and the responsible resource agency(s) would be consulted for appropriate mitigation and/or revegetation measures prior to disturbance. Notification of presence of any covered plant species to be removed in the work area would occur within ten (10) working days prior to Project activity, during which time the USFWS or CDFG may remove such plant(s) or recommend measures to minimize or reduce the take. If neither USFWS nor CDFG has removed such plant(s) within ten (10) working days following written notice, the Applicant may proceed with work and cause a take of such plant(s), if minimization measures are not implemented. [BIO-APM-8]
B-5c BIO-APM-13	**No collection of plants or wildlife**. Plant or wildlife species may not be collected for pets or any other reason. [BIO-APM-13]
B-5d BIO-APM-22	**Salvage sensitive species for replanting or transplanting**. Species identified as sensitive by the land managing agency shall be salvaged where avoidance is not feasible in accordance with State law. Generally, salvage may include removal and stockpiling for replanting on site, removal and transplanting out of surface disturbance area, removal and salvage by private individuals, and removal and salvage by commercial dealers, or any combination. [BIO-APM-22]
B-6a BIO-APM-7	**Littering is not allowed**. Littering is not allowed. Project personnel would not deposit or leave any food or waste in the project area, and no biodegradable or non-biodegradable debris would remain in the right-of-way following completion of construction. [BIO-APM-7]
B-6b BIO-APM-9	**Survey areas for brush clearing**. Brush clearing around any project facilities (e.g., structures, substations) for fire protection, visual inspection or project surveying, in areas which have been previously cleared or maintained within a two-year or shorter period shall not require a pre-activity survey. In areas not cleared or maintained within a two-year period, brush clearing shall not be conducted during the breeding season (March through August) without a pre-activity survey for vegetation containing active nests, burrows, or dens. The pre-activity survey performed by the on-site biological resource monitor would make sure that the vegetation to be cleared contains no active migratory bird nests, burrows, or active dens prior to clearing. If occupied migratory bird nests are present, fire protection or visual inspection brush clearing work would be avoided until after the nesting season, or until the nest becomes inactive. If no nests are observed, clearing may proceed. Where burrows or dens are identified in the reconnaissance-level survey, soil in the brush clearing area would be sufficiently dry before clearing activities occur to prevent mechanical damage to burrows that may be present. [BIO-APM-9]
B-6c BIO-APM-24 BIO-APM-26	**Protect mammals and reptiles in excavated areas**. Construction holes left open over night shall be covered. Covers shall be secured in place nightly, prior to workers leaving the site, and shall be strong enough to prevent livestock or wildlife from falling through and into a hole. Holes and/or trenches shall be inspected prior to filling to ensure absence of mammals and reptiles. [BIO-APM-24] Excavations shall be sloped on one end to provide an escape route for small mammals and reptiles. [BIO-APM-26]
B-6d BIO-APM-29	**Reduce construction night lighting on sensitive habitats**. Reduce construction night lighting on sensitive habitats. Exterior lighting within the project area adjacent to preserved habitat shall be of the lowest illumination allowed for human safety, selectively placed, shielded, and directed away from preserved habitat to the maximum extent practicable. Vehicle traffic associated with project activities would be kept to a minimum volume and speed to prevent mortality of nocturnal wildlife species that may be moving about. [BIO-APM-29]

Comment Set B0018, cont.
The Nevada Hydro Company Inc

B0018-37 cont.

REVISED "ADDITIONAL MITIGATION MEASURES"
LEAPS TRANSMISSION-ONLY ALTERNATIVE
(Continued)

Number	Mitigation Measure
B-7a(LE)	**Cover all steep-walled trenches or excavations used during construction to prevent the entrapment of wildlife (e.g., reptiles and small mammals).** ~~BIO-APM-14~~ BIO-APM-24(B-6c) shall be modified to ensure that all steep-walled trenches or excavations used during construction shall be covered at all times except when being actively utilized. If the trenches or excavations cannot be covered, exclusion fencing (i.e., silt fencing) shall be installed around the trench or excavation, or it shall be covered to prevent entrapment of wildlife. Open trenches, or other excavations that could entrap wildlife shall be inspected by the qualified biologist (see Mitigation Measure B-1c[LE]) a minimum of ~~three~~ two times per day and immediately before backfilling. Furthermore, employees and contractors shall look under vehicles and equipment for the presence of wildlife before movement. If wildlife is observed, no vehicles or equipment would be moved until the animal has left voluntarily or is removed by the qualified biologist. Should a dead or injured listed species be found in a trench or excavation or anywhere in the construction zone or along an access road, the qualified biologist shall contact the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project within 48 hours of the finding. The qualified biologist shall report the species found, the location of the finding, the cause of death (if known), and shall submit a photograph and any other pertinent information.
B-7e(LE)	**Conduct least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher surveys, and implement appropriate avoidance/minimization/compensation strategies.** All grading or brushing taking place within riparian habitats of the least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatcher during construction shall be conducted from September 16 through March 14, which is outside the least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher breeding seasons. When conducting all other construction activities during the breeding season of March 15 through September 15 within 500 feet of habitat in which least Bell's vireos and/or southwestern willow flycatchers are known to occur or have potential to occur, a biologist permitted by the USFWS shall survey for least Bell's vireos and southwestern willow flycatchers within one week prior to initiating activities in an area. If least Bell's vireos or southwestern willow flycatchers are present, a permitted biologist shall survey for nesting vireos and flycatchers approximately once per week within 500 feet of the construction area, for the duration of the activity in that area during the breeding season. If/when an active nest is located, a 300-foot no-construction buffer zone shall be established around each nest site. No construction shall take place within this buffer until the nest is no longer active unless there are physical or safety constraints. If construction must take place within the buffer, a qualified acoustician shall monitor noise as construction approaches the edge of the occupied vireo/flycatcher habitat as directed by the permitted biologist. If the noise meets or exceeds the 60 dB(A) Leq threshold, or if the biologist determines that the activities in general are disturbing the nesting activities, the biologist shall have the authority to halt [or redirect] construction and shall consult with the agencies with jurisdiction over the project to devise methods to reduce the noise and/or disturbance. This may include methods such as, but not limited to, turning off vehicle engines and other equipment whenever possible to reduce noise, installing a protective noise barrier between the nesting birds and the activities, and working in other areas until the young have fledged. The permitted biologist shall monitor the nest daily until either activities are no longer within 300 feet of the nest, or the fledglings become independent of their nest. Mitigation for the loss of least Bell's vireo- or southwestern willow flycatcher-occupied habitat on non-federal lands in San Diego County (or designated critical habitat for the flycatcher) shall be implemented as follows. Permanent impacts to occupied habitat and/or designated critical habitat shall include off-site acquisition and preservation of occupied habitat or designated critical habitat at a 3:1 ratio. Temporary impacts to occupied habitat or designated critical habitat shall include 1:1 on-site restoration and 2:1 off-site acquisition and preservation of occupied habitat and/or designated critical habitat. Mitigation for the loss of least Bell's vireo- or southwestern willow flycatcher-occupied habitat on non-federal lands in Riverside County under the Riverside County MSHCP (or designated critical habitat for the flycatcher) shall be implemented as follows: Permanent impacts to more than 10 percent of occupied habitat and/or designated critical habitat will require a DBESP. If the loss is the least environmentally damaging alternative, the impacts to occupied habitat or designated critical habitat shall include 1:1 on-site restoration. If a USFWS protocol, pre-construction survey, conducted in an area where presence of the vireo or flycatcher was assumed in this analysis determines that the species is absent, then the mitigation shall be reduced accordingly. Any acquired habitat shall be approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project.

Comment Set B0018, cont.
The Nevada Hydro Company Inc

B0018-37 cont.

REVISED "ADDITIONAL MITIGATION MEASURES"
LEAPS TRANSMISSION-ONLY ALTERNATIVE
(Continued)

Number	Mitigation Measure
B-7e(LE) (Cont.)	A Habitat Management Plan for any required, off-site mitigation shall be prepared by a biologist approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. The Habitat Management Plan must be approved in writing by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project prior to the initiation of any activities which may impact (directly or indirectly) the least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatcher or its habitat. The Applicant shall work with the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project until a plan is approved by all. The Habitat Management Plan shall provide direction for the preservation and in-perpetuity management of all acquired vireo or flycatcher habitat. The Habitat Management Plan shall include, but shall not be limited to: [1] Legal descriptions of all acquired least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatcher habitat approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. [2] Baseline biological data for all least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatcher habitat. [3] Designation of a land management entity approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project to provide in-perpetuity management. [4] A Property Analysis Record prepared by the designated land management entity that explains the amount of funding required to implement the Habitat Management Plan. [5] Designation of responsible parties and their roles (e.g., provision of endowment by the Applicant to fund the Habitat Management Plan and implementation of the Habitat Management Plan by the designated land management entity). [6] Management specifications including, but not limited to, regular biological surveys to compare with baseline; exotic, non-native species control; fence/sign replacement or repair, public education; trash removal; and annual reports to the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project.
B-7h	**Implement appropriate avoidance/minimization strategies for eagle nests**. No construction or maintenance activities shall occur within ~~4,000~~ 1,320 feet of an eagle nest during the eagle breeding season (December through June). No construction shall take place within this buffer until the nest is no longer active unless there are physical or safety constraints. If construction must take place within the buffer, a qualified acoustician shall monitor noise as construction approaches the edge of the occupied habitat as directed by the permitted biologist. If the noise meets or exceeds the 60 dB(A) Leq threshold or if the biologist determines that the activities in general are disturbing the nesting activities the biologist shall have the authority to halt construction and shall consult with the agencies with jurisdiction over the project to devise methods to reduce the noise and/or disturbance. This may include methods such as, but not limited to, turning off vehicle engines and other equipment whenever possible to reduce noise, installing a protective noise barrier between the nesting birds and the activities, and/or working in other areas until the young have fledged. The permitted biologist shall monitor the nest daily until either activities are no longer within 1,320 feet of the nest or the fledglings become independent of their nest.
B-7i(LE)	**Conduct quino checkerspot butterfly surveys and implement appropriate avoidance/minimization/ compensation strategies**. A biologist permitted by the USFWS shall determine suitable habitat areas (i.e., non-excluded areas per the 2002 USFWS protocol) within any designated USFWS QCB survey area that would be impacted by project construction. A pre-construction, USFWS protocol presence/absence survey for the adult QCB shall be conducted within all suitable habitat for this species in the construction zone within any designated USFWS QCB survey area. The survey shall be conducted in a year where the QCB is readily observed at USFWS QCB-monitored reference sites to determine what areas are occupied by the QCB (i.e., any suitable habitat within 1 km of a current QCB sighting is considered occupied) and what areas are not occupied. The USFWS permitted biologist shall record the precise locations of QCB larval host plants within the construction zone (and 10 meters beyond) using GPS technology. If the protocol pre-construction survey is conclusive for determining absence of the QCB, then areas without the butterfly would not require mitigation. If the protocol pre-construction survey is not conclusive for determining QCB absence (due to limited detectability per the 2002 protocol, for example), or if a survey is not conducted, then all suitable habitat areas would be considered potentially occupied and would require mitigation as follows. On non-federal lands in San Diego County, if construction occurs outside the larvae and adult activity season (June 1 through October 15) and stays at least 10 meters away from all host plant locations, then no mitigation is required. If construction occurs between October 16 and May 31 or within 10 meters of host plant locations, then (1) temporary impacts to the habitat shall be mitigated through on-site restoration of temporarily disturbed areas and off-site acquisition and preservation of an equal sized area of QCB-occupied habitat (a 2:1 mitigation ratio) and (2) permanent impacts shall be mitigated through off-site acquisition and preservation of QCB-occupied habitat at a 2:1 ratio (i.e., two acres acquired for each acre lost). Any acquired habitat shall be approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. A USFWS permitted biologist shall be present during all construction activities in potentially occupied habitat to monitor and assist the construction crews to ensure impacts occur only as allowed. This same mitigation shall apply where the protocol pre-construction survey was conclusive for determining that the QCB is present. If host plant mapping is not possible during the pre-construction survey (e.g., drought prevents plant germination), then all suitable habitat (i.e., non-excluded habitat per the 2002 protocol) shall be considered occupied by the QCB and mitigated under the assumption that the QCB is present.

Comment Set B0018, cont.
The Nevada Hydro Company Inc

B0018-37 cont.

REVISED "ADDITIONAL MITIGATION MEASURES"
LEAPS TRANSMISSION-ONLY ALTERNATIVE
(Continued)

Number	Mitigation Measure
B-7i(LE) (Cont.)	A Habitat Management Plan for any required, off-site mitigation shall be prepared by a biologist approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. The Habitat Management Plan must be approved in writing by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project prior to the initiation of any activities which may impact (directly or indirectly) the QCB or its habitat. The Applicant shall work with the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project until a plan is approved by all. The Habitat Management Plan shall provide direction for the preservation and in-perpetuity management of all acquired QCB habitat. The Habitat Management Plan shall include, but shall not be limited to: [1] Legal descriptions of all acquired QCB habitat approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. [2] Baseline biological data for all QCB habitat. [3] Designation of a land management entity approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project to provide in-perpetuity management. [4] A Property Analysis Record prepared by the designated land management entity that explains the amount of funding required to implement the Habitat Management Plan. [5] Designation of responsible parties and their roles (e.g., provision of endowment by the Applicant to fund the Habitat Management Plan and implementation of the Habitat Management Plan by the designated land management entity). [6] Management specifications including, but not limited to, regular biological surveys to compare with baseline; exotic, non-native species control; fence/sign replacement or repair, public education; trash removal; and annual reports to the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. The Applicant shall provide compensation for temporary and permanent loss of critical habitat at a ratio of 2:1. The total required mitigation shall include off-site purchase and preservation of 16 acres of QCB critical habitat or other habitat acceptable to USFWS. The remainder of the mitigation shall be implemented as is applicable.
B-7j (LE)	**Conduct arroyo toad surveys, and implement appropriate avoidance/minimization/compensation strategies.** A pre-construction, USFWS protocol survey shall be conducted for the toad in the construction zone (by a biologist permitted by the USFWS to handle the toad) where absence of the species has not been proven to conclusively define the impacts to occupied habitat. In the absence of this survey data, the mitigation acreages required below shall stand. Where the pre-construction survey determines the species is absent, the mitigation shall be reduced accordingly. The removal of toad riparian breeding habitat shall occur from October through December to minimize potential impacts to breeding adults (including potential sedimentation impacts to toad eggs) and dispersing juveniles. Where the toad is present (or assumed to be present if no pre-construction survey is conducted), the construction zone shall be fenced with exclusion fencing to prevent toad access to it. The fencing shall be a silt-screen type barrier comprised of a minimum 24-inch high fence with the remainder (minimum 12 inches) anchored firmly against the ground. The fence may be buried if necessary to exclude toad access. The fence locations shall be identified by a USFWS permitted biologist and adjusted as necessary. Exclusion fencing shall be monitored daily by a qualified biologist (see Mitigation Measure B-1c[LE]) and maintained in its original condition by construction personnel for the entire length of the construction period in toad habitat. Pre- and post-exclusion fencing surveys within the construction zone shall be conducted for arroyo toads by a biologist permitted by the USFWS to handle the toad. Prior to construction commencement, a minimum of three surveys shall be conducted by this biologist following installation of the fencing and prior to construction activities. One of these clearance surveys must take place no more than 24 hours prior to activity commencement. These surveys shall be conducted during appropriate climatic conditions and during the appropriate time of day or night to maximize the likelihood of encountering arroyo toads. If conditions are not appropriate for arroyo toad movement during surveys, the biologist may attempt to elicit a response from the toads during nights (i.e., at least one hour after sunset), provided that temperatures are above 50°F, by spraying the project area with water to simulate a rain event. After the three clearance surveys outlined above have been completed, daily surveys shall be conducted each morning prior to the continuation of construction or maintenance activity. Any toads found shall be relocated to appropriate similar habitat outside project impact areas. Mitigation for the loss of arroyo toad-occupied habitat <u>on non-federal lands in San Diego County</u> shall be implemented as follows. Permanent impacts to occupied, arroyo toad breeding habitat shall include off-site acquisition and preservation of occupied arroyo toad breeding habitat at a 3:1 ratio. Permanent impacts to occupied, upland burrowing habitat shall include off-site acquisition and preservation of occupied, upland burrowing habitat at a 2:1 ratio. Temporary impacts to occupied breeding habitat shall include 1:1 on-site restoration and 2:1 off-site acquisition and preservation of occupied breeding habitat. Temporary impacts to occupied, upland burrowing habitat shall include 1:1 on-site restoration and 1:1 off-site acquisition and preservation of occupied, upland burrowing habitat. Any acquired arroyo toad habitat shall be approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project.

Comment Set B0018, cont.
The Nevada Hydro Company Inc

B0018-37 cont.

REVISED "ADDITIONAL MITIGATION MEASURES"
LEAPS TRANSMISSION-ONLY ALTERNATIVE
(Continued)

Number	Mitigation Measure
B-7j (LE) (Cont.)	Mitigation for the loss of arroyo toad or arroyo toad habitat on non-federal lands in Riverside County under the Riverside County MSHCP (or designated critical habitat for the toad) shall be implemented as follows. Permanent impacts to more than 10 percent to occupied habitat and/or designated critical habitat shall require a DBESP, or equivalent. If the loss is the least environmentally damaging alternative, the impacts to occupied habitat or designated critical habitat shall include 1:1 restoration. A Habitat Management Plan for any required, off-site mitigation shall be prepared by a biologist approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. The Habitat Management Plan must be approved in writing by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project prior to the initiation of any activities which may impact (directly or indirectly) the arroyo toad or its habitat. The Applicant shall work with the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project until a plan is approved by all. The Habitat Management Plan shall provide direction for the preservation and in-perpetuity management of all acquired arroyo toad habitat. The Habitat Management Plan shall include, but shall not be limited to: [1] Legal descriptions of all acquired arroyo toad habitat approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. [2] Baseline biological data for all arroyo toad habitat. [3] Designation of a land management entity approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project to provide in-perpetuity management. [4] A Property Analysis Record prepared by the designated land management entity that explains the amount of funding required to implement the Habitat Management Plan. [5] Designation of responsible parties and their roles (e.g., provision of endowment by the Applicant to fund the Habitat Management Plan and implementation of the Habitat Management Plan by the designated land management entity). [6] Management specifications including, but not limited to, regular biological surveys to compare with baseline; exotic, non-native species control; fence/sign replacement or repair, public education; trash removal; and annual reports to the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project.
B-7k(LE)	**Conduct Stephens' kangaroo rat surveys, and implement appropriate avoidance/minimization/ compensation strategies.** A pre-construction, USFWS protocol survey shall be conducted for the SKR by a USFWS permitted biologist in the construction zone where absence of the species has not been proven to conclusively define the impacts to occupied habitat. In the absence of this survey data on non-federal lands in San Diego County, the mitigation acreages required below shall stand. Where the pre-construction survey determines the species is absent, the mitigation shall be reduced accordingly. Where the SKR is present (or if no pre-construction survey is conducted, and the SKR is assumed to be present), prior to vegetation clearing or other ground-disturbing activities, the construction zone shall be fenced to provide a barrier that excludes the SKR from the construction zone and delineates the work area. A USFWS permitted SKR biologist shall be present when the fence is installed to minimize habitat disturbance. The fence shall be constructed of ¼-inch gauge hardware cloth backed by silt fencing or other material if approved by the USFWS. No gaps greater than 0.5 inches shall be allowed within the exclusion fencing. The qualified biologist (see Mitigation Measure B-1c[LE]) or other designated personnel shall check the fencing at the end of each work day. If gaps greater than 0.5-inch are detected, they shall be repaired immediately. The exclusion fencing shall remain in place and be maintained without gaps until project construction is completed. Immediately preceding vegetation clearing or other ground-disturbing activities within the fenced areas, live-trapping of the SKR shall be conducted by the USFWS permitted biologist for a minimum of five nights. Trapping locations shall be selected at the discretion of the biologist in coordination with the USFWS. Trapped animals shall be released outside the fenced area in appropriate habitat. Results of the trapping effort shall be provided to the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project within 24 hours of trapping completion. Any pipes stored during construction shall be capped prior to the end of each work day to prevent SKR from entering the pipes. Mitigation for the loss of occupied SKR habitat shall be implemented as follows. Permanent impacts to occupied habitat shall include off-site acquisition and preservation of occupied habitat at a 2:1 ratio. Temporary impacts to occupied habitat shall include 1:1 on-site restoration and 1:1 off-site acquisition and preservation of occupied habitat. Any acquired SKR habitat shall be approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. A Habitat Management Plan for any required, off-site mitigation shall be prepared by a biologist approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. The Habitat Management Plan must be approved in writing by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project prior to the initiation of any activities which may impact (directly or indirectly) the SKR or its habitat. The Applicant shall work with the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project until a plan is approved by all.

Comment Set B0018, cont.
The Nevada Hydro Company Inc

B0018-37 cont.

REVISED "ADDITIONAL MITIGATION MEASURES"
LEAPS TRANSMISSION-ONLY ALTERNATIVE
(Continued)

Number	Mitigation Measure
B-7k(LE) (Cont.)	The Habitat Management Plan shall provide direction for the preservation and in-perpetuity management of all acquired SKR habitat. The Habitat Management Plan shall include, but shall not be limited to: [1] Legal descriptions of all acquired SKR habitat approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. [2] Baseline biological data for all SKR habitat. [3] Designation of a land management entity approved by the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project to provide in-perpetuity management. [4] A Property Analysis Record prepared by the designated land management entity that explains the amount of funding required to implement the Habitat Management Plan. [5] Designation of responsible parties and their roles (e.g., provision of endowment by the Applicant to fund the Habitat Management Plan and implementation of the Habitat Management Plan by the designated land management entity). [6] Management specifications including, but not limited to, regular biological surveys to compare with baseline; exotic, non-native species control; fence/sign replacement or repair, public education; trash removal; and annual reports to the Lead Agencies and other agencies with jurisdiction over the project. In Riverside County, the project shall be implemented in a manner consistent with the Habitat Conservation Plan of the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) in Western Riverside County. In compensation for direct and indirect impacts associated with the Applicant-initiated ground-disturbing activities undertaken in the SKR Core Reserve Area, the Applicant shall acquire property containing suitable habitat and subject to the following criteria: (1) compensatory acreage, off-setting physically disturbed acreage in the Core Reserve Area, shall be on a minimum 1:1 basis with no net loss of occupied habitat, based on the actual area of disturbance to be determined prior to the initiation of construction; (2) to the extent feasible, the Applicant will work with the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office to find off-setting property or properties in, contiguous with, or directly adjacent to the boundaries of the Lake Mathews-Estelle Mountain Core Reserve Area; (3) the off-setting property or properties shall be occupied by SKR or shall contain suitable habitat for that species; (4) the property shall be maintained for conservation purposes by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency; and (5) the adequacy of the selected property to offset impacts to SKR Core Reserve is subject to written concurrence of the USFWS. If off-setting properties cannot be located in or adjacent to the Lake Mathews-Estelle Mountain Core Reserve Area, the Lead Agencies will work with the USFWS to identify other areas for mitigation. Implementation shall occur prior to commencement of project-related ground-disturbing activities within the Core Area. Subject to modification based on precise acreage, for the new Valley-Serrano-Northern (Lake) 500-kV transmission line [and Northern (Lake) substation], the Applicant shall provide 7.6 acres of on-site restoration and 8.4 acres of acquisition and preservation of SKR occupied habitat within or contiguous with the Lake Mathews-Estelle Mountain Core Reserve for impacts to the Lake Mathews-Estelle Mountain Core Reserve.
B-7l(LE)	**Conduct coastal California gnatcatcher surveys, and implement appropriate avoidance/minimization/ compensation strategies**. All brushing or grading taking place within occupied habitat of the coastal California gnatcatcher (defined as within 500 feet of any gnatcatcher sightings during construction) shall be conducted from September 1 through February 14, which is outside the coastal California gnatcatcher breeding season. When conducting all other construction activities during the coastal California gnatcatcher breeding season of February 15 through August 30, within habitat in which coastal California gnatcatchers are known to occur or have potential to occur, the following avoidance measures shall apply. A USFWS permitted biologist shall survey for coastal California gnatcatchers within one week prior to initiating activities in an area. If coastal California gnatcatchers are present, but not nesting, a USFWS permitted biologist shall survey for nesting coastal California gnatcatchers approximately once per week within 500 feet of the construction area for the duration of the activity in that area during the breeding season. If/when an active nest is located, a 300-foot no-construction buffer shall be established around each nest site. To the extent feasible, no construction shall take place within this buffer until the nest is no longer active. However, if construction must take place within the 300-foot buffer, a qualified acoustician shall monitor noise as construction approaches the edge of the occupied gnatcatcher habitat as directed by the permitted biologist. If the noise meets or exceeds the 60 dB(A) Leq threshold, or if the biologist determines that the activities in general are disturbing the nesting activities, the biologist shall have the authority to halt [or redirect] construction and shall consult with the agencies with jurisdiction over the project to devise methods to reduce the noise and/or disturbance in the vicinity. This may include methods such as, but not limited to, turning off vehicle engines and other equipment whenever possible to reduce noise, installing a protective noise barrier between the nesting coastal California gnatcatchers and the activities, and working in other areas until the young have fledged. Mitigation for the loss of coastal California gnatcatcher-occupied habitat shall be implemented as follows. On non-federal lands in San Diego County, permanent impacts to occupied habitat shall include off-site acquisition and preservation of occupied habitat at a 2:1 ratio. Temporary impacts to occupied habitat shall be mitigated at a 2:1 ratio and shall include 1:1 on-site restoration and 1:1 off-site acquisition and preservation of occupied habitat.