

Southern California Edison
WODUP A.13-10-020

DATA REQUEST SET A.13-10-020 WODUP ED-SCE-05

To: ENERGY DIVISION
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Dated: 05/23/2014

Question BIO-24:

Biological Resources

BIO-24 In order to support the BLM's consultation with USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, please provide current (2014) protocol desert tortoise survey results for the entire portion of the ROW identified as potential desert tortoise habitat.

Response to Question BIO-24:

As explained and agreed upon during the WOD - SCE/Agency Project Status call held on April 30, 2014, SCE does not believe that further surveys for desert tortoise are warranted. Desert Tortoise Protocol Surveys were conducted in Fall 2011 (Devers Substation - Deep Creek Rd), Spring 2012 (Devers Substation - Rushmore Street [Morongo property was not surveyed due to access constraints]), and Spring 2013 (Segment 5, including Alternatives 1 and 1x). The Protocol Surveys were positive and establish that desert tortoise are present along the Project area, at a low density. Additional surveys would not change the conclusions or proposed APM included in the PEA. Furthermore, immediately prior to construction, SCE will be required to conduct pre-construction desert tortoise surveys to locate, avoid or re-locate tortoises that are in a construction area.