



# United States Department of the Interior

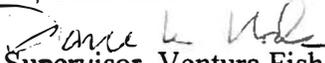


FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, California 93003

March 15, 2011

## Memorandum

To: Needles Field Manager, Needles Field Office, Bureau of Land Management,  
Needles, California

From:   
Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, Ventura, California

Subject: Acknowledgment of Request to Reinitiate Formal Consultation for the Ivanpah  
Solar Electric Generating System Project, San Bernardino County, California

This memorandum acknowledges our receipt of your request, dated February 24, 2011, and received by our office on February 28, 2011, for re-initiation of formal consultation, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The Bureau of Land Management (Bureau) proposes to re-initiate consultation on the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System project to address potential changes in its desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) translocation strategy. In addition, the Bureau would like to address a perceived need to reassess the effects analysis and anticipated level of incidental take contained in the original biological opinion based on a possibility that the number of desert tortoises on the project site may be greater than we anticipated. To date, the Bureau has not exceeded the anticipated level of incidental take indicated in the biological opinion and we are unaware of new information to show any inaccuracies in the biological opinion's analysis or take statement. Therefore, re-initiation of consultation, pursuant to 50 CFR 402.16, is not required.

Because your request for re-initiation was not accompanied by a revised biological assessment, new population survey information, or a revised project description, we have determined that we do not have sufficient information to re-initiate consultation at this time. On March 8, 2011, we participated in a conference call with Bureau staff to discuss the scope and information needs for a re-initiation of consultation on this project. As discussed during this meeting, we require a revised biological assessment that identifies the proposed changes to the translocation plan and any additional information that you would like us to address (e.g., new survey information, proposed modifications to existing minimization measures, etc.) to re-initiate formal consultation.

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Field Manager

2

We will continue to work with you in identifying the needed information for re-initiation of formal consultation. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Croft of my staff at telephone (909) 382-2677.

cc: Amedee Brickey, FWS Regional Office  
Amy Fesnock, BLM State Office  
✓Larry LaPre, BLM California Desert District Office