



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2606
Sacramento, California 95825

IN REPLY REFER TO
FWS/R8/CP/MB

REC'D - BLM - NSO

9:00 A.M. MAY 27 2012

MAY 02 2012

Memorandum

To: Amy Lueders, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Director
Reno, Nevada

From: Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region
Sacramento, California 

Subject: Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Compliance – Southern Nevada Water Authority's Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project

BLM has requested input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project in Nevada regarding potential impacts to eagles and other migratory birds. This project will require a right-of-way (ROW) grant from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the primary conveyance and transmission component of the project. We have no objection to BLM moving forward on issuing a Record of Decision for this project in the absence of a completed Bird Conservation Strategy (BCS), as we are actively working with Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to develop a draft plan. The applicant has already developed maps identifying golden eagle nests in proximity of the proposed project and plans to conduct additional golden eagle and other sensitive bird species surveys to supplement data collected to inform risk analyses.

This water conveyance project will utilize underground pipelines, transmission lines, and associated buildings. SNWA has already pursued designs of transmission lines which minimize electrocution potential for raptors. From their preliminary golden eagle nest locations, only a single nest is <10 miles from the proposed transmission line. Given that they have initiated a pre-construction monitoring program, we expect a well-developed BCS with the appropriate level of data to minimize impacts to species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

In addition, we recommend the final SNWA BCS incorporate the Service's recommended mortality monitoring protocol for transmission projects and associated infrastructure. If you have any questions regarding this memo please contact Chris Nicolai at (775) 861-6333.

cc:

Ken Mayer, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Ted Koch, FWS, Reno, Nevada
Zane Marshall, S. Nevada Water Authority, Las Vegas, NV
Penny Woods, BLM, Reno, NV