



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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In reply refer to:

AESO/SE
22410-2006-I-0333

**COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

November 16, 2010

Memorandum

To: Field Manager, Lake Havasu Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, Lake Havasu City, Arizona

From: Field Supervisor

Subject: Partial Reinitiation of the Programmatic Biological Assessment for Pacific Gas and Electric Topock Compressor Station Remedial and Investigative Actions, January 2007

Thank you for your correspondence of November 3, received on November 5, 2010. This memorandum documents our review of the changes to the number of well clusters that will be part of the proposed remedial and investigative actions contained in the subject programmatic biological assessment (PBA), in San Bernardino County, California and Mohave County, Arizona, in compliance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). In our February 8, 2007 response to your request for informal consultation, we concurred with your findings that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*), Mohave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), and bonytail (*Gila elegans*) and its critical habitat in the Colorado River. Based on our review of the potential effects of 15 new well clusters in the upland portions of the site, we reconfirm our concurrences on the species listed above.

Description of the Proposed Action

A complete description of the modification to the proposed action was included with your request for reinitiation. The proposed changes add an additional 15 well clusters to increase to 30 the number of upland monitoring well clusters provided for in our February 8, 2007, concurrence. The additional well clusters would be accommodated in the allowed disturbance area of 3.0 acres of upland habitat provided for in the February 8, 2007, concurrence. There are no other changes to the 2007 proposed action.

DETERMINATION OF EFFECTS

We concur with your determination that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect five listed species found in the vicinity of the proposed action for the following reasons:

Southwestern willow flycatcher

- Through implementation of conservation measures included in the proposed action, and given that upland portions of the project area are of limited suitability for flycatcher habitat, effects are insignificant and discountable.

Yuma clapper rail

- Through implementation of conservation measures included in the proposed action, and given that upland portions of the project area are not suitable habitat for clapper rails, effects are insignificant and discountable.

Mohave desert tortoise

- Surveys in 2004-2007 determined there was no desert tortoise habitat within the project site. No effects to desert tortoise are anticipated.

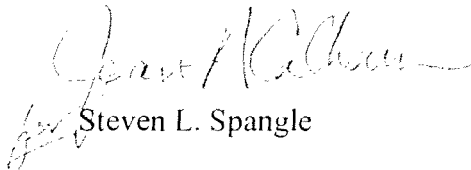
Razorback sucker

- Occupied habitat for the razorback sucker would not be affected by the increased number of well clusters in the upland areas.

Bonytail with critical habitat

- Occupied habitat for the bonytail would not be affected by the increased number of well clusters in the upland areas.
- Direct or indirect interaction between the proposed action and physical and biological features is not likely to occur since the new wells are outside of designated critical habitat.

Thank you for your continued coordination. No further section 7 consultation is required for this project at this time. Should project plans change, or if additional information on the distribution or abundance of listed species or critical habitat becomes available, this determination may need to be reconsidered. In all future correspondence on this project, please refer to consultation number 22410-2006-I-0333. Should you require further assistance or if you have any questions, please contact Lesley Fitzpatrick (x236), Carrie Marr (x214), or me (x244) at (602) 242-0210.



Steven L. Spangle

cc: Refuge Manager, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Fish and Wildlife Service, Needles, CA
Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, Ventura, CA