

ATTACHMENT F

Summary of Avian and Bat Studies Conducted for Lompoc Wind Energy Project EIR

Studies Included in Draft EIR (July 2007)

- 2002 – Olson and Rindlaub, observations on 6 separate dates in spring, summer, and fall.
- 2005 – Olson and Rindlaub, observations on 7 separate dates in spring and summer.
- 2006 – CH2M HILL biologists, observations on 4 separate dates in September.
- 2006 – Olson, avian point count surveys during three 3-day periods in December.

Additional Studies for Final EIR (August 2008)

Technical reports prepared by Sapphos Environmental, Inc., for the project applicant.

These reports include large amounts of information on the behavior, flight patterns, frequency of flight, and altitude of flight for individual species, habitat, etc. at the project site. The reports were independently reviewed by the Final EIR preparers (SAIC), and information incorporated into the EIR was verified and supplemented through additional field surveys and database searches.

- *Inferred Baseline and Impact Analyses for Avian Species at Lompoc Wind Energy Project Site*, MFR-12, February 13, 2008; and
- *Habitat Suitability for Sensitive Bat Species at the Lompoc Wind Energy Project Site*, MFR-13, February 13, 2008. These two studies are based on an extensive literature review, consultation with experts knowledgeable of the subject species identified as having the potential to occur within the LWEP study area, consultation with responsible and trustee agencies, coordination with special interests, more than 180 hours of field investigation, and in-house mapping and spatial analysis using a GIS.
- *Lompoc Wind Energy Project Final Winter Season Avian Pre-construction Survey Technical Report*, June 16, 2008. The report analyzes bird activity on the project site, based on 24 days (208 hours) of field observations in February and March, 2008, and other sources of information. (See EIR Appendix B-4)
- *Lompoc Wind Energy Project Final Avian Spring Migration Pre-construction Survey Technical Report*, July 23, 2008. The report analyzes bird activity on the project site, based on 27 days (216 hours) of field observations in April and May, 2008, and other sources of information. (See EIR Appendix B-5)

Analysis of Radar Data to Assess Nocturnal Bird Migration Over the Project Site.

At the County's request, in response to comments by the Audubon Society, an analysis of NEXRAD weather radar data was conducted to assess nocturnal bird migration over the project site in the spring and fall seasons of 2006 and 2007 (see FEIR Sections 3.5.1.6 and 3.5.3.3). This

study was conducted by a third-party consultant, Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux.¹ Analysis of the radar data demonstrated, among other findings, that the major seasonal migration route is 20 to 40 miles inland of the project site, which confirms the conclusion in the Draft EIR that migratory birds are not likely to be significantly affected by the proposed project.

Acoustical studies of bat use on the project site.

The Central Coast Bat Research Group (CCBRG), an independent third-party consultant, conducted acoustic surveys to detect bat use on the project site for 2 weeks in 2008 (see FEIR Section 3.5.3). Data were collected by biologists who are familiar with the area and who had conducted previous local surveys on Vandenberg Air Force Base. The CCBRG biologists were able to increase the site-specific knowledge with some data to better describe bat use of the site.

¹ Dr. Gauthreaux is a Professor of Biological Sciences at Clemson University. He is an expert in use of radar to study bird movements in the atmosphere and has written extensively on the topic. He was recommended for this project by Garry George, Chapter Network Director, Audubon California.