

NOTES | 5/29/2007, 9:30-11:00 pacific time

Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area Scientific Review Committee Conference Call

Prepared by the Center for Collaborative Policy
SRC Reviewed and Approved on 7/20/2007

Follow-Up / Action Items

Brian Walton—Follow up with monitoring team on Diablo Winds observation protocols and report back to SRC by
June 12

July Agenda—Diablo Winds observation protocol

Meeting Summary Approval

This item was deferred to the June conference call.

Document Numbering System Mistake

Related Materials: [P100 SRC Document Tracking List](#)

Facilitator Gina Bartlett inadvertently used two document tracking numbers twice. The original assignment was for an in-person meeting handout; the duplication was for a draft meeting summary. Gina re-assigned the draft meeting summaries as follows:

- P28=(formerly P25) SRC Meeting Summary 9-11 April 2007
- P29=(formerly P23) Meeting Notes 4/23/07 Conference Call

Planning July 2007 SRC Agenda

Related Materials: [Draft July 2007 Agenda](#)

SRC Reviews July 2007 Draft Agenda

The SRC reviewed the draft agenda and determined the meeting would last 2.5 days. The schedule for the SRC meeting is:

1. Tuesday, July 10, 9-5 (or maybe until 7 pm)
2. Wednesday, July 11, 8:30-4:30 (or maybe until 7 pm)
3. Thursday, July 12, 8:00-Noon (Later amended to 7:30-11:00)

Other Notes on the Agenda

- The consultants will provide the materials to the SRC on July 2.
- AWI is preparing a blade painting study design for SRC input and discussion at its meeting.
- The SRC requested more time than was allotted on the agenda to discuss potential studies and management options.
- The SRC requested adding "other mitigation measures" to the list of possible discussion items under "management strategies and mitigation."
- If not wrapped up, add the FPLE credits as an agenda item.
- The SRC will review Orloff and Flannery 1992 and Curry et al 1997 for ideas on management strategies.

Monitoring Team Preparation for Meeting

Related Materials: [P30 Memo Compiling SRC Direction to the Monitoring Team](#)

The Monitoring Team and SRC reviewed a document compiling all the items discussed at the last few SRC meetings that relate to the monitoring program and data analysis to be performed by the monitoring team. The MT had no questions and plans to submit the materials on July 2.

Field Protocols

The Monitoring Team is finalizing changes to the field protocols. Brian Walton reported that he sent a letter to but has not heard back from Lee Neher requesting use of his maps. The field protocols, revised according to SRC and MT discussions, should be shared with the SRC and the public in early June.

Observation Protocols at Diablo Winds

For the last 2 years of Diablo Winds monitoring, WEST has been doing:

- 8 survey stations (per month?)
- 30 minute visual scans to unlimited distances
- Collecting all behavioral data
- Not doing point count
- Recording bird locations, heights above ground, and behaviors every 30 seconds

The question before the SRC was whether the MT should continue using this protocol or modify it to be consistent with the Altamont-wide protocol which involves:

- 30-minute observation sessions
- Collecting behavior data for the first 20 minutes
- Then, doing a 10-minute point count

Gathering additional data generally does not present a problem. However, changing the way the information is gathered could make it difficult to compare the data with ongoing and past studies at the Altamont WRA and requires additional SRC / MT discussion.

Another variable is that Smallwood and Thelander, CEC, August 2004, did 30 minute observations and recorded every 60 seconds. Smallwood reported that recording every 30 seconds is preferable. He also said that it is easy to query the database to isolate data collected in the first 20 minutes of the 30-minute observation interval.

The SRC would like to be able to compare the Diablo Winds data collected under this new contract to:

- the Altamont-wide data
- the first two years of Diablo Winds data
- pre-construction data at Diablo Winds, i.e., CEC Smallwood & Thelander August 2004

OPTIONS FOR COLLECTING BEHAVIORAL DATA

Option 1: 40-Minute Observation Interval at Diablo

- Record 30 minutes of behavioral data, distinguish first 20 minutes
- Follow with 10-minute point count

This would allow 30-minute intervals to compare with the first two years of data collected at Diablo Winds and 20-minute intervals to compare with the current Altamont-wide monitoring program. This option is based on the assumption that modifying the current program is easier than going back to query old data and separating the first 20 minutes.

Uncertainty—No one knew the cost of adding 10 minutes to each observation interval over time.

Option 2: 30-Minute Observation Interval for all Studies

- Record 20 minutes of behavioral data
- Follow with 10-minute point count

In this option, all the studies would be evaluated using a 20-minute behavior observation interval for all studies followed by a 10 minute point count. Analysts would re-query old data from Diablo and the 2004 CEC Study to analyze the first 20 minutes of observation.

For this to work, the MT and SRC need to know if WEST can separate the 30-minute intervals into the first 20 minutes for the Diablo.

Public Comment

Pre-construction monitoring at Diablo Winds was on the Flowind vertical axis turbines with guy wires. Brian will check with the monitoring data

Follow-Up

Brian Walton will work with the MT to evaluate the options and report back to the SRC.

Tier Classification for Non-Classified Turbines and Re-evaluating Existing Tier Classifications in APWRA

The SRC discussed at a previous meeting in April 2007 that the MT might develop a new model, with a target date of June, using the last 1.5 years of data to reevaluate existing tier classifications and classify the 700-800 unclassified turbines. Because the meeting notes did not conclude if the SRC made an actual request, the SRC reviewed this item during this call.

The consultants report that they will not be able to do this work before the July meeting. After a brief discussion, the SRC decided they would also benefit from reviewing the data analyses before making a final recommendation on this. The facilitator will make sure adequate time is on the agenda to discuss this potential study thoroughly at the July in-person meeting.

Future Topics

- Follow-Up on FPLE Credit Request
- Pylon Study: Report on Crossing Frequency Analysis
- Field Protocol: Follow-Up on Length of Observation Interval at Diablo Winds
- Blade-painting study

Participants

SRC

Joanne Burger
Jim Estep
Sue Orloff
Shawn Smallwood
Julie Yee

Identified Members of Public

Eli Saddler, Golden Gate
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