

## Monitoring Team Action Items Discussed with SRC and Compiled from Meeting Summaries

Compiled by Center for Collaborative Policy  
May 10, 2007

The following excerpts from SRC February-April 2007 meeting summaries include all Action Items for the MT, SRC recommendations relating to MT activities, or discussions that may impact upon the MT.

### Action Items & Meeting Follow-Up

Meeting Summary Feb 2007 (P12)		
MT	3/15	Year 1 seasonal shutdown report for all companies
MT	4/15 or 5/1	As part of data analysis in existing scope, perform test for association between last year's fatalities and rock piles near turbines
MT	3/15	Submit revised draft of searching/observation protocols to SRC
Meeting Summary April 9-11, 2007		
MT	6/1/07	Send revised draft of searching/observation protocols to SRC
MT	6/1/2007	In 6-month report, include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ table of 4 species and all raptors as function of different tower types and number of towers</li> <li>▪ analyze mortality close to operating turbines and not close to operating turbines for seasonal shut down data</li> <li>▪ include number of turbine and type can be locked</li> </ul>
MT	6/6/2007	Present second year of winter shutdown data and cumulative report with year 1-2 at June meeting
Ed West	5/15/2007	Share research on sound as deterrent

### Field Protocols

(From P12 SRC Meeting Summary Feb 2007)

The SRC reviewed and discussed "Altamont Searching & Observation Protocol" (updated January 2007) with Monitoring Team and made the following changes:

- MT to take 4 photos of each fatality, as opposed to 1.
- MT to develop a protocol for handling bird bands.
- Page 3: "(the find will not be included in data analysis)" cut to allow for professional judgment.
- Page 4: Review Lindsay Museum handling of injured birds -- Shawn Smallwood to research ID number of specific case and AIC will obtain report on the fates of birds delivered to the Lindsay Museum.

- Page 5: detected bird is changed from “mourning dove-sized or larger” to “raptor and other large birds.”
- Page 7: MT will attempt to use obtained raptors for experimental scavenging carcasses rather than other non-raptor species.
- Page 9: SRC changed the definition of “feather spot” from “greater than or equal to 10 feathers” to “two primaries or greater than or equal to 10 feathers, or five or more tail feathers.”
- Definition of fatality: the monitoring team and SRC agreed to collect as much data as possible, and then use common criteria for determining a fatality.
- Page 11 (data sheets): Change “Fatality #” to “Incident #”
- Page 13: MT plans to change it. Will provide relative abundance information, an estimate of flight height and perching for the focal species.
- Page 14: will record approximate distance to the observer, including first distance and closest distance.
- Page 20: The MT might consider using orthophoto maps overlaid on digital elevation model developed by Lee Neher.

The SRC also discussed whether the field staff or supervisor should declare the cause of death of the fatality. The desire was to make the best use of on-site information and searcher expertise while avoiding a situation where someone makes too many questionable determinations that are evaluated and subsequently changed by a supervisor and subject to criticism as a result of the changes. The SRC directed that sufficient space be provided for field notes under “evidence of death” for the field staff to make a preliminary call, to take notes following instructions. The field supervisor would then review the data sheet and determine the likely cause of death.

### **Field Protocols / Monitoring Program Scope--Observation**

(from P19 SRC Call Meeting Notes 3/19/07)

The SRC briefly discussed one question related to observation. The SRC had previously recommended 10-minute observation and recording some limited behavior data (perching).

SRC Agreed:

- Monitoring Team to do a total of 30 minutes at each observation point. The first 20 minutes to record data on bird behavior followed by a 10-minute point count.
- Location selection: The MT should select the location of the observation point based on key topographical features in order to maximize observability of raptors while retaining a good view of the turbines. The MT should select the location that is the most appropriate for that survey with clear documentation to keep the same point for future observations. The observer should have a good view of the turbines and the landscape around those turbines (which may not necessarily be at the top of the hill).

### **Other Monitoring Protocol Agreements**

(from P12\_ SRC Feb 2007 Meeting Summary)

- The SRC agrees that the intensive sample design study for burrowing owls and American kestrels is an integral part of the Altamont-wide monitoring program and if not

implemented, the search interval for the Altamont-wide program should be reduced to every two weeks instead of every 30 days.

- All turbines except Northwind, Diablo and Buena Vista will be included in the study. Also excluded are the turbines on East Bay Regional Park District property.
- The SRC assumes that the sample size of 2500 will accommodate turbine attrition, including any turbines that might be removed over the life of the study.
- The Monitoring Team should replicate the same criteria used to choose the first 2200 study turbines to choose the final 300.
- The MT, for its six-month analysis, should consider the association of fatalities with the number of rock piles as well as just rock piles and mortality. This will help to determine if rock pile removal should be evaluated further.
- The scope of services should include a line item for work and analyses requested by the SRC.

### **Management Strategies—Reevaluating Tiered Classification**

(from SRC Meeting Summary April 9-11, 2007)

The SRC discussed 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. The SRC will have to confirm that this a priority at a subsequent meeting.

### **Seasonal Shutdown Data Report**

(from SRC Meeting Summary April 9-11, 2007)

The Monitoring Team will attempt to analyze the second year of winter shutdown data for a cumulative report at the SRC's June meeting.

#### **Follow-Up Required**

The SRC asked that the report include:

- Data by locked/unlocked turbine type
- Data by month to look at March issues
- A table of 4 species and all raptors as function of different tower types and for the number of towers
- Analysis of mortality at turbines close to operating turbines and not close to operating turbines

### **Diablo Winds Monitoring**

(from SRC Meeting Summary April 9-11, 2007)

SRC members were in consensus that continuing to gather data at Diablo Winds is critical as repowering seems likely to reduce avian mortality significantly and more directly comparable data is needed. To ensure this occurs, the SRC agreed to shift a portion of the monitoring program's proposed 2.5 year budget from "Addressing Additional SRC Requests" to a new line item to continue monitoring at Diablo Winds. This mortality data will allow the monitoring team and the SRC to evaluate repowered versus non-repowered sites.

**Settlement Issue: FPLE Request for Tier 1 & 2 Credits for Removing or Relocating Turbines**

(from SRC Meeting Summary April 9-11, 2007)

SRC members agreed it is critical for the MT to monitor the end-row effect where FPLE has removed an end-row turbine in the sample in the northwest quadrant to see if mortality occurs at the new end-row turbine.

The SRC also discussed looking at the environmental conditions of the string proposed for removal to examine possible factors related to the high number of mortalities.

**Verification of Compliance**

(from SRC Meeting Summary April 9-11, 2007)

SRC members agreed to advise the County that they consider the ideal method to be third party verification. If that is not possible, a report from the MT from sampled sites would be the next best alternative.

**Note:** No Direction to the Monitoring Team in the Following Meeting Summaries

P15\_SRC Call Meeting Notes 3/13/07

P23\_SRC Call Meeting Notes 4/23/07