

NOTES | Thursday, December 14, 2006, 1:00-2:30

**Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area
Scientific Review Committee
Conference Call**

SRC Recommendations on the Monitoring Team Consultants

- Consultants concerned that new configuration is a shift back to WEST.
- The SRC reiterated its support for a primary point of contact and need to reduce costs.
- Some concern expressed that WEST will not distribute work among team members.

Additional Direction to County:

- The director would always consult with the management board. If director disagrees with the management board, the director would bring the issue back to the SRC for discussion.
- Agree that hiring the field staff through the University would be a good cost cutting measure.

Feedback on Draft Recommendations to County on Monitoring Protocols

- Add in the introduction: The SRC recognizes that there are a number of other studies that will need to be done in the future in consideration of other studies currently underway throughout the country, the California statewide guidelines, and management strategies to be implemented under the conditional use permits.
- Rather than 45% reduction, may be better to say “not meeting the Conditional Use Permits” (45% reduction)
- Change “preferred” approach to “optimal”
- Monitoring Program with Cost Cap
 - Same as recommended program except that sample size different than recommended approach and sample design on kestrels and owls not included
 - Lacks credibility with scientists and NGOs
- Small bird utilization is happening under statewide guidelines because they are concerned about bird turbine avoidance. This could require more explanation.
- Change table. Change “behavior data” to “relative abundance.” Included for all. “Behavior data” for company data only.
- Optimal Program
 - Break into several paragraphs:
 1. Studies that are responsive to conditional use permits
 2. Studies reflective of standard practices
 - a. Small bird observational studies, information is lacking in the Altamont. *To be consistent with statewide guidelines, the SRC is recommending small bird observational studies.*

Follow-Up Required

- Need to determine if the permits mention passerines and how and what the conditions refer to.

- Issues around the Country that SRC may need to consider in the future
 - Bats
 - Small birds

Comments on Bird Use and Relative Abundance

Incorporated into Dec 4-6, 2006, meeting notes.