

SRC September 2007 Reporting Outcomes

Approved by the SRC

Date: 9/13/07

SRC Recommends Management Strategy: Four-Month Winter Shutdown

The SRC agreed to recommend a four-month winter shutdown for Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area turbines for the 2007-08 winter season to strive to achieve a 50% reduction in mortality during the period January 2007 through November 2009. The winter shutdown strategy may have a questionable effect on burrowing owl fatalities, but data indicate that the shutdown is reducing mortality for the other three focal species. While a four-month winter shutdown may not succeed in achieving the full 50% reduction in raptor mortality, winter shutdown is a management strategy that could assist the wind companies in achieving the 50% reduction while minimizing loss of power generation.

The SRC made the recommendation after reviewing data and analyses from the previous two years of winter shutdown, specifically the Monitoring Team's 9/12/07 Winter Shutdown Data Tables (M15) and Julie Yee's 9/11/07 Winter Shutdown Data Analysis (M16 and M16b); and Wally Erickson's Updated Seasonal Shutdown Analyses 9/12/07 (M13). At its August 2007 meeting, the SRC expressed concern that the settling parties may not be able to achieve the goal of a demonstrated 50% reduction in focal raptor mortality before the settlement deadline of November 2009.

The SRC recommends that the Monitoring Team and wind companies work together to sequence shutdown timing so monitors can search turbines shortly after they are shutdown to improve data validity. Each turbine would be shutdown for 4 months: the shutdown would begin mid-October for some turbines and run through early March for other turbines to achieve a November 1, 2007, to February 28, 2008, shutdown.

In the future, the SRC may recommend other strategies, including another four-month winter shutdown, to achieve the 50% reduction in raptor mortality after evaluating the effects of other management strategies.

Data and Analyses for Memo

- M16, M16b, & M16z Julie Yee's Charts on American Kestrels and Red Tailed Hawks
- M15 Actual data from the Monitoring Team with information about the data filters included in the document
- M13 Wally Erickson's Updated Seasonal Shutdown Analyses 9/12/07
-