

Sites Terrestrial Species Federal Agency Coordination Meeting

Agenda and Action Items

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| **Date:** | October 29, 2019 | **Location:** | 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA |
| **Time:** | 1:00p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | | |

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| **Leader:** | Ellen Berryman | | **Recorder:** | | | | Ellen Berryman | |
| **Purpose:** Sites BA, Terrestrial coordination with Federal Agencies | | | | | | | | |
| **Attendees:** | | | | | | | | |
| Dan Cordova  Monique Briard  Mike Jerico  Steven Emmons | | Lauren Sullivan  Jelica Arsenijevic  Andrea (Lee) Bartoo  Mike Carpenter | | | Ellen Berryman  John Spranza  Ian Boyd | | | |
| **Actions** | | | | | |  | |  |
| **Action/Decision** | | **Status** | | | **Notes** | | | |
| Ellen to check on Ian’s availability Sept. 23rd and 24th, and reschedule the cuckoo meeting. | | DONE | | Meetings re-scheduled (see latest) | | | | |
| Revisit may affect/no effect table at 10/29 meeting | | DONE | | | See notes below | | | |
| Decide whether need to conference on longfin smelt/foothill yellow legged frog | | In progress | | | Need to re-visit when BA is in full swing again, to see whether these species have been proposed for listing, or proposed listing is imminent. | | | |
| For each species or group of species, determine whether surveys should be conducted and if so, how will they be used (e.g., NLAA determinations?). Also discuss timing. | | In progress | | | To discuss with each species group we address. | | | |
| Lauren to send may affect/no effect table to NWR for review | | In progress | | |  | | | |
| Dan will review and provide comments on the plants and vernal pool inverts.  FWS will closely review the materials provided on plants and vernal pool inverts but rather then providing detailed tracked changes, they will let us know if there’s anything missing that we should add. | |  | | |  | | | |
| ICF to continue looking for viable mitigation options for the listed plant species in case they are found and cannot be avoided. | |  | | |  | | | |
| Ellen will revise schedule, check with Ian, and then re-circulate. | | In progress | | |  | | | |
| **Discussion Topic** | | | | | | **Notes** | | |
| Introductions, review meeting topics Kellie Berry says no known projects in the area for cumulatives. Will need to coordinate later. | | | | | | | | |
| 1. May Affect/No Effect Species | | | | | | Discussed possibility of Colusa grass – need to look into more, discuss in table. Pools too flashy. May need to re-do IPAC check if too far in the future. **ACTION:** Lauren will send to refuges for their view. | | |
| 1. Plants | | | | | | Use what Lauren from refuges sent to update any info that might be missing.  Approach of treating all habitat as occupied but saying that mitigation will only be for areas later determined to be occupied is okay with FWS and BOR.  Need to keep looking for mitigation opportunities for the two listed plant species in case they’re found and can’t be avoided. | | |
| 1. Vernal Pool Branchiopods | | | | | | **Action:** Dan will review and provide comments on the vernal pool sections (as well as plants). Need to make sure to incorporate the AMMs from geotech where applicable.  **Action:** FWS will closely review the materials provided but rather then providing detailed tracked changes, they will let us know if there’s anything missing that we should add.  The created pools on the refuge – haven’t found listed species in the pools. Be mindful of those created pools, even though they’re south of the road. Identify where pools are and make sure to consider indirect impacts. The pools at the refuge have not been inoculated, but refuges will keep us in the loop if inoculate.  Approach of treating all habitat as occupied but saying that mitigation will only be for areas later determined to be occupied is okay with FWS and BOR. | | |
| 1. Meeting schedule | | | | | | The team re-adjusted the project schedule based on everyone’s availability.  **ACTION:** Ellen will make sure the schedule works with Ian and then re-circulate. | | |

**LIST OF DECISIONS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:**

1. From 10/1/2019 meeting:
   1. Put all fish, wildlife, and plants in the may affect/no effect table in the appendix and don’t need to describe all the no-effect species in the Intro chapter, just reference the table in the appendix.
   2. (from Dan) Make sure the no effect/may affect table has parallel construction with similar findings, terminology (may be an issue if several different people worked on the table).
   3. (from Lauren) Create two different may-affect columns – one for the construction area and one for operation (flows). Then if either column is “may affect”, it’s a may affect finding for the BA.
   4. (from Lauren) LBV not expected to be of in Yolo Bypass for the Sites project, and the project wouldn’t affect other LBV in Delta.
   5. (from Lauren) -Snowy plover that stops over in the action area is not the listed coastal population segment – no effect on the listed population.
   6. Project description and lack of available detail for some project components – some of which will not be available prior to the completion of the biological opinion. In the BA project description, state the level of design and we specify where uncertainty is (e.g., size, location of components) but put sideboards around it, such as specifying that maintenance buildings will be within given footprint. The BA can also specify that some components of the project may change and re-initiation will not be required unless it changes effects on the species (use re-initiation language from BOs). Also, in some cases we can say project description can change in a certain way upon USFWS approval (or concurrence that effects do not differ from what was analyzed in the biological opinion.
2. From 10/29/2019 meeting.
   1. Elaborate on Colusa grass in no effect/may affect table
   2. Need to make sure to incorporate the AMMs from geotech BA where applicable.
   3. Okay to treat all suitable habitat as occupied for the BA but to state that only occupied habitat will be mitigated.