



TETRA TECH EC, INC.

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

TO: John Konecny of Konecny Biological Services, 1601 E. Grand Ave. #2403, Escondido, CA. 92027, Brad Hollingsworth, San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado, San Diego, CA. 92101, and Ed Irvine of Merkel & Associates Inc. 5434 Ruffin Rd. San Diego, CA. 92123

PHONE #: J. Konecny 760-390-8959, Brad Hollingsworth 619-255-0277,
Ed Irvine 858-560-5465

FROM: Ed Woch, Associate Ecologist, Tetra Tech EC, Inc. Santa Ana, Ca

DATE: September 9 to 24, 2008 TIME: 09:00 Various.

SUBJECT: Presence of Arroyo Toads at Tule Project, Iberdrola Renewables LLC.

CONVERSATION:

Approximately the week of September 19th, 2008, I spoke with John Konecny of Konecny Biological Services in Escondido, CA. Mr. Konecny worked with me in 2006-2007 and is an established environmental consultant permitted by USFWS to survey for Arroyo Toads.

I asked John about his knowledge of Arroyo Toads in eastern San Diego County near the Tule Project site and McCain Valley.

John Konecny: John advised me that this area has very limited or no data to his knowledge and that very few of the Arroyo Toad biologists he knows have worked up in that region. He went on to say that the Arroyo Toad was found in Cottonwood and Kitchen Creek (where we worked together) but he had no knowledge of them occurring further east. I asked him where to find more information and John advised me to contact the Herpetologist at the San Diego Museum of Natural History (SDNHM) as the best source.

On September 23, 2008 I telephoned the SDNHM and spoke to their herpetologist Brad Hollingsworth.

Brad Hollingsworth: Brad advised me that the Arroyo Toad records and habitat were known west of the Tule site and McCain Valley again in Cottonwood Creek and sites west. Brad told me that the best person to call for specific information was Ed Irvine of Merkel & Associates. Brad said that Ed was the only person to his knowledge who had a breadth of experience surveying for Arroyo Toad in the eastern reaches of San Diego County and the best person to give definitive advice on the likelihood of finding Arroyo Toad in or near the McCain Valley

and the Tule Project site. With this advice I contacted Ed Irvine directly at Merkel & Associates on September 24, 2008.

I introduced myself and said I was referred to Ed Irvine by the Herpetologist Brad Hollingsworth at the San Diego Natural History Museum regarding Arroyo Toads. I am asking for a confidential client. The area is in McCain Valley and we wanted to know if you have information about publications/surveys for Arroyo Toad in the same area.

Ed Irvine – Yes, I am familiar with the area and have searched for the Arroyo Toad in that area.

I can tell you that there are no historical records for this species in McCain Valley. The closest occurrence is in Miller Canyon (a 1930's record) west of McCain Valley. Also in La Posta Creek (part of Tijuana River watershed), I found it in the late 90's in good habitat.

Ed Woch. –I know it is in Cottonwood Creek and those canyons are still part of the Tijuana River watershed, so that makes sense. But its not east across the watershed divide in drainages that lead to the Salton Sea basin?

Ed Irvine – No, there is a distinct change in habitat at the crest and when you get into the rain shadow and McCain Valley the precipitation drops off and the soils are so course and sandy that there is seldom any surface water. You can see it in the vegetation change up there.

Now, there are two very old historical records in desert canyons: Pinto Canyon and Vallecitos Canyon, but those were from vouchers and we proved those to not be the Arroyo Toad species.

Ed Woch – I guess then, that there are no surveys or published documents on Arroyo Toad in the McCain Valley area to look at?

Ed Irvine – No there aren't.

Ed Woch – I understand that there is a Red Spotted Toad in the McCain Valley area?

Ed Irvine – That species is thought to be there (McCain Valley), but I've never found it in all my surveys in that eastern area. It's more of a desert species. I know Western Spadefoot Toad to occur there, and the Western Toad is also very common.

Ed Woch – OK. Thank you for all of that useful information.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Send ROC to Jen Bradford of Iberdrola LLC for consideration of further action.