

Andrew Barnsdale  
California Public Utilities Commission  
c/o Environmental Science Associates  
550 Kearny Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94108

Fax: 415-896-0332  
Email: mpwsp-eir@esassoc.com

## Comments for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Submitted by Kathy Biala, resident of Marina, CA

3012 Crescent St.  
Marina, CA 93933  
Phone: 831-242-0023  
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Mr. Barnsdale:

I have submitted public commentary on several issues related to the Draft EIR through the Marina City Council. One of these comments was related to the Snowy Plover, but I have since have other additional comments. The State Parks District has painstakingly put up protective fencing with signs all along our Marina Dunes. My husband and I walk daily on different parts of the Marina Dunes, including along the Cemex site. We see between 5-12 Snowy Plovers each time we visit, including one nesting plover at the mouth of the Cemex site.

Delving deeper into the Draft EIR on the subject, I have noticed that the Table 4.6.2 (pages 4.6-74 and 4.6-75) lists 14 plant and animal species which are rare, endangered, or threatened within the project planning region of the City of Marina coastal zone BUT the Snowy Plover is NOT on this list. This is an egregious oversight and must be corrected. In your own Draft EIR, page 4.6-35, you cite:

Western snowy plover are known to nest in the beach and sand dunes between Monterey State Beach and the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge (Page et al., 2012). Between the Salinas River and Marina State Beach, approximately 40 pairs of snowy plover nest on a yearly basis and approximately 330 pairs of snowy plover use the Monterey Bay coastal areas for breeding and wintering (personal communications with Kriss Neuman, Point Blue Conservation Science in ESA, 2012).

During surveys conducted for the MPWSP in 2012 (ESA, 2012) and 2013 (ESA, 2013), western snowy plovers were observed at the beach located north and south of the CEMEX sand mining facility, respectively.

Western snowy plover has a high potential to nest along the beach and foredunes in the vicinity of the northernmost subsurface slant well cluster at the western terminus of the proposed Source Water Pipeline alignment. Additionally, western snowy plover may use the beach and dunes within all subsurface slant well and Source Water Pipeline work areas for wintering, roosting, and foraging.

Further, on a map labeled Figure 4.6-2a, snowy plover presence seems to be indicated east of the Cemex plant, not on the coastal areas where the birds do, in fact, exist. This, too, gives an incorrect perception of the measures needed to protect the plover.

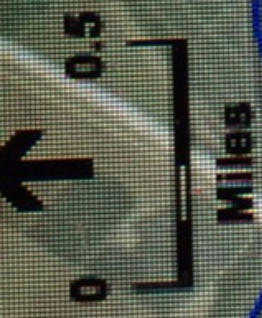
I have also been alerted by a scientist who has been inside a desalination plant that both the noise and the vibration within the plant are significant and not pleasant even for short periods of time for humans. Has this factor not been considered for bird life making their habitat in the vicinity?

I have deep reservations about the short and long term disturbance of this wonderful dune bird that seems to be making a tenuous come-back. If its protection depends upon one biologist to make periodic observations in the face of great political and financial pressures, what chance do the snowy plovers really have? Please understand that outside of gulls, few other birds can be seen on our Monterey Bay beaches...we will be relegated to gulls, crows, squirrels and pigeons as our mainstay "wildlife". Please do not let nature lose again in the battle to preserve what little is left of our natural environment.

Thank you,  
Kathy Biala

CNDB Occurrence (Approximate Location)

-  Animal
-  Plant
-  Seawater Intake System (Proposed)
-  Brine Discharge Pipeline (Proposed)
-  MRWPCA Ocean Outfall and Diffuser (Existing)
-  Desalinated Water Pipeline (Proposed)
-  Transmission Main (Proposed)
-  Salinas Valley Return Pipeline (Proposed)



Location  
(Plant Wells  
used)

sand gilia

Monterey spineflower

Smith's blue butterfly

Menzies' wallflower

Monterey spineflower

sand gilia

sand-loving wallflower

western snowy plover

sand gilia

Kellogg's horsetail

Menzies' wallflower

Smith's blue butterfly

Monterey spineflower

Menzies' wallflower

western pond turtle

California horned lark  
burrowing owl  
coast horned lizard  
feruginous hawk

MPWSP Desalination  
Plant (Proposed)

CSIP  
Pond (Existing)

California red-leg

