



January 5, 2021

Ms. Heather Beeler  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
2800 Cottage Way, W2605  
Sacramento, CA 95825

**Subject: Eighth Annual Report for Sacramento Municipal Utility District's  
Special Purpose Utility Permit for Migratory Bird Mortality  
Monitoring, Solano Wind Project (Permit # MB189818-0)**

Dear Ms. Beeler:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) issued a Special Purpose Utility (SPUT) permit (Permit # MB98730A) for the Solano Wind Project to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) on September 9, 2013. A new SPUT permit (Permit # MB189818-0) was issued on October 09, 2020. Attachment A, the completed Form 3-202-17 spreadsheet, is submitted in accordance with the terms of the SPUT permit. This report fulfills the requirements of both the twenty-ninth quarterly report and the eighth annual report. SMUD is conducting eagle mortality monitoring on the Solano Wind Project Phases 1, 2, and 3 in compliance with the programmatic incidental take permit (ITP, Permit #MB02735B-0) issued by the Service on October 19, 2019. This report describes carcasses detected during the searches conducted during the monthly eagle monitoring and those found during routine operations and maintenance activities from January through December 2020.

The first quarter of eagle mortality monitoring began with a “clean sweep” survey from January 14 through 21, 2020, and the first eagle mortality monitoring surveys were conducted from February 17 through February 20, 2020. The second round of eagle mortality surveys scheduled for March were postponed in compliance with Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-33-20 to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread. During the clean sweep survey on January 20, 2020 the skull and feather remains of a Golden Eagle were detected. On the same day one injured Red-tailed Hawk was discovered and delivered to Lindsay Wildlife Hospital in Walnut Creek. SMUD provided additional information about the eagle carcass detection to the Service on January 24, 2020. Three carcasses, one Mourning Dove and two Red-tailed Hawks, were detected during the February survey, and an American Kestrel was detected incidentally. The Golden Eagle remains were provided to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on June 24, 2020.

Second quarter surveys were conducted from June 16 through 18, 2020. Seven carcasses were detected, including the skull and feather remains of a Golden Eagle found on June 16, 2020. A report describing the eagle mortality was submitted to the Service within 48 hours of the detection as required by Section



H(b) of the SPUT permit. The other carcasses detected during the June surveys were a Swainson's Hawk, three Red-tailed Hawks, a Barn Owl and one hoary bat. An American Kestrel was also detected incidentally. The Swainson's hawk mortality was reported to the CDFW. Additional information about these detections is summarized in the attached Form 3-202-17 spreadsheet. The Golden Eagle remains were provided to the CDFW on June 16 through 18, 2020.

Third quarter surveys were conducted from July 15 through 20, August 16 through 18, and September 15 through 18, 2020. Seven carcasses were detected during the August and September surveys, including two Golden Eagles found on August 18 and on September 15, respectively. Reports describing both eagle mortalities were submitted to the Service within 48 hours of these detections as required by Section H(b) of the SPUT permit. The other carcasses detected during the surveys were an American Kestrel, Mourning Dove, an unidentified buteo (likely a juvenile Red-tailed Hawk), an unidentified bird (likely a Mourning Dove), and one unidentifiable bat. No incidental carcasses were found during the three-month reporting period.

Fourth quarter surveys were conducted from October 14 through 18, November 16 through 19, and December 15 through 18, 2020. Sixteen carcasses were detected during standardized searches. Golden Eagle remains were found on October 16 and November 16, respectively. Additionally, Golden Eagle remains associated with previously-detected remains found in quarter two surveys were detected again on October 15 and 16. Other species recovered include a Red-tailed Hawk, Barn Owl, American Kestrel, and decomposed or scavenged remains of five unidentified raptors, and four unidentified birds. Reports describing both eagle mortalities were submitted to the Service within 48 hours of these detections as required by Section H(b) of the SPUT permit.

Except for the Golden Eagle remains, which were provided to the CDFW, all carcasses are stored at an on-site freezer at the SMUD Solano Wind Project facility for at least one calendar year or are being used for searcher efficiency or carcass persistence trials.

If you have any questions, please call me at (916) 732-6334.

Sincerely,

Ammon Rice  
Environmental Services, Supervisor

Cc:  
Susan Sanders, AECOM  
Petra Unger, AECOM

Attachment A – Form 3-202-17 Excel Spreadsheet

## **ATTACHMENT A**

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Special Purpose Utility (Avian Take Monitoring) – Annual Report  
Report Form 3-202-17 v. 2.0