



January 31, 2022

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 thirty-third quarterly report and the ninth 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 2021.

First quarter Eagle mortality surveys were conducted from January 13 through 15, and on January 18, 2021. February searches were conducted from February 15 through February 18, 2021, and March searches were conducted from March 16 through 19, 2021. Two carcasses, one Golden Eagle and one American Kestrel, were detected during the January survey. Five carcasses were collected during the February surveys which included one Golden Eagle, one Swainson's Hawk, one Red-tailed Hawk, one Mourning Dove, and one unidentified bird. Additionally, two American Kestrels were found incidentally in February. Three carcasses were found during the March surveys, one Red-tailed Hawk, one American Pipit, and one unidentified bird.

Second quarter Eagle mortality surveys were conducted from April 14 through 16, and on April 19, 2021. May searches were conducted from May 17 through May 20, 2021, and June searches were conducted from June 15 through 18, 2021. Three carcasses, one Golden Eagle, one Red-tailed Hawk, and one unidentified non-raptor were detected during the April survey. Additionally, one Red-tailed Hawk carcass was recovered incidentally in April. Three carcasses were collected during the May surveys, which include one Mourning Dove, one Red-tailed Hawk, and one Common Raven. Four carcasses were detected



during the June survey which include one Golden Eagle, one Swainson's Hawk, and two Red-tailed Hawks.

Third quarter Eagle mortality surveys were conducted from July 14 through 16, and on July 19, 2021. August searches were conducted from August 16 through 19, 2021, and September searches were conducted from September 14 through 17, 2021. One carcass, a Turkey Vulture, was detected during the July surveys. One carcass, a Mourning Dove, was collected during the August surveys. Additionally, one Golden Eagle carcass was recovered incidentally in August. Two carcasses were detected during the September survey, which include one Barn Owl and one Rock Pigeon.

Fourth quarter surveys were conducted from October 13 through 15 and on October 18, 2021. November searches were conducted from November 15 through 18, and December searches were conducted from December 14 through 17, 2021. Eight carcasses were detected during this fourth quarter. One Rock Pigeon and one unidentified bird were detected during October searches. Two Red-tailed Hawks were also incidentally observed outside search areas during the October surveys. During the November searches, one Red-tailed Hawk was detected, along with one incidentally found unidentified bird. During December searches, one unidentified bird was detected. On December 28, 2021, an incidentally observed American Kestrel carcass was also discovered.

In accordance with permit requirements, the Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) were notified of incidents involving federally or state protected species. Except for the Golden Eagle remains, which have been, or will be 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