



WASHOE COUNTY

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Planning and Building

1001 EAST 9TH STREET
PO BOX 11130
RENO, NEVADA 89520-0027
PHONE (775) 328-6100
FAX (775) 328.6133

February 5, 2018

To: Washoe County Planning Commission

From: Kelly Mullin, AICP, Senior Planner, 775.328.3608, kmullin@washoecounty.us

Subject: Addendum to staff report for Special Use Permit Case No. WSUP17-0021 and Administrative Permit Case No. WADMIN17-0010 (Dodge Flat Solar)

In response to a request from the applicant, the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have authorized changes to the following conditions of approval. Bold red text indicates new language. Strikethrough text indicates language that has been removed.

It is recommended that Condition 7(b) from NDOW be changed as follows:

- 7b. The Dodge Flats solar facility site lies between many important bird areas, including but not limited to the Carson Sink, Humboldt Sink, Pyramid Lake, and Truckee River. Water birds utilize these important bird areas as migratory stop-overs, breeding, nesting, foraging and roosting. It has been hypothesized that some birds may mistake solar panels for a lake (i.e. termed "Lake Effect") and attempt to land. No studies exist to support or refute this hypothesis. Kagan et al. (2014) analyzed avian mortality at a photovoltaic solar power plant in California and documented mortalities for an array of water bird species, with the primary cause of death being blunt trauma (birds colliding with structures associated with the solar facility). Due to the potential risk of attracting water birds, the applicant shall develop a monitoring plan to detect such impacts and a contingency plan to respond to these potential impacts. These plans shall be developed in coordination with ~~and acceptable to~~ NDOW.

It is recommended that Condition 7(e) from NDOW be changed as follows:

- 7e. To prevent entrapment of wildlife, all steep-walled trenches, auger holes, or other excavations shall be covered **and/or wildlife escape ramps will be installed** at the end of each day or when long breaks in construction activity are expected.

It is recommended that Condition 8(b) from USFWS be changed as follows:

- 8b. The owners shall apply for a utility permit from the USFWS Migratory Bird permit office in Sacramento, CA **that authorizes the owner to pick-up and dispose of birds killed on-site in exchange for reporting relevant information about the birds to the USFWS. Compliance with any additional conditions of the USFWS utility permit shall be voluntary on the part of the applicant. This permit shall be applied for prior to the issuance of a building permit for the solar panel arrays. This condition shall be to the satisfaction of the Washoe County Planning & Building Division, in coordination with the USFWS.** ~~In part, this permit authorizes the owner to pick-up road-killed birds so they do not become food for common ravens.~~



INTEGRITY



EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATION



QUALITY
PUBLIC SERVICE