

FERC Project No. 2426
South SWP Hydropower
Special-Status Raptors Study

FIELD RESULTS AND DATA SUMMARY

March 22, 2019

Consistent with Section 5.0 of the South SWP Hydropower Revised Study Plan and as approved in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Study Plan Determinations dated June 14, 2017 and September 7, 2018, the California Department of Water Resources and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Licensees) provide the following Field Results and Data Summary for the *Special-Status Raptors Study*, which includes work completed to date, key findings, associated data files, variances, and remaining work. The Licensees consider this data to be public.

Completed Work to Date:

The Licensees completed Step 1 (Gather Data and Prepare for Field Efforts) and Step 2 (Conduct Special-Status Raptor Surveys). The Licensees conducted wintering bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) surveys at Pyramid Lake and Quail Lake in December 2017, and January and February 2018. Bald eagle nesting surveys were conducted in March, May, and June 2018. Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) occupancy surveys were conducted at Pyramid Lake in January and February 2018, and nesting/incubation surveys were conducted in March, May, and June 2018. The Licensees also conducted burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) surveys at Quail Lake, Lower Quail Canal, the Gorman Creek, West Fork Liebre Gulch and Liebre Gulch arms of Pyramid Lake near Interstate 5, and Castaic Powerplant.

Key Accomplishments/Summary of Findings to Date:

The Licensees observed and confirmed bald eagle wintering roost sites at Pyramid Lake and Quail Lake; golden eagle individuals also were observed at both locations. Two adult California condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) were observed and confirmed flying over Pyramid Lake. California Natural Diversity Database forms for the burrowing owl, California condor and golden eagle sightings were submitted in April 2018. The Licensees did not observe suitably sized burrows for burrowing owl in the areas surveyed; therefore, follow-up surveys were determined not to be required, as provided in the FERC-approved study plan. However, an incidental sighting of a burrowing owl near Elderberry Forebay occurred during the Cultural Resources Study effort, near some rip-rap which provided suitable burrowing habitat for this species. No other suitable burrows were observed in other project areas. Other special-status raptor species observed include prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).

No nesting special-status raptor species were observed at any of the sites during the survey dates.

Although the turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*) is not considered a special-status raptor species, a single turkey vulture nest was observed in the Pyramid Lake area, specifically on Chumash Island, during the February 22, 2018 survey. A single adult turkey vulture was observed

perched next to a scrape, with no eggs or hatchlings observed. The nest was not observed to be occupied or in use during subsequent visits.

Two night roosting habitats for wintering bald eagles were documented during the December, January, February, and March 2018 visits. On Pyramid Lake (Winter Roost Site #01), two adult bald eagles and one juvenile bald eagle were observed consistently roosting and foraging out of a stand of bigcone douglas fir trees on a north facing slope adjacent to the lake. At Quail Lake, in Winter Roost Site #02, one bald eagle was consistently roosting in a large cottonwood tree on the north side of the lake adjacent to the water's edge. This eagle was identified as the same individual in all four of the winter observations, due to an inflammation in one eye (i.e., pox) that made it recognizable.

Associated Data Files (All associated data can be found in the folder with this summary form. Note: confidential CEII/Privileged information will not be posted publicly.):

File Name	Data Description	File Type	File Location
_20180228_dwr_sswp_p2426_California_Condor_Pyramid_Lake_Photolog	Photolog of February 28, 2018 citing of adult California Condors above Pyramid lake	PDF	Project Website
20180222_dwr_sswp_p2426_California_Condor_observation	Google Earth file with location of initial California Condor siting	KMZ	Available upon request
SSWP_Raptor_summary_table	Table summary of raptor observations	XLSX	Project Website
CNDDDB_FieldSurveyForm_B_UOW01_Rochon	CNDDDB form of burrowing owl observed at Elderberry Forebay	PDF	Available upon request
CNDDDB_FieldSurveyForm_C_ACO_Carnahan_Davis	CNDDDB form of California Condor observed at Pyramid Lake	PDF	Available upon Request
CNDDDB_FieldSurveyForm_G_OEA_01_Holson_Davis	CNDDDB form of Golden Eagle observed at Lower Quail Canal	PDF	Available upon Request
CNDDDB_FieldSurveyForm_G_OEA_02_Holson_Davis	CNDDDB form of Golden Eagle observed at Pyramid Lake	PDF	Available upon request
Dec. 2017 - June 2018 Special-Status Raptor Sitings	Google Earth file with location of Special-status Raptor observations	KMZ	Available upon request
12.17.SSWP_Raptor_Data_Forms	Set of field data forms completed for the 12.19.18 and 12.20.18 survey dates	PDF	Project Website
01.18.SSWP_Raptor_Data_Forms	Set of field data forms completed for the 01.09.18 and 01.10.18 survey dates	PDF	Project Website
02.18.SSWP_Raptor_Data_Forms	Set of field data forms completed for the 02.22.18 and 02.23.18 survey dates	PDF	Project Website

File Name	Data Description	File Type	File Location
03.18.SSWP_Raptor_Data_Forms	Set of field data forms completed for the 03.15.18 and 03.16.18 survey dates	PDF	Project Website
05.18.SSWP_Raptor_Data_Forms	Set of field data forms completed for the 05.09.18 and 05.10.18 survey dates	PDF	Project Website
06.18.SSWP_Raptor_Data_Forms	Set of field data forms completed for the 06.12.18 and 06.13.18 survey dates	PDF	Project Website
SSWP_Raptor_Surveys_Quail_Lake_20190321	Figure with location of Special-Status Raptor observations at Quail Lake	PDF	Available upon request
SSWP_Raptor_Surveys_Pyramid_Lake_20190321	Figure with location of Special-Status Raptor observations at Pyramid Lake	PDF	Available upon request

Key:
KMZ = Google Earth File

Variations from Study Methods, Schedule, or Approach and Abnormalities in Expected Field Conditions:

There were no variations in Study Methods, Schedule, or Approach from the FERC-approved Study Plan.

Remaining Work:

The Study is complete.