APPENDIX E:

CONSULTATION LETTERS

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 25, 2004

Kimberly Nicol
Eastern Sierra–Inland Deserts Region
California Department of Fish and Game
78078 Country Club Drive, Suite 109
Bermuda Dunes, CA 92201

Dear Ms. Nicol:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) concerning issuance of Presidential permits to Baja California Power, Inc. and Sempra Energy Resources. In the DOE proceedings, each applicant proposes to separately construct double-circuit 230,000-volt (230-kV) electric transmission lines across the U.S. border with Mexico. In the proceeding before BLM, each applicant has applied for a right-of-way grant in order to construct the domestic portion of the proposed transmission lines on Federal land. The transmission lines originate at new powerplants in Mexico, pass west of Calexico, California, and terminate at San Diego Gas & Electric Company's Imperial Valley Substation near El Centro, California. The EIS will evaluate the potential effects of construction of the transmission lines. Because operation of the powerplants may have a potential to affect the flow and quality of water in the New River, the EIS will also evaluate impacts of the project on the portion of the New River in the U.S. and also on the Salton Sea. The Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on October 30, 2003 (68 FR 61796). Additional information on these proposed projects can be found on the Internet at http://web.ead.anl.gov/bajatermoeis/documents/index.cfm.

An analysis of the potential impacts on species listed as endangered or threatened by the State of California will be conducted as part of the EIS. Consequently, we would appreciate receiving information on any state-listed species that may inhabit or visit the project area and on critical habitat that could potentially be affected by issuance of the presidential permit or the granting of a right-of-way through Federal lands.

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Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you need further information regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 586-9624 or call Dr. John Hayse at Argonne National Laboratory at (630) 252-7949. My mailing address is Ellen Russell, Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585. Copies of documents should be directed to Dr. Hayse at the address below.

Sincerely,

Ellen Russell

Ellen Russell
NEPA Document Manager
Office of Fossil Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

cc: John Hayse
Environmental Assessment Division
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 South Cass Avenue, Bldg 900
Argonne, IL 60439-4832

Lynda Kastoll
El Centro Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
1661 South 4th Street
El Centro, CA 92243

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 25, 2004

Judy Gibson
Carlsbad Fish & Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, CA 92009

Dear Ms. Gibson:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) concerning issuance of Presidential permits to Baja California Power, Inc. and Sempra Energy Resources. In the DOE proceedings, each applicant proposes to separately construct double-circuit 230,000-volt (230-kV) electric transmission lines across the U.S. border with Mexico. In the proceeding before BLM, each applicant has applied for a right-of-way grant in order to construct the domestic portion of the proposed transmission lines on Federal land. The transmission lines originate at new powerplants in Mexico, pass west of Calexico, California, and terminate at San Diego Gas & Electric Company's Imperial Valley Substation near El Centro, California. The EIS will evaluate the potential effects of construction of the transmission lines. Because operation of the powerplants may have a potential to affect the flow and quality of water in the New River, the EIS will also evaluate impacts of the project on the portion of the New River in the U.S. and also on the Salton Sea. The Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on October 30, 2003 (68 FR 61796). Additional information on these proposed projects can be found on the Internet at http://web.ead.anl.gov/bajatermoeis/documents/index.cfm.

An analysis of the potential impacts on federally-listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species and on critical habitats will be conducted as part of the EIS. Consequently, we would appreciate receiving information on any federally-protected species that may inhabit or visit the project area and on critical habitat that could potentially be affected by issuance of the Presidential permits or the granting of a right-of-way through Federal lands.

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Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you need further information regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 586-9624 or call Dr. John Hayse at Argonne National Laboratory at (630) 252-7949. My mailing address is Ellen Russell, Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585. Copies of documents should be directed to Dr. Hayse at the address below.

Sincerely,

Ellen Russell

Ellen Russell
NEPA Document Manager
Office of Fossil Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

cc: John Hayse
Environmental Assessment Division
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 South Cass Avenue, Bldg 900
Argonne, IL 60439-4832

Lynda Kastoll
El Centro Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
1661 South 4th Street
El Centro, CA 92243

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, California 92009

In Reply Refer To: FWS-IMP-7SP-3911.1

MAR 0 1 2004

Ms. Ellen Russell
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Ms. Russell:

We received on February 23, 2004, your letter dated January 25, 2004, regarding the Department of Energy proceedings pursuant to permit actions for the Baja California Power, Inc. and Sempra Energy Resources electric transmission lines originating from new power plants in Mexico. Per your request, we have enclosed with this letter a list of Federally listed species and candidates for Federal listing for Imperial County that may occur within the project area for your information. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Carol Roberts of my staff at (760) 431-9440 ext. 271.

Sincerely,

Carol A Roberts

for Therese O'Rourke
Assistant Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: John Hayse, Argonne National Laboratory

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate Species that May Occur in Imperial County, California

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
MAMMALS		
Peninsular bighorn sheep	*Ovis canadensis*	E
Palm Springs ground squirrel	*Spermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*	C
BIRDS		
southwestern willow flycatcher	*Empidonax traillii extimus*	E
bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	T, PD
brown pelican	*Pelecanus occidentalis*	E
Yuma clapper rail	*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*	E
California least tern	*Sterna antillarum browni*	E
least Bell's vireo	*Vireo bellii pusillus*	E, CH
yellow-billed cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus*	C
REPTILES		
desert tortoise	*Gopherus agassizii*	T, CH
FISH		
desert pupfish	*Cyprinodon macularius*	E
PLANTS		
Peirson's milk-vetch	*Astragalus magdalenae* var. *peirsonii*	T, PCH

E: Endangered
T: Threatened
PE: Proposed Endangered
PT: Proposed Threatened
C: candidate for listing
CH: Critical Habitat designation
PCH: Proposed Critical Habitat
PD: Proposed for De-listing