

ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE

October 19, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location: Room 309 Hawaii State Capitol Building 415 Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

MEMBERS: Dr. Scott Fretz (DLNR), Dr. Jim Jacobi (USGS), Michelle Bogardus (USFWS), Darren LeBlanc (USFWS), Dr. Loyal Mehrhoff (At-Large), Lisa Spain (At-Large)

ABSENT: Dr. Gordon Tribble (USGS), Dr. Kimberly Burnett (UH)

STAFF: DOFAW: Kate Cullison, Glenn Metzler, Emma Gosliner, and Jim Cogswell
USFWS: Diane Sether, John Vetter

OTHERS: Brita Woeck (Tetra Tech), Amy Pelouse (Sempra Energy), Wayne Haight (Tetra Tech), Mitch Craig (Terraform Power), Maxx Phillips (Keep the North Shore Country), Marie VanZandt (Sempra Energy)

ITEM 1. Call to order. Introductions

ITEM 2. Request for Comments on the September 2017 Draft Habitat Conservation Plan Amendment for Kaheawa Wind Power II; presentation by Mitchell Craig (Terraform Power)

Craig presented on the draft amendment for Kaheawa Wind Power II.

KWP II ESRC Comments:

- Asked about the connection between removing ironwood and Nēnē. ESRC asks for ironwood removal, since it was a hazard for fire crews in the area. Also damages transmission lines.
- ESRC asked if removing native shrubs and vegetation in KWP II request to remove complex vegetation after to prevent Nēnē nesting.
- Make sure mitigation is truly additive and not just moving money around. Asked if the later tiers are screwing up mitigation.
- Asked for more details on Nēnē mitigation, would like more information.
- Explain up front in the document why bat and Nēnē take estimates were low in original document. More details on why an amendment is needed early on in the document.
- Make sure to address any candidate species that may become listed/has no effect on.
- More detail to be provided for Tier 4 bats (fire break management).
- Provide more detail on the Evidence of Absence assumptions, changes with revised model, and conclusions reached.
- Provide further explanation of search area and implications for take estimates, including implications for years when there are no observed bat fatalities.
- More explicit determination of lost productivity for Nēnē.
- Tiers need discussion of justification (wait until after November 7 ESRC meeting for clarification).
- Price inflation should be considered in mitigation proposal.
- Need additional detail on Nēnē mitigation and how the inclusion of a SHA site will be treated.
- Need further discussion of LWSC literature results to be sure accurate and up-to-date and application in this amendment.

- Discuss rationale for curtailment regime to be used.
- Discuss fire hazard and changes in fire potential.

Public Comments:

- Maxx Philips (KNSC) questioned reduced search area, and 80% credibility: when was searching reduced? How can we reduce monitoring in the face of increased take since it reduces certainty? Shouldn't monitoring increase to add more data since there is already such limited data set?
- Observed fatality 2013/14 assumption may be because of lower wind speeds, another increase of wind turbines. Bats may be more attracted to turbines.
- Because of uncertainty and impacting financial structure, consider increasing cut in speed. 6.5 m/s. LWSC would only be reduction in \$50,000 in annual revenue why is that considered not feasible?
- Bat detectors being able to monitor mitigation sites, one per 60 acres does not seem adequate. Adequately show post-mitigation when looking at mitigation measures and use of more robust data set in terms of hitting mitigation measures so we can tell if it is working on the ground.

ITEM 3. Announcements

DOFAW Staff will work to set up a site visit for Kaheawa Wind Power II.

Next ESRC meeting will be November 7 and bat centered. Send Cullison bat topics to discuss and include on the agenda. Each of the RFP bat projects will present for 15 minutes each.

ITEM 4. Adjournment