



Memorandum

Date:	December 7, 2010
To:	Sandi Rivera Alameda County Community Development Agency 224 W Winton Avenue, Room 110 Hayward CA 94544
Cc:	Mary Selkirk
From:	Doug Leslie
Subject:	Budget Considerations for Implementing "Other Studies"

In an effort to help inform the discussion at the upcoming SRC meeting, I am providing the following information regarding the budget and resources available to implement additional studies in the Altamont above and beyond the current monitoring protocol (including the QA/QC Study, which is now an integral part of the fatality monitoring program). Please feel free to share this information with any interested parties.

When the process of designing a new fatality sampling scheme was first initiated, the SRC had requested that funding levels for the monitoring program remain at historic levels, the idea being that if we could save money by conducting carcass sampling more efficiently, the savings should be used to conduct additional studies to benefit avian species most impacted by operations in the Altamont.

The SRC then prioritized several studies that could potentially be implemented with the resulting savings. The first priority was the QA/QC study and the second was the burrowing owl study. Later, a third priority was identified, the search radius study. Subsequently, the Monitoring Team began implementation of the new fatality monitoring scheme and the QA/QC study.

The size of the monitoring team field crew has remained at 7 individuals, with one additional vehicle added to the fleet to accommodate the demands of the QA/QC study. There are a number of direct expenses that are difficult to accurately apportion to different aspects of the monitoring effort. Assuming all of the direct expenses are allocated to the fatality monitoring portion of the budget, we have the following breakdown of the budget, which covers a 6-month period:

Fatality Monitoring (including avian use surveys)	\$361,574
QA/QC Study	\$226,620
Other Studies	\$93,880

Sandi Rivera
December 7, 2010
Page 2 of 2

This translates into approximately 48 hours per week of field crew time to devote to "other studies". The actual number of hours per week may be slightly higher once the new protocols are firmly established. In addition, several turbine strings in Contra Costa County were added back into the monitoring program after the sampling scheme outlined in the study plan became established. If these turbine strings were removed from the sampling scheme, a few additional resources would become available for other studies.