



Medak, Christine <christine_medak@fws.gov>

Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Devil's Gate Reservoir SPL-2014-00591 draft HMMP and ESA

1 message

Medak, Christine <christine_medak@fws.gov>

Fri, Mar 17, 2017 at 4:54 PM

To: "Rogers, Bonnie L CIV USARMY CESPL (US)" <Bonnie.L.Rogers@usace.army.mil>

Excellent! Have a great weekend!

Christine L. Medak
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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"I'd like to offer a plug for actually having the natural processes instead of having to simulate them."

— Nadav Nur, PRBO Conservation Science

On Fri, Mar 17, 2017 at 4:21 PM, Rogers, Bonnie L CIV USARMY CESPL (US) <Bonnie.L.Rogers@usace.army.mil> wrote:

Hi Christine,

Thank you very much for taking the time to review the plan this week. I read through your comments. Hope we can all discuss these soon!

--

Bonnie Rogers
Senior Project Manager / Ecologist
L.A. and San Bernardino Counties Section
North Coast Branch
Regulatory Division
213.452.3372

Please complete our brief customer survey:

http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=regulatory_surveyFrom: Medak, Christine [mailto:christine_medak@fws.gov]

Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 1:45 PM

To: Rogers, Bonnie L CIV USARMY CESPL (US) <Bonnie.L.Rogers@usace.army.mil>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Devil's Gate Reservoir SPL-2014-00591 draft HMMP and ESA

Bonnie,

We have reviewed the draft HMMP for Devil's Gate Sediment Removal and Management Project, which was provided on February 3, 2016. On September 14, 2016, I requested that the HMMP include additional information regarding changes in hydrology and geomorphology associated with the proposed project and how the changes would affect remaining habitat for the vireo, outside the project footprint (attached). For the most part, the draft HMMP does not address these substantial concerns. In general, we remain concerned that the proposed project will result in the permanent degradation of remaining riparian areas, outside the project footprint, that are known to support vireo foraging and sheltering. The remaining habitat and proposed mitigation sites will be perched about 40 feet above the excavated basin and will be, for the most part, isolated from the natural processes that are necessary to maintain habitat for the vireo.

Vireo require a structurally diverse riparian woodland, along watercourses. Early successional riparian vegetation typically supports the dense understory required for nesting and sheltering from predators, and a stratified canopy for foraging. As the vegetation matures, the tall canopy tends to shade out the understory and the vegetation becomes less suitable for vireo. Openings along watercourses allow sunlight to penetrate and support the development of understory vegetation. Surface flows associated with periodic storm events scour the channel and deposit sediment, creating open space for the development of early successional riparian vegetation (Draft Recovery Plan for the Least Bell's Vireo).

Because we agree with the Corps comments, we incorporated our comments on the HMMP into the document that contains the Corps comments. Our comments focus on: 1) the need for clarification of the overall change in vegetation as a result of the project (including permanent impacts and mitigation), 2) changes in hydrology associated with the proposed project, 3) post-project effects of dam operations on habitat within the basin, and 4) the need for specific long-term management actions that will ensure the viability of habitat for the vireo over the long term.

As we have previously stated (see attached comments on original public notice for the project), we recommend the Corps consider a smaller permanent maintenance area to allow for development of more riparian woodland adjacent to the active channel. The need for the proposed basin capacity and permanent maintenance footprint is not well supported by the history of flood control maintenance and dam operations since the dam was constructed.

Should you have any questions regarding this message, please feel free to contact me.

Christine L. Medak
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
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"I'd like to offer a plug for actually having the natural processes instead of having to simulate them."
— Nadav Nur, PRBO Conservation Science

On Fri, Feb 3, 2017 at 1:24 PM, Rogers, Bonnie L CIV USARMY CESPL (US) <Bonnie.L.Rogers@usace.army.mil> wrote:
Hi Christine,

I wanted to let you know I reopened LA County's application for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Project and would like to resume our Section 7 consultation. They have provided additional information I requested for our Environmental Assessment, as well as a draft Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan recently which can be downloaded from their FTP:

URL: Blocked<https://ecorp.sharefile.com/Authentication/Login> <Blocked<https://ecorp.sharefile.com/Authentication/Login>>
Username: devils_gate@ecorpc consulting.com <mailto:devils_gate@ecorpc consulting.com>
Password: with [REDACTED]

I will be reviewing the draft HMMP and providing comments. I assume you will review it as well for integration with our Section 7 consultation. Can you let me know if your agency has decided to pursue Formal consultation with a Biological Opinion, or if you wish to continue via informal consultation? This will be important for our process because I have about 100 days to make a permit decision, and the County anticipates beginning activities this Fall 2017. Let me know what you think and if you need any other information beyond the draft HMMP to resolve consultation. Note, a final HMMP is required before I can make a permit decision.

Best,

--

Bonnie L. Rogers
Senior Project Manager / Ecologist
L.A. and San Bernardino Counties Section
Regulatory Division

213.452.3372

Please complete our brief customer survey:

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-----Original Message-----

From: Kristen Wasz [mailto:kwasz@ecorpconsulting.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 3:42 PM

To: Rogers, Bonnie L CIV USARMY CESPL (US) <Bonnie.L.Rogers@usace.army.mil>

Cc: Veronica Mardis (vmardis@dpw.lacounty.gov) <vmardis@dpw.lacounty.gov>; Grace Yu (gyu@dpw.lacounty.gov) <gyu@dpw.lacounty.gov>; Mari (Schroeder) Quillman <mquillman@ecorpconsulting.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project - HMMP

Hi Bonnie,

I wanted to let you know that a full PDF of the Devil's Gate HMMP has been uploaded to the FTP site below. Please let me know if you have any issues accessing it.

We will have two hard copies of the document in the overnight mail tonight for a Wednesday delivery.

Kristen (Mobraaten) Wasz

Inland Empire Biology Manager

Senior Biologist

ECORP Consulting, Inc.

Office: 909.307.0046 ♦ Cell: 714.721.3793

kwasz@ecorpconsulting.com <<mailto:kwasz@ecorpconsulting.com>>

From: Mari (Schroeder) Quillman

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 9:41 AM

To: 'Rogers, Bonnie L CIV USARMY CESPL (US)' <Bonnie.L.Rogers@usace.army.mil> <<mailto:Bonnie.L.Rogers@usace.army.mil>> >

Cc: vmardis@dpw.lacounty.gov <<mailto:vmardis@dpw.lacounty.gov>> ; 'Grace Yu' <GYU@dpw.lacounty.gov> <<mailto:GYU@dpw.lacounty.gov>> >

Subject: Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project - HMMP

Good morning Bonnie,

I wanted to let you know that we will be uploading the HMMP for the Devil's Gate project on an ftp site so you can download it directly. It is too large to email so we thought this would be the easiest way to get you an electronic copy. We will be sending you two hardcopies so that you don't have to bother printing it out on your end.

We should be uploading the document a bit later this morning or early afternoon. I will send out a follow-up email when it is uploaded to the ftp site.

The ftp site can be accessed using the following information:

URL: Blocked<https://ecorp.sharefile.com/Authentication/Login> <Blocked<https://ecorp.sharefile.com/Authentication/Login>>

Username: devils_gate@ecorpconsulting.com <mailto:devils_gate@ecorpconsulting.com>

Password: **with**

Please let me know if you have any questions or problems accessing the ftp site.

Mari Quillman

Principal Biological Resources Program Manager/Wildlife Biologist

ECORP Consulting, Inc.

1801 Park Court Place, B-103, Santa Ana, CA 92701

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