

Humboldt Working Group

Biological Resources Agencies Subcommittee Conference Call

December 2, 2009

Conference Call Summary

Introductions

Introductions were led by Anna West, Kearns & West (K&W) Facilitator

Updates from Biological Resources Agencies

Led by Anna West, K&W Facilitator

Members of the Humboldt Working Group (HWG) Permitting Authority Subcommittee shared updates since the last meeting, November 9, 2009.

- Ken Hogan, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), gave a status report on the MOU, which is currently being reviewed by Ann Miles, FERC. The MOU should be ready for the California State Lands Commission's (CSLC) review by December 11th. If CSLC has any edits, FERC will review the MOU again.
- Steve Mindt, CSLC, has received a project description from PG&E, but needs an official application before the Commission hearing on December 17th. It is a calendared topic for the meeting. Steve Mindt, CSLC, asked for a draft application, which would allow the CSLC to start the bidding process for a consultant.
 - ACTION: PG&E is internally reviewing a draft and will send the application to CSLC well before December 17th.

Bill Toman, PG&E, announced* PG&E's intention to file a preliminary permit on December 11th to study the feasibility of a wave energy facility offshore of Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB). PG&E has been searching for a site to replace Mendocino and signed an MOU with Vandenberg AFB two weeks ago. The preliminary permit application to FERC will propose a study area within state waters (within three nautical miles) between Point Arguello and Point Concepcion, which avoids State Marine Reserves and Jalama Beach. FERC would be the issuing body for the preliminary permit and the license. Since there is no public access to the beach, PG&E will also consider some Wave Energy Conversion (WEC) devices that work in shallower water as well as other technologies; the boundary nearshore may be six fathoms. The proposed project is a 100 megawatt (MW) wave facility; at this time, it is undecided whether this would be built at once or as a phased build out. It is also undetermined whether this is a pilot or

* This information is embargoed until December 11, 2009/the filing date. Bill asked for and received confidentiality agreements from the Subcommittee before discussing this information.

permanent project. Neither this project nor PG&E have any affiliation with the four offshore drilling platforms in the area. The only possible association with the platforms would be permission to hang scientific instrumentation from the structures or to access wave data.

Vandenberg AFB is eager to incorporate renewable energy projects, both for national security reasons and to meet the Department of Energy (DOE) renewable energy mandate. PG&E would utilize pre-existing infrastructure on Vandenberg AFB, including a small breakwater, industrial marine ramp, and electrical substation. Additionally, this area on Vandenberg AFB has no existing public use; it is a fallout area for launch debris. PG&E will be careful to work with Vandenberg AFB to maintain safety in the area during future launches. Almost the entire PG&E and consultant team working on the Humboldt site will also work on the Central Coast project (the PG&E team; SAIC, CH2MHill, Kearns & West).

The Subcommittee asked a number of questions about the possible project:

Q: Will PG&E share this information at next week's DOE meeting?

A: The DOE and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) are informally aware that PG&E has been looking for this project. Organizations are being informed on a need to know basis.

Q: Will a working group, similar to the HWG, be convened in the area? And when?

A: If a preliminary permit is granted, a kickoff meeting and working group will be convened similar to Humboldt's outreach process. The dates of these events will be determined if/when a FERC preliminary permit is granted. Ken Hogan, FERC, added that the preliminary permit could be granted as soon as 60 days after PG&E files the preliminary permit application.

Q: Where will the power generated from this facility go – to the grid or to Vandenberg AFB?

A: The facility will interconnect to Vandenberg AFB's distribution system, which receives energy from the grid. The first 20 MW of energy would be consumed by the base and any additional power would go to the grid.

Q: When agencies inform colleagues in the Santa Barbara area about this project, what details can be shared?

A: All information can be shared on a need to know basis, but please keep information embargoed from the public until the preliminary permit has been filed. FERC grants preliminary permits on a first-come-first-serve basis so confidentiality at this point is critical.

Q: Who is the contact person for our agency colleagues in the Santa Barbara area?

A: Ian Caliendo, State Agency Relations, PG&E.

Review of Action Items from November 9th Meeting

The Subcommittee shared updates on some of the action items from the last meeting:

#5: Sharon Kramer, HT Harvey, asked Eric Borstedt, Humboldt State University (HSU), for marine or seabird observation records. He had none, as his observations are done at night.

#7: This is now an ACTION for the January meeting. Sharon will invite Redwood Sciences to the January meeting. The Redwood Sciences Lab is currently compiling its data from over 20 years. Nothing is available now, but may be in time for the draft license application (DLA).

#9: Sharon sent an updated Essential Fish Habitat worksheet to Laura Engeman, California Ocean Protection Council (COPC). An ACTION is for Sharon to send this to Briana Moseley, K&W, who will pass it on to the Subcommittee.

#13: Dave White, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), spoke with the Santa Cruz fish ecology group regarding the listed green sturgeon. David Woodbury, NMFS, followed up with Bruce McFarlane regarding the acoustic sensors around Tomales Point. Placing these sensors around Tomales Point met with resistance from fisherman concerned about bottom trawling. Bruce only needed one permit from the local sanctuary to place these sensors. If there is no sanctuary, a permit is probably not required, but the U.S. Coast Guard should be notified. He also estimated the total budget for a similar project in Humboldt would be \$200,000 (\$10,000 per buoy; 800 meter spacing). Bruce and the Santa Cruz lab think the Humboldt site is too far north for collaboration, but Eric Borstedt may be interested. ACTION: Dave White will contact Eric Borstedt about possible collaboration.

#20: ACTION: Doug Davy, CH2M Hill, to send the Department of Interior's EMF report to Congress to Briana, who will pass it on to the Subcommittee (done).

#21: Christine Champe, Stillwater Sciences, spoke with Pete Nelson at COASST watch. Pete is willing to share his data, which is not applicable now, but may be in the future during the adaptive management and monitoring plans development. An ACTION is for Christine to share a link to the program's website with the Subcommittee.

Biological Resources Agencies January 7th Meeting Agenda

Presented by Doug Davy, CH2M HILL

Doug proposed that the January meeting continue the development of a project description, as specifically as possible. The November meeting was a background information phase. Currently, the project team is determining the project's effects; this will be ongoing. The next phase is to prepare the monitoring and adaptive management plan; the Subcommittee is ready to begin this phase during the January meeting.

Members of the Subcommittee suggested additional topics:

- Presentation on green sturgeon, by David Woodbury, NMFS.
- Longfin smelt monitoring.

Anna asked that the Subcommittee to consider and propose any unanswered questions before the January meeting.

Action Items

Action Item	Who	When
1. Submit project description/application to California State Lands Commission	1. PG&E	1. Before December 17 th
2. Share the Central Coast Preliminary Permit Application with the HWG	2. Briana Moseley, K&W	2. Day of filing, most likely December 11 th
3. HWG Permitting Authority Subcommittee members to provide contact information for Santa Barbara area counterparts to Ian Caliendo, PG&E.	3. Agency members of the subcommittee	3. ASAP
4. Request Ken Hogan as the FERC representative for the Central Coast WaveConnect Project	4. Bill Toman, PG&E	4. ASAP
5. Follow up with Eric Borstedt, HSU, to collaborate	5. Dave White, NMFS	5. ASAP
6. Invite Redwood Sciences to the January HWG Permitting Authority Subcommittee meeting	6. Sharon Kramer, HT Harvey	6. Before January 7 HWG Permitting Authority Subcommittee meeting
7. Share updated Essential Fish Habitat with Permitting Authority Subcommittee	7. Sharon Kramer, HT Harvey, and Briana Moseley, K&W	7. Done
8. Share Department of Interior's EMF report to Congress	8. Doug Davy, CH2M Hill, and Briana Moseley, K&W	8. Done
9. Share link to COASST watch's website	9. Christine Champe, Stillwater Sciences	9. Done
10. Share law review of passive vs. adaptive management in hydropower licensing and relicensing	10. Diane Ashton, NMFS	10. Done
11. Share updated terrestrial wildlife tables	11. Christine Champe, Stillwater Sciences	11. ASAP
12. Include Michael Van Hattem on the HWG distribution list	12. K&W	12. Done
13. Invite David Woodbury, NMFS, to present on green sturgeon at the January or February Permitting Authority Subcommittee meeting	13. David White, NMFS	13. January/February 2010
14. Suggest unanswered questions	14. Permitting Authority	14. ASAP

for the January agenda	Subcommittee	
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Attendees

Agencies:

Vicki Frey, California Department of Fish & Game
John Dye, California State Lands Commission
Steve Mindt, California State Lands Commission
Ken Hogan, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Diane Ashton, National Marine Fisheries Service
Dave White, National Marine Fisheries Service
Catherine Woody, State Water Resources Control Board
David Ammerman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Bill McIver, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PG&E:

Bill Toman, PG&E
Ian Caliendo, PG&E

PG&E Consultants:

Doug Davy, CH2M HILL
Rick Williams, SAIC
Sharon Kramer, H.T. Harvey
Christine Champe, Stillwater Sciences
Emily King Teraoka, Stillwater Sciences

Facilitators:

Anna West, Kearns & West
Briana Moseley, Kearns & West
Christine Lim, Kearns & West