



**From:** [Henderson, Amy@Wildlife](mailto:Henderson_Amy@Wildlife)  
**To:** [David Schlegel](mailto:David.Schlegel@opr.ca.gov)  
**Cc:** [OPR State Clearinghouse](mailto:OPR.State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov)  
**Subject:** SCH#2022050133 Amendment 22-0003 to amend Use Permit 166-84 Vertical Bridge REIT, LLC  
**Date:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:29:42 AM

Dear David Schlegel,

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Negative Declaration (ND) dated May 5, 2022, for the above-referenced project (Project). As a trustee for the State's fish and wildlife resources, the Department has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and their habitat. As a responsible agency, the Department administers the California Endangered Species Act and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code that conserve the State's fish and wildlife public trust resources. The Department offers the following comments on this Project in our role as a trustee and responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, California Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.

The Project, as described in the ND, "*is to construct 93-foot-long by 27-foot-wide photovoltaic solar array, six (6) 35.42-foot-tall ground-mounted small wind turbines (43.42-foot tip height as measured from finished grade to vertical tip of the blade), wind and solar energy inverters and eleven (11) lithium batteries to be located in the existing utility building which serves an existing commercial wireless telecommunications facility on the site. The solar array, wind turbines, and batteries are proposed to serve as an unmanned standby generator for the purpose of providing backup power for the commercial wireless telecommunications facility in the event that energy from the electric grid is not available. The system components would generate 36 kilowatts (turbines) and 30 kilowatts (solar array) for a total of 66 kilowatts of generating capacity and incorporate a battery system with 30 kilowatts of capacity for energy storage.*

*A 5,000-gallon water storage tank would be installed to provide fire protection water for the project. Portions of the project site are currently developed with large turbines that are part of the Hatchet Ridge Wind Project. In addition,*

*the project site includes two radio towers and two wireless telecommunication facilities that are not a part of this project. The existing lattice radio tower includes an adjacent 1,986-square-foot building approved under Use Permit*

*166-84. The proposed use would utilize the existing access from Bunchgrass Lookout Road."*

The Project site is already developed; therefore, the Department has no comment.

If you have any further questions, please call or email.

Thank you,

Amy Henderson  
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)  
California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
601 Locust Street

Redding, CA 96001  
(530)598-7194 (cell)