

Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 2.2: Bald and Golden Eagle
Protection Act Short-Term Disturbance Take
Permit for Geotechnical Activities Application

June 17, 2022

Effects to Eagles

- Golden eagles
 - Short-term
 - Disturbance of up to six nests over 4 years (2023-2026)
 - “Disturbance” is defined as work within 1 mile of active nest
 - Long-term
 - Loss of nesting habitat and foraging habitat
 - Construction activities could result in disturbance/loss of productivity of nests
 - Impact to eagle territories in inundation area
- Bald eagles
 - Short-term
 - Disturbance of one nest over 2 years (2025-2026)
 - “Disturbance” is defined as work within 660 feet of active nest
 - Long-term
 - Loss of Golden Gate nest site
 - Increase in foraging habitat (benefit)

Take Minimization Measures

- Measures to reduce amount of take include:
 - Construction windows and buffer areas
 - 1 mile for golden eagles
 - 660 feet for bald eagles
 - Construction best management practices
 - Preconstruction surveys
 - Access restrictions
 - Biological monitoring



Mitigation Requirements

- Short-term effects (2023-2026)
 - USFWS in-lieu fee program for power-pole retrofit
 - Uses standard USFWS Resource Equivalency Analysis methodology for mitigation (used nation-wide)
 - Mitigation costs estimated to be no more than \$450,000
 - Mitigation can roll forward if not used, including into long term effects
- Long term effects (2027-2057)
 - Assessment ongoing and will be developed in coordination with USFWS
 - Will cover in a future meeting

Eagle Permit Next Steps

- June 2022
 - Submit Short-term Eagle Take Permit to USFWS
 - Coverage for geotechnical activities from January 2023 through December 2026 (4 years)
- Late 2023 or Early 2024
 - Submit Eagle Conservation Plan for construction and long-term effects
 - It would include a nest removal permit for Golden Gate bald eagle nest site

Requested Action

- Authorize the Executive Director to submit the 2023-2026 Short-term Geotechnical Eagle Take Permit application