



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Cleveland National
Forest

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File Code: 2720

Date: April 6, 2012

Alan Colton
Manager – Environmental Services
San Diego Gas & Electric Company
Sunrise Powerlink
8315 Century Park Court, CP21E
San Diego, CA 92123

Subject: Reply to SDG&E's Request for U.S. Forest Service Concurrence on the Status of the Bell Bluff and Thing Valley Golden Eagle Nest Buffers

Dear Mr. Colton:

The Forest Service has received SDG&E's request for concurrence with SDG&E's opinion that the Bell Bluff and Thing Valley Golden Eagle (GE) nests are inactive for the 2011/2012 breeding season, and that construction activities, including helicopter flights, within the 4000-ft GE nest buffers associated with these nests can be allowed during the 2011/2012 GE breeding season.

After review by the USFS Sunrise Permit Administration Team, including the Forest Biologist, I accept SDG&E's opinion that the historic Bell Bluff and Thing Valley GE nest sites are inactive, and effective Thursday, April 12, 2012 SDG&E may commence with power line construction activities, including helicopter flights, within 4000-ft of these sites during the 2011/2012 GE breeding season. These activities are allowed only until the start of the 2012/2013 GE breeding season that begins December 1, 2012. Permission for this activity may be revoked at any time should further information and review warrant a change in GE nest status. Please ensure compliance with all other terms and conditions of the permit.

If you have questions contact Kirsten Winter, Forest Biologist, and/or Rich Tobin, Sunrise Project Assistant at (619) 445-6235.

Sincerely,

DONN CHRISTIANSEN
Descanso District Ranger

Cc: SO Lands & Engineering

