

Final

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## **Desert Tortoise Council Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**1 June 2025  
Zoom Online Meeting**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Mari Quillman at 10:00 a.m. (PDT). **Action items are in blue, with responsible parties in red. Motions made, seconded, and approved (or not) are shown in bold red font.**

**Attendees:** Board members: Kristin Berry, Peter Woodman, Judy Hohman, Ken MacDonald, Maggie Fusari, Mari Quillman, Bruce Palmer, Becky Jones, Ed LaRue, Mary Lane Poe, Debra Hughson, Rick Applegate, and Operations Manager: David Hedrick. **Absent:** Luke Basulto and Max Havelka (who briefly joined us remotely from their event in Albuquerque, NM), and Michael Tuma **Guests:** None.

**A. Welcome/Announcements/Introductions:** None.

**B. Review Agenda:** New issues were incorporated as needed.

**C. Approval of Meeting Minutes of 3/23/2025:** Ed LaRue prepared draft minutes of the most recent virtual Board meeting, which were distributed, reviewed, and approved today as final. **Motion made (Judy Hohman), seconded (Ken MacDonald), and unanimously approved to accept the draft minutes to be final.**

### **D. Review of Board Actions since Last Board Meeting:**

**1. David Hedrick Evaluation Results:** On 4/7/2025, Mari Quillman shared that the evaluation had been completed and that the evaluation members, Mari, Bruce Palmer, and Ken MacDonald recommended the following for David Hedrick: Salary Increase – 10% (Dave's current salary is \$62,400 so the annual increase will be \$6,240); Retroactive Pay – Dave will receive his salary increase retroactive to July 3, 2024, which is when he should have had his performance review = approx. \$4,680; and Bonus – Suggested bonus between \$5,000 and \$8,000. **On 4/8/2025, Michael Tuma made the motion to increase David Hedrick's current salary from \$62,400 to \$68,640 (a 10% increase) and to retroactively apply the salary increase back to July 2024, which was amended later that day by Mary Lane Poe to include a \$5,000 bonus, which was then seconded by Kristin Berry, and unanimously approved by 14 of 16 Board members including motion makers.** Mari emailed David Hedrick with the decision on 4/9/2025.

**2. Grants Request:** On 4/8/2025, Michael Tuma shared a grant request from Mamoudou Ibrahim with the Association for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in Niger through our Regular Grants Program that was evaluated by the Grants & Academic Funding

Committee, which recommended partial payment of about \$2,700 to fund the interview portion of the proposed study. Except for 5/6/2025 when Mary Lane Poe said she will support the committee's recommendations, there was no other Board feedback. No decisions were made via email prior to this Board meeting. In a text to Mari, Michael Tuma said he was pursuing issuance of the partial grant as decided by the Grants Committee.

**3. Council Attendance at an Event in Albuquerque, NM:** On 4/22/2025, Mari Quillman indicated there is a Drink Beer, Save Tortoises event scheduled for 6/1/2025, which conflicts with the scheduled Board meeting. After several rounds of emails, it was agreed that Luke Basulto would attend the event and sell Council merchandise. On 5/16/2025, Luke identified his estimated expenses at \$1,207.11. **Debra Hughson made a motion to provide \$1,207.11 for Luke to attend this event, which was seconded by Michael Tuma, and unanimously approved by 10 Board members, including the motion makers.**

**4. Palace Station for Upcoming Symposia:** On 4/28/2025, David Hedrick polled the Board to have the Symposium on February 24 (field trip), 25, 26, 27, 2026 at Palace Station in Las Vegas, NV. Following that email, eight members supported this decision, so a quorum was met.

**5. Repair of the Council's Shed in Palmdale:** On 5/5/2025, Mari Quillman explained that there were recent damages to the shed door and asked for feedback to make repairs. **Ken MacDonald made a motion to spend up to \$500 to repair the shed, which was seconded by Max Havelka, with endorsements from nine additional Board members, so a quorum was met.**

**6. Reimburse Board Member for Work with Bolson Tortoises:** In an email from Mari Quillman on 5/7/2025, she suggested that the Board consider reimbursing Max Havelka \$707.77, including fuel (\$147.77) and \$560, for expenses associated with fitting radio transmitters to Bolson tortoises. Later that day, Lucas Basulto made the motion to reimburse Max Havelka \$707.77, seconded by Judy Hohman, and endorsed by a total of only six Board members. When Ed LaRue presented his concern with paying Board members for labor costs there was only one additional endorsement, and several members wanted to discuss reimbursement policies at this Board meeting. So, a quorum was not met prior to the Board meeting.

During subsequent discussions, Bruce shared there are two policies governing authorized expenditures and reimbursements. These policies support reimbursements to Max Havelka for his emergency work (requested on Sunday followed by the work being performed on Monday) fitting radio transmitters to Bolson tortoises since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) biologists involved did not have the necessary expertise. We need to be sure that we are meeting the stipulations of these two policies and to be compliant with Internal Revenue Service (IRS) policies. The Bylaws do allow us to work with species other than desert tortoises, including the Bolson tortoise. **After extensive discussion, Ed LaRue made the motion to provide Max Havelka \$707.77 for his time and expenses, pending follow-up communication with our certified public accountant (CPA) to be sure we are compliant with IRS requirements, which was seconded by Becky Jones, and approved by all 12 Board members in attendance.** • Mari Quillman will check with our CPA regarding IRS compliance with this motion.

To avoid this scenario in the future, we should plan our logistical support and approve any funding requests beforehand. Future work, if scheduled appropriately, should be covered on a voluntary basis. It may also be best to train local federal agency biologists in New Mexico so that they can become autonomous. We may want to provide free attendance at our workshops for up to three USFWS biologists. Bruce subsequently provided the two policies, which appear in the two footers below<sup>12</sup>.

**7. Provide Funding for Lawsuit Against Failure to List Sonoran Desert Tortoise:** On 5/23/2025, Mari shared the following message: “We have been asked to sign a retainer agreement with the law firm who will be representing the Council, Tucson Herpetological Society, Western Watersheds Project, and WildEarth Guardians. The law firm is a non-profit who represents non-profits, so we won’t be paying legal fees. The total retainer for the four participants is \$2,000 and will be used for court filing fees and etc. The cost will be split between the four participants so the Council’s commitment is \$500,” which was previously authorized when we decided to join the lawsuit. At this time, we do not know if there will be any additional costs.

**E. Special Discussion Items:** None.

**F. Next Meeting Dates:** We considered meetings of Board of Directors on Zoom for the remainder of the year and January 2026 including the identified dates of 8/3/2025, 9/28/2025 (Ed cannot attend, so we will need a recording secretary), 11/15/2025, and 1/11/2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m. (PST).

## OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

**G. Treasurer’s Report:** In an electronic version of the Treasurer’s Report<sup>3</sup> and Statement of Activity<sup>4</sup>, Mari Quillman prepared the written reports since the treasurer’s position is still open. The Council’s has accounts at California Bank/Trust, US Bank, and Edward Jones. The bank statements as of 5/29/2025 were \$31,235.21 for the California Bank/Trust, \$44,153.97 for US Bank, \$363.089.87 for Edward Jones, for a total of \$438,479.05. The Board has hired an accounting firm who has completed the transition of the 2023 accounting from Excel to QuickBooks Online. The accounting prepared by Joe Probst very closely matched the accounting prepared by the accounting firm. We received an extension for filing the Council’s 2024 tax return so that must now be filed by November 15, 2025. **Mari Quillman has the 2024 notebook started by Joe Probst and will finish organizing the invoices, receipts, and other documents so the information can be provided to the accounting firm.** Following the completion of this task, the CPA will prepare the tax return and potentially do the audit of the 2024 books. After the 2024 tax return is completed, the accounting firm will begin a monthly accounting for 2025 to keep the Council’s books current. The IRS supervisor reviewed the Council’s case and determined the audit of the Board’s 2023 Form 990 was not worth pursuing. The supervisor notified the Council’s CPA and a letter from the IRS was received in the Council’s post office box. **Motion made (Becky Jones), seconded (Kristin Berry), and unanimously approved to accept the Treasurer’s Report as final.**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/gfa6e08k7g1xhlszqw4br/Policy\\_Board-Authorized-Expenditures\\_FINAL.pdf?rlkey=kl2q0chqgi06y7rz2pl439v6x&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/gfa6e08k7g1xhlszqw4br/Policy_Board-Authorized-Expenditures_FINAL.pdf?rlkey=kl2q0chqgi06y7rz2pl439v6x&dl=0)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/isceevni3ntbbaybwf8xf/Policy\\_Reimbursement-and-Reasonable-Cost-Policy\\_Revision-FINAL.pdf?rlkey=frvjgncsvt24mg8gubd82ho75&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/isceevni3ntbbaybwf8xf/Policy_Reimbursement-and-Reasonable-Cost-Policy_Revision-FINAL.pdf?rlkey=frvjgncsvt24mg8gubd82ho75&dl=0)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/yuk59sy87xclqger24o4s/DTC-Treasurers-Report-3-23-2025-1.docx?rlkey=tr4ewolbg53nqztkufa44qpsf&dl=0>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/y90imdvdmdmayww61ba25m/Desert-Tortoise-Council-Inc-Preliminary-Financials-Jan-through-April-2025.xlsx?rlkey=rex774naspo49isalf32jlq1h&dl=0>

The Financial Planning Committee will continue to work on the budget and needs to set up a meeting with the Edward Jones representative to talk through the Council's goals with the investment account so the representative can actively manage our account. The Committee consists of Ken MacDonald, Rick Applegate, Ray Butler (as necessary because of his history with the financials of the Council), Mari Quillman, and David Hedrick. Mari and David have been working on the income and expenditures associated with each committee, to which codes have been assigned, which should be referenced for future reimbursements. We are reimbursed for mileage rather than fuel costs for Council-related expenditures. The Council's financial representative at Edward Jones is Will Gonzalez and his phone number is (661) 269-0726. The accounting for the 2025 Symposium is not yet complete and the numbers probably won't be determined until after the 2024 tax return is submitted. Currently, the rainy-day fund is set at \$70,000 but we may want to increase it to \$100,000 to better reflect the current cost of the symposium (the benchmark used for the rainy-day fund).

**H. Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Becky Jones shared there was a letter from the IRS granting our tax return extension to 11/15/2025. We received several notices concerning upcoming projects and a donation on behalf of Vita Sheehy.

**I. Membership Committee's Report:** Chair position open. Mari Quillman provided a report<sup>5</sup> that shows, as of March 20, 2025, the DTC contact list contained 3,592 names (current and past members), which is 11 more contacts than in March of 2025. We currently have 333 active members. Membership renewals are just trickling in now and the membership numbers will likely be stable for a while unless we do some sort of membership drive. The membership committee members currently include Mari Quillman and Judy Hohman. Someone did express interest in the chair position of this committee, but there was no subsequent follow-up. **David Hedrick will send a QR code to Luke Basulto so that he can recruit members at today's event in New Mexico.**

**J. Nominating Committee's Report:** Ken MacDonald shared that he and Luke Basulto have produced a spreadsheet to document skills of potential Board members. They will then identify potential chairs and Board members and conduct interviews, possibly followed by invitations to attend future Board meetings.

**K. Ecosystems Advisory Committee's (EAC) Report:** In an electronic version of his report<sup>6</sup>, Ed LaRue reported that there were 15 projects and 2 workshops identified and 11 reviewed by the Board in the reporting period between 3/23/2025 and 6/1/2025, with no deadlines missed. Ed and Judy Hohman attended a Zoom call on 5/2/2025 with Caltrans, USFWS, Coachella Valley Association of Governments, etc. to discuss pending camera studies of existing culverts and the installation of new culverts under I-10 east of Palm Springs. On 5/14/2025, Ed joins a 1.5-hour webinar to provide research recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for tortoise conservation in a Sloan Canyon Science Strategy Workshop for the management area located southeast of Las Vegas. Ed and Judy attended a settlement hearing for the West Mojave Route Designation Project lawsuit on 4/17/2025, which seemed to be heading for a settlement, but the BLM subsequently determined it did not have staff or money to implement settlement measures. The next conference call with the Center for Biological Diversity is scheduled for 6/26/2025.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/bom680jooq7nglj59kwxt/DTC-Membership-Committee-Report-6-1-2025.docx?rlkey=aieec7c79342x15pqmw5o2nw4&dl=0>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/9tq4uuk4yob53erdn8fcb/EAC-report-DTC-Board-6\\_1\\_2025.docx?rlkey=b9qqwh75q6srrmdkrsknkaq5n&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/9tq4uuk4yob53erdn8fcb/EAC-report-DTC-Board-6_1_2025.docx?rlkey=b9qqwh75q6srrmdkrsknkaq5n&dl=0)

**L. Media Committee's Report:** Chair position open. David Hedrick's social media information is included in the Operations Manager report (see Item V).

**M. Strategic Planning Committee's Report:** Since there are a number of Board members who did not participate in the formulation of the latest strategic plan, Bruce Palmer asked if we need to revisit the plan. Several members supported having a new retreat, perhaps following the 2026 Symposium after we better understand impacts of the current administration. Such a retreat would require an outside facilitator. *Mari suggested that we form an *ad hoc* committee led by Bruce Palmer to discuss a retreat.* • *Ken MacDonald will talk to Heidi Brannon about her willingness to serve as a facilitator.*

**N. Grants and Academic Funding Committee's Report:** In a text to Mari Quillman, Michael Tuma said his committee is still working on the Southern California Edison grant, the request to partially fund the Niger project, and on a grant request to fund a children's book. There have been no applications for the Leeward Energy grant. *David Hedrick will work with Michael Tuma to repost the Leeward grant opportunity.* Judy Hohman and Michael Tuma discussed the possibility of increasing the Morafka Award from \$2,500 to \$3,000, which Sylvia Morafka thought was a good idea. This would require a \$250 increase by both the Council and Sylvia. *Judy Hohman will contact Michael Tuma to further discuss increasing the Morafka Award from \$2,500 to \$3,000.*

**O. Agency Coordinating Committee's Report:** The minutes from a meeting with Kristina Drake on 3/3/2025 are attached in the footer<sup>7</sup>. The main discussion was how the Council may help the USFWS to offset the impacts of the losses of federal employees by the current administration, which affects the function of this committee.

**P. Mexican Tortoise Conservation Committee's Report (MTCC):** Luke Basulto and Max Havelka are at an event in New Mexico this morning and could not report on this committee's function. They would like to form an *ad hoc* committee that focuses on the Bolson tortoise in New Mexico, which could become a standing committee later on. *Mari Quillman will talk with Max Havelka about forming a Bolson tortoise *ad hoc* committee.* Bruce expressed his concern that the Bylaws do not currently focus on Bolson tortoise as a conservation priority.

## **Q. Training Program Committee's Report:**

**1. Introductory Training Course Committee's Report:** In an electronic version of her report, Maggie Fusari reported that we are holding off on finalizing the lecture syllabus because a few of our lecturers either have been or might be affected by the current administration. We plan to open registration in early July but could postpone that if necessary. We are planning for the full course, lectures and a field day. The website has all of the basic information. The dates are October 24 and 25 for the virtual lectures and either November 2 or 3 for a field day in Ridgecrest. Note that the field days will be a Sunday and a Monday this year. Rates are unchanged. Audits of lectures will be encouraged. David Hedrick suggests we grant two free registrations for the course to tribal members along with lodging and travel costs. David also suggested we grant free registrations to Mexican researchers along with funds for lodging and travel. Maggie thinks that would be better for the Symposium because the Introductory Course is not directed for tortoises in Mexico and there are some awesome papers being done in Mexico that can be presented at the next Symposium. We could offer free audits to the course lectures to folks based in Mexico.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/shpu1dl116ywac9dgvru/Conference-call-between-USFWS-and-DTC.3-3-2025-1.docx?rlkey=2uyk3weiu9ckokzfl806estp4&dl=0>



Maggie Fusari will be contacting federal and recently displaced federal employees about their continued involvement in the Introductory Course. • Ed LaRue will help check attendees in and out, prepare and handout certificates as attendees leave, and assist with merchandise sales at the outdoor training, and David Hedrick will be onsite for managing attendance and collecting waivers, merchandise sales, and another Drink Beer, Save Tortoises event, which has already been confirmed.

**2. Advanced Training Courses Committee's Report:** Mary Lane Poe is coordinating with the remaining biologists at the Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO), but expressed her concern that affiliating with the DTRO poses problems that may require us to conduct independent workshop modules. We may need to plan independent training with regards to health assessments, fitting and removing radio transmitters, etc. Mary Lane Poe will instigate a committee meeting in the next month-or-so.

**R. Education and Outreach Committee's Report:** In her electronic report<sup>8</sup>, Maggie Fusari shared that she, Mari Quillman, Judy Hohman, Debra Hughton, and David Hedrick met online on 5/19/2025 to discuss the Council's mission according to the Bylaws, the relationship between this and other committees, outreach efforts, and the website. Maggie has developed a form that will help her document all events, and their associated costs will be captured on standardized reimbursement worksheets. Pertinent Board members should draft a short paragraph about each of their events and specific topics that can be posted in social media. Although Michael Tuma has committed to reviewing and updating the website, responsible parties, particularly various committee chairs, should be sure the website information is updated and easily located. Judy attended a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) school in Oxnard, where third grade students reported on various endangered species and the organizations that support them, including two presentations on desert tortoises that recommended supporting the Council. David Hedrick will be attending a Turtle Survival Alliance conference in the end of July with no lodging costs, as it is near his home.

**S. Annual Symposium Program Committee's Report:** Kristin Berry asked all Board members to help her identify presenters and topics for the 2026 Symposium. Debra Hughson will be assisting Kristin as her "personal assistant," helping develop and prepare the Symposium Program and revisit the instructions for submitting abstracts. Although there has been some criticism about allowing presentations via Zoom, most of us felt that the advantages of remote presentations outweigh the disadvantages.

**T. Fundraising Committee's Report:** In his electronic report, Ken MacDonald shared that in May he submitted a proposal to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to construct 2.7 miles of tortoise barrier fencing along freeway segments identified as highest priority (between Superior-Cronese and Ord-Rodman critical habitat units), which are designed to reduce desert tortoise highway mortality. The budget for this effort is \$308,416. We also need to consider how the fence would be maintained in perpetuity. David Hedrick reported there was a grant application for \$35,000 to the Park Foundation to produce training videos, and another grant to the James C. Stewart Charitable Foundation for \$10,000 for general support of the Council. A Drink Beer, Save Tortoises event is occurring now during the Board meeting in Albuquerque and later in Ridgecrest, CA during the Introductory workshop. Ken has enlisted a grant-writing group, Just Fund Me, which has committed to writing eight grant applications in 2026. To date, our largest grant has been \$30,000.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/8txk21wxm1ub6trlbs1gn/Education-and-OutreachJune-1-2025.docx?rlkey=gk4vkymxz1s3bh44gpw97fzah&dl=0>

**U. Awards Committee's Reports:** Kristin Berry shared that we should have included Ileene Anderson in the recent award to the Center for Biological Diversity, which she will discuss with Bruce and Ed, as the other committee members.

**V. Operations Manager's Report:** David Hedrick reported that the Symposium will be meeting 2/24-27/2026 at Palace Station and that he would like volunteer workers to be there the evening of 2/23/2026. There was some discussion of reconfiguring parts of the Symposium to address issues we faced in 2025. On social media, we began celebrating "Turtle Month" on Earth Day April 22nd. David posted lots of engaging content and campaign solicitations through World Turtle Day on May 23rd. Facebook posts had 38,000 views and 1,900 content interactions during this time. David thanked Mari Quillman, Mary Lane Poe, Max Havelka, and Verity Richardson for their help bringing nearly 200 followers to the page in May. Instagram had 20,000 views, 2,400 content interactions, and 68 new followers. David sent a total of three eblasts to our contacts/members during Turtle Month. Each email had an average open rate of 45% and a click through rate of 6%, which are big numbers for email communications. **David Hedrick will prepare an eblast announcing Vita Sheehy's passing.**

**W. Master Calendar:** Judy Hohman continues to update the calendar, which is attached in the footer<sup>9</sup>. The calendar has been updated for 2026 but not for 2027, particularly for the Symposium. David Hedrick will look at venues along the Colorado River between Lake Havasu and Laughlin. There are three upcoming turtle- and tortoise-related meetings that have been posted on the calendar. Miscellaneous other planning exercises are also posted (see footer below).

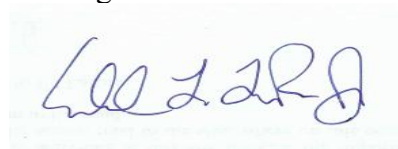
**X. Tracking Tortoises at the Large-Scale Translocation Site (LSTS):** Pete Woodman shared that he continues to track tortoises at the LSTS in southern Nevada. In June 2017, the Council began tracking 23 tortoises, to be able to access tortoises for research and workshop purposes. Transmittered tortoises have been used at least once for PhD-level research. Pete is currently tracking seven tortoises, having lost about 10 animals to badgers and coyotes over the last few years. We may want to consider adding Mary Lane Poe and Max Havelka to handling permit to facilitate future training programs. Pete has been looking for new tortoises with limited success. He has been reimbursed for radios but not for mileage or his time. Corey Mitchell is our current USFWS contact. Finding tortoises during the Symposium may serve as a good field trip in 2026.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Y. Personnel Review for July 2025:** David Hedrick's personnel review will be handled in July.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson, Mari Quillman, at 13:52 (PDT).

These final minutes were recorded and respectfully submitted for approval to all Board members on 1/6/2025 by Ed LaRue, Recording Secretary and approved as final during the subsequent Board meeting on 8/3/2025.



Edward L. LaRue, Jr.  
Desert Tortoise Council, Recording Secretary

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/d7alo50j8an6wnfmmmpwh/CALENDAR-2025-6-1-mtg-What-we-should-have-been-doing-need-to-do.docx?rlkey=8yczy8hi77htuvvaybvseb6s&dl=0>

## Ecosystems Advisory Committee Report DTC Board Meeting of 1 June 2025

Note: The table attached to this report on the last page follows the **bold red** numbered outline given below.

### **1. Grace Solar Facility (Riverside Co, CA)**

On **2/7/2024**, we receive a notice from the BLM inviting us to attend a Zoom meeting on **3/7/2025**. Since no date for comments was published, Ed sent an email to BLM on **2/15/2025** asking when the comments deadline is. We receive a response from the BLM on **2/19/2025** that no deadline for comments has yet been identified. See email on **3/7/2025** from the BLM for power point. Judy finds that it may be summer 2025 before the NEPA document is released.

<file:///D:/Downloads/Grace%20Solar%20Project%20Preliminary%20Letter.pdf>

### **2. Rogers Mine Placer Operation (Maricopa Co, AZ)**

On **3/16/2025**, Judy discovers an EA for this project on a BLM AZ website with a due date of **3/30/2025**. The draft letter is circulated on **3/28/2025** and submitted to the BLM on **3/30/2025** with seven endorsements.

### **3. Draft 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan (CA)**

On **3/6/2025**, Jeff Aardahl of Defenders of Wildlife sends a notice for this project. Ed asks Aardahl to allow us to coauthor this letter that is due on **3/31/2025**. The letter is circulated to the Board on **3/26/2025** with a request that comments and endorsements/recusals be provided by **3/30/2025**. The letter is submitted by Aardahl on **3/31/2025** with seven endorsements.

### **4. Sapphire Linear Facility Routes Project—Final Environmental Assessment (Riverside Co., CA)**

~~On **3/14/2025**, we receive a notice from the BLM making the final EA available. Since no due date was identified, Ed asks the BLM on **3/21/2025** for a due date. BLM's response on **3/22/2025** is that the Record of Decision has been issued and only a protest period is now available.~~

### **5. Sign on: FWS and NMFS funding for FY26 (National)**

On **3/21/2025**, the Center for Biological asks the Council to cosign two letters concerning funding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, with a due date of **4/4/2025**. With only four endorsements, Ed signed both letters on behalf of the Council on **3/31/2025**.

### **6. State Mining and Geology Board Proposal (CA)**

On **3/6/2025**, Lisa Belenky of Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) provided a draft letter while Ed was in Alaska, followed by nine days in the field. Judy provided comments on **3/9/2025**. On **3/24/2025**, Belenky submitted the letter to the State Mining and Geology Board before Ed could review it and before it was circulated to the Board, so the process was not followed. The “indiscretion” is not particularly onerous, as the Board did endorse a similar letter on the same issue with CBD on **10/16/2024**.

### **7. Carey to Pabco transmission line rebuild (Clark Co, NV)**

On **4/15/2025**, we receive a notice from the BLM soliciting scoping comments, with a public meeting on **4/22/2025** and comments due by **5/8/2025**. Ed attends a BLM webinar on **4/22/2025**. The letter is submitted to the BLM on **5/7/2025** with seven endorsements and one recusal.

### **8. Rehabilitation of South Kelbaker and Kelso-Cima Road (San Bernardino Co, CA)**

On **4/15/2025**, we receive a notice from the NPS soliciting comments on the draft environmental assessment, with comments due by **5/8/2025**. The draft letter is distributed on **5/4/2025** and submitted on **5/7/2025** with nine endorsements and one recusal.



**9. Rescinding the Definition of “Harm” Under the Endangered Species Act (National)**

On **4/18/2025**, after several third parties alerted us to the issue, Judy found a link to the Proposed Rule that she provided on **4/18/2025**, with a deadline for comments due on **5/19/2025**. The draft letter is circulated on **5/14/2025** and submitted on **5/17/2025** with 11 endorsements.

**10. ADOT’s Tentative Five-Year Construction Program (AZ)**

On **4/11/2025**, we receive an announcement from Arizona Department of Transportation soliciting comments on the five-year construction plan, with a due date of **5/23/2025**. The draft letter is circulated to the Board on **4/20/2025** and is submitted to ADOT on **4/23/2025** with nine endorsements.

**11. Muddy River Floodplain Restoration Draft EA (Clark Co, NV)**

On **4/28/2025**, we receive a notice from the BLM that comments are due by **5/28/2025**. The draft letter is circulated to the Board on **5/15/2025**, and submitted to the BLM on **5/23/2025** with 12 endorsements.

**12. Oppose H.J. Res. 60/S.J.Res.30, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; Motorized Vehicles (Utah)**

On **5/6/2025**, we receive a letter from the Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) opposing a proposed bill, which in doing so, is intended to protect Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. There was no opportunity to support this letter or not, but as a member of the Coalition, the Council appears in an appendix as supporting the letter. Despite this and many letters opposing this bill, Congress passed the bill on **5/22/2025**.

**13. Draft Onyx Ranch SVRA Soil Conservation Plan (Kern Co, CA)**

On **5/8/2025**, we receive a notice from Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division California State Parks with a due date for comments on **6/12/2025**.

[https://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=31610](https://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=31610)

**14. California City – Habitat Management Plan and Monitoring for OHV Grant Program (Kern Co, CA)**

On **5/14/2025**, Jeff Aardahl with Defenders of Wildlife (DOW) provides a draft letter to Ed and Judy for their comments before distributing the letter to the other Board members, asking that we provide comments by **5/22/2025**. Ed and Judy provide feedback on **5/15/2025**, and the final draft letter is distributed to the Board and DTPC on **5/16/2025**. With seven endorsements from the Council, this endorsement information is sent to Jeff on **5/22/2025** for DOW’s final review and submittal of the letter to the California Off-highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division of California State Parks in June. The final letter is submitted on our behalf by Aardahl on **5/28/2025** with eight endorsements.

**15. Southern Nevada Supplemental Airport (Clark County, NV)**

On **5/19/2025** we learned from a third party of the Federal Aviation Administration and BLM’s (as joint lead agencies) publication of a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS and RMP amendment for the Proposed Southern Nevada Supplemental Airport (SNSA). Publication of the NOI initiated the public scoping process with comments due on **9/5/2025**.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/19/2025-08124/proposed-southern-nevada-supplemental-airport-clark-county-nevada-cancellation-of-suspended>  
<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2037961/510>

**16. Ofland Glamping Hotel 29 Palms (29 Palms, CA)**

On **5/28/2025**, we learned from a third party that the City of Twentynine Palms had prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration with a 20-day public comment period. Comments are due by **6/2/2025**. The draft letter is distributed to the Board and independent reviewers on **5/29/2025**. With nine endorsements, the letter was submitted on **6/1/2025**.

<https://www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us/index.asp?SEC=3D226431-DAD6-4B84-883C-B324D70AFADE&DE=E99434AC-9930-4FBC-AD54-FF801D8169AD>

**17. CESA Recovery Planning Guidelines (CA)**

On **5/28/2025**, we receive a notice directly from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regarding this project, which has a due date of **7/31/2025**.

<https://mail.aol.com/d/folders/1/messages/AEV5nSgK41ZdaDeKDwtC0J0fSZk>

**18. Caltrans Culvert Working Group**

On **5/2/2025**, Ed and Judy join Caltrans, Coachella Valley Association of Governments, Coachella Valley Conservation Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.C. Boyd Deep Canyon Reserve, U.S. Geological Survey, Road Ecology Center at Davis, California Department of Fish and Game, etc. to discuss culvert design and a biological study using motion cameras to determine use.

Although not assigned a number, on 5/14/2025 responding to an invitation from the BLM, Ed attends a 1.5-hour webinar to help identify research priorities for a conservation area at Sloan Canyon, near Henderson, NV. This was a great opportunity to recommend surveys, address off-highway vehicle impacts, recommend approaches to raven management, etc. BLM appeared to be very receptive to these and other comments provided by those in attendance.

**13. Draft Onyx Ranch SVRA Soil Conservation Plan – due 6/12** – Judy will work on this

**17. CESA Recovery Planning Guidelines – 7/31** – No one identified

**15. Southern Nevada Supplemental Airport (Clark County, NV) – due 9/5** – No one identified

**Ecosystems Advisory Committee**  
**Summary Table from 3/23/2025 to 6/1/2025**  
**Current date for this latest table revision is: 6/1/2025**

Dates are for 2025						Board Member Responses														
						Codes: <b>Y</b> = Vote of Yes; <b>N</b> = Vote of No; <b>PI</b> = Provided input; <b>Blank</b> = No Response; <b>R</b> = Recused; <b>A</b> = Authors/Lead Board member; <b>NA</b> – Replied they were not able to respond by indicated date														
#	Title	Rec'd	Dist	Due	Sent	BJ	BP	DH	EL	JH	LB	KB	KM	MF	MH	MP	MQ	MT	PW	RA
1	Grace Solar	2/7		N/A																
2	Rogers Mine	3/16	3/28	3/30	3/20	Y 3/27				A 3/28			Y 3/28			Y 3/31		Y 3/28	Y/PI 3/29	Y 3/31
3	State Wildlife	3/6	3/26	3/31	3/31	Y 3/27			A/PI 3/24	Y/PI 3/26		Y 3/28		Y 3/27		Y 3/31			Y 3/27	
4	Sapphire	3/14	N/A	N/A	N/A															
5	FWS funding	3/21	3/21	4/4	3/31	Y 3/23			Y 3/21	Y 3/24				Y/PI 3/22		Y 3/31				
6	SMGB	3/6	N/A	3/24	3/24					Y/PI 3/9										
7	Carey to Pabco	4/15	5/5	5/8	5/7	Y 5/6			A 5/5	Y/PI 5/5			R 5/5	Y 5/5		Y 5/6			Y 5/7	Y 5/7
8	NPS Roads	4/15	5/4	5/8	5/7	Y 5/7		R 5/7	Y/PI 5/5	A 5/4			Y 5/7	Y/PI 5/5		Y 5/6	Y 5/7	Y 5/7	Y 5/7	Y 5/8
9	FESA Harm removal	4/18	5/14	5/19	5/17	Y 5/15	Y/PI 5/15	Y/PI 5/15	A 5/14	A 5/14			Y 5/14	Y 5/14			Y 5/15	Y 5/14	Y 5/14	Y 5/14
10	ADOT planning	4/11	4/20	5/23	4/23	Y 4/22		Y/PI 4/21		A 4/20			Y 4/20	Y 4/20		Y 4/20		Y 4/20	Y 4/21	Y 4/20
11	Muddy River	4/28	5/15	5/28	5/23	Y 5/17		Y 5/16	A 5/15	Y/PI 5/16	Y 5/20		Y 5/20	Y 5/16		Y 5/21	Y/PI 5/21	Y 5/21	Y 5/19	Y 5/17
12	Protect Glen Cyn. NRA	5/6	5/6	NA	5/6	There is no vote on the UWC action, which lists DTC as a supporting member														
13	Onyx Ranch SVR	5/8		6/12																
14	Cal City HMP	5/14	5/16	5/22	5/28	Y 5/18		Y 5/17	Y/PI 5/15	Y/PI 5/15				Y 5/16		Y 5/17	Y 5/21	Y 5/21		
15	Nevada Airport	5/19		9/5																
16	Ofland Hotel	5/26	5/29	6/2	6/1	Y 6/1		Y 5/31	Y/PI 5/30	A 5/29				Y 5/30		Y 6/1		Y 5/31	Y 5/31	Y 5/30
17	CESA Planning	5/28		7/31																
18	Caltrans culvert study	Meeting on 5/2				FYI, Judy and Ed attend this working group meeting, so not written comments submitted														

**BJ** = Becky Jones, **BP** = Bruce Palmer, **DH** = Debra Hughson, **EL** = Ed LaRue, **JH** = Judy Hohman, **KB** = Kristin Berry, **KM** = Ken MacDonald, **LB** = Luke Basulto, **MH** = Max Havelka, **MF** = Maggie Fusari, **MP** = Mary Lane Poe, **MQ** = Mari Quillman, **MT** = Michael Tuma, **PW** = Pete Woodman, **RA** = Rick Applegate