

Final Final Final

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

11 January 2026  
Zoom Online Meeting

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Mari Quillman at 10:02 a.m. (PST). **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, Mari Quillman, Bruce Palmer, Becky Jones, Ed LaRue, Max Havelka, Michael Tuma, Mary Lane Poe, Debra Hughson, and Operations Manager: David Hedrick. **Absent:** Maggie Fusari, Luke Basulto, Rick Applegate. **Guests:** Andrea Currylow, Kristina Drake, Darlene Stewart.

**A. Welcome/Announcements/Introductions:** There is an executive session at the end of the meeting to consider Andrea Currylow as a prospective Board Member At Large. Her letter of interest is in the footnote below<sup>1</sup>.

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

**C. Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2025:** Judy Hohman prepared draft minutes of the most recent virtual Board meeting, which were reviewed by Ed LaRue, distributed, and approved today as final. **Motion made (Ken MacDonald), seconded (Debra Hughson), and unanimously approved to accept the draft minutes to be final.** Ed thanked Judy for preparing minutes at the last two Board meetings as he had other commitments.

**D. Review of Board Actions since Last Board Meeting:** There were no Board actions between 11/15/2025 and 1/11/2026.

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

**F. Next Meeting Dates:** The Annual Business Meeting will be in Las Vegas, NV. 8:00 a.m. (PST), on 2/25/2026 in conjunction with the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Symposium. We then determine dates for 2026 Board meetings, as follow: 3/22/2026, 5/31/2026, 7/26/2026, 9/27/2026, 11/8/2026, and 1/10/2027.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/r155du7uxl7iju3wowmce/DTC-Board-Letter-of-Interest\\_Currylow\\_20251122.docx?rlkey=1kyfhxtq70odyjaswlnv6ryc6&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/r155du7uxl7iju3wowmce/DTC-Board-Letter-of-Interest_Currylow_20251122.docx?rlkey=1kyfhxtq70odyjaswlnv6ryc6&dl=0)

## OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

**G. Operations Manager's Report:** In his electronic report<sup>2</sup>, David Hedrick shared that merchandise sales numbers at the workshop and the taproom were \$1,878 in 2021, \$1,783 in 2022, \$2,799 in 2023, \$3,303 in 2024, and \$5,972 in 2025. His report outlines extensive outreach efforts through social media on numerous fronts, particularly around the holidays. Symposium planning sessions are now weekly and numerous actions are listed as regard the Symposium. So far, there are 114 people registered for the Symposium and two guests. This compares to about 125 registrants at this time last year. David is anticipating 230 to 250 attendees. Current sponsorships are at \$26,350. David continues to help Mary Lane Poe with the advanced training workshops. Last year, Nevada did not grant the Council nonprofit status, so our sales were not tax exempt, and David is overseeing tax issues again this year. Social media activity in 2025 included more than 1,000 posts on 5 platforms followed by more than 10,000 accounts. This included soliciting raffle and cash donations on Instagram. Year-end donations were about \$1,150. David continues to send acknowledgement letters to donors. Social media activity included 4,700+ followers on Facebook, 2,900+ on Instagram, 1,200+ on LinkedIn, 700+ on Threads, and 500+ on Twitter (currently inactive). He also opened a Blue Sky account in November 2025, which currently has fewer than 100 followers. David then screen-shared current Symposium sponsors, allowing us to recommend entities not currently on the list to be contacted.

**H. Treasurer's Report:** Mari Quillman provided spreadsheets for finances through 10/31/2025<sup>3</sup> and 11/30/2025<sup>4</sup>, the latter of which indicates that the Council's current total assets are \$467,652.69. The December financial statement is not yet available. **Motion made (Ed LaRue), seconded (Ken MacDonald), and unanimously approved to accept these spreadsheets as the final Treasurer's Report.** Mari also provided a 2026 budget spreadsheet, which shows an estimated budgeted income of \$627,200.00 and estimated budgeted expenses of \$350,075.00. The largest budgeted income line item is \$345,000.00, which includes a \$308,416 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant described below in Section X, of which 10% remains with the Council. **Mary Lane Poe will provide Mari with a budget including expenses and income for the advance training workshop.** • **Ken MacDonald will provide Mari with anticipated costs and income for future fundraising and grants.** • **The salmon-colored spaces in the budget spreadsheet indicate missing information that pertinent Board members need to provide.** • **After receiving budget information from Michael Tuma and Ken MacDonald, Mari Quillman will distribute the draft budget for Board approval.** • **Mari Quillman will schedule a CPA meeting to discuss her presentation of financial information at the Symposium.**

**I. Financial Planning Committee Report:** In an electronic report that covers three committees<sup>5</sup>, Ken MacDonald reported that the committee focused on reviewing the Council's budget, long-term financial needs, and investment strategy to ensure alignment with the Council's goals and fiduciary responsibilities. Committee members met with the Council's investment advisor from Edward Jones to review the investment portfolio and confirm that funds are being actively managed using a conservative, diversified approach consistent with the Council's risk tolerance and anticipated operational needs. Discussions emphasized capital preservation, prudent growth, liquidity, and ongoing investment oversight. The committee also reviewed portfolio performance and management practices to ensure the Council's financial resources are managed responsibly and in the best interest of the organization.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/kwlmzy2aplz82xbkx4md2/Operations-Manager-Report-Jan-2026.docx?rlkey=rup0j067uau1kvmarodkzjyh&dl=0>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/19qz2xbbjoot7jtt1dcp3/Desert-Tortoise-Council-Inc-Financials-October-2025.xlsx?rlkey=1q5wn8lfdndh6pms1130dbg3q&dl=0>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/fgd2fhdok5r2390usdnje/Desert-Tortoise-Council-Inc-Financials-November-2025.xlsx?rlkey=s8k982y9i5srqisdxdake6tsv&dl=0>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ww8kei9st9t16ygbvtbyg/Kens-DTC-Committee-Reports.docx?rlkey=cjnlvzqnmw04avasab1d29oqq&dl=0>

**J. Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Becky Jones provided an electronic report<sup>6</sup>, which lists six hardcopy mail items she received since the last Board meeting. The Internal Revenue Service sent a letter acknowledging that our registered address is now the post office box rather than Becky's physical address. There was a \$100 grant from the Jewish Communal Fund.

**K. Membership Committee's Report:** In the absence of a committee chair, Mari provided an electronic report<sup>7</sup>, which among other things documents a total of 1,154 present and past members in the data base, 426 of which are active, 13 new members within the last 30 days, and 12 new members in the last seven days, as a result of people registering for the Symposium. The online and hardcopy membership applications were revised to eliminate the questions about gender, age, and ethnic identity. The membership webpage was reviewed to determine if the information was accurate or needed revisions. **Mari Quillman will send revisions to Sky and David so the webpage can be updated.**

**L. Nominating Committee's Report:** The Nominating Committee is focused on identifying and recruiting prospective Board members with skills that support the Council's long-term needs, including finance, social media, and organizational leadership. Efforts included organizing information for individuals who expressed interest in Board or committee service, particularly following the 2025 Symposium. Positions up for election or re-election include Membership Coordinator (vacant), Treasurer (vacant), Corresponding Secretary (Becky Jones is willing to serve), and Council Chairperson (Mari Quillman is willing to serve), which will be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting at the Symposium and three Board Member At Large positions to be considered in today's executive session: Mary Lane Poe, Max Havelka, and Luke Basulto. Ken, Max, and Luke developed a spreadsheet of people who expressed an interest at the 2025 Symposium in serving on the Board or committees. **Ken MacDonald and Mary Lane Poe will seek out candidate Board and committee members at the 2026 Symposium to see if they are still interested in serving.** Any active Council member may stand for an officer position at the Annual Business Meeting, which may also be filled by current Board Members At Large. **David Hedrick will post an announcement that officer positions with descriptions are available to Council members.** The Bylaws state that committee chairs are responsible for finding committee members.

**M. Ecosystems Advisory Committee's (EAC) Report:** In an electronic version of his report<sup>8</sup>, Ed LaRue reported that there were seven projects identified, five reviewed by the Board with comments submitted, and two pending submission in the reporting period between 11/15/2025 and 1/11/2026. Thanks to Judy for authoring three of the reports, coauthoring a fourth, and providing substantial input on the fifth project. Both the Soda Mountains Solar Project and Northern Corridor highway through Red Cliffs National Conservation Area have been resurrected, and are being addressed by Ed and Judy. Alden Lovaas and Taylor Dee have been invaluable as independent reviewers, and Claudina Evans who attended the Introductory Course in November 2025, joined as an independent reviewer and reviewed the Sloan Canyon letter distributed on 12/26/2025.

**N. Media Committee's Report:** In the absence of a committee chair, David's operations manager's report provides information about social media. Michael Tuma recommended we keep a data base of desert tortoise facts that can be used on social posts, and we expect to rely on such blurbs and blogs in lieu of developing a newsletter. Blogs from miscellaneous Council members is a good idea for disseminating interesting information. **Max Havelka is interested in exploring social media opportunities and perhaps developing a YouTube channel and will work with David Hedrick on this.** The Council has a contract with Sky Esser, who managed the website. **David Hedrick will contact Sky Esser about providing a 1099 form for his work with the Council in 2025.**

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/54m5np810xykpyelev0cy/Correspondig-Secratary-Report-1-8-26.docx?rlkey=vsrw5baduhffa9ztk1d1gphz9&dl=0>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/177zp6sdj30klooi50v82/DTC-Membership-Committee-Report-1-11-2025-1.docx?rlkey=wx81763em8r0t75q9aj85dye5&dl=0>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/m3x21p31azkvjdvuk2abz/EAC-report-DTC-Board-1\\_11\\_2026.docx?rlkey=lqukuv7q1e5t32isc7mi2t3vu&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/m3x21p31azkvjdvuk2abz/EAC-report-DTC-Board-1_11_2026.docx?rlkey=lqukuv7q1e5t32isc7mi2t3vu&dl=0)

**O. Strategic Planning Committee’s Report:** Bruce Palmer reported that any Strategic Plan activity will occur later in the year, after the Symposium. The committee is comprised of Bruce, Ken MacDonald, and Rick Applegate.

**P. Bylaws Revisions:** Bruce led the discussion on proposed Bylaws revisions<sup>9</sup>, which are focused on managing our finances as they are addressed in Article IV, Section 6 for the Treasurer, Article VI, Section 4 for the Fiscal Planning and Financial Review Committee, which replaces the Audit Committee, and Article VIII, Sections 1 through 4 and 6 concerning finances. Specific recommendations were discussed and the Bylaws were further amended as needed. Given our income levels, the Council has not needed to perform a formal audit to date. The CPA recently indicated that a two million dollar annual income (e.g., gross receipts) triggers a formal audit in California, which would require a professional auditor. Although we have been informally referring to our financial review as an “audit” for many years, it is not technically an audit as required by the State. **Bruce Palmer will soon distribute the revised Bylaws for approval by the Board, to be posted on the website, and voted on at the Annual Business Meeting.**

**Q. Document Retention and Destruction Policy:** The DTPC provided its standards for materials that should be retained, discarded, and for how long various documents are retained<sup>10</sup>. **Judy Hohman asked that each committee chair consider the tabulated information and provide their recommendations for what is to be retained and discarded to be discussed at the May Board meeting. • Judy Hohman will provide Bruce Palmer with wording to be included in the Bylaws to reference a document retention and destruction policy.** We will need to determine which documents are put onto the cloud and how they are to be added.

**R. Grants and Academic Funding Committee’s Report:** In his electronic report<sup>11</sup>, Michael Tuma indicated there were three applications for the 2026 Morafka Award. An interim evaluations committee was established comprised of Sylvia Morafka, Bob Murphy, Brian Henen, and Isabelle Gerard (Ken Nagy’s student) to judge the three applications. Michael has corresponded with Regular Grants recipient Ibrahim Mamoudou in Niger concerning his report on *Centrochelys sulcata*, which needs additional review. Michael submitted an application to Edison International for the 2026 funding cycle and was subsequently awarded \$15,000. **Michael Tuma will develop a request for proposal for the Edison International grant to be available for the Symposium.** The Council received a recent grant request to look at long-term studies of Sonoran desert tortoises, which is currently being evaluated and to be completed before the Symposium. In January, 2025, the Council provided a Glenn R. Stewart Student Travel Award (\$1,000) for one student to attend and present a paper at the 2025 Symposium. There were no applications for the 2025 Morafka Award. The award was increased to \$3,000 on August 3, 2025. The Allison Memorial Research Award was awarded to Griffin Pugh. Two applications were received for the 2026 Edison International Grant. Funding (\$14,000) was awarded to the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee (DTPC) for restoration work on the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area. In 2025, there were three requests received for the Regular Grants Program, two of which were awarded. These included an award on March 23, 2025 for partial funding (\$2,500) of a grant request by Ibrahim Mamoudou for research in Niger on *Centrochelys sulcata*. The second one was a \$14,422.70 grant awarded on September 28, 2025 to Sundance Biology for a Sonoran desert tortoise monitoring effort on Tiburon Island, Sonora in Comcaac Territory. **Michael Tuma will add several best student paper awards issued in 2025 to his annual report.**

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ea5zt4j9d9u6wap0rhd3b/DTC-Bylaws-2025-with-2026-revisions-FINANCES.docx?rlkey=p0a74q2pge6d6pwjk4ryvjnd1&dl=0>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/addxa6yipdqat5auc37y4/DRAFT-DTC-Records-Retention-Policy-2025-12-5.docx?rlkey=9pae4spyy8xc4ms8pgq048skd&dl=0>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/7rcnlergdwlge0lqehsq4/Grants-Academic-Funding-Annual-2026.pdf?rlkey=fw8bgsx1hjomhmulv8y3pk6ng&dl=0>

**S. Agency Coordinating Committee’s Report:** There was no formal report on this committee.

**T. Mexican Tortoise Conservation Committee’s Report (MTCC):** There was no committee report from Luke Basulto. **Pete Woodman will ask Mercy Vaughn for information for some of her biological contacts to see if they can invigorate this committee.** Max Havelka provided an Ad Hoc Bolson Tortoise Committee Report<sup>12</sup> in which he summarized the actions at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Translocation Site in 2024 and 2025 and for past, ongoing, and future work with Bolson tortoises at the Turner Ranches.

**U. Training Program Committee’s Report:**

**1. Introductory Training Course Committee’s Report:** In her electronic report<sup>13</sup>, Maggie Fusari reported that the virtual lecture will be 10/23-24/2026 and either 11/1 or 11/2/2026 for a field day in Ridgecrest, CA. **Maggie Fusari will contact Sky Esser so our website can be updated with regards to dates of the Introductory Course and Workshop prior to the 2026 annual Symposium.** The introductory course has always been a source of income since 1990. We netted \$54,800 in 2025 and this is consistent with previous years. We had 200 registered students with about 80 people on the waiting list. She does not believe that the fees should be higher than given in the following table because the primary purpose of the course is to educate potential field workers appropriately as to the biology, ecology and conservation of the tortoise and its desert habitats. She and David Hedrick suggest the following rates, which need to be approved by the Board.

Category	2025	2026
Early regular	\$300	\$400
Early student	\$200	\$250
Late regular	\$400	\$500
Late regular student	\$250	\$300
Audit	\$25	\$25

**Ed LaRue made the motion, seconded by Michael Tuma, and unanimously approved to adopt the fee schedule listed above for the 2026 Introductory Course.**

**2. Advanced Training Courses Committee’s Report:** In her electronic report<sup>14</sup>, Mary Lane Poe shared that although the Health Assessment Training (HAT) had been scheduled for 8/22-25/2026, in November 2025 the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZFGD) revoked the location. There was a committee meeting on 12/18/2025 where participants agreed to look for another venue, to identify virtual modules (e.g., transmitting tortoises) and handling workshops, discuss alternative HAT formats, and perhaps use Bolson tortoises in New Mexico as a surrogate species. A committee meeting is scheduled for 1/13/2026 including biologists from New Mexico.

**V. Education and Outreach Committee’s Report:** In her electronic report<sup>15</sup>, Maggie Fusari recommended that this committee select a new committee chair, someone more in touch with what

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/w7uqyyw3kxa8xw79xtf3m/Ad-hoc-Bolson-Tortoise-Committee-Report-for-DTC-Board-Meeting-January-11-2026.docx?rlkey=n122pvk00vg4ffxcsw36qhf8&dl=0>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/39sfkc3eq1yjl39i0mos/Intro-Course-report-Jan-11-2026.docx?rlkey=ktunflvadlk536pwm29u33ibn&dl=0>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/i9n8n7y0a5yujyrew6jpt/DTC-Training-Committee-Advanced-Training-January-15-2026.docx?rlkey=13msah89as77dndsmvli0s3np&dl=0>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/wjuskbaxa8s3m34ol65vx/Education-and-Outreach-Jan-11-2026.docx?rlkey=fkg8u5ro3bvibespig06ffdp4&dl=0>

is currently going on with desert tortoises. She referenced the 11/15/2025 committee report<sup>16</sup> for details about the role of this committee and its future needs. Ed will be attending The Wildlife Society Western Section meeting in Monterey, CA in early February where he will be selling merchandise. The 2026 Turtle Survival Alliance annual meeting will be in Guadalajara, Mexico.

**W. Annual Symposium Program Committee's Report:** In her electronic report, which addresses the Symposium and awards, Kristin Berry reported that she and Debra Hughson have acquired all but two speaker abstracts and are now producing the abstract booklet to complement the Program. There are 42 presentations, including three student papers, and several posters in the Program. We will start at 08:00 am each morning and finish by 12:30 pm on Friday, with fewer breaks than we normally have. A very rough draft of the Program has been prepared, Debra prepared an announcement for distribution by David Hedrick, and Glenn Stewart's celebration of life segment is coming along well. The field trip is on the website and Pete Woodman reported that a dozen people have already registered. **Maggie Fusari will provide the vendor list to Kristin Berry so it can be included in the Program,** which Kristin wants to post by 1/24/2026.

**X. Fundraising Committee's Report:** Ken MacDonald's report is included in the fourth footer on page 2, in which he shared that the Council received several donations honoring Joe Probst, reflecting continued respect for Joe's legacy and meaningful support for the Council's mission by members and partners. The Council contracted with Just Write Grants to identify and prepare eight grant proposals intended to benefit desert tortoise conservation, which resulted in a return of more than 2,000 percent, generating over \$300,000 in grant funding in 2025. **Motion made by Ken MacDonald, seconded by Bruce Palmer, and unanimously approved to pay Just Write Grants \$22,000 to write 16 grants in 2026.** We received the single largest grant award in the Council's history when the NFWF approved \$308,416 grant to "Improve Mojave Desert Tortoise Road Crossings with Exclusion Fencing (CA)." This award represents a significant milestone for the Council and demonstrates strong confidence in our conservation programs. We sponsored several Drink Beer – Save Tortoises events during 2025 to raise community awareness and support fundraising efforts, which generated \$5,972.

**Y. Awards Committee's Reports:** Kristin Berry shared that the Awards Committee has agreed on the 2026 awardees, and a plaque has been ordered for the Annual Award. The next steps include preparing certificates for recipients and the accompanying letters. We will not discuss recipients of the awards today, because we all appreciate special surprises.

**Z. Master Calendar:** Judy continues to produce the calendar that identifies actions that are to be completed by certain dates throughout the year. She recently distributed both the full calendar and the one that shows actions to be completed by mid-January<sup>17</sup>.

**AA. Long-term Translocation Site (LSTS):** Pete Woodman continues to monitor tortoises at the LSTS<sup>18</sup>. There are only three translocated tortoises, most of them having been lost to coyote depredation. Pete performs his surveys in April of each year. This may make a great auction item for someone to accompany Pete on his surveys. It could also be an exercise that students pay for to learn how to translocate tortoises.

## NEW BUSINESS

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/y8028xnoejwqhp7su296i/Education-and-Outreach-Nov-15-2025-2.docx?rlkey=tmfteyigbsimco4fzzjqggbkj&dl=0>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/jzsci0brja5e2nrkmydix/Calendar-for-January-11-Board-Meeting.docx?rlkey=8ywnstei4q6qo0qv0ev0q32ly&dl=0>

<sup>18</sup> [https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/2sywpgjtk3l39d4jllcze/LSTSMaster\\_TransmittedTortoisesDTC\\_2025.xlsx?rlkey=l2r5994zbu3p4jb6wlzykr403&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/2sywpgjtk3l39d4jllcze/LSTSMaster_TransmittedTortoisesDTC_2025.xlsx?rlkey=l2r5994zbu3p4jb6wlzykr403&dl=0)

**BB. Website – Job Postings for Voluntary Survey Opportunities:** Topic not discussed

**CC. Personnel Review for David Hedrick:** This will occur later in the year after the Symposium.

**DD. Development of an Employee Manual:** Topic not discussed

**EE. Position Handbook and Committee Handbook:** Topic not discussed

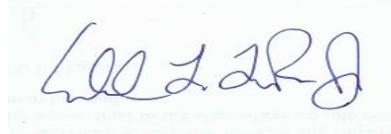
**FF. Executive Session:** At this time, the Board entered an executive session to consider Andrea Currylow as a new Board Member At Large (Kristina Drake and Darlene Stewart left at this time). Based on what she heard today, Andrea expressed an interest in helping with Excel spreadsheets and Quick Books in support of financial functions, providing science-based information in support of EAC letters, helping Mari and David in organizing files, helping Michael assess grants applications, supporting the HAT workshop, and involving Stanford biologists in Council activities. **Motion made by Debra Hughson, seconded by Ken MacDonald, and unanimously approved to elect Andrea Currylow as a Board Member At Large.**

The second part of the session was to discuss re-elections of current Board Members At Large, including Mary Lane Poe, Max Havelka, and Luke Basulto. Mary Lane and Max are both willing to serve. The general feeling is that Luke is no longer interested given his lack of response over the last year, so he was not included in the following motion. **Motion made by Ken MacDonald, seconded by Debra Hughson, and unanimously approved to re-elect Max Havelka and Mary Lane Poe as Board Members At Large.** • Mari Quillman will contact Luke Basulto to let him know of the re-election results.

Amanda Schieb with Ecocentric has expressed an interest in joining the Board, which Mari Quillman will pursue.

**Adjourn: A motion was made by Ken MacDonald, seconded by Kristin Berry, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 14:40 (PST).**

These final minutes were recorded and respectfully submitted for approval to all Board members on 1/11/2026 by Ed LaRue, Recording Secretary and adopted as final on 3/22/2026.



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

## Ecosystems Advisory Committee Report DTC Board Meeting of 11 January 2026

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

**1. KPC Coachella Specific Plan (Riverside Co, CA)**

**10/19/2025** – On this date, we were notified by the City of Coachella about the availability of an EIR for public comment. Comments are due on **12/2/2025**. The draft letter is distributed on **11/30/2025** and submitted on **12/2/2025** with five endorsements.

**2. Castle Mountain Mine expansion (San Bernardino Co, CA)**

**10/27/2025** - On this date, Jeff Aardahl of Defenders of Wildlife (and later the BLM) provide a link to information for the project, which has a due date of **11/20/2025**. Ed registered for the webinar at 5 pm on **11/5/2025** but was not able to attend as he was travelling back from Ridgecrest. The draft letter is distributed on **11/16/2025** and submitted to the BLM on **11/19/2025** and San Bernardino County on **11/20/2025** with nine endorsements.

**3. SCE Company’s Cal City Substation 115 kV Upgrade Project (San Berdo/Kern, CA)**

**11/4/2025** – On this date, Kathy Simon provided Ed with a link to the project, with a due date for comments of **12/8/2025**. Judy’s review of available information found that there was no current opportunity to comment on this project, which was open for comment in 2023.

**4. Shadow Valley Well System Modification (San Bernardino Co, CA)**

**10/30/2025** - On this date, Jeff Aardahl sends us a link to this project with a release date of **10/20/2025**, so I assume comments are due by **11/20/2025**. The draft report was first shared with Judy on **11/13/2025**, subsequently distributed to the Board on **11/15/2025**, and submitted to the BLM on **11/19/2025** with six endorsements.

**5. Redonda and Bajada Solar Projects (Riverside Co, CA)**

**11/12/2025** - On this date, CDFW provides information to provide scoping comments, which are due on **12/12/2025**. The draft letter is distributed on **12/10/2025** and submitted to the BLM on **12/12/2025** with five endorsements and one recusal.

**6. Sloan Canyon Public Trail Route Workshop (NV)**

**11/20/2025** - On this date, the BLM contacted us directly with an opportunity to comments, with comments due by **12/31/2025**. A request for more information is sent to the BLM on **12/10/2025**. The draft letter was distributed on **12/26/2025** and submitted to the BLM on **12/20/2025** with six endorsements.

**7. Soda Mountain Solar (San Bernardino Co, CA)**

**12/29/2025** - On this date, we receive an email from the California Energy Commission (CEC) announcing the project, which has a due date of **2/27/2026**. With @@ endorsements, the final letter is submitted to the CEC on **@@/@@/2026**.

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=268059&DocumentContentId=105072>

**8. Kolob Terrace Road Water Pipeline and Utilities Project (Washington Co, Utah)**

**12/31/2025** - On this date, we receive an invitation from the BLM to comment on this project, which has a 15-day comment period, due on **1/17/2026**.

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2041990/510>

**8. Kolob Terrace Road Water Pipeline and Utilities Project – due 1/17 – No one identified**

**7. Soda Mountain Solar – due 2/27 - No one identified for this letter**

**Ecosystems Advisory Committee  
Summary Table from 11/15/2025 to 1/11/2026**

**Current date for this latest table revision is: 1/6/2026**

Dates are for 2025 & 2026						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	KPC Coachella Specific Plan	10/19	11/30	12/2	12/2	Y 12/1		Y 11/30		A 11/30				Y 12/1				Y 12/3		Y/PI 12/1
2	Castle Mtn. Mine	10/27	11/17	11/20	11/19	Y/PI 11/19		Y/PI 11/18		A 11/16			Y 11/18	Y 11/17		Y 11/19	Y 11/17	Y 11/17		Y/PI 11/18
3	SCE transmission	11/4		12/8		Upon further research, not an active project														
4	Shadow Valley	10/30	11/15	11/20	11/19	Y 11/16		Y 11/17	A 11/13	A 11/13				Y 11/16				Y 11/16		
5	Redonda, Bajada Solar	11/12	12/10	12/12	12/12			Y 12/11	Y 12/11	A 12/10			Y 12/10			R 12/10		Y 12/10		
6	Sloan Canyon	11/20	12/26	12/31	12/30	Y 12/28		Y 12/28	A 12/26	Y/PI 12/27				Y 12/28		Y 12/30		Y 12/30	Y 12/30	
7	Soda Mtn.	12/29		2/27																
8	Kolob Terrace	12/31		1/17																

**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