

Ng, Michael@BCDC

From: Skalos, Shannon@Wildlife <Shannon.Skalos@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:01 AM
To: Finkel, Jessica@BCDC
Subject: RE: BCDC Permit Question

Caltrans also recently finished a study looking into the impacts of LED on terrestrial wildlife. I think I can share this?
[Effects of LED Lighting on Terrestrial Wildlife \(ca.gov\)](#)



Shannon Skalos, PhD (she/her) ✈
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From: Finkel, Jessica@BCDC
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:59 AM
To: Skalos, Shannon@Wildlife
Subject: RE: BCDC Permit Question

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Thank you so much for the quick response, Shannon!

I'll take another look at their materials to see if they specified what intensity/brightness they plan to use. Their argument was that there is already a lot of light on the bridge so this wouldn't have significantly more impact, but I'll find a way to work in your point.

Jessica

From: Skalos, Shannon@Wildlife <Shannon.Skalos@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:34 AM
To: Finkel, Jessica@BCDC <jessica.finkel@bcdc.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: BCDC Permit Question

Hi Jessica,

Thank you for reaching out. Those conditions outlined below seem reasonable to me and the dates seem appropriate, as well.


For the lights themselves, I would encourage Bay lights 360 to carefully consider the impact of lights on migrating birds (and bats and insects) when choosing lights, as well. I know this is probably beyond the scope of this request. Too many and too bright of lights (like 100% brightness LEDS) can be greatly disruptive to migration!

Some helpful information:

[Lights Out Program | Audubon](#)

[Dim the Lights for Birds at Night! | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#)



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From: Finkel, Jessica@BCDC <jessica.finkel@bcdca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:37 AM
To: Skalos, Shannon@Wildlife <Shannon.Skalos@Wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: BCDC Permit Question
Importance: High

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From: Finkel, Jessica@BCDC
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 8:35 AM
To: will.kanz@wildlife.ca.gov; Shannon.skalos@wildlife.ca.g
Subject: BCDC Permit Question
Importance: High

Hi Will and Shannon,

My name is Jessica Finkel, and I'm a permit analyst at BCDC. Alicia Bird suggested I reach out to you two with a question about a permit I'm working on.

Briefly, the permit is for Bay Lights 360, which will replace the current Bay Lights sculpture on the Bay Bridge. The difference between the two sculptures is that Bay Lights 360 will have lights on both the inward- and outward-facing sides of the vertical cables instead of on just the outward-facing side. I'm trying to update two special conditions with mitigation measures to ensure they don't disturb any birds that could be nesting on the bridge. The March 1/August 15 timing for the work windows is based on input from USFWS, but I wanted to run it by CDFW too. Might you or someone else on your team have a few minutes today to chat about this?

The previous version of the permit is attached, along the biological cover memo and report that Caltrans submitted with the permit application. The current draft language for the amended permit reads:

II.B.

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3. Monitoring During Installation and Dismantling to Protect Nesting Birds. To avoid impacts to nesting birds that may occur within the project area, the permittee shall perform pre-construction nesting bird surveys prior to both the installation and removal of the lights to ensure that no nests are present. If nests are found to be present within the project area, a trained ornithologist/ avian monitor shall continue to conduct monitoring until all nesting birds are clear from the installation area. In addition, buffer zones shall be established to minimize impacts to those nests. If necessary, the avian monitor will have the authority to require the permittee to stop work until further notice to prevent birds from abandoning their nests.

4. Construction Timing. For any work associated with dismantling the previously authorized "Bay Lights" sculpture and installing, repairing and maintaining, or, at the end of its authorized use, dismantling the "Bay Lights 360" sculpture:

a. From March 1 to August 15, during the bird breeding season, an avian monitor shall survey the project area weekly for nests, in accordance with Special Condition II.B.3 and make recommendations for minimizing disturbance to nesting birds. The results of these nest surveys, recommendations for avoiding impacts, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the recommendations shall be provided in brief, monthly written reports to the Commission.

b. From August 15 and March 1, outside the bird breeding season, work may proceed without weekly monitoring. However, if an active nest is encountered, an avian monitor must conduct monitoring in accordance with Special Condition II.B.3.

Thanks in advance for any help you can provide!

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