

## SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT TO SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREAS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: February 2, 2026

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PROJECT NAME:	Catalina Airport Solar Project
PROJECT NUMBER:	CDP PRJ2022-004233
PERMIT NUMBER:	CUP RPPL2022013117, CDP RPPL2022013100
APN:	7480-041-042
ADDRESS:	Catalina Airport in the Sky
SEA:	Buffalo Springs SEA
USGS QUAD:	Santa Catalina North
PROJECT APPLICANT:	Emily Mallonee
PROJECT BIOLOGIST:	Gretchen Cummings, Cummings Environmental, Inc.
STAFF PLANNER:	Tyler Montgomery
STAFF BIOLOGIST:	Karla Moreno

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This supplemental report provides an update on revisions made by the applicant to the Catalina Airport Solar Project in response to comments provided by the Significant Ecological Areas Technical Advisory Committee's (SEATAC) at its July 7, 2025 meeting. At the meeting, the SETAC provided 14 comments in addition to the recommendations provided by County staff and requested that the project return to SEATAC for additional review following the incorporation of those comments.

The applicant has addressed all County staff recommendations along with all 14 SEATAC comments in the updated Biota Report, dated November 26, 2025 (**Attachment 1**). A summary of the applicant's response to each SEATAC comment is provided below:

### SEATAC Comments and Applicant Responses:

- **SEATAC Comment 1:** Update the flora and fauna study lists and analysis throughout the report.

**Response:** *The flora and fauna study lists and associated analysis have been updated and are reflected in Table 1, Table 2, and throughout the Biota Report.*

- **SEATAC Comment 2:** The impact discussion section in the bio report should be structured in a clear way where the organization is as follows:
  - a) existing conditions;
  - b) impacts;
  - c) avoidance measures or components;
  - d) mitigation measures.

*Response: The Biota Report has been reorganized to follow this structure consistently throughout the impact discussion section.*

- **SEATAC Comment 3:** Describe the cleaning methods related to the solar system to analyze potential impacts.

*Response: The solar panel cleaning methods are described in Section 4.A.6 - Project Maintenance.*

- **SEATAC Comment 4:** Describe trenching construction activities in detail, including trench dimensions and spoil management, to analyze potential impacts.

*Response: Trenching activities, including dimensions and spoils management, are described in Section 4.A.5 - Project Implementation.*

- **SEATAC Comment 5:** Adjust the mitigation area to exclude native vegetation from the total mitigation acreage; describe the restoration activities; update the discussion on setting aside resources; and all seed and plant stock shall be from the island.

*Response: Restoration activities, resource set-asides, and local island-sourced native seed mix are addressed in Section 5.A.4 - Mitigation Measures and in Appendix B of the Biota Report.*

- **SEATAC Comment 6:** Remove italics from the word “outside” in the discussion of Section 5 of the Biota Report.

*Response: The italics of the word “outside” have been removed throughout the updated Biota Report as requested.*

- **SEATAC Comment 7:** Update the fence design to include wildlife safety features, specifically to address collar entanglement risks for Island fox and to provide more clearance, if permitted.

*Response: Fence design revisions and wildlife safety features are addressed in Section 5.E.4 - Mitigation Measures.*

- **SEATAC Comment 8:** Conduct a snail survey and provide updated analysis.

*Response: A snail survey was conducted, and the analysis is provided in Section 3.E- Fauna and Wildlife Movement.*

- **SEATAC Comment 9:** Conduct a more thorough plant survey or provide a more detailed description of the survey.

**Response:** *Plant and wildlife survey methodologies and results are described in Section 2 - Methodology of Biological Survey and Section 3.E – Fauna and Wildlife Movement.*

- **SEATAC Comment 10:** Revise the statement regarding the Island fox potential occurrence, to acknowledge the actual site activity.

**Response:** *Island Fox presence and activity is included in Section 5.E - Santa Catalina Island Fox, and the discussion has been updated to reflect appropriate occurrence potential.*

- **SEATAC Comment 11:** Require that water buffalo tanks are lidded at all times to prevent wildlife, such as the Island fox, from drowning.

**Response:** *The project will not utilize water buffalo tanks, as indicated in Section 4.A.5 - Project Implementation.*

- **SEATAC Comment 12:** Provide a monitoring plan that addresses the monitoring of both the mitigation area and the project site fenced area to ensure wildlife safety. The monitoring plan shall be subject to County review.

**Response:** *A monitoring plan has been added into the Biota Report as Appendix B - Catalina Island Mitigation Measures for the Airport Solar Project.*

- **SEATAC Comment 13:** Provide an adaptive management plan that identifies who is responsible for all the monitoring.

**Response:** *The responsible monitoring party and adaptive management plan is indicated in Section 5.A.4 - Mitigation Measures.*

- **SEATAC Comment 14:** Include in the monitoring plan that the exclusionary fencing shall be installed around sensitive plants before construction activities commence.

**Response:** *Installation of exclusionary fencing prior to construction activities is addressed in Section 5.B.4 - Mitigation Measures and Section 6 - Conclusions.*

All SEATAC comments have been addressed through project updates and revisions to the Biota Report. A revised Biological Resources Description and Recommendations Report, reflecting the updates, is attached as **Attachment 2**. After incorporation of the revisions discussed above, the County has no additional recommendations.

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Staff Recommendation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Consistent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consistent after Modifications & Bio Report Completion
	<input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent	

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## ATTACHMENTS

<b>LIST OF ATTACHMENTS</b>	
ATTACHMENT 1	Biota Report, dated November 26, 2025.
ATTACHMENT 2	Revised Biological Resources Description and Recommendations