

**CALWEA APPENDIX A:  
GENERAL FRAMEWORK  
FOR DETERMINING APPROPRIATE AVIAN AND BAT STUDY PROTOCOLS**

SITE CHARACTERISTICS	CATEGORIES OF SITES			
	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
<b>General Conditions</b>	Federal, state and local parks, wildlife preserves	Site is known to contain or has a high potential to contain federal and/or state listed endangered or threatened birds, bats, or other significant avian or bat resources, e.g. a migratory bird flyway across the site, or site is adjacent to a Category 1 Site	Sites without or with a low chance of presence of federal and/or state listed endangered or threatened birds, bats, or other significant avian or bat resources and not in proximity to Category 1.	Same as Category 3 sites, but are either existing wind farms that have the opportunity to re-power or adjacent to existing wind farms that have the opportunity to, expand or infill and which have had a low incidence of bird and bat mortality.
<b>Siting Acceptability for Wind Projects</b>	Not advised	Acceptable if significant impacts are avoided or mitigated	Acceptable if significant impacts are avoided or mitigated	Acceptable if any significant impacts are avoided or mitigated
<b>PROJECT EVALUATION PHASES</b>	<b>Category 1</b>	<b>Category 2</b>	<b>Category 3</b>	<b>Category 4</b>
<b>Overall Protocol Characteristics</b> (See Note 1)		Require more intensive or detailed or species-specific studies than Category 3 site to understand potential impacts to federal and/or state listed endangered or threatened birds, bats, or other significant avian or bat resources.	Require less detailed studies than Category 2 sites. Focus on species-specific studies.	Additional studies, if necessary, focus on any information gaps and specific species known to be of concern, if any. Project may be eligible for streamlined environmental review.
<b>Preliminary Screening Phase</b>	Based on land ownership information identify the presence of land where wind development is not advised.	1) Based on existing information including range maps, element occurrences <sup>2</sup> , and other existing information determine the likelihood of	1) Same as Category 2. 2) Same as Category 2. 3) Based on 1 & 2, confirm	If not already in a developed portion of the WRA, evaluate whether habitat and species present in area to be expanded are

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		<p>federal and/or state listed endangered or threatened birds, bats, or other significant avian or bat resources occurring on or adjacent to project site.</p> <p>2) Validate likelihood of occurrence with site visit(s) to evaluate habitat suitability for federal and/or state listed endangered or threatened birds, bats, or other significant avian or bat resources.</p> <p>3) Based on 1 &amp; 2, confirm Category 2 classification or place in Category 3</p>	Category 3 classification or place in Category 2	consistent with habitat of existing facilities, or nearby adjacent facilities.
<b>Pre-permitting Assessment Phase</b>		<p>1) Depending on specific species possibly present as identified in screening phase, conduct site surveys of appropriate type and duration (up to and possibly exceeding one year) to determine bird and/or bat usage and abundance and significant resources.</p> <p>2) Studies will be used to characterize and predict impacts and identify possible mitigation.</p>	<p>1) Depending on specific species possibly present as identified in screening phase, conduct appropriate site surveys one year or less focusing only on specific species of concern to determine bird and/or bat usage and abundance and significant resources.</p> <p>2) Studies will be used to characterize and predict impacts and identify possible mitigation. For CEQA purposes, consider project approval on the basis of a negative</p>	<p>1) Determine whether project and site is consistent with designated low-impact area.</p> <p>2) Sites with identified sensitivities focus studies on addressing the information gaps for the species of interest, building upon existing studies of those species in the WRA to characterize and predict impacts, and identify possible mitigation.</p> <p>In both cases, for CEQA purposes, consider project</p>

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			declaration or a mitigated negative declaration.	approval on the basis of a categorical exemption for replacement of existing facilities, or a negative mitigation or a mitigated negative declaration.
<b>Operational Monitoring Phase</b>		<p>1) Based on pre-permitting monitoring results, conduct 1-year mortality monitoring and bird and bat usage monitoring to characterize annual conditions.</p> <p>2) If 1-year monitoring results confirm pre-permitting predictions, and/or show mortality to special status species be within the range of mortality to other non-Altamont California projects, reduce second-year bird and/or bat use mortality monitoring to selected species and seasons where there is still concern, or to areas of continuing concern, e.g. significant avian or bat habitats, or segments of turbine alignments with higher than expected mortality, etc.</p> <p>3) If 1-year results are above</p>	<p>1) Based on pre-permitting monitoring results, conduct 1 year of mortality monitoring and bird and bat usage monitoring for identified species of concern to characterize annual conditions.</p> <p>Mortality monitoring may be necessary only during particular seasons of concern, such as spring/fall migration periods, during nesting season if the bird and bat species are resident and/or breeding.</p> <p>2) If 1-year monitoring results show mortality to be within the range of mortality to special status species to other non-Altamont California projects and within acceptable margins of the pre-permitting</p>	<p>For projects with identified sensitivities, conduct operational monitoring based on pre-permitting monitoring results and applicable operational monitoring data, if available, Conduct 1-year mortality monitoring in selected areas during anticipated high risk seasons and/or habitats.</p> <p>Monitoring results will be used to confirm pre-permitting impact predictions and to inform necessary mitigation within pre-determined range.</p>

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		<p>predicted levels continue operational monitoring for second year to better understand factors contributing to risks.</p> <p>4) Monitoring results will be used to confirm pre-permitting impact predictions and to inform necessary mitigation within pre-determined range.</p>	<p>predictions, and no significant avian or bat resources; a second year of bird and/or bat use monitoring is not necessary.</p> <p>3) If 1-year results are above predicted levels continue operational monitoring for second year to better understand factors contributing to risks.</p> <p>4) Monitoring results will be used to confirm pre-permitting impact predictions and to inform necessary mitigation within pre-determined range.</p>	

Note 1. See Guidelines for specific descriptions of standardized monitoring protocols

Note 2. Element occurrences - reported locations of federal and/or state listed endangered or threatened birds, bats, or other significant avian or bat resources from California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB)