

1 have been shown to reduce avian mortality by 60%. By incorporating *AMM30 Transmission Line*  
 2 *Design and Alignment Guidelines* and one or a combination of the measures to greatly reduce the risk  
 3 of bird strike described in *AMM20 Greater Sandhill Crane*, there would be no take of greater sandhill  
 4 crane from the project pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 86.

5 **Incremental Impact:** The impact of the construction and presence of new transmission lines on  
 6 greater sandhill crane would be the same as under the proposed project as the approved project.  
 7 The impact under the proposed project would remain less than significant. No mitigation is  
 8 required.

9 **Impact BIO-71: Indirect Effects of the Project on Greater Sandhill Crane**

10 The proposed project would generally have the same potential for construction activities to  
 11 indirectly affect greater sandhill crane as the approved project. See the discussion of Impact BIO-71  
 12 under Alternative 4A in Final EIR/EIS Section 12.3.4.2. However, as shown in Table 12-22, the  
 13 amount of habitat indirectly affected by noise under the proposed project would be less than under  
 14 the approved project. This difference is mostly due to the relocation of the RTM storage areas on  
 15 Bouldin Island and the RTM storage areas near the intakes.

16 **Table 12-22. Impacts on Greater Sandhill Crane Habitat Resulting from General Construction and**  
 17 **Pile Driving Noise (acres)**

Habitat Type	General Construction					
	Approved Project		Proposed Project (Total)		Proposed Project (Increment)	
	Above 60 dBA	Above 50 dBA	Above 60 dBA	Above 50 dBA	Above 60 dBA	Above 50 dBA
Permanent Roosting	128	961	100	790	-28	-171
Temporary Roosting	644	1,908	512	1,575	-132	-333
Foraging	4,752	16,768	4,872	16,144	+120	-624
<b>Total Habitat</b>	<b>5,524</b>	<b>19,637</b>	<b>5,484</b>	<b>18,509</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>-1,128</b>

dBA = A-weighted decibels.

18  
 19 **NEPA Effects:** Crane habitat could potentially be affected by general construction noise above  
 20 baseline level (50–60 A-weighted decibels [dBA]). Construction in certain areas would take place 7  
 21 days a week and 24 hours a day and evening and nighttime construction activities would require the  
 22 use of extremely bright lights, which could adversely affect roosting cranes by impacting their sense  
 23 of photo-period and by exposing them to predators. Effects of noise and visual disturbance could  
 24 substantially alter the suitability of habitat for greater sandhill crane. *AMM20 Greater Sandhill Crane*  
 25 would include requirements to minimize the effects of noise and visual disturbance on greater  
 26 sandhill cranes and to compensate for affected habitat.

27 With the measures described above in place in place, the indirect effects of proposed project  
 28 implementation would not substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of greater sandhill  
 29 cranes. Therefore, the indirect effects of proposed project implementation on greater sandhill crane  
 30 would not be adverse under NEPA.

31 **CEQA Conclusion:** Crane habitat could potentially be affected by general construction noise above  
 32 baseline level (50–60 dBA), which would also occur under the approved project. Construction in

1 **Incremental Impact: The impact of the construction and presence of new transmission lines on**  
2 **lesser sandhill crane would be the same as under the proposed project as the approved project.**  
3 **The impact under the proposed project would remain less than significant. No mitigation is**  
4 **required.**

5 **Impact BIO-74: Indirect Effects of the Project on Lesser Sandhill Crane**

6 The proposed project would have the same potential for construction activities to indirectly affect  
7 lesser sandhill crane as the approved project. See the discussion of Impact BIO-74 under Alternative  
8 4A in Final EIR/EIS Section 12.3.4.2. However, as shown in Table 12-22 above, which would also  
9 apply to lesser sandhill crane, the amount of habitat indirectly affected by noise under the proposed  
10 project would be less than under the approved project. This difference is mostly due to the  
11 relocation of the RTM storage areas on Bouldin Island and the RTM storage areas near the intakes.

12 **NEPA Effects:** Crane habitat could potentially be affected by general construction noise above  
13 baseline level (50–60 dBA). However, lesser sandhill cranes are less traditional in their winter roost  
14 sites than greater sandhill cranes and may be more likely to travel away from disturbed areas to  
15 roost in more suitable habitat. Construction in certain areas would take place 7 days a week and 24  
16 hours a day and evening and nighttime construction activities would require the use of extremely  
17 bright lights, which could adversely affect roosting cranes by impacting their sense of photo-period  
18 and by exposing them to predators. Effects of noise and visual disturbance could substantially alter  
19 the suitability of habitat for lesser sandhill crane. *AMM20 Greater Sandhill Crane* would include  
20 requirements to minimize the effects of noise and visual disturbance on sandhill cranes and to  
21 compensate for effects on habitat.

22 With implementation of the measures described above in place, the indirect effects of proposed  
23 project implementation would not substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of lesser  
24 sandhill crane. Therefore, the indirect effects of the proposed project on lesser sandhill crane would  
25 not be adverse under NEPA.

26 **CEQA Conclusion:** Crane habitat could potentially be affected by general construction noise above  
27 baseline level (50–60 dBA), as would the approved project. However, lesser sandhill cranes are less  
28 traditional in their winter roost sites and may be more likely to travel away from disturbed areas to  
29 roost in more suitable habitat. Construction in certain areas would take place 7 days a week and 24  
30 hours a day and evening and nighttime construction activities would require the use of extremely  
31 bright lights, which could adversely affect roosting cranes by impacting their sense of photo-period  
32 and by exposing them to predators. Effects of noise and visual disturbance could substantially alter  
33 the suitability of habitat for lesser sandhill crane. This would be a significant impact. With *AMM20*  
34 *Greater Sandhill Crane* in place, which would include requirements to minimize the effects of noise  
35 and visual disturbance on sandhill cranes and to mitigate for affected habitat, there would not be an  
36 adverse effect on lesser sandhill crane.

37 With implementation of the measures described above in place, the indirect effects of proposed  
38 project implementation would not substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of lesser  
39 sandhill cranes.

40 **Incremental Impact: The indirect impacts on lesser sandhill crane under the proposed project**  
41 **would be the same as under the approved project. The impact under the proposed project would**  
42 **remain less than significant. No mitigation is required.**