

## Claire Gerrish

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**From:** Williams, Jennifer M <jennifer\_williams@fws.gov> on behalf of ColoradoES, FW6 <ColoradoES@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 1:37 PM  
**To:** Claire Gerrish  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: USFWS Pike Development Review Request

Hello Claire Gerrish -

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the documents associated with the Pike Solar Project in El Paso County near Fountain, Colorado. The Service has no concerns with this project resulting in impacts to species listed as candidate, proposed, threatened, or endangered.

We do not have any regional guidance for solar projects, but in general, it is important to consider effects to eagles and migratory birds. There are standard conservation measures for migratory birds available [here](#) and [here](#). Bald eagle guidance can be found [here](#).

If there is a "No Effect" determination, there is no need to contact Ecological Services.

We appreciate your efforts to ensure the conservation of threatened and endangered species. Thank you for contacting us and please let me know if you have any further questions. I can be reached at 303-236-4758 or at [jen\\_williams@fws.gov](mailto:jen_williams@fws.gov).

Reference: Projects\EL PASO COUNTY\PIKE SOLAR PROJECT

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office  
P.O. Box 25486 - DFC  
Lakewood, CO 80225

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**From:** Claire Gerrish <cgerrish@juwiamerica.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:41 PM  
**To:** ColoradoES, FW6 <ColoradoES@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: USFWS Pike Development Review Request

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Colorado Ecological Services,

As a follow up to my previous email, attached please find the Biological Resources Report that corresponds to the letter from my previous email. Thank you in advance for your attention in reviewing our request.

**Claire Gerrish**  
Project Planner

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**From:** Claire Gerrish  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** coloradoes@fws.gov  
**Subject:** USFWS Pike Development Review Request

Colorado Ecological Services,

Attached I have included a letter from juwi, Inc. and Pike Solar LLC regarding a project that is currently being developed. I am hoping to submit this letter, memo and attachments for a review of our request and feedback from the USFWS. Thank you in advance for your attention to the attached request. I will also be submitting a follow up email with the Biological Resources Report that was generated for this project as well. In the event the file is too large and is not received, please advise and I will work to resend.

**Claire Gerrish**  
Project Planner

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Colorado Ecological Services  
P.O. Box 25486  
Denver Federal Center (MS 65412)  
Denver, CO 80225  
[coloradoes@fws.gov](mailto:coloradoes@fws.gov);

Re: Development Review of Pike Solar Project

Colorado Ecological Services;

As Pike Solar LLC begins permitting for the Pike Solar Project in El Paso County, we formally request a development review from US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Pike Solar Project, as described in the attached memo, is a 175-megawatt solar energy photovoltaic generation facility sited in southern El Paso County east of Interstate 25 and Fountain Creek. The project will provide affordable and clean energy to El Paso County and Colorado residents and businesses, while helping the State of Colorado meet its requirements for renewable energy.

Pike Solar is working with El Paso County on an application for a Wind/Solar Energy Overlay (WSE-O) and 1041 Permit. As part of these applications, we would like to include a letter from USFWS that outlines findings from a development review.

To help facilitate a USFWS review, please find a Project Memo and Exhibit “A” map for the Pike Solar Project included with this letter. We are requesting that USFWS review the current Pike Solar Project layout and associated reports and provide recommendations pertaining to the following wildlife considerations:

- Federally-listed Threatened and Endangered Species
- Migratory Birds considered under the US Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Migratory birds and eagles considered under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA)
- State of Colorado Sensitive Species
- Preference, expectations, and requirements for future USFWS involvement in project-related activities

Pike Solar LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of juwi, Inc (“juwi”). juwi prioritizes coordination with State and Federal agencies in its development work to achieve optimum project design and responsible construction practices. We have conducted a voluntary wildlife and resource assessment with qualified third-party consultants. We included the result in this letter for USFWS review.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the attached memo and its enclosures or if you would like additional information to assist USFWS’s review. Additionally, we welcome the opportunity for a virtual meeting if USFWS would like to discuss in this project in more detail.

Sincerely,

Claire Gerrish, Project Planner  
juwi Inc.  
303.996.4154  
[cgerrish@juwiamericas.com](mailto:cgerrish@juwiamericas.com)



## Project Memo

**Project Name:** Pike Solar

**Project Applicant:** Pike Solar LLC and juwi, Inc.

**Project Contact:** Claire Gerrish (juwi Inc.), Project Planner

**Date of Memo:** 11/10/2020

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### Project Overview:

- Size: 175 megawatt (AC)
- Technology: Photovoltaic Panels on Single Axis Trackers
- Battery Energy Storage System: 25 MW X 4 Hour
- Key infrastructure: Perimeter/security fencing, access roads, 1 substation, arrays, Operations and Maintenance Shed, Inverters, Transformers, underground electrical (distribution) line between areas
- Design: Majority of the site will consist of steel poles rammed into the ground with solar arrays connected and standing, at a minimum, approximately 3 feet off the ground
- Acres: 1,170 acres project footprint
- Location: portions of Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 36 Township 16S, Range 65W and portions of Sections 7, 18, 19, 30, 31 Township 16S R64W
- Access:
  1. Access from the north off Squirrel Creek Road on unnamed road heading south
  2. Access from the west via Birdsall Road off Old Pueblo Road to an unnamed temporary construction road heading east

### Site Overview:

- Current use: Combination of grazing and vacant land with transmission lines and other electrical infrastructure
- Description of lands: Project area is generally flat with some rolling hills. Irrigation ditches and arroyos flow generally south and east towards Fountain Creek. Vegetative cover includes blue gramma dominated shortgrass prairie and cholla/saltbush shrublands. The area is used as rangeland for livestock and to grow hay.
- Historic use: rangeland use
- Elevation: 5,385-5,585 feet
- El Paso County Zoning: Rural-residential 5 (RR-5), Agricultural-5 (A-5) and Agricultural-35 (A-35)
- Construction period for the complete site: 21-24 months
- Targeted Construction Start: November 2021
- Targeted Construction Finish: December 2023

### Permitting Overview and requested USFWS involvement:

- El Paso County and Local Permits
  - o Wind/Solar Energy Overlay (WSEO Rezone Amendment)
    - Status: Beginning phases
    - USFWS component: Pike Solar LLC asks for development review/recommendations/concurrence for this Application
  - o 1041 Permit
    - Status: Run concurrently with 1041
    - USFWS component: Incorporate Letter used for WSEO Application into 1041 Application
  - o Site Plan Review
    - Status: Following WSEO and 1041
    - USFWS component: Incorporate potential requirements/recommendations into design and construction activities



**Pike Solar LLC and juwi, Inc. respectfully requests USFWS determination regarding the below third-party reports and recommendations.**

- Biological Resources Report dated November 2, 2020 and depicted on Exhibit “A”
  - o No Federally Listed Species listed within Project Area
  - o State Threatened Species:
    - Burrowing Owl
  - o State Species of Concern:
    - Black-Tailed Prairie Dog
    - Mountain Plover
    - Swift Fox
    - Ferruginous Hawk
    - Bald Eagle
    - Northern Leopard Frog
  
- Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) Phase 1:
  - o Findings indicate no recognized environmental conditions (RECs) on site pursuant to the report rendered on October 21, 2020; no action recommended.
  
- Noxious Weed Management Plan:
  - o Pending final consultant analysis. Pike Solar LLC and juwi, Inc. will supply in December 2020.



Exhibit "A"

