



WEST COAST BIRD CLUB

PO Box 1404, Vredenburg 7380

Affiliated To Birdlife South Africa

From, Keith Harrison, Conservation.

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7380,

To, Hlengile, Email. Hlengile@ecoleges.co.za

Ecoleges,

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March 4th. 2021.

Ref. BID for 100 MW Solar Generation Plant at Saldanha – Soventix.

DEFF Ref No. 12/12/20/2126.

Dear Hlengile,

I apologise for this late comment which is due to Covid -19 delays.

1. Please register the West Coast Bird Club as an IAP to the project.

Contact details:-

Keith Harrison – Conservation,

West Coast Bird Club, P.O. Box 538, Vredenburg, 7380.

Tel, 022 – 713 3026, Email keithhbharrison@lando.co.za

2. The West Coast Bird Club supports the project. However as there will be a lot of new infrastructure in a pristine area, example the battery storage equivalent to 22 containers (40 foot) and 5 gas turbines, there will be bird collisions and environmental mitigation measures will be necessary.
3. Birds,
 - All cables to be buried where possible.
 - All external lighting to be motion activated, yellow LED with beam directed downwards so as not to attract night flying insects and night feeding bird species.

- Buildings to be painted red or yellow because birds see these colours better than black and white.
 - Glass windows should be 'frosted' or shuttered so that birds cannot see through or reflections of themselves.
4. Vegetation,
- If vegetation which requires conservation is to be destroyed, it will be necessary to conserve a similar sized area at the expense of the developer as an offset. A search and rescue programme will be necessary as this is a 'flower area'.
 - *Echium plantigeum* is now an invasive alien pest on the West Coast and the ECO of the project must be trained to identify and remove plants immediately from the site.
 - All vehicles coming onto the site with gravel, sand or soil must be registered by the ECO as originating from an Echium free source.
 - If labour is required for alien species control, there are teams trained by local NGOs, for example Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve Co. No material to be held upon the site because seed bearing plants will increase the Seed Bank.
 - Any reseeded operations must use seeds recorded as originating from the Western Cape.
5. Fences on a large area, boundary fences should have special engineered gaps to allow continued entry by large mammals, if mesh fencing is used, specific points should be raised off the ground to allow small mammals and reptiles access. Where electric fencing is used the lowest live wire should be a minimum of 35cms off the ground to protect tortoises who freeze on contact and become electrocuted.
6. Labour, semi-skilled and unskilled labour could be recruited from Green Village and Hopefield, and have 5 years proven residence or are on the voters roll.
7. Vehicles of developer, contractors and subcontractors should be registered with the Saldanha Bay Municipality Traffic Departments so that portions of the fees can be used for road infrastructure maintenance.
8. Animal Control, Feral Cats are attracted to large projects and are worldwide killers of birds, the ECO must have a policy for their control.
9. Poaching, a recent activity is gambling syndicates hunting large mammals with packs of dogs on the West Coast. These groups should not be approached which is dangerous, the ECO should develop a strategy with the CapeNature office at Porterville.

Sincerely,

Keith Harrison.

(Sent by Email 9.3.21)