



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825-1846



IN REPLY REFER TO:

1-1-06-I-1948

OCT 10 2006

Mr. John Yeakel
California Department of Transportation
111 Grand Avenue
P.O. Box 23360
Oakland, California 94612

Subject: Information Request for the Completion of the Consultation for the Sonoma 12 Laguna de Santa Rosa Bridge Replacement Project, Sonoma County, California (Caltrans EA 1A2900)

Dear Mr. Yeakel:

This letter is in response to a letter from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), dated June 2, 2006, that requested informal consultation for the proposed Sonoma 12 Laguna de Santa Rosa Bridge Replacement Project proposed in Sonoma County, California. Your letter was received by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on June 5, 2006. In the letter, Caltrans requested concurrence with their determination that the project will have no effect on the endangered California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*). Our comments and recommendations are made under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act).

The Service concurs with the no effect determination for the California tiger salamander. As stated in the Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy (Conservation Strategy), the proposed action area is outside the described range for the California tiger salamander. Based on the geographical designations in the Conservation Strategy it was not necessary for Caltrans to submit the January 2006 Initial Site Assessment for the California Tiger Salamander. It is advisable to contact the Service prior to conducting surveys and submitting documents.

The action area is defined in the Conservation Strategy as an area where effects to listed plants may occur. Caltrans has not provided the Service with adequate information to review the determination that the proposed project will have no effects on listed plants.

The following is a collection of comments and information requests in regards to our review of the June 2, 2006 letter from Caltrans, the September 2005 California tiger salamander site assessment prepared by H.T. Harvey & Associates, and the January 2006 initial site assessment

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for the California tiger salamander, for the proposed Sonoma 12 Laguna de Santa Rosa Bridge Replacement Project in Sonoma County, California.

1. Project Description

- a. Provide a figure that clearly demonstrating the construction plans. The project is titled as a bridge replacement project but the project description from the January 2006 California tiger salamander site assessment seems to describe a widening or reconstruction project. No information is provided regarding a realignment or demolition of the existing bridge.
- b. Describe the construction schedule including what year the project will commence and be completed.
- c. Provide a more detailed aerial photograph of the action area that identifies areas of permanent and temporary effects. Include locations of referenced ponds and other feature locations such as those that are shown in the photographs on page 11 (Figure 3) of the January 2006 California tiger salamander site assessment. The January 2006 document makes references to nearby features but does not define the proximity to the action area.
- d. Provide habitat mapping.
- e. Provide acreages for temporary and permanent effects and further define the area of effects by site features such as existing hardscape (i.e., road surface), grassland, and ditches with associated riparian and wetland vegetation.
- f. Please provide the project footprint in a shapefile format for inclusion in an effort to keep track of region-wide projects via GIS. Only include the actual project area (permanent and temporary effects).
- g. Include a figure showing the results of the wetland delineation.

2. Surveys

- a. Characterize the types of surveys that were conducted.

3. Listed Plants

- a. Provide a comprehensive assessment of the potential effects to federally listed plants with distribution that includes the action area.

Until we receive the requested information, we cannot begin the consultation process for the project.

Mr. John Yeakel

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We will be requesting a site visit in the near future, which may result in additional comments and information requests. Please contact John Cleckler or Ryan Olah at the letterhead address or at (916) 414-6625 if you have any questions regarding this letter on the Sonoma 12 Laguna de Santa Rosa Bridge Replacement Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Nagano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Nagano
Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor

cc:

Christina Kenney, California Department of Transportation, Oakland, California
Liam Davis, California Department of Fish and Game, Yountville, California
Carl Wilcox, California Department of Fish and Game, Yountville, California
Scott Harris, California Department of Fish and Game, Yountville, California