

INFORMATION HANDOUT

For Contract No. 04-3G6504

At 04-Sol-680-0.35/13.10

Identified by

Project ID 04120001501

PERMITS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Letter of Concurrence

Staging and Non-staging Areas Mapping



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:
08ESMF00-2013-I-0512-3

JAN 08 2014

Mr. Hardeep Takhar
California Department of Transportation
Environmental Division, MS-8E
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, California 94612

Subject: Informal Endangered Species Consultation for the Proposed Interstate 680 Resurfacing Project, Solano County, California (Caltrans EA 3G650)

Dear Mr. Takhar:

This is in response to the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) August 12, 2013, request for concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) with their determination that the proposed Interstate 680 (I-680) Resurfacing Project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the endangered callippe silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria callippe callippe*) or the threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). Your request was received in our office on August 14, 2013. The Service requested additional project information on September 30, 2013 (Service File No. 08ESMF00-2013-TA-0512-1) which Caltrans provided on October 15, 2013. The Service issued our draft concurrence letter for the project on December 12, 2013 (Service File No. 08ESMF00-2013-I-0512-2). Caltrans requested that we finalize our response on December 20, 2013, with requested technical corrections to their proposed conservation measures. The requested edits were made to measures 1, 6, and 7, below.

This informal consultation is based on the project information provided in your August 12, 2013, request package; an October 10, 2013 site visit; and additional project information provided in your October 15, 2013, letter; and your December 20, 2013, request to finalize our response. This letter is issued under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (Act).

According to the provided project description, the proposed project includes roadway repair work along a 12.75 mile stretch of I-680, from Benicia (Post Mile 0.35) north to Cordelia (Post Mile 13.10). The repair includes replacing sections of damaged pavement, sealing pavement cracks, and replacing damaged and nonstandard metal beam guard rail (MBGR).

The proposed activities will not include repair or modification of drainage infrastructure or utility relocation. The repair will be limited to the existing paved area. There will be no road widening or hardscape additions. Activity will be confined to the existing pavement. Staging and equipment storage will be located in cloverleafs associated with the Gold Hill Road, Marshview Road, Parish Road, and Lake Herman Road interchanges. Additional staging will take place in defined areas between the I-680 road shoulder and Central Way and Goodyear Road. Staging and access areas with bare soil will be covered with plastic sheeting that will be removed following use. There will be no vegetation clearing, trimming, or grubbing. Holes augured for the MBGR placement will not be left open at the end of the work shift. All but 1 of the 11 MBGR segment replacements is located in the I-680 median. The non-median MBGR replacement is located between I-680 and the off-ramp in a heavily disturbed area of Benicia. Work will primarily occur at night and will be completed within approximately 200 working days between March 16 and October 30.

The project corridor is adjacent to callippe silverspot butterfly and California red-legged frog habitat. Caltrans will implement the following conservation measures to avoid potential effects to these two listed species:

1. Prior to the start of construction, the project boundaries of the staging and access areas and the non-median MBGR work areas will be clearly delineated with high visibility orange fencing. The fencing will remain in place while construction activities are ongoing, and will be regularly inspected and fully maintained at all times. The final project plans will depict all locations where fencing will be installed and will provide installation specifications. The bid solicitation package special provisions will clearly describe acceptable fencing material and prohibited construction-related activities including vehicle operation, material and equipment storage, access roads and other surface-disturbing activities beyond the described project boundary.
2. Work will be conducted between March 16 and October 30.
3. Prior to the start of construction, a Service-approved biologist will conduct an educational training program for all construction personnel including contractors and subcontractors. The training will include, at a minimum, a description of the callippe silverspot butterfly, California red-legged frog, and migratory birds; an explanation of the status of these species and their protection under state and Federal laws; the avoidance measures to be implemented to protect natural resources; communication and work stoppage procedures in case listed species are observed within the action area; and the importance of maintaining and staying within the boundary fencing. A fact sheet conveying this information will be prepared and distributed to all construction personnel. Upon completion of the program, personnel will sign a form stating that they attended the program and understand all the avoidance measures.
4. Areas to be permanently or temporarily disturbed beyond the outside road shoulders or within the cloverleafs will be subject to a preconstruction survey by a Service-approved biologist. The Service-approved biologist will be onsite to monitor the initial ground

disturbance in these areas. Work will be suspended if a listed species is discovered and Caltrans will contact the Service to determine if formal consultation should be initiated.

5. A Water Pollution Control Plan and erosion control best management practices will be developed and implemented to minimize any wind or water-related erosion and discharge.
6. No construction activity will occur during rain events, in wet conditions, or when rain is forecasted.
7. When nighttime work is conducted, all lights associated with project construction will be directed towards the roadway.

The Service agrees with Caltrans' determination that the proposed project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the callippe silverspot butterfly or the California red-legged frog because: (1) the project is located within the previously disturbed Caltrans' right-of-way; (2) the proposed repair will be confined to areas of existing hardscape; (3) the proposed project will not result in the loss of habitat for either species; and (4) Caltrans will implement a list of conservation measures to avoid adverse effects to the callippe silverspot butterfly and the California red-legged frog.

Unless new information reveals effects of the proposed project that may affect listed species in a manner or to an extent not considered; or the project is modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species that was not considered; or a new species or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the proposed action, no further action pursuant to the Act, is necessary.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact John Cleckler, Caltrans Liaison (John_Cleckler@fws.gov) or Ryan Olah, Coast-Bay/Forest Foothills Division Chief (Ryan_Olah@fws.gov), at the letterhead address, (916) 414-6600, or by electronic mail.

Sincerely,



for Eric Tattersall
Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor

cc:

Melissa Escaron, California Department of Fish and Game, Napa, California
Chris States and Whitney Meno, California Department of Transportation, Oakland, California



680 and 80 intersection
EA 3G650



NO STAGING ALLOWED



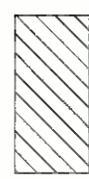
STAGING ALLOWED



Parish road intersection
EA 3G650



NO STAGING ALLOWED



STAGING ALLOWED





**Marshview road Intersection
EA 3G650**



NO STAGING ALLOWED



STAGING ALLOWED



**Lake Herman road Intersection
EA 3G650**



NO STAGING ALLOWED



STAGING ALLOWED



Goldhill road intersection
EA 3G650



NO STAGING ALLOWED



STAGING ALLOWED