CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF PETITION

Agassiz's desert tortoise
(*Gopherus agassizii*)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 2073.3 of the Fish and Game Code, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), on March 23, 2020, received a petition from the Defenders of Wildlife, Desert Tortoise Council, and Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee to to change the status of Agassiz's desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) from threatened to endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.

Typical habitat of the desert tortoise in the Mojave Desert is characterized as creosote bush scrub ranging in elevation from approximately 1,000 to 5,500 feet, although more generally it occupies a variety of habitats from sandy flats to rocky foothills, including alluvial fans, washes and canyons where suitable soils for den construction might be found, starting at near sea level in elevation. A key habitat component within this habitat is a reliable food source in the form of annual forbs and grasses, which rely on annual precipitation ranging from approximately 2-8 inches.

Pursuant to Section 2073 of the Fish and Game Code, on April 13, 2020, Commission staff transmitted the petition to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) for review pursuant to Section 2073.5 of said code. The Commission received the petition at its April 15-16, 2020 teleconference. It is anticipated that the Department's evaluation and recommendation relating to the petition will be received by the Commission at its August 19-20, 2020, meeting in Fortuna.

Interested parties may contact Dan Applebee, Senior Environmental Scientist-Specialist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090, telephone (916) 373-6634, or email Daniel.Applebee@wildlife.ca.gov for information on the petition or to submit information to the Department relating to the petitioned species.

April 21, 2020   Fish and Game Commission

                                                 Melissa Miller-Henson
                                                 Executive Director