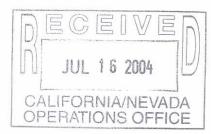


United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898



JUL 1 6 2004

Mr. Steve Thompson Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2606 Sacramento, CA 95825-3901

Subject: Request for Reinitiation of Formal Section 7 Consultation to Evaluate the Efficacy of the Environmental Water Account (EWA) and Progress Toward Achieving the Milestones in Conserving and Promoting the Recovery of Covered Species

Dear Mr. Thompson:

On behalf of the Federal CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program) agencies, the Bureau of Reclamation is requesting reinitiation of formal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et. Seq.), on continued implementation of the Program. This request is in compliance with 50 CFR 402.16 regarding requests for reinitiation of formal consultation under ESA.

The State of California's Resources Agency will represent the California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Water Resources, State Reclamation Board, and California Bay-Delta Authority for the purposes of this consultation.

The CALFED agencies are not proposing new Program actions. Instead, as stated in the Conservation Agreement Regarding Multi-Species Conservation Strategy (MSCS), "the purpose of the reinitiation is to evaluate the efficacy of the Environmental Water Account (EWA) and progress toward achieving the Milestones in conserving and promoting the recovery of Covered Species." Completion of this consultation will serve as a measure by which the Program commitments toward milestones and the EWA can be assessed and confirmed.

The enclosed comprehensive assessment package (Draft Reinitiation of Consultation: Milestones Assessment CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Appendix A: Multi-Species Conservation Strategy Milestone Progress Summaries and Project Linkages, Appendix B: Evaluated Project Descriptions and Multi-Species Conservation Strategy Milestone Linkages) was compiled by multiple agencies in a collaborative effort to evaluate the progress to date. Since CALFED Program level regulatory commitments expire on September 30, 2004, your expedited review of

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this information and completion of the consultation (new or amended biological opinions) would be most appreciated.

It is also understood that the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) Implementing Agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game) will provide a 30-day period, beginning from the date of this letter, for stakeholders and the ERP's Science Board to provide supplemental data to assist in assessing the progress toward achieving milestones and the efficacy of the EWA. At the end of that 30-day period the implementing agencies will supplement the comprehensive assessment package appropriately.

Mr. Allan Oto, Special Projects Officer, is Reclamation's point of contact regarding this request. He may be reached at 916-978-5024. Contact with the other Federal co-lead agencies should be made through Darrin Thome at 916-414-6533.

Sincerely.

Kirk C. Rodgers Regional Director

Enclosure

Identical Letter Sent To

Mr. Rodney R. McInnis Regional Administrator Southwest Regional Office National Marine Fisheries Service 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200 Long Beach, CA 90802-4213

cc: Ms. Gale A. Norton
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW., Room 6156
Washington, D.C. 20240

Mr. John D. Buffington Western Regional Director U.S. Geological Survey 901 First Avenue, Suite 704 Seattle, WA 98104

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Subject: Request For Reinitiation of Formal Section 7 Consultation to Evaluate the Efficacy of the Environmental Water Account and Progress Toward Achieving the Milestones in Conserving and Promoting the Recovery of Covered Species

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Mr. Wayne Nastri Regional Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 75 Hawthorne Street, 18th Floor San Francisco, CA 94105

Colonel Ronald N. Light U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1325 J Street (CESPK-DE) Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Charles W. Bell State Conservationist U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Services 430 G Street, Room 4164 Davis, CA 95616

Mr. Jack Blackwell Regional Forester U.S. Forest Service 1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592

Mr. James Keselburg Regional Manager Western Area Power Administration 114 Parkshore Drive Folsom, CA 95630

Mr. Mike Chrisman Secretary for Resources California Resources Agency 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814 Mr. Patrick Wright
Executive Director
California Bay-Delta Authority
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Mr. Ryan Broddrick Director California Department of Fish and Game 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1205 Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Betsy Marchand President California Reclamation Board 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1601 Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Margit Aramburu
Executive Director
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14215 River Road
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Mr. Darryl W. Young Director California Department of Conservation 801 K Street, Suite 2400 Sacramento, CA 95814 Subject: Request For Reinitiation of Formal Section 7 Consultation to Evaluate the Efficacy of the Environmental Water Account and Progress Toward Achieving the Milestones in Conserving and Promoting the Recovery of Covered Species

Mr. William Travis
Executive Director
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission
50 California Street, Suite 2600
San Francisco, CA 94111

Mr. Terry Tamminen Secretary California Environmental Protection Agency 1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Arthur G. Baggett, Jr. Chair California State Water Resources Control Board 1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814 Ms. Diana Bonta Director California Department of Health Services 1501 Capitol Avenue, Room 6001 Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. A. G. Kawamura Secretary California Department of Food and Agriculture 1220 N Street, Room 409 Sacramento, CA 95814