



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
 Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130  
 Sacramento, California 95821-6340

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1-1-98-TA-1774

August 11, 1998

Mr. Steve Hutchings  
 El Dorado Irrigation District  
 2890 Mosquito Road  
 Placerville, California 95667

Subject: Weber Dam Reconstruction, El Dorado County, California

Dear Mr. Hutchings:

This responds to your letter dated July 24, 1998, requesting documentation of your meeting with Kenneth Sanchez of my staff on June 8, 1998, regarding the proposed reconstruction of Weber Dam. At issue are potential impacts to the federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*). This letter provides comments on that meeting.

Mr. Sanchez discussed general concerns regarding the potential impacts to red-legged frogs as a result of the proposed dam reconstruction. Also discussed, generally, were potential measures that could be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts to the red-legged frog and the regulatory procedures associated with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), that may be required of your agency. The Fish and Wildlife Service believes that a combination of measures, such as surveys, best management practices during construction, and off-site habitat protection would sufficiently minimize impacts to red-legged frogs from dam reconstruction. However, final determination on specific measures to minimize impacts would depend on a complete and final project description of the proposed reconstruction.

Please contact Kenneth Sanchez of my staff at (916) 979-2749, if you have questions regarding this response.

Sincerely,

*David L. Harlow*

by David L. Harlow  
 Acting Field Supervisor