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Zone 7 Water Agency

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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April 18, 2011

Ms. Mary Lim
Zone 7 Water Agency
100 North Canyons Parkway
Livermore, CA 94551

Dear Steering Committee:

Subject: East Alameda County Conservation Strategy

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) appreciate the Steering Committee's commitment in developing the East Alameda County Conservation Strategy (EACCS) and look forward to its implementation. We applaud the goals of EACCS and believe that EACCS will help to streamline listed species permitting and mitigation implementation for development and infrastructure projects, improve voluntary conservation and improve mitigation and conservation of listed and unlisted species. In addition, we believe that EACCS will help ensure that working ranching landscapes persist within East Alameda County through voluntary conservation, mitigation, and improved planning consistent with the goals of the California Rangeland Resolution.

As you know, the Service and DFG will continue to review mitigation projects as part of our permitting process. As part of that process, we endeavor to assure that mitigation projects use the best available science to adequately compensate for impacts to the listed species they are mitigating for. In that effort we also try to ensure that mitigation banks or individual mitigation projects are addressed consistently with conservation easements, management plans, and adequate endowments to enhance listed species habitat and provide for long-term management.

In addition, the Service and DFG will continue to work with our partners in the California Rangeland Coalition to ensure incorporation of appropriate principles and techniques of range management in listed species management plans in rangelands. These management plans are developed by project proponents as part of their mitigation requirements and address rangelands that are either under active livestock management or where livestock management will be introduced as a key tool for vegetation management to enhance habitat quality for on-site biological resources. The Service and DFG will also continue to work with the Implementation Committee during implementation of EACCS as part of the Adaptive Management Process that is outlined within the EACCS.

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We look forward to working with various stakeholders and local jurisdictions in the implementation of EACCS. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Squires, at (916) 414-6654; or Cay Goude, at (916) 414-6648 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; or Marcia Grefsrud, at (707) 644-2812; or Liam Davis, at (707) 944-5529 of the California Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,



Cay C. Goude
Assistant Field Supervisor
Endangered Species Program
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Carl Wilcox
Regional Manager
Bay-Delta Region
California Department of Fish and Game

cc: Elizabeth McElligott, Alameda County
Steve Stewart, City of Livermore
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Janice Stern, City of Pleasanton
Jill Duerig, Zone 7 Water Agency
Brad Olson, East Bay Regional Parks District
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