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January 13, 2020

Jennifer Weiss  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marin  
1400 N. Dutton Avenue, Suite 24  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**Re: California Tiger Salamander and Wetlands Assessment for Boys and Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marin**

Dear Ms. Weiss,

The purpose of this letter is to describe the methods and results of a California tiger salamander (CTS; *Ambystoma californiense*) and wetlands assessment for Boys and Girls Clubs of Sonoma Marin property on Sebastopol Road in Santa Rosa, California (APN 125-101-044; Study Area). The purpose of this report is to evaluate the study area for the potential to support federal and state listed CTS and/or jurisdictional wetlands, and is based on guidelines set forth in the Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy (Conservation Strategy)<sup>1</sup> and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) programmatic biological opinion<sup>2</sup> for listed species on the Santa Rosa Plain.

**Methods**

A Sol Ecology Inc., biologist (me), with a background in wildlife ecology and nearly 20 years of experience performing habitat assessments and protocol surveys for the CTS statewide and in Sonoma County, performed a desktop site assessment of the Study Area on January 10, 2020. Field surveys were not warranted based on preliminary findings described herein. The desktop assessment was based on the results of database searches including the CNDDDB database<sup>3</sup>, National Wetland Inventory, and Bay Area Aquatic Resource Inventory of the site and surrounding area. Figure 3 of the Conservation Strategy was examined to determine whether the site is in a “may affect” or “no effect” area. Aerial photography was also reviewed to identify site conditions, surrounding land uses, and potential breeding/aquatic habitats in the surrounding vicinity and whether barrier-free corridors are present.

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<sup>1</sup> Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy Final. Dec. 1, 2005. Available online at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/Recovery-Planning/Santa-Rosa/santa-rosa-strategy.php>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Nov. 9, 2007. Programmatic Biological Opinion for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permitted Projects that May Affect California Tiger Salamander and Three Endangered Plant Species on the Santa Rosa Plain, California (Corps File Number 223420N).

<sup>3</sup> California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2020. California Natural Diversity Database. Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch, Sacramento, CA.

## Results

### *Element 1. Is the Study Area within the range of the CTS?*

The Study Area is within the range of the CTS and is located within the Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy Area. However, the site is located within an area designated as “**already developed**” within the Urban Growth Boundary as shown on Figure 3 of the Conservation Strategy Map and within the designation of “**no effect**” as shown in Enclosure 1, prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game on Sept. 18, 2007.

### *Element 2. What are the known localities of CTS within the Study Area and within 3.1 miles (5 km) of the project boundaries?*

The Study Area is within 1.3 miles of known occurrences to the south and west of the project; the nearest breeding occurrence is more than 1.0 mile away. However, dense residential and commercial development exists between the site and documented occurrences and no viable corridors exist.

### *Element 3. What are the habitats within the Study Area and within 1.24 miles (2 km) of the project boundaries?*

The Study Area is developed and consists primarily of compacted gravel and paved surfaces. A small amount of bare ground is present currently; however, the site was completely paved as recently as 2017 and has been developed and in use since at least 1993. Dense residential and commercial development has also been present since at least 1993. Given the presence of paved surfaces, no jurisdictional wetlands are potentially present on the site or the immediate surrounding vicinity.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings of this assessment, there is no potential for CTS nor jurisdictional wetlands in the Study Area and proposed development of the site will have no effect on listed species or jurisdictional habitats. Furthermore, no mitigation is required per the PBO for sites containing hardscape.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions.

Respectfully,



Dana Riggs, Principal Biologist