

From: Ted P. Winfield, Ph.D To: Nicholson, Amy

Cc: "Richard C. Ersted"; "Mark Hale"

Subject: Air Center East - Phase II Project update

Date: Thursday, April 06, 2017 9:41:18 AM

Attachments: 2017-03-30 ACE II - Composite Mitigation Easement Areas Exhibit.pdf

Importance: High

Amy, following is a summary of our ongoing consultations with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

Since my conversation with you on March 28, 2016, the acreage of impacts increased slightly, resulting in a commensurate increase in the set-aside acreage for the California tiger salamander (CTS). The project impact footprint increased from 27.34 acres to 27.65 acres, resulting in an increase in the mitigation acreage from 82.02 acres to 82.65 acres. The overall set aside area now totals 94.16 acres, including the 82.65-acre CTS mitigation area, a 0.13-acre utility easement, 0.59-acre proposed drainage easements, a 9.50-acre potential future U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study area, and an existing 1.29-acre City of Santa Rosa road right-of-way (Madera Avenue). I have attached a figure showing the location of these features.

Such revised mitigation ties in with Figure 12 of the Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy dated 2005 and includes the entire Madera parcel, owned by a long-time affiliate of the Project Applicant. Project mitigation ties in, too, to an earlier discussion held in Sacramento on April 15, 2016 among the CDFW, the Applicant and me; and a related discussion held in Sacrament on April 26, 2016 among the senior management at the Service, the Applicant and me.

A permit application was subsequently sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in May 2016, and the Biological Assessment (BA) was sent to the Corps on May 27, 2016. In a letter to the Service dated July 10, 2016, the Corps requested initiation of formal consultation for the Air Center East – Phase II Project for possible impacts to CTS and critical habitat for CTS, and Sebastopol meadowfoam. On September 15, 2016, an electronic copy of the BA was sent to the Service's project manager.

An application for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) was sent to CDFW on September 23, 2016. In a letter dated November 8, 2016, CDFW confirmed that the ITP application was complete.

On January 25, 2017, the Applicant's project engineer, biologist and lead partner met with Mr. Vincent Griego at the Service and Ms. Suzanne Gilmore of the CDFW in Santa Rosa to discuss the Project, its impacts to habitat for the endangered California tiger salamander (CTS) and endangered Sebastopol meadowfoam, and the mitigation proposed to compensate for unavoidable impacts to habitat for these species. The meeting included a visit and walk-through of both the Project site and the proposed mitigation areas. Mr. Griego had previously toured the Project site and mitigation areas with the Applicant in 2008.

During the late January 2016 meeting, the Service and CDFW concluded that, with the exception of the small area of the paved section of Ludwig Avenue along the southern end of the Project site, the entire Project site provided upland or dispersal habitat for CTS, confirming the CTS impact area at

27.34 acres. Given the location of CTS breeding pools nearby, each re-confirmed last year and again this year by the Applicant using a CDFW-permitted. independent CTS biologist and crew, the Service and CDFW further concluded a 3:1 mitigation ratio would apply to the full Project CTS impact area. The result was confirmation of the overall mitigation acreage from 27.04 acres to 82.02 acres.

Subsequent to the January 2016 meeting, and based on a conversation with the Service's project manager, I forwarded a draft of parts of the Biological Opinion (BO) to the Service's project manager on February 8, 2017, for his use in preparing the BO. This write-up contained the updated impact and mitigation acreages. I sent a revised ITP, including updated impact and mitigation acreages, to the CDFW on February 4, 2017.

On February 14, 2017, we sent a letter to the Corps' project manager updating him on the outcome of our meeting with the Service and CDFW.

On March 30, 2017, the updated information on the impact acreage and mitigation acreage, and a figure showing the full extent of the mitigation area, was sent to CDFW. The same information was sent to the Service's project manager on March 31, 2017.

I have been in communication with the Service and CDFW on this Project since April 2016 and, based on my conversations to date, the late January meeting, and my knowledge of mitigation agreements reached elsewhere, I believe there is a high likelihood of Service and CDFW approval of the proposed mitigation for the Air Center East – Phase II Project.

Please call if you have any further questions.

Ted

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