

**California High-Speed Rail Authority**



**RFP No.: HSR 13-57**

**Request for Proposal  
for Design-Build Services for Construction  
Package 2-3**

**Book II, Part A.1 – Request for Reinitiation  
of Formal Consultation**





# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605  
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

In Reply Refer To:  
08ESMF00-2012-F-0247

APR - 1 2014

David Valenstein  
Chief, Environmental and Systems Planning Division  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Request for Reinitiation of Formal Consultation on the California High-Speed Train System: Fresno to Bakersfield Section (CHST-FB) Project, located in Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern Counties, California and for Administrative Edits to the 2013 CHST-FB Project Biological Opinion

Dear Mr. Valenstein:

On October 8, 2013, the Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), the FRA's designated non-federal representative, requested reinitiation of formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on the California High-Speed Train System: Fresno to Bakersfield Section (CHST-FB) Project in Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern Counties. On September 18, 2013, the FRA and the Authority, requested administrative edits to our February 28, 2013 Biological Opinion for CHST-FB Project (2013 FB-BO).

The Service has reviewed the request for reinitiation of formal consultation for the CHST-FB Project. The elements and facilities associated with the High-Speed Train (HST) System remain largely the same as previously discussed in the 2013 FB-BO, with the exception of one track re-alignment and the addition of habitat preservation and restoration at the Fagundes Compensatory Mitigation Site (FCMS). The proposed realignment of the HST tracks and new activities at the FCMS will result in an increase in the project action area and will exceed the amount of take originally analyzed and exempted in the Service's 2013 FB-BO for the Federally listed as endangered San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) and Federally listed as threatened central California Distinct Population Segment of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*). These changes are analyzed in the enclosed biological opinion, which amends and supersedes the 2013 FB-BO.

The FRA and the Authority submitted a total of 140 proposed administrative edits for consideration by the Service. The proposed administrative edits clarified language throughout the 2013 FB-BO and did not alter the project description. Therefore, the Service incorporated the proposed administrative edits into the enclosed biological opinion.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed biological opinion on the proposed California High-speed Rail Train system: Fresno to Bakersfield Section Project, please contact Florence Gardipee, Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist, (Flo\_Gardipee@fws.gov), or Thomas Leeman, San Joaquin Valley Division Chief, of this office at (916) 414-6600, or by email.

Sincerely,



Jennifer M. Norris  
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc:

Stephanie Perez, Federal Rail Administration, Washington, D.C.  
Kathleen A. Dadey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento, California  
Sarvy Mahdavi, Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco, California  
Enrique Manzanilla, Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco, California  
Julie Vance, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bakersfield, California  
Mark McLoughlin, Sacramento, California High Speed Rail Authority  
Stephanie Parsons, Parsons-Brinckerhoff, Sacramento, California