



NOV 14 2012

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for Authorization for Incidental Take and Implementation of Stanford University Habitat Conservation Plan*.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (collectively referred to as "Services") proceeding with the issuance of Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) to Stanford University (Stanford), under the authorities of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The FEIS includes modifications to the 2010 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) based on revisions to Stanford's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and in response to public comments. The proposed ITPs would authorize incidental take on Stanford lands of one species listed by NMFS, Central California Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and three species listed by USFWS, California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), and San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*). In addition, the non-listed western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*), is included in Stanford's HCP. The listed and non-listed species are collectively known as "Covered Species". Stanford's HCP specifies, among other things, (i) the impacts likely to result from the taking of the Covered Species and the measures Stanford will undertake to avoid, minimize, and mitigate such impacts, (ii) how the HCP would be funded, and (iii) alternatives to the proposed HCP. The proposed term of the ITPs is 50 years.

Additional copies of the FEIS and Stanford's HCP may be obtained from the Responsible Program Officials identified below. The documents are also accessible electronically through the NMFS Southwest Region website at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/nepa.htm>, or the USFWS website at <http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/>.

Two Notices of Availability (NOAs), one by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and one by NMFS, will be published in the *Federal Register* (anticipated date: November 23, 2012). A 30-day comment period will begin when the EPA NOA is published in the *Federal Register*. The Services are not required to respond to comments received during the 30-day comment period. However, comments received by December 24, 2012, will be reviewed and considered for their impact on issuance of the Services' Records of Decision (RODs). Please send your comment letters to one of the Responsible Program Officials identified below. The RODs will be made available publicly following final agency action on or after December 24, 2012. When submitting fax or email comments, include the following document identifier in the comment subject line: **Stanford HCP**. Comments submitted by e-mail should be sent to the following addresses: Stanford.HCP@noaa.gov and FW8Stanford_HCP@fws.gov.



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Responsible Program Official for USFWS: Mike Thomas, Division Chief
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Sincerely,



FOR Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure:

1. *Final Environmental Impact Statement for Authorization for Incidental Take and Implementation Stanford University Habitat Conservation Plan*