

From the Desk of Julie Tacker

November 14, 2013

San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department  
County Government Center, Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: (FWS-R8-ES-2013-N167; FF08ESMF – FXES11120800000-134)  
Habitat Conservation Plan for the Community of Los Osos, San Luis Obispo County,  
California. Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment

Attention: John McKenzie

Dear Mr. KcKenzie

As the communitywide Habitat Conservation Plan works its way through the process, it occurs to me that the Los Osos Community Services District and Los Osos Fire Safe Council Focus Group should be included in a companion Section 7.

Section 7(a)(1) requires Federal agencies to use their authority to further the conservation of listed species. Section 7(a)(2) requires Federal agencies to consult with the Service to ensure that they are not undertaking, funding, permitting, or authorizing actions likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat. Other paragraphs of this section establish the requirement to conduct conferences on proposed species; allow applicants to initiate early consultation; require FWS and NMFS to prepare biological opinions and issue incidental take statements.

Section 7 also establishes procedures for seeking exemptions from the requirements of section 7(a)(2) from the Endangered Species Committee. [ESA §7]

The County's preparation of the Communitywide Habitat Conservation Plan under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act will cover much of the same areas and similar activities. The work of fuel reduction crews are 'not likely to adversely affect' determinations. I respectfully request informal consultation under Section 7 of the ESA for the Los Osos Community Services district to commission thinning of vegetation in an effort to protect the community from the devastating effect of wildland fire.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Tacker

P.O. Box 6070, Los Osos, CA 93402  
julietacker@charter.net 805-528-3569