

## Helo, Joseph@HCD

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**From:** Torres, Juan@Wildlife <Juan.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 2:06 PM  
**To:** Waddell, Janice@HCD  
**Cc:** Helo, Joseph@HCD; Sheridan, Kursten@Wildlife; Barker, Kelley@Wildlife  
**Subject:** Tiered Environmental Review of Single-Family Home Projects in Butte, Yuba, Lake, and Nevada Counties 2017 Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery

**Categories:** Coordination Response

Janice L. Waddell  
Branch Chief, Federal Programs  
Department of Housing and Community Development Division of Financial Assistance  
2020 W. El Camino Avenue, Suite 670, 95833  
P. O. Box 952054  
Sacramento, CA 94252-2054  
Janice.Waddell@hcd.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Waddell:

Thank you for contacting the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regarding the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to support long-term recovery efforts following the federally declared disasters of October 2017. Under this grant the Program will allow affected residents to apply for grants to repair or reconstruct their single-family homes. Projects under the program are expected to involve repair/rehabilitation or reconstruction of single-family dwellings for very-low, low- and moderate-income households and vulnerable populations. Approximately 400 owners may seek funding under this Grant. CDFW supports these efforts to assist populations in these counties devastated by natural disasters. Based on the project scope provided in the letter submitted to CDFW on July 31, 2020, CDFW agrees that most of the activities would not require consultation with CDFW since most of the activities will occur within existing housing and would not affect previously undisturbed areas.

CDFW is California's **Trustee Agency** for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State (Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a)). CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has authority over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (*Id.*, § 1802.). Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW provides, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW may also act as a **Responsible Agency** under CEQA. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381.) CDFW expects that it may need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code. As proposed, for example, the Project may be subject to CDFW's lake and streambed alteration regulatory authority. (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 et seq.) Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in "take" as defined by State law of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.), the project proponent may seek related take authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW does not have a "consultation" formal process like other Federal agencies. Consultation to CDFW staff is recommended when projects could result in significant impacts to plants, fish and wildlife resources, and their habitats, or when the proposed project may require authorization from CDFW as a responsible agency

prior to its implementation. If any of the proposed projects may be subject to Fish and Game Code as described above, CDFW recommends early coordination to ensure compliance with the Fish and Game Code regulations. If at any time, any project proponent has questions regarding our programs or resources CDFW holds in trust by statute for the people of California, CDFW has staff that may be able to assist you with inquiries regarding these programs and resources.

Information regarding the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program can be found at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA>. Information regarding CESA can be obtained at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/cesa>.

If you have any questions, please contact Juan Lopez Torres at (916) 247-0327 or [juan.torres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:juan.torres@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**Juan Lopez Torres**  
**Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)**

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF**  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**   
**NORTH CENTRAL REGION**  
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*\*As a part of a broader effort by the California Natural Resources Agency and CDFW to go paperless, CDFW will begin accepting electronic notifications for Standard Lake and Streambed Alteration Standard Agreements through CDFW's new online Environmental Permit Information Management System (EPIMS), effective August 1, 2020. As CDFW transitions to EPIMS, CDFW will continue to accept paper notifications for Standard Agreements through August 2020. All notifications for Standard Agreements received on or after September 1, 2020 will be processed through EPIMS. For more information about EPIMS, or if you need help completing your online notification, please visit the CDFW's EPIMS website at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/EPIMS>*

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