

### Biological Assessment (BA) checklist:

Pursuant to 50 CFR 402.14(c), a written request to initiate formal consultation must include the following:

- (1) A description of the action to be considered;
- (2) A description of the specific area that may be affected by the action;
- (3) A description of any listed species or critical habitat that may be affected by the action;
- (4) A description of the manner in which the action may affect any listed species or critical habitat and an analysis of any cumulative effects;
- (5) Relevant reports, including any environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, or biological assessment prepared; and
- (6) Any other relevant available information on the action, the affected listed species, or critical habitat.

Include the following information:

- Hard copy and CD of the BA, a shape file of the project action area (including staging and temporary disturbance areas), species detections (from surveys and CNDDDB), and any other pertinent written materials submitted with the permit application. Label all figures clearly and legibly.
- State whether or not the lead agency wishes to have the project appended to a programmatic biological opinion (BO), and if so, which one. Confirm that the project meets the requirements of the programmatic BO.
- A complete and detailed project description, including avoidance, minimization, and compensation measures. Specifically:
  - a. Schedule specifics: time of year, number of seasons, continuous or intermittent.
  - b. Describe the species habitat in all areas affected by the project. Include acres of suitable habitat for each listed species that would be disturbed: short-term temporary (effects lasting less than one year); long-term temporary (effects lasting between one and three years); or permanently disturbed (effects lasting more than three years) by the proposed action. Or alternatively identify how long the temporary effect would last before the area is restored.
  - c. List all California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) occurrences of federally- listed species within 5 miles of the action area (include CNDDDB occurrence number and a brief description of each occurrence) or any other data available on occurrences of listed species near the action area.
  - d. Describe any night work planned. Certain species are sensitive to construction-related disturbance at night, including the San Joaquin kit fox,

California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, giant kangaroo rat, blunt nose leopard lizard, and riparian brush rabbit.

- e. Location of staging areas, storage areas, and access routes.
- f. Types of equipment used.
- g. Identify the acreage of temporary and permanent disturbance.
- h. Describe any dewatering methods.
- i. Identify the borrow and fill material disposal sites.
- j. Describe any associated infrastructure construction or improvements that will be necessitated by the project.
- k. Include restoration plans for any applicable temporary disturbance.
- l. Maintenance and operations plans as they pertain to any potential future effects to federally-listed species necessitated by the project (including site security, mechanical maintenance activities, use of pesticides, etc.).
- o Discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects. Include effects from interrelated and interdependent actions.
  - o Definition: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/toc-glos.pdf>
  - o Examples: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/CH4.PDF>
- o Full survey results which support the effects determination, including data sheets and protocols/guidelines used.
- o Location of the proposed action relative to core areas or recovery units identified in applicable species Recovery Plans.

Remarks:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_