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## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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In reply refer to:  
1-1-04-I-1417

APR 12 P 2:22

FILE CODE
ENV-7.00

OFFICIAL FILE APR 8 2004

CODE	ACTION	SURNAME	DATE
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### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Chief, Resources Management Division, Bureau of Reclamation, South-Central California Area Office, Fresno, California

**From:** Assistant Field Supervisor, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, Sacramento, California *Ch Nagro*

**Subject:** Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement Project, Fresno, California

This memo is in response to your February 12, 2004 request for concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for the proposed Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement Project located on the San Joaquin River in Fresno County, CA. At issue are the potential adverse effects on the threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus*). This response is provided pursuant to section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)(Act), and in accordance with the regulations governing interagency consultations (50 CFR §402).

The Service has reviewed your February 12, 2004, memo, a December 16, 2003, biological assessment for the Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement Project, and other information on file at the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office. This information provided the biological information sufficient for the Service to concur that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the valley elderberry longhorn beetle and that it will not adversely modify or destroy critical habitat. This concurrence is provided specific to this action area, and for the project action only as described within the February 12, 2004, memo. If project work descriptions or time frames change, or were not evaluated, it is our recommendation that the changes be submitted for our review.

The proposed project is designed to enhance natural habitat and increase public access on a 167 acre parcel along the San Joaquin River adjacent to Woodward Regional Park in the City of Fresno, Fresno County, California. The proposed project would create perennial wetland oxbows and seasonal wetland depressions. The cottonwood/mixed riparian forest would be preserved, and enhancement plantings would be conducted. Nonnative invasive plants would be subject to control techniques, including limited grazing. Measures to improve public access are also included in the project design, including development of a trail system, interpretive signage,



fencing modifications, and removal of an existing pole barn. The barn will be removed piece by piece, avoiding direct impacts to two elderberry shrubs growing directly adjacent to the barn. The measures in the proposed project designed to conserve and protect elderberry shrubs are sufficient to reduce any direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on valley elderberry longhorn beetles, and valley elderberry longhorn beetle habitat to an insignificant or discountable level. Critical habitat for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle has been designated but does not exist in the proposed project area

This concludes the Service's review of the proposed Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement Project on the San Joaquin River, Fresno County, California, and no further coordination with the Service under the Act is necessary at this time. Please note however that this letter does not authorize take of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle. As provided in 50 CFR §402.14, initiation of formal consultation is required where there is discretionary Federal involvement or control over the action (or is authorized by law) and if: (1) new information reveals the effects of the agency action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in this review; (2) the agency action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in this opinion; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.

We appreciate your efforts to protect and conserve endangered species. If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Larry Butcher or Susan Jones of my staff at (916) 414-6630.