

# The County of Yuba

## Community Development & Services Agency

### Michael Lee, Director

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January 24, 2024

Paul Souza  
Regional Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Pacific Southwest Region 8 Headquarters  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Souza,

Please accept this letter as an initiation of consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as delegated to Yuba County from the Federal Housing Administration through the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Per the attached Biological Resource Assessment, we are proposing informal consultation with a “May affect, unlikely to adversely affect” determination based on the intensity of the proposed activities and the habitat present within the Project Area. This project involves removal of vegetation along county-owned rights-of-way to remove hazard trees and create fire breaks. This work is being performed under a grant from HUD and administered by CHD. One portion of the targeted rights-of-ways passes through USFWS-designated Critical Habitat for the California red-legged frog. As part of the project description, all potentially jurisdictional waterways and state jurisdictional riparian corridors will be avoided by construction equipment and no trees that could be part of a riparian forest will be removed.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please reach out to my office at 530-749-5463 or [cfisher@co.yuba.ca.us](mailto:cfisher@co.yuba.ca.us) or our biological permitting consultant Nicholas Bonzey of ECORP Consulting at 916-782-9100 or [nbonzey@ecorpconsulting.com](mailto:nbonzey@ecorpconsulting.com).

Yours,

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Planner III  
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