



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3406

September 5, 2023

CESPN-PME

SUBJECT: Second Transmittal of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' and Sonoma Water's final Biological Assessment for the Russian River Watershed Water Supply and Channel Maintenance Project


Dr. Scott Rumsey
Acting Regional Administrator
Attn: Bob Coey
North Coast Branch Chief
777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325
Santa Rosa, California 95404

Dear Dr. Rumsey:

Thank you for your letter dated April 3, 2023 responding to our February 28, 2023 letter transmitting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) and Sonoma Water's final Biological Assessment (BA) for the Russian River Watershed Water Supply and Channel Maintenance project. We understood from your letter that you required more information to initiate formal consultation, per Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulations, 50 C.F.R. § 402.14 (c), and/or to complete Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, 50 C.F.R. § 600.920.

Subsequent to your letter, Corps staff has been coordinating with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) staff to provide the materials/information you requested. We trust that we have adequately addressed your request, which concerned five sections or topic areas of the BA: 1) the Description of the Proposed Action, 2) the Effects of the Action and Cumulative Effects Analysis, 3) a Summary of Relevant Information, 4) the EFH Consultation, and 5) the Scope of Agency Action and Agency Discretion.

The Corps remains firm in its commitment to collaborate with NMFS throughout the BA review and will continue to work diligently in providing flexibility to achieve our common goal under the ESA section 7 consultation process. The Corps appreciates your agency's time and coordination on this consultation. The point of contact for this letter is the undersigned, Dr. Tessa Beach at (415) 503-6713 or tessa.e.bernhardt@usace.army.mil.


Dr. Tessa Eve Beach
Planning Chief
Environmental Services Branch Chief