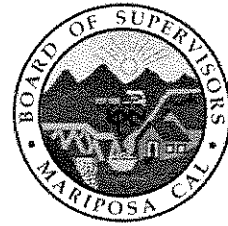




MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2013-465

MEETING: October 22, 2013

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rick Benson, County Administrative Officer

RE: Toad and Frog Letter

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Sign a Comment Letter to the US Department of Fish and Wildlife Regarding the Proposed Rules Concerning the Yellow Legged Frog and Yosemite Toad.

The US Department of Fish and Wildlife is considering a proposal to list as endangered/threatened, and to designate critical habitat for, the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana Sierrae*), Northern Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana Muscosa*) and the Yosemite Toad (*Anaxyrus Canorus*). The comment period regarding the proposal is currently open.

The attached letter expresses concerns regarding the rules and encourages a delay in issuing rules until additional scientific study and socioeconomic study has been completed.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

On October 1, 2013, your Board heard a presentation from citizens regarding the consequences and the science involved in the proposed rules. At that meeting you directed staff to draft a letter for Board consideration.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

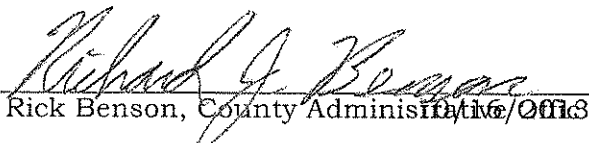
Your Board may revise the letter or choose not to submit a comment. If the Board does not approve a letter Board members may submit comments individually.

ATTACHMENTS:

Toad2(DOCX)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended


Rick Benson, County Administrative Officer

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

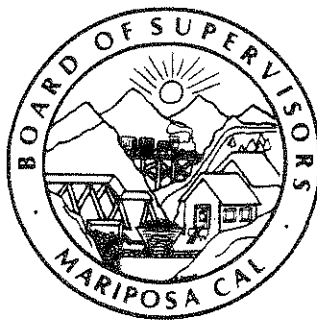
MOVER: Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor

SECONDER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 LEE STETSON
District 2 MERLIN JONES
District 3 JANET BIBBY
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 JOHN CARRIER



RICHARD J. BENSON
County Administrative Officer

RENÉ LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

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www.mariposacounty.org/board

October 22, 2013

The Honorable Daniel M. Ashe
Director U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service Public Comments Processing,
Attn: FWS-R8-ES-2012-0100
Division of Policy and Directives Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM;
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Mr. Ashe:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors appreciates the opportunity to comment regarding the proposed rules to list as endangered/threatened, and to designate critical habitat for, the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana Sierrae*), Northern Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana Muscosa*) and the Yosemite Toad (*Anaxyrus Canorus*), as published in the Federal Register / Vol. 78, No. 80 / Thursday, April 25, 2012.

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) and several agricultural-based organizations have raised significant concerns about the science behind this listing and/or designation of critical habitat. Mariposa County concurs with the request to assure that the scientific evidence be carefully scrutinized due to conflicting data received. Several counties have also commented on the conflicting science and have submitted letters objecting to said designations.


Numerous concerns have been brought to this Board from citizens regarding the science involved and the potential impacts to area ranchers and other property owners. There is a great deal of skepticism among our citizens regarding the need for the proposed rules.

The mission of the US Fish and Wildlife Service is to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. This mission will work much better when done with the support of local citizenry. Local citizen support is only gained through open, honest communications and when a sense of fairness is part of the equation.

The implementation of the proposed rule should be delayed and the proper environmental analysis, including economic and social impact and the relationship between the proposed listing and removal of hazardous fire fuels, should be fully

remanded back to the appropriate agencies for preparation of a thorough environmental analysis. Only then will the impacts of the proposed listing be fully understood and the residents of local jurisdictions of the region that are impacted be able to fully participate in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Stetson', written in a cursive style.

Lee Stetson
Chairman