



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION IX**  
**75 Hawthorne Street**  
**San Francisco, CA 94105-3901**

Paul Souza  
Regional Director  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Pacific Southwest Region Headquarters  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825

**SUBJECT:** Designation of Non-Federal Representative for Consultations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act

Dear Paul Souza:

I am writing to confirm that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 (EPA) is designating the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as our non-federal representative for purposes of conducting informal consultation and preparing a Biological Assessment or Biological Evaluation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for certain projects that may be funded by the California Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), the California Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant (EC-SDC) program, and the Small, Underserved and Disadvantaged Communities Grant (SUDC) program (collectively, the "Programs"). This designation applies to all projects in the state of California receiving assistance through the CWSRF, DWSRF, EC-SDC, and SUDC programs.

Projects supported with funds made available by federal CWSRF and DWSRF capitalization grants, and projects supported by EC-SDC and SUDC grant funds, referred to as federally-assisted projects, must comply with Section 7 of the ESA implementing regulations. Roles and responsibilities for EPA and the SWRCB for complying with the ESA are detailed in a letter from EPA to the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance at the SWRCB, Joe Karkoski, dated May 12, 2025, a copy of which is enclosed.

Per 50 CFR 402.08, if a Biological Assessment is prepared by a non-federal representative, EPA will continue to provide guidance and supervision and shall independently review and evaluate the scope and contents to ensure that it meets applicable standards and guidelines. EPA is ultimately responsible for compliance with Section 7. In carrying out its responsibilities as EPA's designated non-federal representative, the SWRCB will provide EPA with copies of consultation letters, all substantial communications with your agency and all associated analyses and recommendations.

If you require additional information or have questions regarding this designation, please contact Elizabeth Borowiec, State and Municipal Infrastructure Section Manager at (415) 972-3419 or Luis Garcia-Bakarich, Drinking Water Section Manager at (415) 972-3237.

Sincerely,

/s/ May 12, 2025

Hector Aguirre, acting on behalf of  
Tomás Torres, Director, Water Division

cc: Vicky Ryan, Arcata Field Office, USFWS  
Nora Papian, Arcata Field Office, USFWS  
Tamara Ward, San Francisco Bay-Delta Field Office, USFWS  
Jonathan D. Snyder, Carlsbad Field Office, USFWS  
Kris Petersen, Carlsbad Field Office, USFWS  
Carol Roberts, Carlsbad Field Office, USFWS  
Susan Wynn, Carlsbad Field Office, USFWS  
David Zoutendyk, Carlsbad Field Office, USFWS  
Brian Croft, Palm Springs Field Office, USFWS  
Karin Cleary-Rose, Palm Springs Field Office, USFWS  
Peter Sanzenbacher, Palm Springs Field Office, USFWS  
Rachael Youmans, Reno Field Office, USFWS  
Anne Mankowski, Reno Field Office, USFWS  
Michael Fris, Sacramento Field Office, USFWS  
Ryan Olah, Sacramento Field Office, USFWS  
Megan Cook, Sacramento Field Office, USFWS  
Justin Sloan, Sacramento Field Office, USFWS  
Michelle Havens, Sacramento Field Office, USFWS  
Rick Kuyper, Sacramento Field Office, USFWS  
Sam Lantz, Ventura Field Office, USFWS  
Leilani Takano, Ventura Field Office, USFWS  
Joseph Brandt, Ventura Field Office, USFWS  
Chis Diel, Ventura Field Office, USFWS  
Michael Downey, SWRCB  
Ahmad Kashkoli, SWRCB  
Brian Cary, SWRCB  
Bridget Binning, SWRCB  
Jean Fung, SWRCB