



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003

IN REPLY REFER TO:
08EVEN00-2012-TA-0484

September 20, 2012

William K. Collins
Fort Ord Base Realignment and Closure Office
Building 4463 Gigling Road, Room 101
P.O. Box 5008
Monterey, CA 93944-5008

Subject: Authorization of Biologists under the Biological Opinion Cleanup and Reuse of Former Fort Ord, Monterey County, California, as it affects California Tiger Salamander and Critical Habitat for Contra Costa Goldfields (1-8-04-F-25R)

Dear Mr. Collins:

We have reviewed a request, submitted by ARCADIS U.S., Inc. on August 16, 2012, for our authorization of Cynthia Fenter and Danielle Muir to capture and relocate federally threatened California tiger salamanders (*Ambystoma californiense*). In an electronic message to Kirstina Barry of my staff on August 27, 2012, you confirmed that this request was made on behalf of the U.S. Army. Your request is made pursuant to term and condition 6(b) of the subject biological opinion, which requires our approval of all persons proposed to handle and relocate California tiger salamanders in association with the subject project.

After reviewing the qualifications you submitted with your request, we have concluded that Ms. Fenter and Ms. Muir possess the necessary training and experience to independently conduct the requested activities. We hereby authorize the above-named biologists to capture and relocate federally threatened California tiger salamanders pursuant to the terms and conditions outlined in the biological opinion for the cleanup and reuse former of Fort Ord. Please note that this authorization is valid for the subject project only. We recommend that these biologists review the project description, protective measures, and terms and conditions of biological opinion 1-8-04-F-25R prior to conducting the proposed activities. If you have any questions regarding this authorization, please contact Kirstina Barry at (805) 644-1766, extension 357.

Sincerely,

Douglass M. Cooper
Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor