



# 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:  
2008-TA-0164

February 8, 2008

Phillip A. Lebednik, Ph.D.  
Ecosystems Services Group  
LFR, Inc.  
1900 Powell Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Emeryville, California 94608-1814

**Subject:** Authorization of Biologists for the Former Fort Ord Munitions and Explosives Cleanup (MEC) for ESCA Parcels, Monterey County, California (1-8-05-F-47)

Dear Dr. Lebednik:

We have reviewed your request to approve yourself, John Grattan, Pablo R. Martos, and Mitch C. Siemens to monitor, survey for, capture, and relocate individuals of the federally threatened California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), as authorized biologists, during munitions and explosives cleanup (MEC) on the former Fort Ord. Your request, dated December 12, 2007, was received in our office, via electronic mail message, the same day. You would perform the requested activities pursuant to the terms and conditions of the biological opinion (1-8-05-F-47), issued to the U.S. Army on March 14, 2005.

After reviewing the materials you submitted with your request, we have concluded that Mr. Siemens possesses the necessary training and experience to conduct the requested activities for the former Fort Ord MEC project. Therefore, Mr. Siemens is hereby authorized to monitor, survey for, capture, and relocate California tiger salamander pursuant to the terms and conditions of the subject biological opinion.

However, after reviewing the materials you submitted with your request, we have concluded that you, Mr. Grattan, and Mr. Martos do not possess the necessary training and experience to conduct the requested activities for the former Fort Ord MEC project. Therefore, we cannot approve you, Mr. Grattan, or Mr. Martos as authorized biologists at this time.

However, we authorize you, Mr. Grattan, and Mr. Martos to conduct surveys and associated activities for the subject biological opinion under the direct supervision of Mr. Siemens or another Service-approved biologist. Furthermore, you, Mr. Grattan, and Mr. Martos are approved to implement term and condition 6(b), found on page 64 of the March 14, 2005, Biological Opinion: "In unforeseen circumstances, such as when live California tiger salamanders are encountered during a munitions response or soil remediation action, Mr. William Collins, Army biologist, may relocate California tiger salamanders out of the path of danger. When Mr. Collins is unavailable, a resident lead field designee who has received

Phillip A. Lebednik, Ph.D.

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appropriate training by the Service-authorized biologist, may handle California tiger salamanders for the sole purpose of removing them from the path of danger." This is the only circumstance under which you, Mr. Grattan, and Mr. Martos are authorized to capture or handle a California tiger salamander without being under the direct supervision of a Service-approved biologist.

To receive future approval as an authorized biologist, you should gain additional experience or show that you currently have experience in capture, relocation, and handling techniques for California tiger salamander adults, larvae, and eggs. You can gain this experience while working as a California tiger salamander monitor under the direct supervision of an authorized biologist.

If you have any questions regarding this authorization, please contact Douglass Cooper of my staff at (805) 644-1766, extension 272.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Pereksta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David M. Pereksta  
Assistant Field Supervisor

cc: Bill Collins, U.S. Army



# 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:  
81440-2011-TA-0408

August 12, 2011

Phil Lebednik, Ph.D.  
ESCA RP Senior Qualified Biologist  
ARCADIS U.S., Inc.  
2033 North Main Street, Suite 340  
Walnut Creek, California 94596-3727

Subject: Approval of Biologists to Conduct California Tiger Salamander Capture and Relocation Activities during Munitions and Explosives of Concern Cleanup on Former Fort Ord (1-8-04-F-25R)

Dear Dr. Lebednik:

We have reviewed your request, dated July 1, 2011, for our approval of Thomas A. Graham and Joshua T. Tallis, to conduct capture and relocation activities involving the federally threatened California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), pursuant to the subject biological opinion. Your request for approval is made pursuant to term and condition 6(b) of the subject biological opinion.

Based on the information you provided, we have determined that Mr. Graham and Mr. Tallis have sufficient training and experience to capture and relocate California tiger salamanders. We therefore approve these individuals as lead field designees pursuant to the subject biological opinion. Please note that this authorization is valid only for activities conducted in association with 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 (Service 2005)).

If you have any questions, please contact Lena Chang of my staff at (805) 644-1766, extension 302.

Sincerely,

Douglass M. Cooper  
Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor



## REFERENCES CITED

[Service] U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2005. Biological opinion for the 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). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, Ventura, California.



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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