United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

In Reply Refer to:
08ESMF00-
2014-I-0452

JUL 2 2014

Gregory S. Capra, P.E., LEED AP
6451 B Street
Beale AFB, California 95903-1708

Subject: Informal Consultation on the Dry Creek Sanitary Sewer Line Upgrade Project, Beale Air Force Base (AFB), Yuba County, California

Dear Mr. Capra:

This letter is in response to your June 11, 2014, letter requesting concurrence with a determination Dry Creek Sanitary Sewer Line Upgrade Project at Beale AFB is not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species. Your request was received by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on June 13, 2014. At issue are the effects of the proposed project on the federally-listed as threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) and the federally-listed as endangered vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*) (henceforth, both referred to as vernal pool crustaceans). The proposed project is not located within critical habitat for the vernal pool crustaceans, therefore critical habitat will not be affected. This response is provided under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act).

The Service used the following to review your request: 1) your June 11, 2014, letter; 2) the Special Area Management Plan and associated Beale AFB programmatic biological opinion (81420-2009-F-1118-1); and 3) other information on file at the Service's Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office.

Beale AFB proposes to replace three segments of the sanitary sewer system within the MFH/Medical Clinic/space surveillance site areas. These actions are covered under the Special Area Management Plan Programmatic Biological Opinion (Utilities: Underground Utility Lines: New Construction and Maintenance and Upgrades) and will involve the following activities:

- Re-routing the sanitary sewer pipeline that serves the space surveillance site, the Medical Clinic, the Lakeview area, and the Visiting Officers Quarters (VOQ) to eliminate the creek crossing southwest of the VOQ;
  - About 2,800 feet of sanitary sewer gravity pipeline would be installed from a location west of the VOQ running west to a sewer tie-in location at an existing sanitary sewer manhole north of Ryden Park.
  - The proposed pipe would run parallel and north of Dry Creek, and be installed in a 3- to 10-foot wide trench at a depth of between 3 and 14 feet below ground surface.

- The aboveground abandoned sewer piping and support piers within Dry Creek southwest of the VOQ would be left in place.
- Installation of about 10 manholes to a depth of 5 to 16 feet will require excavation disturbance of about 10 feet diameter at each location. Manholes will be spaced along the sanitary sewer pipeline at a maximum distance of 400 feet apart.
- Three manholes located within the project area would be abandoned in place by plugging all sewer lines; removing the manhole cover, collar and the top concrete ring; and backfilling the removal area to grade with sand and topsoil. Manhole abandonment will require excavation disturbance of about 6 feet diameter at each location.
- Construction access would be from Camp Beale Highway, Lakeview Road, Warren Shingle Road, Lake House Road, and other unnamed dirt roads in the area.
- Staging areas would be located in the paved parking lot at the southern end of Lake House Road.

- Re-routing the sanitary sewer pipeline to eliminate aboveground segments of the pipeline located within the 100-year flood plain on the south side of Dry Creek west of Camp Beale Highway;
  - A new pump station consisting of a series of two or three belowground vaults that would house pumps and controls would be installed on the east side of Camp Beale Highway south of Dry Creek. The pump station would include a perimeter fence and an aboveground emergency generator with secondary containment of the fuel tank. The pump station footprint would cover about 100 square feet. Communications, electrical, and water utilities would be brought to the pump house area, and a small gravel driveway about 500 square feet would be installed to provide vehicle access.
  - About 1,600 feet of sanitary sewer force main would be installed in a foot wide trench at a depth of 3 feet below ground surface from the new pump station extending north (affixed to the existing Camp Beale Highway bridge) to a new manhole located at the corner of Camp Beale Highway and Warren Shingle Road.
  - About 2,200 feet of gravity sanitary sewer pipeline would be installed from the new manhole located at the corner of Camp Beale Highway and Warren Shingle Road to tie into an existing sanitary sewer main located west of the VOQ.
  - Installation of about seven manholes to a depth of 5 to 12 feet will require excavation disturbance of about 10 feet diameter at each location. Manholes will be spaced along the sanitary sewer pipeline at a maximum distance of 400 feet apart.
  - About 100 feet of belowground electrical line and 825 feet of belowground communications line would be installed to service the new pump station. Electrical and communications lines would be installed within a 3- to 4-foot wide and 2- to 2.5-foot deep trench, within the graveled road shoulder of Camp Beale Highway.
  - Four manholes located within the project area would be abandoned in place by plugging all sewer lines; removing the manhole cover, collar and the top concrete ring; and backfilling the removal area to grade with sand and topsoil. Manhole

abandonment will require excavation disturbance of about 6 feet diameter at each location.

- Construction access would be from Camp Beale Highway, Lakeview Road, Warren Shingle Road, Lake House Road, and other unnamed dirt roads in the area.
- Staging areas would be located in the paved parking lot at the southern end of Lake House Road.

- Installing a permanent replacement for the failed Dry Creek crossing at Ryden Park;
  - About 250 feet of gravity sanitary sewer pipeline would be installed in a 3-foot wide trench at a depth of about 3 feet below ground surface from an existing manhole located in the northeast corner of Ryden Park to the new pump station in Ryden Park.
  - The temporary sanitary sewer gravity pipeline would be replaced with a sanitary sewer force main, which would be suspended under the existing bike bridge above the 100-year high water elevation. About 800 feet of sanitary sewer force main would be installed in a 3-foot wide trench at a depth of about 3 feet below ground surface from the new pump station in Ryden Park to an existing manhole located on the north side of Dry Creek.
  - A new pump station consisting of a series of two or three belowground manhole vaults that would house pumps and controls would be installed in the southeastern corner of Ryden Park near the existing restrooms. The rim of the pump station manhole would be constructed to avoid infiltration by flood flows.
  - The pump station would include a perimeter fence and an aboveground emergency generator with secondary containment of the fuel tank. The pump station footprint would cover about 100 square feet. Communications, electrical, and water utilities would be brought to the pump house area, and a small gravel driveway of about 300 square feet would be installed to provide vehicle access.
  - A 220-foot belowground electrical line and about 4,000 feet of belowground communication line would be installed to service the new pump station. Electrical and communications lines would be installed within a 3- to 4-foot wide and 2- to 2.5-foot deep trench, within the graveled road shoulder of Troutman Drive and other previously disturbed areas around existing residences.
  - The failed gravity sewer pipeline that cross Dry Creek at the northeast corner of Ryden Park would be removed, and the pipeline support piers would be abandoned in place.
  - One manhole located within the project area would be abandoned in place by plugging all sewer lines; removing the manhole cover, collar and the top concrete ring; and backfilling the removal area to grade with sand and topsoil. Manhole abandonment will require excavation disturbance of about 6 feet diameter at each location.
  - Construction access would be from Ryden Park Road, and staging areas would be located within paved areas of the park.

Beale AFB has identified that the following avoidance, minimization and compensation measures will be implemented for the proposed action.

1) A biologist approved by the Service will conduct preconstruction surveys of all ground disturbance areas within sensitive habitats to determine if any federally-listed species may be present prior to the start of construction. These surveys will be conducted 2 weeks prior to the start of construction activities in any sensitive habitat. If any federally-listed species are found during the preconstruction surveys, the Service-approved biologist will contact the Service to determine how to proceed. At least 15 days prior to the onset of activities, Beale AFB will submit the name(s) and credentials of biologists who will conduct these preconstruction surveys. No project activities will begin until proponents have received written approval from the Service that the biologist(s) is qualified to conduct the work.
2) A Service approved biologist will monitor construction activities in or adjacent to sensitive habitats. The biological monitor will ensure compliance with the avoidance and minimization measures required to protect federally-listed species and their habitats. If federally-listed species are found that are likely to be affected by work activities, the Service approved biologist will have the authority to stop any aspect of the project that could result in unauthorized take of a federally-listed species. If the biological monitor exercises this authority, he/she must notify the Service by telephone and letter within one working day.
3) Environmental awareness training will be provided for all construction personnel working on the proposed project. Training will be provided at the start of work and within 15 days of any new worker arrival. The program will consist of a briefing on environmental issues relative to the proposed project. Training will be conducted by a Service approved biologist.
4) A biological monitor will ensure that the spread or introduction of invasive exotic plant species will be avoided to the maximum extent possible (see Beale AFB INRMP, [Beale AFB 2011]).
5) All wetlands/drainages/vernal pools will have erosion control measures (straw waddles, hay bales, silt fencing) installed when work is within 250 feet of a wetland or where hydrological continuity exists between the construction activities and the wetland. Construction boundaries within the buffer will be designated with fencing to ensure no equipment and/or construction workers access those protected areas.
6) No work will be conducted in the vicinity of vernal pools and streams between November 1st and May 1st, unless specifically approved by the Beale AFB Environmental Office who will field verify soil saturation, visual ponding, and expected surface disturbance. The Service will be notified of any work approved between November 1st and May 1st.
7) Off-road travel outside of the demarcated construction boundaries will be prohibited.
8) Motor vehicles and equipment will only be fueled and serviced in designated service areas. All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 250 feet from any wetland/drainage habitat or water body. Prior to the onset of work, Beale AFB will prepare a plan to allow a prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

After reviewing the information provided, including on-site habitat, the potential for vernal pool crustaceans to be found at the project sites, and the proposed conservation measures described in the request, we concur with your determination that the proposed project, as described, is not likely to adversely affect the vernal pool crustaceans.

This concurrence is provided specific to this action area, and for the proposed project action only as originally described within the request.

This concludes our review of your proposed project and no further coordination with the Service under the Act is necessary at this time. Please note, however, that this letter does not authorize take of listed species. Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "take" (e.g., harm, harass, pursue, injure, kill) of federally-listed wildlife species. Therefore, unless new information reveals effects of the proposed project that may affect listed species in a manner or to an extent not considered, or a new species or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the proposed project, no further action pursuant to the Act is necessary.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Mark Littlefield, Chief, Watershed Planning Branch at the letterhead address or (916) 414-6600.

Sincerely,

Daniel Welsh
Acting Field Supervisor

cc:
Jamie N. Visinoni, Beale AFB, CA

Reference

Beale Air Force Base. 2011. (October). *Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, Beale Air Force Base, California, August 2011 to August 2016*. Final. Updated by Beale Air Force Base, 9th Civil Engineer Squadron, Environmental Element. Beale AFB, CA.