



State of California -The Natural Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
 1234 East Shaw Avenue
 Fresno, California 93710
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

EDMUND G. BROWN, Jr. Governor
 CHARLTON BOHNAM, Director



September 6, 2012

Terry Wahler
 County of San Luis Obispo
 Department of Planning and Building
 976 Osos Street, Room 300
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RECEIVED
 SEP 10 2012
 Planning & Bldg

Dear Mr. Wahler:

Williamson Act Inclusion – Clarke Property
 Creston, San Luis Obispo County

At your request, the Department of Fish and Game (Department) has evaluated the biological values of the Clarke Property (APN 043-291-030 and APN 043-291-031). The evaluation was conducted to establish an agricultural reserve for wildlife as provided for in the Williamson Act. The property encompasses approximately 652 acres and is located along Heurheuro Creek near the town of Creston in the eastern portion of San Luis Obispo County. The Creston area is recognized as an important wildlife corridor between the Carrizo Plain and Camp Roberts. Very few of the lands in this region have any protections for biological resources. The Clarke property is adjacent to, or in the immediate vicinity of, several disconnected parcels of BLM land. Inclusion of the Clarke property in the Williamson Act will not only directly protect wildlife habitat on their lands but will also aid in providing a protective buffer for the biological resources on the federal lands.

Vegetation on site is relatively diverse with coastal scrub, mixed chaparral and chamise-redshank chaparral comprising approximately 75% of the habitat. The remaining habitat is either valley oak woodland or valley foothill riparian. Both of these communities are considered sensitive by the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB). While the CNDDDB does not provide any records of special status species directly on site, numerous special status wildlife and plant species have been recorded in similar habitats in the immediate vicinity including California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*), western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondi*), hooked popcorn flower (*Plagiopothrys uncinatus*), La Panza mariposa lily (*Calochortus simulans*), Hardham's evening primrose (*Cammissonia harhamiae*), yellow-flowered eriastrum (*Eriastrum luteum*) and straight-awned spineflower (*Chorizanthe rectispina*). In addition, Blainville's horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) and coastal patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*) would be expected to inhabit the property. All of the aforementioned species are considered to be species of greatest conservation need because of declines in their range or populations as well as increased threats to the habitats upon which they depend.

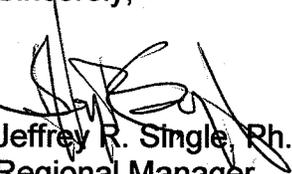
Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

Terry Wahler
September 6, 2012
Page 2 of 2

The subject property is situated in an important area for conservation in the county and given the sensitive resources likely to be present on site, the Department supports inclusion of the Clarke property under the provisions of the Williamson Act. The land has significant value for biological resources and protection of this parcel will help build on efforts to conserve wildlife habitat in the area.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Robert Stafford, Environmental Scientist, at (805) 528-8670; or Mr. Rocky Thompson, Senior Environmental Scientist, at (805) 594-6175.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey R. Single, Ph.D.
Regional Manager

ec: Palmisano, Thompson, Stafford