



AGENDA REQUEST FORM
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF INYO

For Clerk's Use Only:
AGENDA NUMBER

- Consent Departmental Correspondence Action Public Hearing
 Scheduled Time for Closed Session Informational

FROM: Inyo County Planning Department

FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF: November 12, 2013

SUBJECT: Designation of Critical Habitat for the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog, the Northern Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog, and the Yosemite Toad

RECOMMENDATION: Review draft correspondence to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding proposed listing and designation of critical habitat for the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog, the Northern Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog, and the Yosemite Toad, and authorize the Chair to sign correspondence in regards thereto.

SUMMARY DISCUSSION: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has issued notices indicating its intent to adopt regulations to list as endangered and designate critical habitat for the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog, the Northern Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog, and the Yosemite Toad.¹ Critical habitat for these species is proposed in Inyo County and adjacent to the County along the crest of the Sierra Nevada. The Board has issued correspondence previously regarding the proposals, including requests for public meetings and hearings and an extension of the comment period. The Board also conducted a special meeting on September 23, 2013 with USFWS, the Forest Service, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The comment period for the proposals has been extended to November 18, 2013, and it is expected that further opportunities for participation will be provided. Staff has drafted the attached correspondence for the Board's consideration to USFWS based on the information gathered over the last several months. The correspondence addresses concerns regarding the basis of the proposed endangered species listing and critical habitat designation, and requests the USFWS continue to refine the proposed listing and designation in collaboration with the County. Staff has also identified inconsistencies with the Inyo County General Plan (Attachment A to the draft correspondence), which are referenced in the draft correspondence. Staff anticipates providing further input into the process during future comment periods, including input regarding socioeconomic issues related to USFWS' economic study, which is anticipated this fall or early winter.

ALTERNATIVES: The Board could direct changes to the correspondence, or not submit correspondence.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: Department of Interior, USFWS; other agencies with jurisdiction (U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, etc.); neighboring Counties.

¹ Refer to http://inyoplanning.org/projects/USFW_YellowLeggedFrog.htm for background information regarding the proposals and the County's previous correspondence.

FINANCING: General funds are utilized to monitor federal rule making. Resources for Gruen Gruen + Associates' work on the proposals is being provided through the geothermal royalties fund.

<u>APPROVALS</u>	
COUNTY COUNSEL:	AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS AND ORDINANCES AND CLOSED SESSION AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by county counsel prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
AUDITOR/CONTROLLER:	ACCOUNTING/FINANCE AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by the auditor-controller prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR:	PERSONNEL AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by the director of personnel services prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE:
(Not to be signed until all approvals are received)

_____ Date: _____

Attachments

1. Draft Correspondence to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service