



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

AREA OFFICE

2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1803
Sacramento, California 95814

AUG 21 1982

In Reply Refer To: SESO

Colonel Paul F. Kavanaugh
District Engineer
Corps of Engineers
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Endangered Species Informal Consultation Request on the
Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta Investigation

Dear Colonel Kavanaugh:

This letter responds to your 11 May 1982 request for informal consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). Specifically, you requested consultation on the possible impacts of this project on the endangered American peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus anatum). We also will discuss several candidate species. Your request was accompanied by the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta Final Report, dated April 1981 and your Biological Assessment dated May 1982.

Although the American peregrine falcon likely occurs occasionally in the Delta area, available records do not indicate significant levels of use. It is our opinion that this project will have no significant effect to this endangered species. Therefore, no additional consultation is needed on this listed species.

Your Biological Assessment concludes that the State listed species, Mason's lilaeopsis (Lilaeopsis masonii) may be impacted by this project. You plan to incorporate studies of this plant if this project is authorized by Congress. Two other plant species, the Suisun aster (Aster chilensis var. lentus) and the delta tule pea (Lathyrus jepsonii subsp. jepsonii) are found in association with Mason's lilaeopsis along slough and levee banks in the delta. Because all three plants are known in the project area, they likely could be impacted by this project. All three species were included in a 1980 Federal Register Notice of Review (45 FR 82480-82569) Although only the tule pea was actually thought to warrant candidate status, all three plants will be included as Federal candidates in a forthcoming revision of the 1980 Notice of Review. We, therefore, request that you include all three taxa in future status surveys such that possible impacts can be avoided. We are available to assist you in developing such studies.

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This concludes informal consultation on the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta project. Should additional information become available, further consultation may be appropriate. We commend you and your staff for a thorough review and evaluation of available information on listed and candidate species and look forward to working with you in the future on the discussed candidates. Should you have any questions, please phone Mr. Gail C. Kobetich at 916/440-2791.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William D. Sweeney", with a date "11/20/97" written below it.

William D. Sweeney
Area Manager