



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
 California/Nevada Operations Office  
 2233 Watt Avenue, Suite 120  
 Sacramento, California 95825-0509

LA-California  
 CALFED  
 Stone Lakes NWR

Lester A. Snow, Executive Director  
 CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
 Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Amendment to Agreement No. 1420-1981-0052; CALFED Project No. PSP98-C1010  
 Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition

Dear Lester:

In August, 1998 the CALFED Policy Team (Team) approved \$1,900,000 for the acquisition of the 555 acre Kuhn property at Stone Lakes NWR by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). In the initial grant, the Service requested \$3,346,500 to acquire two properties totaling 658 acres. These properties are owned by Alfred Kuhn and Richard Samra. On March 3, 1999, the Service made an offer to purchase the Kuhn property. The Kuhn family has subsequently entered into an agreement to sell their property to Wildlands, Inc. We have met with representatives of Wildlands, Inc., and we understand that their agreement is contingent upon being able to use the land for mitigation banking purposes. They have also indicated that they might eventually be interested in selling the land to the Service for long term management. The Service is also very close to finalizing negotiations to acquire the Samra property and expects to enter into an agreement with Mr. Samra to purchase his property contingent upon the availability of funds.

We are requesting that the above referenced agreement be amended to allow the Service the flexibility to acquire either the Samra or Kuhn property with no change in the approved grant amount of \$1,900,000.00. We also request that the completion date for this project be amended to March 31, 2000. This would give the Service the flexibility to obligate the \$1,900,000 to acquire either of the two properties that were identified in the original grant proposal. If our request is denied, the Service and CALFED could lose the opportunity to protect the 102 acre Samra property and the 538 acre Kuhn property. We look forward to completing this worthwhile project. With CALFED's assistance, the Service will be able to permanently protect and restore important Delta smelt habitat, vernal pool species, and can help to improve the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem and Consumes/Mokelumne Rivers flood plain.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Howard K. Stark or Stephen M. Dyer at the above address or at (916) 979-2085.

Sincerely,

  
Michael J. Spear  
Manager

cc: Elizabeth Stevens, CNO Office, Sacramento, California  
Howard K. Stark, Sacramento, California  
Tom Harvey, Sacramento, California  
Patrick Leonard, Sacramento, California  
Nan Yoder, BOR, Sacramento, California  
David Patte, Darla Smith, Portland Oregon

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