



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003

February 17, 2000

John Beccia
Santa Margarita Area Residents Together
P.O. Box 50
Santa Margarita, California 93453

Subject: Santa Margarita Ranch, San Luis Obispo County, California

Dear Mr. Beccia:

On November 30, 1999, we received your letter dated November 20, 1999, informing us that ground disturbing activities have been occurring since October 8, 1999, on the Santa Margarita Ranch in San Luis Obispo, California. We are responding to your request for acknowledgment of your letter and for information on what we intend to do regarding this matter.

In a letter dated June 17, 1999, to Rob Rossi, the owner of the ranch, we requested to review survey results, habitat assessments, and any documentation on his proposed activities as they relate to biological resources at the ranch. We also informed him that we are able to meet and discuss any potential impacts to listed species, and the need for compliance under the Endangered Species Act. We have enclosed this letter for your information. We have not received any request for review or had any further discussions from Mr. Rossi. In response to your concern, we have written Mr. Rossi again. We have enclosed both letters for your information.

As you may be aware, section 9 of the Endangered Species Act prohibits the "taking" of any federally-listed endangered or threatened species. During a meeting on June 3, 1999, Mr. Rossi told us that his project will not affect listed species. Without information documenting the occurrence of listed species at the Santa Margarita Ranch, we cannot pursue further action against Mr. Rossi. If you have any further questions regarding this letter, please contact Lamont Jackson of my staff at (805) 644-1766.

Sincerely,

Diane K. Noda
Field Supervisor

Enclosure