

Submitted electronically via eRulemaking Portal (regulations.gov), tracking # 1jy-8f0d-j0w5

October 14, 2014

Docket No: FWS-R8-ES-2013-0011

Request to Extend the Comment Period for the Designation of Critical Habitat for the Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo

Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

The Citizens' Assessment District Advisory Committee is a group charged with reviewing expenditures of the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) for projects designed to reduce flood risk for approximately 95,000 people in two major counties. Among those residents are the survivors of the catastrophic 1955 flood in Yuba City, a poignant reminder that the probability of flooding is not just about "odds," but reality. In 2010, we collectively approved property assessments – some of the highest of their kind in the Central Valley – to provide the local cost share for the Feather River West Levee Project. The \$320 million project will fix 41 miles of deficient levee and provide 200-year flood protection for urban areas, and up to 100-year flood protection for rural areas. The project is being funded with state and local revenues.

The regulatory landscape that impacts this critical public safety project – and ultimately its ongoing maintenance – seems to change at a rapid pace, especially with regard to the environment. The delisting and relisting of the Elderberry Beetle is only one near-term example. We've only recently learned of the proposed listing and critical habitat designation for the Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo. We have not had enough time to learn about potential impacts of the proposed listing on the reduction of our flood risk. As such, the Citizens' Assessment District Advisory Committee respectfully requests a six-month extension to comment on the proposed listing and habitat designation so that we may do so in an informed and thoughtful manner.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 530-695-0387. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sandra Fredrickson
Chair