

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R8-ES-2017-N046;  
FXES11130800000-178-FF08EVEN00]

**Receipt of Application for Incidental  
Take Permit; Low-Effect Habitat  
Conservation Plan for the Curletti Farm  
Employee Housing Project, Santa  
Barbara County, California**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of permit  
application; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and  
Wildlife Service, have received an  
application from Betteravia Farms, LLC,  
for an incidental take permit under the  
Endangered Species Act of 1973, as  
amended. The permit would authorize  
take of the federally endangered  
California tiger salamander (Santa  
Barbara distinct population segment)  
incidental to otherwise lawful activities  
associated with the Curletti Farm  
Employee Housing Project Habitat  
Conservation Plan. We invite public  
comment.

**DATES:** Written comments should be  
received on or before July 31, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** You may download a copy  
of the draft habitat conservation plan  
and draft low-effect screening form and  
environmental action statement on the  
internet at <http://www.fws.gov/ventura/>,  
or you may request copies of the  
documents by U.S. mail to our Ventura  
office, or by phone (see **FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION CONTACT**). Please address  
written comments to Stephen P. Henry,  
Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and  
Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
Service, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B,  
Ventura, CA 93003. You may  
alternatively send comments by  
facsimile to (805) 644-3958.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Rachel Henry, Fish and Wildlife  
Biologist, at the above address or by  
calling (805) 644-1766.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service),  
have received an application from  
Betteravia Farms, LLC (applicant), for an  
incidental take permit under the  
Endangered Species Act of 1973, as  
amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; Act).  
The applicant has agreed to follow all of  
the conditions in the habitat  
conservation plan for the project. The  
permit would authorize take of the  
Santa Barbara distinct population  
segment of the federally endangered  
California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma  
californiense*) incidental to otherwise

lawful activities associated with the  
Curletti Farm Employee Housing Project  
Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). We  
invite public comment on the  
application, the draft habitat  
conservation plan, draft low-effect  
screening form, and environmental  
action statement.

**Background**

The Santa Barbara distinct population  
segment of the California tiger  
salamander was listed by the Service as  
endangered on January 19, 2000 (65 FR  
3096). Section 9 of the Act (16 U.S.C.  
1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing  
regulations prohibit the “take” of fish or  
wildlife species listed as endangered or  
threatened. “Take” is defined under the  
Act to include the following activities:  
“[T]o harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot,  
wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or  
to attempt to engage in any such  
conduct” (16 U.S.C. 1532); however,  
under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act, we  
may issue permits to authorize  
incidental take of listed species.  
“Incidental take” is defined by the Act  
as take that is incidental to, and not the  
purpose of, carrying out of an otherwise  
lawful activity. Regulations governing  
incidental take permits for threatened  
and endangered species are in the Code  
of Federal Regulations at 50 CFR 17.32  
and 17.22, respectively. Under the Act,  
protections for federally listed plants  
differ from the protections afforded to  
federally listed animals. Issuance of an  
incidental take permit also must not  
jeopardize the existence of federally  
listed fish, wildlife, or plant species. All  
species included in the incidental take  
permit would receive assurances under  
our “No Surprises” regulations (50 CFR  
17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)).

The applicants have applied for a  
permit for incidental take of the  
California tiger salamander. The  
potential taking would occur as a result  
of activities associated with the  
construction of the farm labor camp in  
suitable habitat for the covered species.

**Our Preliminary Determination**

The Service has made a preliminary  
determination that issuance of the  
permit is neither a major Federal action  
that will significantly affect the quality  
of the human environment within the  
meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the  
National Environmental Policy Act (42  
U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; NEPA), nor will it  
individually or cumulatively have more  
than a negligible effect on the species  
covered in the HCP. Therefore, the  
permit qualifies for a categorical  
exclusion under NEPA.

**Public Comments**

If you wish to comment on the permit  
application, plan, and associated  
documents, you may submit comments  
by any one of the methods in  
**ADDRESSES**.

**Public Availability of Comments**

Before including your address, phone  
number, email address, or other  
personal identifying information in your  
comment, you should be aware that  
your entire comment, including your  
personal identifying information, may  
be made publicly available at any time.  
While you can ask us in your comment  
to withhold your personal identifying  
information from public view, we  
cannot guarantee that we will be able to  
do so.

**Authority**

We provide this notice under section  
10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)  
and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: June 26, 2017.

**Stephen P. Henry,**  
*Field Supervisor, Ventura Fish and Wildlife  
Office, Ventura, California.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R4-ES-2017-N024;  
FXES11130900000C2-178-FF09E32000]

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife  
and Plants; 5-Year Status Reviews of  
23 Southeastern Species**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of initiation of reviews;  
request for information.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and  
Wildlife Service (Service), are initiating  
5-year status reviews of 23 species  
under the Endangered Species Act of  
1973, as amended (Act). We conduct  
these reviews to ensure that the  
classification of species as threatened or  
endangered on the Lists of Endangered  
and Threatened Wildlife and Plants is  
accurate. A 5-year review is an  
assessment of the best scientific and  
commercial data available at the time of  
the review. Therefore, we are requesting  
submission of information that has  
become available since the last review  
of each of these species.

**DATES:** To allow us adequate time to  
conduct these reviews, we must receive  
your comments or information on or  
before August 29, 2017. However, we