

Helo, Joseph@HCD

From: Eric Shott - NOAA Federal <eric.shott@noaa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:38 PM
To: Helo, Joseph@HCD
Cc: Naseem Alston - NOAA Federal; Rosalie del Rosario
Subject: Is consultation needed for 2017 Disaster Recovery Single-Family Home Projects in 12 Counties?

Hello,

My name is Eric Shott, I work for the West Coast Region (WCR) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as the California Coastal Office Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Coordinator. Your agency, in a letter to Rosalie del Rosario, WCR ESA Section 7 Coordinator, has requested help in determining whether or not ESA Section 7 consultation with NMFS would be required for the 2017 Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program. I can assist you in determining if consultation would be needed.

Based on the information in your letter, consultation may be needed if work to repair or reconstruct homes would include work in or adjacent to streams that are known to contain ESA listed salmon, steelhead, or other ESA listed fish or their critical habitat. (Or streams that drain to such streams). For example, if a homeowner, as part of their home rebuild your agency would fund, would repair a private bridge over a stream that contained listed salmon, consultation may be needed. Similarly, if your agency was funding a homeowner to clear vegetation adjacent to a stream to meet California Wildland Urban Interface standards, consultation may also be needed.

In cases where home repairs, rebuilds, vegetation clearing, upgrades, accessibility work, toxic abatement, and equipment replacement would take place far from streams with no possibility of any impact to streams or riparian areas, consultation would likely not be needed for ESA listed fish species and their critical habitat.

If consultation is needed, a programmatic approach would likely be better than individual consultations given your estimate of approximately 400 projects.

In cases where the work has already occurred and your agency is reimbursing homeowners, we are unlikely to be able to consult under s7 of the ESA.

Please don't hesitate to call me to discuss the 2017 Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program. You can reach me via email or by phone at 707-308-9782. My work hours are generally M-F 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

Eric

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Eric Shott

Section 7 Coordinator, California Coastal Office, West Coast Region

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