United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pacific Southwest Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/R8/ES/54892

JUL 10 2013

The Honorable Tom McClintock
House of Representatives
434 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. McClintock:

Thank you for your letter dated June 19, 2013, in regard to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) proposals to list and designate critical habitat for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, the northern distinct population segment of the mountain yellow-legged frog, and the Yosemite toad. Your letter requested that the Service extend the comment period on these proposals by no less than 90 days to ensure that the public has adequate time to fully understand the proposals and provide constructive comments.

The public comment period on the proposals closed on June 24, 2013. However, to ensure the public has an adequate opportunity to submit comments, we plan to reopen the public comment period for 120 days for the proposals to list and designate critical habitat for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, the northern distinct population segment of the mountain yellow-legged frog, and the Yosemite toad. We are in the process of preparing the required Federal Register notice and anticipate the notice reopening the comment period will publish in the next few weeks. Later this fall there will be additional opportunity for the public to provide comments on the proposals, along with the economic analysis for the proposed critical habitat designations which is now in preparation.

We have received numerous requests for meetings and hearings concerning these proposals. Therefore, we are also planning to hold at least two public meetings and one public hearing. The dates and locations for these meetings have not been determined at this time, but we can assure you that our plan is to hold them at times and places that will maximize public engagement.

We will contact your office directly when we know the dates of the reopened public comment period, and the dates and locations of the public meetings and hearing. We will also announce this information to the media, our partners, and the public. A Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register in the fall when the economic analysis is ready for public review and comment.

Thank you for your interest in this matter and your ongoing support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Pitts

Acting Regional Director