



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 Central Region
 1234 East Shaw Avenue
 Fresno, California 93710
 (559) 243-4005
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

FILED



2019 FEB 22 AM 7:36

STANISLAUS CO. CLERK-RECORDED

February 22, 2019

Adam Loera

Stanislaus County Clerk
 Post Office Box 1670
 Modesto, California 95353
stanclerk@stancounty.com

Subject: Distribution of Notice of Intent to Adopt and Notice of Availability for Public Comment (Notice) - Tricolored Blackbird Voluntary Local Program

This is to advise that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has prepared a Tricolored Blackbird Voluntary Local Program (VLP) that covers eight counties (Stanislaus, San Benito, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern). The VLP conveys authorization for take of Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), a species listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA)(Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.), incidental to farmers' and ranchers' voluntary participation in the VLP. Participation in the VLP by farmers and ranchers, in whose grain crops Tricolored Blackbirds nest, provides the farmers and ranchers with access to technical assistance to implement colony protection management practices. The VLP will provide take authorization to these farmers and ranchers who enroll and implement management practices to delay harvest and allow Tricolored Blackbird colonies to complete their nesting and fledging cycle. CDFW deemed the VLP complete on February 8, 2019, and must take final action on it within 75 days.

As mandated by the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 786.3, subdivision (d)(2)(B), CDFW is required to distribute the Public Notice of Availability for comment to the office(s) of the County Clerk in which the proposed VLP will occur. Stanislaus County is one of the counties in which the VLP will be available to farmers and ranchers to participate. Therefore, CDFW is requesting the Stanislaus County Clerk to post the enclosed Notice for 30 days.

For additional information or questions regarding the VLP please contact:

Annee Ferranti, Environmental Program Manager
 California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Habitat Conservation Program, Central Region
 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, California 93710
 (559) 243-4005, extension 141
Annee.Ferranti@wildlife.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Julie A. Vance
 for Julie A. Vance
 Regional Manager
 Central Region

Enclosure

Date removed from posting 4/2/19

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT VOLUNTARY LOCAL PROGRAM
AND
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

This notice is to advise that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has prepared a Voluntary Local Program for the project identified below. As mandated by the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 786.3, subdivision (d)(1), the minimum public review period for the Voluntary Local Program is thirty (30) days. A hard copy of the Voluntary Local Program is available for review at CDFW's Central Region office, 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710 or CDFW can provide a pdf file of the Voluntary Local Program by email upon request to R4CESA@wildlife.ca.gov.

Voluntary Local Program Title: Tricolored Blackbird Voluntary Local Program (VLP)

Project Location: The VLP covers eight counties (Stanislaus, San Benito, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern) and comprises approximately 2,973,920 acres planted in grain crops associated with ranches and farms likely to provide nesting and foraging habitat for the State candidate for listing endangered tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*).

Project Description: The VLP conveys authorization for take of tricolored blackbird, a species listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA)(Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.), incidental to farmers' and ranchers' voluntary participation in the VLP. Participation in the VLP by farmers and ranchers in whose grain crops tricolored blackbirds nest provides the farmers and ranchers with access to technical assistance to implement colony protection management practices. Tricolored blackbirds nest in large colonies on approximately seven to ten dairies annually in the San Joaquin Valley. Additional colonies are found on a few farms growing grain crops in or near the Central Valley regularly. The VLP will provide take authorization to these farmers and ranchers who enroll and implement management practices to delay harvest and allow tricolored blackbird colonies to complete their nesting and fledging cycle. CDFW deemed the VLP complete on February 8, 2019, and must take final action on it within 75 days.

Public Comment: CDFW seeks written comments from the public regarding the VLP and will be accepting written correspondence delivered to CDFW during the 30-day public review period that begins on February 22, 2019 and ends on March 25, 2019. Please send your comment/response to:

Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710
R4CESA@wildlife.ca.gov

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