

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

determine whether it wants carcasses and to determine the proper handling of carcasses that it desires.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 7(a) (1) of the Act directs Federal agencies to use their authorities to further the purposes of the Act by carrying out conservation programs for the benefit of endangered and threatened species. Conservation recommendations are discretionary agency activities to minimize or avoid adverse effects of a proposed action on listed species or critical habitat, to help implement recovery plans, or to develop information. We encourage the Joshua Basin Water District to investigate opportunities to work with the Service, the National Park Service at Joshua Tree National Park, the Bureau of Land Management, and other appropriate groups to implement programs that would further the conservation of the desert tortoise and the ecosystem upon which it depends. Such opportunities could include education programs regarding the use of native plants and avoidance of invasive non-native plants in landscaping, measures to avoid attracting and subsidizing predators, and appropriate recreation in desert areas.

RE-INITIATION NOTICE

This concludes formal consultation on the EPA's proposed funding of the Joshua Basin Water District's water recharge basin and pipeline in Joshua Tree, San Bernardino County, California. Re-initiation of formal consultation is required where discretionary federal involvement or control over the action has been retained or is authorized by law and:

- (a) if the amount or extent of taking specified in the incidental take statement is exceeded;
- (b) if new information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered;
- (c) if the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in the biological opinion; or
- (d) if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action (50 Code of Federal Regulations 402.16).

If you have any questions regarding this biological opinion, please contact Amy Torres of my staff at (909) 382-2654.

Sincerely,



Diane K. Noda
Field Supervisor