

# **Exhibit A**

## **Scope of Work**

### **FACILITATOR FOR BUTTE REGIONAL NCCP/HCP**

This scope of work covers work related to the NCCP/HCP Science Advisors Panel (SAP) during calendar years 2007-8. During this period, Dr. Wayne Spencer will serve as Facilitator for the Butte Regional HCP/NCCP.

As Facilitator, Dr. Spencer will complete the following tasks under this scope of work:

#### **Task 1. Develop List of Panel Candidates**

Assist with identifying candidates and selecting science advisors. BCAG, HCP/NCCP Steering Committee representative, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA Fisheries (collectively the "Working Group") will work with the Facilitator to create a "long-list" of SAP candidates having appropriate expertise and qualities. In addition, the Facilitator may accept science advisor nominations from other consultants, other individuals within affected agencies, or other trusted parties. The Facilitator will then assist the Working Group in prioritizing candidates based on expertise, experience, proven ability to work well with groups, and ability to contribute useful information on schedule. This prioritization process will result in a "short list" of science advisor candidates to be agreed upon by the Facilitator and Working Group. The short list should identify preferred and alternate candidates for each pertinent area of expertise (e.g., plant ecology, vernal pool ecology, landscape ecology, aquatic ecology) with enough redundancy to allow for the fact that some candidates may not be available or interested in serving. Once the short list is produced, final selection of advisors (and perhaps alternates) shall be made solely by the Facilitator. It is very important that there is no actual or perceived influence by the Working Group, consultants, elected officials, or stakeholder groups in the final selection of science advisors.

#### **Task 2. Contact Panel Candidates**

Once the short list of candidates is produced, the Facilitator will make initial contact with candidates to determine their interest and availability to serve. Once the Facilitator has interviewed and identified science advisor finalists, the Working Group will invite the science advisors into the process and establish appropriate agreements and arrangements for honoraria. The Facilitator will not administer honoraria or reimbursements for travel expenses. The Facilitator will ensure that all science advisors understand their roles pursuant to the NCCP Act. The Facilitator will explain that the SAP recommendations are advisory only and not binding on the Working Group, member agencies, or consultants involved in NCCP/HCP preparation.

#### **Task 3. Serve as Point of Contact for SAP**

The Facilitator will serve as the point of contact between the SAP and the Working Group. To ensure the independence of the science advisors all questions from the Working Group or questions from the science advisers to the Working Group shall be channeled through the Facilitator.

#### **Task 4. Facilitate Two-Day Workshop**

The Facilitator will work with the science advisors and the Working Group to schedule a two-day workshop to be held in or near the planning area. To the extent feasible, the Working Group or their consultants should provide, well in advance of the workshop, any documents, data, maps, etc., which the science advisors should review to prepare for the workshop.

- The first day of the workshop will serve primarily to acquaint the science advisors with the NCCP/HCP issues and to answer any questions they have. Consultants and Working Group members are expected to give short presentations outlining the scope of the NCCP/HCP, available data, survey methods used or planned for use, and the like. Following these presentations, science advisors will ask questions and discuss issues with consultants and Working Group members to ensure that the science advisors fully understand this information and the goals and constraints of the NCCP/HCP. An approximate 2-3 hour field trip will be scheduled in the late afternoon to acquaint the science advisers with the biological conditions and issues of the plan area.
- The second day of the workshop will be for science advisors only, so they can discuss the presented information, issues, potential approaches, schedules, etc., in private. The Facilitator will ensure that by the end of the workshop the science advisors understand the process and schedule for compiling the statutorily required report, as well as their individual responsibilities for delivering report sections.

#### **Task 5. Coordinate Science Advisors**

After the workshop, the Facilitator will coordinate the work of the science advisors to ensure the timely delivery of the Science Advisors Guidance Report sections and comments on working drafts. He will work to gain consensus among the science advisors on issues addressed in the report. In the event consensus is not possible on scientific issues, the Facilitator will ensure that conflicting opinions are objectively reflected in the science advisors' report, along with suggestions for resolving important disagreements.

#### **Task 6. Coordinate Between SAP and Working Group**

Both before and after the workshop, the Facilitator will also be responsible for channeling pertinent questions from the Working Group to the science advisors and communicating answers back to the Working Group, or ensuring that they are incorporated into the science advisor report. Questions to the science advisors will be addressed only if they are directly relevant to NCCP/HCP goals and strictly limited to questions that can be addressed using the tools of science. The science advisors will not address subjective questions about policies, procedures, laws, economic costs, or societal values. However,

it is appropriate for them to objectively address scientific implications of policy decisions, such as how various mitigation strategies or land-use decisions might affect populations of covered species.

#### **Task 7. Facilitate Science Advisors Guidance Report Preparation**

The Facilitator will compile report sections, comments, and edits from other science advisors into a report providing scientific guidance to the NCCP/HCP process. This Science Advisors Guidance Report will focus on ways of filling existing data gaps and will present principles of conservation planning, adaptive management, monitoring, and means of analyzing plan effects on species, habitats, and ecological processes. To the degree feasible, these principles will be tailored to address the specific issues relevant to this particular NCCP/HCP, rather than reiterating broad-brush principles for further interpretation by plan participants.

#### **Task 8. Present Guidance Report to Working Group and Prepare Final Report**

The Facilitator will present the report to the Working Group within [90] days following the Science Advisors Workshop. Any minor comments from the Working Group related to providing greater clarification or elaboration on points made in the Science Advisors Guidance Report will be addressed by the Facilitator and captured in meeting notes. Comments from the Working Group requesting changes to conclusions or guidelines presented in the Draft Science Advisors Guidance Report will generally not be addressed and any changes shall be the discretion of the science advisors. The Facilitator will coordinate preparation of the final Science Advisors Guidance Report

#### **Task 9. Facilitate Review of Conservation Strategy**

At completion of the draft conservation strategy for the HCP/NCCP, the Facilitator will arrange for a review by SAP. The Facilitator will coordinate the science advisors in addressing specific questions provided by the Working Group and preparing an overall review of the conservation strategy and the potential for the strategy to achieve the goals of the program.

#### **Task 10. Facilitate Science Advisors Review Report Preparation**

The Facilitator will compile report sections, comments, and edits from the science advisors into a report providing a review of the draft NCCP/HCP conservation strategy. This Science Advisors Review Report will focus on the potential for the conservation strategy to meet the expressed goals of the HCP/NCCP and on answering specific questions posed by the Working Group.

#### **Task 11. Present Review Report to Working Group and Prepare Final Report**

The Facilitator will present the Draft Science Review Report to the Working Group within 60 working days following SAPs receipt of the draft conservation strategy. Any minor comments from the Working Group related to providing greater clarification or elaboration on points made in the Science Advisors Review Report be addressed by the

Facilitator and captured in meeting notes. Comments from the Working Group requesting changes to conclusions or guidelines presented in the Draft Science Advisors Review Report will generally not be addressed and any changes shall be at the discretion of the science advisors. The Facilitator will coordinate preparation of the final Science Advisors Review Report

**Deliverables:**

- Draft Science Advisors Guidance Report
- Final Science Advisors Guidance Report
- Draft Science Advisors Review Report
- Final Science Advisors Review Report