DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

October 29, 2009

Regulatory Division SPK-2005-00470

Walter C. Waidelich, Jr.
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Waidelich:

I am writing in response to your September 3, 2009, request for concurrence that the Placer Parkway Corridor Alternative 5 (Alternative 5) is most likely to contain the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA). Additionally, you requested concurrence with the Mitigation Framework included in FHWA's September 3, 2009 correspondence.

Based on interagency discussions and the attached *Terms of a No-Access Easement for the Buffer Area Adjacent to Placer Parkway (August 5, 2009)*, and map, we concur that Alternative 5 with a no-access buffer is the alternative most likely to contain the LEDPA. The intent of the no-access buffer is to preclude access to the proposed parkway, either by interchanges or other means, in the central segment of the parkway. We believe limiting access to the parkway will significantly reduce the potential for growth-inducement and resulting impacts on aquatic resources. Should this project continue to Tier 2 project-level analysis, the no-access buffer concept must be included as a component of the project description for any future alignment in the Alternative 5 Corridor. This is integral to our agency's determination that the corridor is "most likely to contain the LEDPA."

We concur with the Mitigation Framework presented by FHWA in its September 3, 2009, correspondence. This framework will guide the conceptual mitigation plan prepared during the Tier 2 environmental review process and the final mitigation plan for the future project.

Please refer to identification number 200500470 in any correspondence concerning this project. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Haley at our Sacramento Office, 1325 J Street, Room 1480, Sacramento, California 95814-2922, email *nancy.a.haley@usace.army.mil* or telephone 916-557-7731. You may also use our website: *www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html*.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Jewell
Chief, Regulatory Division

Copies Furnished:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2605, Sacramento, California 95825-3901
Dave Smith, US EPA, Region IX, Wetland Regulatory Office (WTR-8), 75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105-3901