



# Memorandum

To: Edward Maillett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: CRA International

Date: November 9, 2006

Subject: **ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT FOR THE ALAMEDA WHIPSNAKE**

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On Monday, October 2, 2006, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) designated critical habitat for the Alameda Whipsnake (AWS). A total of approximately 46,998 acres included in the proposed critical habitat were excluded from the final designation.<sup>1</sup> This memorandum summarizes the economic impact of conservation activities in the geographic areas that were identified in the Final Rule.

In the Final Rule, the Service excluded portions of units 3 and 4 from critical habitat. In addition, the Service changed the boundaries around units 2 and 6 such that 88 acres from the proposed area of unit 2 and 461 acres from the proposed area of unit 6 were not designated critical habitat in the Final Rule. The final critical habitat designation consists of units 1, 5A, and 5B, and portions of units 2, 3, 4, and 6. The Final Rule describes the details of the geographic scope of final critical habitat and reasons for excluding certain units of proposed critical habitat.<sup>2</sup>

The following exhibit displays the economic impacts in areas that were designated critical habitat for the AWS.

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<sup>1</sup> The Service, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Designation of Critical Habitat for the Alameda Whipsnake: Final Rule, Federal Register, Vol. 71 No. 190, October 2, 2006, p 58188.

<sup>2</sup> The Service, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Designation of Critical Habitat for the Alameda Whipsnake: Final Rule, Federal Register, Vol. 71 No. 190, October 2, 2006, p 58193.

**Exhibit 1: Summary of Economic Impacts on Lands Designated Critical Habitat**

County	Area Included in Final CHD <sup>1</sup>	Cost of Lost Housing Development						Public Projects
		Rationing Scenario			Densification Scenario			
		Surplus Lost	Annualized Impact (3% Discount Rate)	Annualized Impact (7% Discount Rate)	Surplus Lost	Annualized Impact (3% Discount Rate)	Annualized Impact (7% Discount Rate)	
Contra Costa	77,323	\$327,186,616	\$21,351,534	\$28,863,647	\$123,192,943	\$8,039,321	\$10,867,797	
Alameda	74,491	\$174,299,150	\$11,374,408	\$15,376,268	\$73,639,760	\$4,805,581	\$6,496,329	
San Joaquin	1,984	\$1,616,259	\$105,474	\$142,583	\$653,874	\$42,670	\$57,683	
Santa Clara	2,546	\$93,082	\$6,074	\$8,211	\$98,575	\$6,433	\$8,696	
<b>Total</b>	<b>156,344</b>	<b>\$503,195,107</b>	<b>\$32,837,490</b>	<b>\$44,390,709</b>	<b>\$197,585,152</b>	<b>\$12,894,005</b>	<b>\$17,430,505</b>	<b>\$0</b>

*Notes:*

1) CHD is an acronym for Critical Habitat Designation. Area shown in acres.

*Sources:*

- 1) CRA, Economic Effects of Critical Habitat Designation for the Alameda Whipsnake in Four California Counties, June 30, 2006.
- 2) The Service, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Designation of Critical Habitat for the Alameda Whipsnake: Final Rule, Federal Register, Vol. 71 No. 190, October 2, 2006.