February 16, 2022

Martha Williams
Principal Deputy Director
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 3331
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Docket FWS-R8-ES-2021-0108 – Request for Extension of Public Comment Period - Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog; Threatened Status with Section 4(d) Rule for Two Distinct Population Segments and Endangered Status for Two Distinct Population Segments

Dear Principal Deputy Director Williams:

On behalf of the organizations listed below, we write regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Proposed Rule that seeks to list the foothill yellow-legged frog (Rana boylii). Per the December 28, 2021 Federal Register notice, it is our understanding that the Service is issuing a 12-month finding on a petition to list and issuing a Proposed Rule to list four of six Distinct Population Segments (DPSs) of the foothill yellow-legged frog. Specifically, the South Sierra and South Coast DPSs as endangered and the Feather and Central Coast DPSs as threatened. The North Feather and Central Coast DPSs would also each include a rule issued under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act.

After reviewing the map included in the Proposed Rule that illustrates the four DPSs that would be listed, we have concluded that this proposal is extremely large in scope with 25 counties in California impacted by this listing. These counties include Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, Plumas, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Ventura.

Due to the broad impact of this listing proposal and the limited number of business days (41) within the original comment period, we are requesting that the Service extend the public comment period by no less than 90 days to help ensure that input is maximized, and the effects of this proposal are fully understood. An extension will also assist stakeholders and local communities by providing additional time to understand the range, scope and potential impacts of the Proposed Rule and provide appropriate feedback to the Service accordingly.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. If questions, please contact Erin Huston, Federal Policy Consultant, California Farm Bureau at ehuston@cfbf.com.

Sincerely,

American Forest Resource Council
Association of California Water Agencies
Calforests
California Cattlemen's Foundation
California Farm Bureau
Family Farm Alliance
Public Lands Council
Rural County Representatives of California