



PRUNUSKE CHATHAM, INC.

CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER SERVICES

The Sonoma County population of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*, CTS) has been formally listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. When certain activities or development are proposed within the potential range of CTS, state and federal agency regulations apply.

Prunuske Chatham, Inc. provides services to landowners to determine if their activities will impact CTS through on-site habitat assessments and consultation with regulatory agencies, conducting presence/absence fencing studies, aquatic habitat surveys, and on-going monitoring of CTS. PCI also works with other biologists on the installation and monitoring of CTS studies.

PCI has provided CTS services to a number of private landowners and organizations, including but not limited to the following: Shomrei Torah Congregation, First United Methodist Church, California State Highway 101, and Cherry Ridge Ranch, LLC.

After conducting the initial site assessment and agency consultations, and it has been determined that CTS will be impacted by project activities, fencing studies and spring aquatic surveys are typically implemented. Fencing studies consist of installing drift fencing around the majority of the project site to encompass all potential areas where CTS may occur. Fencing material consists of a 2-foot silt fence or vexar set in a trench approximately 4 inches deep. Pit fall traps, 2 gallon plastic buckets, are placed every 33 feet. Buckets are centered on the fence line, and the lids are buried so they are flush with the soil surface when closed. Pitfall trap lids are raised approximately 1.5 inches above the surface of the bucket rim and provide enough room for salamanders to enter the bucket when open. Small mammals and reptiles can escape if they become trapped in the buckets, by climbing up a string dangling from the lid when the traps are open. Traps are opened from October 15th through March 15th during rain events or nights of high humidity when CTS are typically active. Traps are monitored for one to two rainy seasons depending on site conditions and agency requirements. If no CTS are found during the studies, projects typically can move forward without further restrictions, however, if found, mitigation or conservation measures are generally implemented.

