



December 1, 2005

Marcel Uzegbu, P.E.  
City of Oakland  
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4314  
Oakland, California 94612

RE: **Leona Quarry, Whipsnake Fence Winter Monitoring  
ER 01-33 SCH No. 1999042052**

Dear Mr. Uzegbu:

Monitoring the condition of the Alameda whipsnake barrier fence has been conducted at Leona Quarry on a weekly basis since the completion of ground disturbance activities in the vicinity of potential whipsnake habitat. Despite hundreds of hours of construction and fence monitoring over the last two years, no Alameda whipsnakes have been observed at the Leona Quarry site. Recently, significant lengths of the fence have been removed in the project area following the completion of ground disturbance in those areas. It is recommended that the frequency of winter (December through February) monitoring be reduced from weekly to monthly because (1) work in the vicinity of the remaining fencing is near completion, (2) ground disturbance activities are generally limited during the winter months, and (3) Alameda whipsnakes, if present, are typically dormant during the winter months and are unlikely to move more than a short distance from their underground retreats. WRA would continue to be available as needed to provide monitoring in the event that DeSilva Gates schedules ground disturbance activity in the immediate vicinity of remaining fenced potential habitat. These areas are limited to the Ridgemont Basin and Campus Drive areas.

According to the Special Status Species Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (SSSMMP), construction monitors are to perform "regular" inspections of the barrier fence. Because of the reasons mentioned above, monthly fence inspections from December 1, 2005 to February 28, 2006 are considered adequate to ensure compliance with the SSSMMP.

According to the fence removal plan prepared by Vanessa Loverti of Essex, whipsnake fence can be removed after all ground disturbance using heavy equipment within 100 feet of the fence has been completed. If such activities occur after March 1, 2006, weekly monitoring of the fence will resume. As soon as all such activity has been completed, the remaining barrier fencing will be removed. Removal of the whipsnake barrier fence in these areas will not expose snakes that may potentially be in the vicinity to any more disturbance than what will likely be present when the constructed homes are occupied.

Please call if you have any questions

Sincerely,

Jeff Dreier  
Senior Wildlife Ecologist/Principal

cc: Kent Peyton  
Peter Helseth  
David Chapman  
Charley Lella

Scott Huntsman  
Mark Cassady