



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003

IN REPLY REFER TO:
08EVEN00-2012-TA-0294

April 10, 2012

Paul M. Delaney, Ph.D.
Copper Mountain College
6162 Rotary Way
P.O. Box 1398
Joshua Tree, California 92252

Subject: Authorization of Biologist Pursuant to the Copper Mountain Community College
Habitat Conservation Plan, Incidental Take Permit TE143440-0

Dear Dr. Delaney:

This letter is in response to your request, dated and received on March 28, 2012, for our authorization of Dr. Brian Henen to draw blood from federally threatened desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*) under the incidental take permit TE143440-0 issued to Copper Mountain Community College for the expansion of the college to approximately 157 acres in the community of Joshua Tree, San Bernardino County, California. In your request, submitted by electronic mail, you identified the need to draw blood from desert tortoises located in the Translocation Area during the college's annual desert tortoise population surveys which are conducted pursuant to the terms and conditions of the incidental take permit. In June 2011, we approved a minor amendment (ref. # 81440-2011-CPA-0088) to the Habitat Conservation Plan for the Copper Mountain College Expansion Site to allow blood testing of desert tortoises to facilitate a better understanding of the overall disease status within the population and to better accomplish the biological goals and objectives of the Habitat Conservation Plan.

We have reviewed the qualifications of Dr. Henen; he is currently permitted to draw blood from desert tortoises under an existing section 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit for the U.S. Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino, California (TE017730-2). We therefore approve Dr. Henen to perform blood draws to desert tortoises under the subject incidental take permit.

Paul M. Delaney, Ph.D.

2

Please note that this authorization is valid only for activities conducted pursuant to the subject permit. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Amy Torres of the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office at (909) 382-2654.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl T. Benz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carl" being the most prominent.

Carl T. Benz

Assistant Field Supervisor