



# 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-0246

April 2, 2012

Dr. 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 March 16, 2012 for authorization as the biologist to work 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 that the term of the current authorized biologist, Mr. Ed LaRue, was coming to an end. You have requested that we designate you as an authorized biologist to conduct activities involving the federally threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) pursuant to the referenced incidental take permit.

On December 11, 2007, you were denied your request to work as an authorized biologist under the subject incidental take permit due to lack of training and experience; however, based on the information that you provided in your March 16, 2012 resume and our inquiries regarding your experiences from your listed references, we have now determined that you have gained sufficient training and experience to perform the duties required of an authorized biologist. We therefore approve you as an authorized biologist for work under the subject incidental take permit.

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,

Carl T. Benz  
Assistant Field Supervisor