

**FOR CONTRACT NO: 08-0C4514**  
**PROJECT ID: 080000051**

# **INFORMATION HANDOUT**

## **INFORMATION BROCHURE**

**PROTECTION OF THE ARROYO TOAD**

*Caltrans*  
**Information Brochure**

**Protection  
Of the  
Arroyo Toad  
(*Bufo californicus*)  
During  
**LIMITED SCOPE  
PROJECTS****

# ARROYO TOAD

(A FEDERALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES)

## **“IS PROTECTED BY LAW”**

**ANY UNAUTHORIZED PERSON WHO COLLECTS, HANDLES  
OR DELIBERATELY HARMS AN ARROYO TOAD  
CAN BE PROSECUTED**

**VIOLATIONS CAN RESULT IN**

- 1) FINES UP TO \$50,000  
AND/OR**
- 2) IMPRISONMENT UP TO 1 YEAR**

***APPLICABLE LAWS INCLUDE:***

**The Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973  
(16 U.S.C. 1531-1543)**

**THIS BROCHURE IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE  
TO AVOID VIOLATION OF THE FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

### **RESOURCE AGENCY FORMAL CONSULTATION**

Limited scope projects normally have a low risk of encountering or harming an arroyo toad and no “TAKE” is anticipated. Therefore, Formal Consultation between Caltrans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act has not been undertaken for this project to authorize “TAKE” during the conduct of this project.

**“TAKE” is defined as:**

**Harassing, Harming, Pursuing, Hunting, Shooting, Wounding, Killing, Capturing, Collecting, or attempting to engage in any such conduct. Engaging in any of these activities can place you in violation of the law. Arroyo toads found within Caltrans Right of Way are not exempt from this protection.**

### **Where and When could I find an Arroyo Toad?**

Historically, the Arroyo toad occurred from the upper Salinas River system in Monterey County to the area of San Quitin, Baja California, Mexico. Currently the toad is found from the San Antonio River in Monterey County to the Tijuana River and Cottonwood Creek along the Mexican Border. Within District 8, the arroyo toad is known from the following drainages : Mohave River, Deep Creek, Horsethief Canyon, Little Horsethief Canyon, Whitewater River, Cucamonga Creek, Cajon Wash, San Jacinto River, Bautista Creek, Kinley Creek, Temecula Creek, Arroyo Seco, San Mateo Creek, San Jaun Creek, and Trabuco Creek. Within this area, during breeding season Arroyo Toads are found in and adjacent to slow-moving perennial and intermittent streams that have shallow sandy to gravelly pools and sand or fine gravel streambanks. They are known to range as far as ¾ of a mile away from streams outside of the breeding season. Arroyo toads are most active during late summer and early spring rains and are chiefly nocturnal, burying themselves during the day.

### **What does an Arroyo Toad look like?**

The Arroyo toad is small (2 to 3 inches from snout to rear-end), plump and stocky. It has uniformly warty skin. It’s color ranges from an olive green to a light brown with a prominent white “V” shaped stripe crossing the top of its head between its eyes. The Arroyo Toad’s belly is colored off-white and often lacks spots. It moves quickly by hopping and rarely walks. The call of the toad is a fast musical trill that lasts up to 10 seconds. Please see page 4 of this brochure for pictures of the Arroyo Toad.

## **Why is the Arroyo Toad endangered?**

The Arroyo Toad has been eliminated from approximately 75% of its historic range. Loss of habitat due to development and the channelization of the toad's streamside habitat is the primary cause of the decline of the Arroyo Toad. Hydrologic changes due to the damming of creeks have adversely modified the toads' habitat. Additionally nonnative species such as bullfrogs, sunfish, bullhead catfish, and crayfish are known to eat both adult and tadpole Arroyo Toads.

### **What to do and not do?**

**CHECK UNDER MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT & VEHICLES** – that have been parked over night or stationary for some length of time before moving the vehicle.

**CHECK AROUND MATERIAL STACKS & UNITS** - that have been stored in the open before moving them.

**VISUALLY CHECK AROUND THE WORK AREA** – for the presence of live Arroyo toads that may have wandered into the disturbance zone. It is not intended to divert your attention from your work tasks and create a hazard for you or others on the job, but it is good practice to utilize a few moments and visually scan the area around you when it is safe to do so.

**IF AN ARROYO TOAD IS PRESENT** – stop all work activities that could harm the Arroyo Toad and contact the Resident Engineer or designated contact person, or on-site biologist to have the toad removed to safety. Contact your supervisor (contractor's) for direction on proceeding with work activities.

**DO NOT HANDLE OR MOVE AN ARROYO TOAD** – yourself. Only a authorized biologist is permitted to handle or move a toad..

**DISPOSITION OF SICK, INJURED, OR DEAD SPECIMENS** - The Fish and Wildlife Service's Divisions of Law Enforcement, San Diego, California (619) 557-5063 is to be notified within three days should any Arroyo toad(s) be found sick, injured, or dead in the project area. The Service's Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office should be notified concurrently at (760) 431-9440. Written notification to both offices must be made within five calendar days and include the collection date and time, location of toad(s), and any other pertinent information. Care must be taken in handling sick or injured toad(s) to ensure effective treatment and care, and in handling dead specimens to preserve biological material in the best possible state. The remains of intact Arroyo Toad(s) shall be placed with educational or research institutions holding appropriate state and federal permits.

**OBEY THE 25-MPH SPEED LIMIT** – on unpaved access roads.

**HELP MAKE THE LITTER CONTROL REQUIREMENTS ON THIS PROJECT** – work by using the closeable trash containers to dispose of left over food scraps, wrappers, cans bottles, etc., or secure and remove them from the project with you when you leave the job site.

**DO NOT NEEDLESSLY VENTURE OUT OF THE DESIGNATED WORK AREA** – into adjoining habitat areas unless directed to do so after the area has been approved for such activity. Doing so disturbs habitat which is also protected under the Endangered Species Act. **STAY OUTSIDE OF ESTABLISHED ESAs.**

**ASK YOUR SUPERVISOR** - if any other environmentally related special provisions have been placed in the contract that you should know about. We do recommend that environmental protection measures be reiterated and discussed at on-site "tail gate" meetings with safety and other project related issues brought up by your supervisor(s).

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION  
AND CARE  
IN KEEPING WITH AMERICA'S DESIRE TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT**

**By: Caltrans District 8, Biological Construction Monitoring**



Arroyo Toad Adult, San Bernardino County, photo by Juan Jose Lopez Torres, D8 Caltrans Biology.



Arroyo Toad Adult, San Bernardino County, photo by Juan Jose Lopez Torres, D8 Caltrans Biology.



Arroyo Toad Adult emerging from sand. San Bernardino County, photo by Juan Jose Lopez Torres, D8 Caltrans Biology.