

Subject **USFWS Seeks Public Comment on Draft Lehigh Permanente Site Operations and Maintenance HCP**
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To Snow, Meghan K <meghan_snow@fws.gov>
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Dear Interested Party:

Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the availability of a draft Categorical Exclusion and draft Habitat Conservation Plan for the Lehigh Southwest Cement Company Permanente Site Operations and Maintenance project in Santa Clara County, CA. The draft HCP, prepared by Lehigh, covers operations and maintenance activities on 10.2 acres of the Permanente quarry, as well as restoration and monitoring of a pond that serves as breeding habitat for California red-legged frog, a threatened species.

After reviewing the HCP, the Service developed a draft Categorical Exclusion for this project based on the limited and mostly temporary impacts it will have on the California red-legged frog. Under this 20-year permit, Lehigh will be able to perform storm water capture/sedimentation basin operation and maintenance; vegetation maintenance; and water quality monitoring. The company will also be able to transport and store materials and implement erosion control activities in the project area. The applicant included mitigation measures it will take to minimize the impact of this project on the species.

The notice of availability will publish in the [Federal Register](#) on December 28, 2021, and is available for [public inspection today](#). The documents can be found tomorrow on www.regulations.gov by searching under the docket number FWS-R8-ES-2021-0076. The publication opens a 30-day public comment period that closes on January 27, 2022. Information on how to submit comments can be found in the notice.

Please let me know if you have any questions,
Meghan

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In an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), staff in the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office have implemented an aggressive telework schedule. At this time, we are responding to requests for information via email or phone as often as possible as we do not have the in-office capacity to support regular mail service. We appreciate your understanding.