

DRAFT MINUTES
SALAMANDER TOXICITY STUDY CALL
February 24, 2017
10:00 AM PST

Attendees: Gerry McChesney (USFWS), John Isanhart (DOI), Gary Witmer (USDA), Vance Vredenburg (San Francisco State University)

Topic: Status of salamander captures for toxicity trials

- Vance reported that locating and capturing *Ensatina* salamanders for the trials has been much more difficult than expected. To date, he has sent about 10-12 *Ensatina* and 10-12 *Aneides* to Gary (Gary said he has 18 total salamanders in hand.). Vance has an additional eight salamanders in his lab. The lack of *Ensatina* found may be weather related; possibly they are more dispersed because of the extremely wet conditions.
- Vance also reported that during searches for salamanders, he has been finding an abundance of *Batrachoseps*.
- Because of the time frame to conduct the study and the risk of not obtaining an adequate sample of *Ensatina*, we agreed to switch to *Batrachoseps* as the primary species for the trials. We noted that *Batrachoseps* had been considered in earlier discussions but decided instead on *Ensatina*, which is more closely related to *Aneides*. Goal will be for a sample of 60 *Batrachoseps* and 30 *Aneides*.
- Captive care for *Batrachoseps* is similar to *Ensatina* except because of their smaller size they need smaller food items.
- For USDA, switching to *Batrachoseps* may require a minor change in protocol. Gary will work on that. Vance will send Gary a copy of his Standard Operating Procedures for *Batrachoseps*.
- Vance will ship five *Batrachoseps* currently on hand in his lab to Gary so USDA can familiarize themselves with the species.
- Vance plans to be back in the field in the middle of this coming week. He will let us know the results. Assuming he is successful, he should be shipping the first batch of *Batrachoseps* to Gary soon. Vance will not ship any *Batrachoseps* to Gary until Gary has notified him of approval for his lab to switch species for the trial.