Letter O-12 – Kristine Preston et al. (EHL-O-6)

O-12-1 The County acknowledges and appreciates the publication submitted by the commenter. It will be included as part of the FEIR and considered by the decision makers. However, the comment does not present any issue or make any substantive comment about the adequacy of the DEIR; for that reason, no further response is needed or required. The publication “Changing distribution patterns of an endangered butterfly: Linking local extinction patterns and variable habitat relationships” (Biological Conservation 152 (2012):280–290) reviews the history of extirpation of populations of QCB. The factors related to extirpation include agricultural history, human population growth, climate variability, topographical diversity, and wildflower abundance. According to the publication, extirpated populations are associated with a history of more intensive agriculture and greater human population growth.

While the publication provides valuable scientific information regarding climate change and distribution of QCB, the information presented in the publication does not change the conclusions in the DEIR.