# 28. SPORT FISHING (ANNUAL)

#### Today's Item

Information

Action 🛛

Consider adopting proposed changes to sport fishing regulations.

# Summary of Previous/Future Actions

<ul> <li>Today's adoption hearing</li> </ul>	Dec 12-13, 2018; Oceanside
Discussion hearing	Oct 17, 2018; Fresno
Notice hearing	Aug 22-23, 2018; Fortuna
WRC vetting	Jan 11, 2018; Santa Rosa

# Background

Three changes to sport fishing regulations are proposed, related to the definition of inland waters, size and bag limit for Lake Perris largemouth bass, and report card requirements.

# Inland Waters Definition (Exhibit 1)

The current definition of inland waters can be confusing to anglers who want to fish two rods in a bay, but are not sure if a second rod validation is required; a second-rod validation is only required in inland waters. However, the current definition is not clear whether inland waters include or exclude bays. The definition reads, "Inland waters exclude the waters of San Francisco Bay and the waters of Elkhorn Slough..." To be consistent and clear, the proposed change in definition clarifies that all bays are excluded, not just San Francisco Bay, and, therefore, a second rod validation is not required in a bay.

# Lake Perris Largemouth Bass Size and Bag Limit (Exhibit 1)

The current regulations were changed in 2009 to protect the fishery when the lake was drawn down by 43% to repair the dam. The dam repair has been completed and the water is restored to an 80% pool. DFW proposes to re-establish the bass regulations to the statewide standard of 5 fish at 12 inches.

# Sport Fishing Report Cards Requirements (Exhibit 2)

Report card regulations do not include a mechanism for confirming that report card holders have meet report card reporting requirements. This proposal would require report card holders who submit data online to write the provided confirmation number on their card and retain the card until 90 days after the reporting deadline. Additionally, this proposal updates lost report card procedures to provide guidelines for obtaining a replacement card, and for reporting harvest from a lost card without obtaining a replacement.

# Significant Public Comments (N/A)

# Recommendation

FGC staff: Adopt the negative declaration and proposed regulation changes.

DFW: Adopt the regulation changes as presented in the initial statement of reasons (ISOR).

#### Exhibits

- 1. <u>ISOR, sections 1.53 and 5.00</u>
- 2. ISOR, Section 1.74
- 3. Economic and fiscal impact statement (Std. 399)
- 4. Negative declaration as filed with the State Clearinghouse on Sep 20, 2018

#### **Motion/Direction**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission finds that the negative declaration reflects the independent judgment of the Commission and adopts the negative declaration, adopts the proposed project, and adopts proposed changes to sections 1.53, 1.74 and 5.00 related to sport fishing regulations.

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION (Pre-publication of Notice Statement)

#### Amend Sections 1.53 and 5.00, Title 14, California Code of Regulations Re: Annual Sport Fishing Regulations - Freshwater Sport Fishing Amendments

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: March 16, 2018
   II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

   (a) Notice Hearing: Date: August 23, 2018 Location: Fortuna
  - (b) Discussion Hearing: Date: October 18, 2018 Location: Fresno
     (c) Adoption Hearing: Date: December 13, 2018 Location: Oceanside
- III. Description of Regulatory Action:
  - (a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulation Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary:

This California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) proposal requests changes to Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), for the Annual Sport Fishing Regulations review cycle. This proposal will clarify that inland waters do not include bays, increase fishing opportunities for black bass in Perris Lake, and make needed corrections to existing regulations. The proposed regulatory changes are needed to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement.

The Department is proposing the following changes to current regulations:

#### INLAND WATERS DEFINITION

The current definition of inland waters can be confusing to anglers who want to fish two rods in a bay, but are not sure if a second rod validation is required. A second-rod validation is only required in inland waters. However, the current definition of Inland Waters (Title 14, Section 1.53) is not clear if inland waters include or exclude bays. The definition reads, "Inland waters exclude the waters of San Francisco Bay and the waters of Elkhorn Slough..." The definition only excludes San Francisco Bay. Title 14, Section 27.00, Definition of the Ocean

and San Francisco Bay District reads, "The ocean is...the waters of open or enclosed bays contiguous to the ocean." This definition clearly states that all bays are considered waters of the ocean. To be consistent and clear, the definition of inland waters should state that all bays are excluded, not just San Francisco Bay. Amending the definition will clarify that inland waters do not include bays and, therefore, a second rod validation is not required in a bay.

#### Proposal: Amend Section 1.53, Inland Waters

Amend Section 1.53 to clarify that inland waters do not include bays.

#### LAKE PERRIS LARGEMOUTH BASS SIZE AND BAG LIMIT

The regulations were changed in 2009 to protect the fishery when the lake was drawn down by 43% to repair the dam. The dam repair is to be completed and the water was to be restored to nearly full pool in late 2017. CDFW placed 1,484 brush habitat structures into the remnant lake in 2008-2016 and built 109 rock reefs with approximately 109,000 sq/ft of gravel/cobble rock areas. In addition, once the water levels were restored, 12 years of terrestrial vegetation growth will be available in the littoral zone to help re-establish the bass population negating the need to protect the fishery beyond the statewide standard any further.

#### Proposal: Amend Section 5.00(B)(22), Perris Lake

Restore the black bass regulation at Lake Perris to the statewide standard 5 fish at 12 inches from 2 fish at 15 inches.

#### Updates to Authority and Reference Citations Based on Recent Legislation

Senate Bill 1473 (Stats. 2016, Ch. 546) made organizational changes to the Fish and Game Code that became effective January 1, 2017. The changes included moving the Commission's exemptions from specified Administrative Procedure Act time frames from Section 202 to Section 265 of the Fish and Game Code, moving the Commission's effective date procedures from Section 215 to Section 270 of the Fish and Game Code, moving the Commission's effective period procedures from Section 220 to Section 275 of the Fish and Game Code, and moving the Commission's authority to adopt emergency regulations from Section 240 to Section 399 of the Fish and Game Code. In accordance with these changes to the Fish and Game Code, sections 202, 215, and 220 are removed from, and sections 265, 270, and 275 are added to, the authority and reference citations for this rulemaking.

#### **Minor Editorial Corrections for Clarity**

In addition to the above proposals, minor editorial corrections are proposed to correct typographical errors and to improve regulation clarity.

#### **Benefits of the Proposed Regulations**

It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the State. In addition, it is the policy of this state to promote the development of local California fisheries in harmony with federal law respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use. Adoption of scientificallybased trout and salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of trout and salmon to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with Federal law, sustainable management of California's trout and salmon resources, and promotion of businesses that rely on recreational sport fishing in California.

(b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation:

Authority: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 275, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1, 7380 and 8491, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200, 205, 255, 265, 270, 275, 713, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1, 7149.8, 7380, 7381, and 7382, Fish and Game Code.

(c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change:

None.

(d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

None.

(e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication:

No public meetings are scheduled prior to the notice publication. The 45day public notice comment period provides adequate time for review of the proposed changes.

- IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:
  - (a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

#### Striped Bass Petition

Petition #2017-012; received by the Commission November 2, 2017; at its February 7-8, 2018 meeting the Commission granted for consideration in

the 2018 rulemaking package for the 2019-2020 angling season.

Petitioner requests a change to the striped bass fishing regulations to protect native fish species. The petitioner proposes to allow daily fishing south of the Golden Gate Bridge in all California South Coast Rivers and ocean waters, and suggests increasing the daily bag limit to 3 fish and decreasing the size limit to 12 inches.

#### Department Response

The Department does not support Mr. Lambert's petition to change the striped bass sport fishing regulations because: (1) striped bass are not present in many of the watersheds south of Golden Gate Bridge; (2) the fishing impacts due to bycatch of coho salmon and steelhead during targeting of striped bass outweighs the benefit of the off chance of taking striped bass; (3) invoking a size and bag limit is a management measure and contradictory to the intent of the proposal; (4) steelhead are not allowed to be fished daily during their open season and therefore daily fishing of striped bass would likely have an adverse impact on steelhead and Coho Salmon from increase fishing ; and (5) adoption of the regulation as proposed would create an enforceability issue related to two different standards in different areas of the state.

(b) No Change Alternative:

The no change alternative would leave existing regulations in place.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulation is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The Department assessed the potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action, and made the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories:  Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action is not anticipated to have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states because the expected impact of the proposed regulations on the amount of fishing activity is anticipated to be minimal relative to recreational angling effort statewide.

(b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment:

The expected impact of the proposed regulations on the amount of fishing activity is anticipated to be minimal relative to recreational angling effort statewide. Therefore, the Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new business, the elimination of existing business or the expansion of businesses in California.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Sport fishing contributes to increased mental health of its practitioners as fishing is a hobby and form of relaxation for many. Sport fishing also provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by younger generations, the future stewards of California's natural resources.

The Commission does not anticipate any non-monetary benefits to worker safety.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment by the sustainable management of California's sport fishing resources.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding

to the State:

None.

(e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:

None.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:

None.

(g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code:

None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs:

None.

VII. Economic Impact Assessment:

The proposed regulations will revise and update inland sport fishing regulations starting in 2019. Currently, the seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits for sport fishing are periodically reviewed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Fish and Game Commission. This set of amendments will clarify that inland waters do not include bays; increase fishing opportunities for black bass in Lake Perris; and make needed editorial corrections.

Inland sport fishing regulations' affected parties include recreational anglers, commercial passenger fishing vessels and a variety of businesses that support anglers. The economic impact of regulatory changes for sport fisheries are estimated by tracking resulting changes in fishing effort, angler trips and length of stay in the fishery areas. Distance traveled affects gas and other travel expenditures. Day trips and overnight trips involve different levels of spending for gas, food and accommodations at area businesses as well as different levels of sales tax impacts. Direct expenditures ripple through the economy, as receiving businesses buy intermediate goods from suppliers that then spend that revenue again. Business spending on wages is received by workers who then spend that income, some of which goes to local businesses. Recreational fisheries spending thus multiplies throughout the economy with the indirect and induced effects of the initial direct expenditure.

This regulatory action may impact businesses that provide services to sport fishermen but these effects are anticipated to range from none to small positive impacts, depending on the regulations ultimately adopted by the Commission. Sport fishing business owners, boat owners, tackle store owners, boat manufacturers, vendors of food, bait, fuel and lodging, and others that provide goods or services to those that sport fish in California may be positively affected to some degree from increases to business that may result under the range of proposed regulations. These anticipated impacts may vary by geographic location. Additionally, economic impacts to these same businesses may result from a number of factors unrelated to the proposed changes to inland sport fishing regulations, including weather, fuel prices, and success rates in other recreational fisheries that compete for angler trips.

(a) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State:

The cumulative effects of the changes statewide are estimated to be neutral to job elimination and potentially positive to job creation in California. No significant changes in fishing effort and sport fishing expenditures to businesses are expected as a direct result of the proposed regulation changes.

(b) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State:

The cumulative effects of the changes statewide are expected to be neutral to business elimination and have potentially positive impacts to the creation of businesses in California. No significant changes in fishing effort and sport fishing expenditures to businesses are expected as a direct result of the proposed regulation changes.

(c) Effects of the Regulation on the Expansion of Businesses Currently Doing Business Within the State:

The cumulative effects of the changes statewide are expected to be neutral to positive to the expansion of businesses currently doing business in California. No significant changes in fishing effort and inland sport fishing expenditures to businesses are expected as a direct result of the proposed regulation changes.

(d) Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents:

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Sport fishing contributes to increased mental health of its practitioners as fishing is a hobby and form of relaxation for many. Sport fishing also provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by younger generations, the future stewards of California's natural resources.

(e) Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety:

The proposed regulations are not anticipated to impact worker safety conditions.

(f) Benefits of the Regulation to the State's Environment:

It is the policy of the state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all its citizens and to promote the development of local California fisheries. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use, taking into consideration the necessity of regulating individual sport fishery bag limits in the quantity that is sufficient to provide a satisfying sport. Adoption of scientifically-based inland trout and salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of trout and salmon to ensure their continued existence.

# Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

This California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) proposal combines Department and public requests for changes to Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), for the Annual Sport Fishing Regulations review cycle. This proposal will clarify that inland waters do not include bays, increase fishing opportunities for black bass in Perris Lake, and make needed corrections to existing regulations. The proposed regulatory changes are needed to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement.

The Department is proposing the following changes to current regulations:

# **INLAND WATERS DEFINITION**

The current definition of inland waters can be confusing to anglers who want to fish two rods in a bay, but are not sure if a second rod validation is required. A second-rod validation is only required in inland waters. However, the current definition of Inland Waters (Title 14, Section 1.53) is not clear if inland waters include or exclude bays. The definition reads, "Inland waters exclude the waters of San Francisco Bay and the waters of Elkhorn Slough..." The definition only excludes San Francisco Bay. Title 14, Section 27.00, Definition of the Ocean and San Francisco Bay District reads, "The ocean is...the waters of open or enclosed bays contiguous to the ocean." This definition clearly states that all bays are considered waters of the ocean. To be consistent and clear, the definition of inland waters should state that all bays are excluded, not just San Francisco Bay. Amending the definition will clarify that inland waters do not include bays and, therefore, a second rod validation is not required in a bay.

#### Proposal: Amend Section 1.53, Inland Waters

Amend Section 1.53 to clarify that inland waters do not include bays.

#### LAKE PERRIS LARGEMOUTH BASS SIZE AND BAG LIMIT

The regulations were changed in 2009 to protect the fishery when the lake was drawn down by 43% to repair the dam. The dam repair is to be completed and the water is to be restored to nearly full pool in late 2017. CDFW placed 1,484 brush habitat structures into the remnant lake in 2008-2016 and built 109 rock reefs with approximately 109,000 sq/ft of gravel/cobble rock areas. In addition, once the water levels are restored, 12 years of terrestrial vegetation growth will be available in the littoral zone to help re-establish the bass population negating the need to protect the fishery beyond the statewide standard any further.

#### Proposal: Amend Section 5.00(B)(22), Perris Lake

Restore the black bass regulation at Lake Perris to the statewide standard 5 fish at 12 inches from 2 fish at 15 inches.

#### Updates to Authority and Reference Citations Based on Recent Legislation

Senate Bill 1473 (Stats. 2016, Ch. 546) made organizational changes to the Fish and Game Code that became effective January 1, 2017. The changes included moving the Commission's exemptions from specified Administrative Procedure Act time frames from Section 202 to Section 265 of the Fish and Game Code, moving the Commission's effective date procedures from Section 215 to Section 270 of the Fish and Game Code, moving the Commission's effective period procedures from Section 220 to Section 275 of the Fish and Game Code, and moving the Commission's authority to adopt emergency regulations from Section 240 to Section 399 of the Fish and Game Code. In accordance with these changes to the Fish and Game Code, sections 202, 215, and 220 are removed from, and sections 265, 270, and 275 are added to, the authority and reference citations for this rulemaking.

#### **Minor Editorial Corrections for Clarity**

In addition to the above proposals, minor editorial corrections are proposed to correct typographical errors and to improve regulation clarity.

#### **Benefits of the Proposed Regulations**

It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the State. In addition, it is the policy of this state to promote the development of local California fisheries in harmony with federal law respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use. Adoption of scientifically-based trout and salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of trout and salmon to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with Federal law, sustainable management of California's trout and salmon resources, and promotion of businesses that rely on recreational sport fishing in California.

# **Regulatory Language**

# Section 1.53, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

#### § 1.53. Inland Waters.

Inland waters are all the fresh, brackish and inland saline waters of the state, including lagoons and tidewaters upstream from the mouths of coastal rivers and streams. Inland waters exclude <u>open or enclosed bays contiguous to the ocean including</u> the waters of San Francisco Bay and the waters of Elkhorn Slough, west of Elkhorn Road between Castroville and Watsonville. See Section 27.00 for the description of San Francisco Bay.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, <del>202,</del> 205, <del>215and 220</del>265 and 270, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, <del>202,</del> 205, <del>215 and 220</del><u>265 and 270</u>, Fish and Game Code.

# Section 5.00, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

#### § 5.00. Black Bass.

It is unlawful to take or possess black bass except as provided below: (Note: Some waters are closed to all fishing under Section 7.50.)

# [No change to subsection (a)]

(b) Special Regulations: Counties and individual waters listed below are those having regulations different from the General Statewide Restrictions in subsection (a).

Area or Body of Water	Open Season	Size (total length)	Bag Limit				
DISTRICTS AND COUNTIES WITH SPECIAL REGULATIONS							
[No change to subsections (b)(1) through (b)(21)]							
(22) Perris Lake (Riverside County).All year.15-inch minimum.212 inch minimum.5							
[No change to subsections (b)(23) through (b)(30)]							

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, <del>202,</del> 205, <del>215 and 220265, 270 and 275</del>, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, and 205 and 206</del>, Fish and Game Code.

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION (Pre-publication of Notice Statement)

Amend Sections 1.74

Title 14, California Code of Regulations Re: Annual Sport Fishing Regulations - Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements

Ι. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: March 16, 2018 П. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings: (a) Notice Hearing: Date: August 23, 2018 Fortuna Location: (b) **Discussion Hearing:** October 18, 2018 Date: Location: Fresno (c) Adoption Hearing: Date: December 13, 2018 Location: Oceanside

III. Description of Regulatory Action:

(a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulation Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary:

This California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) proposal requests changes to Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), for the Annual Sport Fishing Regulations review cycle. Existing regulations established guidelines for report card regulations including the need for reporting harvest authorized by a report card; however, this section does not include the same mechanism for confirmation that data from a report card has been reported. This proposal requires report card holders who submit data online to write the provided confirmation number on their report card and retain the report card until for 90 days after the reporting deadline, in the same way it is regulated with other types of report cards in Title 14. The proposed regulatory changes are needed to reduce public confusion, improve the accuracy of data collected, and improve regulatory enforcement.

The Department is proposing the following changes to current regulations:

# SPORT FISHING REPORT CARD REQUIREMENTS

Section 1.74 establishes guidelines for report card regulations including reporting harvest authorized by a report card; however, this section does not include a mechanism for confirmation that data from a report card has been reported. This proposal requires report card holders who submit data online to write the

provided confirmation number on their report card and retain the report card until 90 days after the reporting deadline. The objectives of this proposed regulations are to:

- Ensure continued fishing opportunities for anglers in California by providing the Department with more timely, accurate and comprehensive data on success and take levels;
- Establish a retention period of 90 days, during which time the Department may request the angler surrender the report card to audit the reporting process;
- Establish consistency with other report card procedures that include a 90 day retention period.

When a report card is lost, a licensee may wish to obtain a replacement report card, or may simply need to fulfill the harvest reporting requirement before the reporting deadline. Section 1.74 does not currently provide guidelines for licensees who have lost their report card and need to report their harvest, but do not need to obtain a replacement report card. This proposal updates procedures regarding lost report cards to provide guidelines for obtaining a replacement report card, and also for reporting harvest from a lost report card without obtaining a replacement report card.

<u>Proposal: Amend Section 1.74, Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements</u> Amend Section 1.74 to update procedures for reporting online and for lost report cards.

#### **Minor Editorial Corrections for Clarity**

In addition to the above proposals, minor editorial corrections are proposed to correct typographical errors and to improve regulation clarity.

#### **Benefits of the Proposed Regulations**

It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the State. In addition, it is the policy of this state to promote the development of local California fisheries in harmony with federal law respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State. The objectives of this policy is to ensure more accurate data reporting as well as a mechanism to audit the data reported. Adoption of scientifically-based trout and salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of trout and salmon to ensure their continued existence, and verifiable accuracy of the data will further help to improve the fisheries impacted by this action.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with Federal law, sustainable management of California's trout and salmon resources, and promotion of businesses that rely on recreational sport fishing in California.

(b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation:

Authority: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 275, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1, 7380 and 8491, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200, 205, 255, 265, 270, 275, 713, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1, 7149.8, 7380, 7381, and 7382, Fish and Game Code.

(c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change:

None.

(d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

None.

(e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication:

No public meetings are scheduled prior to the notice publication. The 45day public notice comment period provides adequate time for review of the proposed changes.

- IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:
  - (a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

No alternative were identified.

(b) No Change Alternative:

The no change alternative would leave existing regulations in place.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulation is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

#### VI. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The Department assessed the potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action, and made the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories:

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action is not anticipated to have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states because the proposed action is a procedural update to an existing report card process. No changes in fishing effort and sport fishing expenditures to businesses are expected as a result of the proposed regulation changes.

(b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment:

The effects of the proposed action are anticipated to be neutral to the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new businesses, the elimination of existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in California. The proposed action is a procedural update to an existing report card process. No changes in fishing effort and sport fishing expenditures to businesses are expected as a result of the proposed regulation changes.

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts to the health and welfare of California residents from the proposed action.

The Commission does not anticipate any non-monetary benefits to worker safety.

The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to the environment from the proposed action.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

None.

(e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:

None.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:

None.

(g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code:

None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs:

None.

VII. Economic Impact Assessment:

The proposed regulations will provide an update for a confirmation procedure for the submission of sport fishing report cards and will correct some text errors.

(a) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State:

The effects of the proposed action are anticipated to be neutral to the creation or elimination of jobs within the state. The proposed action is a procedural update to an existing report card process. No changes in fishing effort and sport fishing expenditures to businesses are expected as a result of the proposed regulation changes.

(b) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State:

The effects of the proposed action are anticipated to be neutral to the creation or elimination of businesses within the state. The proposed action is a procedural update to an existing report card process. No changes in fishing effort and sport fishing expenditures to businesses are expected as a result of the proposed regulation changes.

(c) Effects of the Regulation on the Expansion of Businesses Currently Doing Business Within the State:

The effects of the proposed action are anticipated to be neutral to the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state. The proposed action is a procedural update to an existing report card process. No changes in fishing effort and sport fishing expenditures to businesses are expected as a result of the proposed regulation changes.

(d) Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents:

The proposed action is not anticipated to impact the health and welfare of California residents.

(e) Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety:

The proposed action is not anticipated to impact worker safety conditions.

(f) Benefits of the Regulation to the State's Environment:

The proposed action is not anticipated to provide any benefits to the state's environment.

# Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

This California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) proposal requests changes to Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), for the Annual Sport Fishing Regulations review cycle. This proposal will update the sport fishing report card requirements, and make needed corrections to existing regulations. The proposed regulatory changes are needed to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement.

The Department is proposing the following changes to current regulations:

#### SPORT FISHING REPORT CARD REQUIREMENTS

Section 1.74 establishes guidelines for report card regulations including reporting harvest authorized by a report card; however, this section does not include a mechanism for confirmation that data from a report card has been reported. This proposal requires report card holders who submit data online to write the provided confirmation number on their report card and retain the report card until 90 days after the reporting deadline.

When a report card is lost, a licensee may wish to obtain a replacement report card, or may simply need to fulfill the harvest reporting requirement before the reporting deadline. Section 1.74 does not currently provide guidelines for licensees who have lost their report card and need to report their harvest, but do not need to obtain a replacement report card. This proposal updates procedures regarding lost report cards to provide guidelines for obtaining a replacement report card, and also for reporting harvest from a lost report card without obtaining a replacement report card.

<u>Proposal: Amend Section 1.74, Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements</u> Amend Section 1.74 to update procedures for reporting online and for lost report cards.

#### **Benefits of the Proposed Regulations**

It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the State. In addition, it is the policy of this state to promote the development of local California fisheries in harmony with federal law respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use. Adoption of scientifically-based trout and salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of trout and salmon to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with Federal law, sustainable management of California's trout and salmon resources, and promotion of businesses that rely on recreational sport fishing in California.

# **Regulatory Language**

# Section 1.74, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

# § 1.74. Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements.

(a) Purpose. These regulations are designed to improve recreational fishing effort and catch information in some or all areas where the fisheries operate. Many of these species are of high commercial value, and therefore, additional enforcement mechanisms are needed to improve compliance with existing bag limits and other regulations, and to reduce the potential for poaching.

(b) Report card requirements apply to any person fishing for or taking the following species regardless of whether a sport fishing license is required:

(1) Salmon, in the anadromous waters of the Klamath, Trinity, and Smith river basins. Anadromous waters are defined in Section 1.04 of these regulations.

(2) Steelhead trout.

(3) White sturgeon.

(4) Red abalone.

(5) California spiny lobster.

(c) General Report Card Requirements.

(1) Any person fishing for or taking any of the species identified in this Section shall have in his immediate possession a valid non-transferable report card issued by the department for the particular species. See special exemption regarding possession of report cards for lobster divers in Section 29.91 of these regulations.

(2) All entries made on any report card or tag shall be legible and in indelible ink.

(3) A report card holder fishing with a one, two, or ten-day sport fishing license, may replace the expired fishing license without purchasing a new report card so long as the report card is still valid.

(4) Report cards are not transferable and shall not be transferred to another person. No person shall possess any report card other than his own.

(5) A person may only obtain one abalone report card and one sturgeon report card per report card period.

(6) Any report card holder who fills in all available lines on his steelhead, salmon or lobster report card shall return or report the card to the department pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) prior to purchasing a second card.

(7) Data recording and tagging procedures vary between report cards and species. See specific regulations in sections 5.79, 5.87, 5.88, 27.92, 29.16, and 29.91 that apply in addition to the regulations of this Section.

(d) Report Card Return and Reporting Requirements

(1) Report card holders shall return or report their salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, or abalone report cards to the department pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) by January 31 of the following year.

(A) Any report card holder who fails to return or report his salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, or abalone report card to the department by the deadline may be restricted from obtaining the same card in a subsequent license year or may be subject to an additional fee for the issuance of the same card in a subsequent license year.

(2) Report card holders shall return or report their lobster report cards pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) by April 30 following the close of the lobster season for which the card was issued.

(A) Any report card holder who fails to return or report his or her lobster report card by April 30 following the close of the lobster season specified on the card shall be subject to a nonrefundable non-return fee specified in Section 701, in addition to the annual report card fee, for the issuance of a lobster report card in the subsequent fishing season.

(e) Report Card Return and Reporting Mechanisms:

(1) By mail or in person at the address specified on the card. A report card returned by mail shall be postmarked by the date applicable to that card as specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1) or 1.74(d)(2).

(2) Online through the department's license sales service website by the date applicable to that card as specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1) or 1.74(d)(2).

Report card holders reporting online will be provided a confirmation number upon successful submission. The report card holder must record the provided confirmation number in the space provided on the report card and retain the report card for 90 days after the reporting deadline. Report cards submitted online must be surrendered to the department upon demand.

(3) If a report card is submitted by mail and not received by the department, it is considered not returned unless the report card holder reports his or her report card as lost pursuant to subsection 1.74(f).

(f) Lost report cards.

(1) Any report card holder who loses his report card shall submit an affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, in person to a department license sales office containing all of the following information:

(A) A statement containing the report card holder's full name confirming that the originally issued report card cannot be recovered.

(B) A statement containing the report card holder's best recollection of the prior catch records that were entered on the report card that was lost.

(C) A statement describing the factual circumstances surrounding the loss of the card. (2) An affidavit for a lost report card shall be presented at a department license sales office, by the date applicable to that card specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1) or 1.74(d)(2) to be considered returned.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection 1.74(c)(5), any report card holder who loses his report card during the period for which it is valid may replace the lost report card by submitting an affidavit as described in subsection 1.74(f)(1) and payment of the report card fee and replacement processing fee specified in Section 701.

(A) Based on the information provided in the written affidavit for abalone and sturgeon report cards, the department shall issue only the number of tags that were reported unused on the previously issued report card.

(f) Lost report cards.

(1) Lobster, salmon, and steelhead. Notwithstanding subsection 1.74(c)(5), any report card holder who loses his report card during the report card period for which it is valid may purchase an additional report card by submitting payment to an authorized license agent or department license sales office. Catch information from the lost report card shall not be transferred to the new card. Information from lost lobster, salmon, and steelhead report cards shall be reported as specified in subsection 1.74(f)(3).

(2) Abalone and sturgeon. Notwithstanding subsection 1.74(c)(5), any report card holder who loses his or her report card during the period for which it is valid may

purchase a replacement report card. The Department may issue a replacement report card for abalone and sturgeon upon completion of the following:

(A) Submitting an affidavit to any department license sales office containing all the information specified in subsection 1.74(f)(3)(B); and

(B) Submitting payment of the report card fee and the non-refundable replacementprocessing fee specified in Section 701.

(C) Department staff shall enter the harvest information from the affidavit to the replacement report card.

(D) Based on the information provided on the affidavit, department staff shall remove tags reported as used and issue only the number of tags that were reported as unused on the lost original report card.

(E) Report card holders shall verify that the harvest information has been accurately transferred from the affidavit to his or her replacement report card.

(F) The replacement report card shall be reported pursuant to the requirement for the original report card as specified in subsection 1.74(d). Note: the original report card should not be reported.

(3) Reporting requirements. Except for lost abalone and sturgeon report cards for which a replacement card was purchased, all lost report cards shall be reported by the harvest report submission deadline date applicable to that card as specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1) or 1.74(d)(2) by one of the following methods:

(A) Online through the department's license sales service website; or

(B) Submitting an affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, to a department license sales office containing the following information:

<u>1. The report card holder's full name, GO ID#, and a statement confirming that the originally-issued report card is lost and cannot be recovered.</u>

2. A statement containing the report card holder's best recollection of the prior catch records that were entered on the report card that was lost.

<u>3. A statement describing the factual circumstances surrounding the loss of the report</u> <u>card.</u>

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 275, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1 and 7380, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 110, 200, 205, 265, 275, 713, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1, 7149.8, 7380, 7381 and 7382, Fish and Game Code.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA — DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)

STD. 399 (REV. 12/2013)

d'i

#### Instructions and Code Citations: <u>SAM Section 6601-6616</u>

#### ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

CONTACT PERSON	margaret duncan	EMAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER 916-653-4676
	margaret.aamaan	emane.ca.gov	NOTICE FILE NUMBER
21) Re: Annual Sport Fishi	ng Regulations, Title	14, CCR	Z
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estimates that t	he economic impact of t	his regulation (which inclue	les the fiscal impact) is:
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Instructions and Code Citations:
SAM Section 6601-6616

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA — DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)

STD.	399	(REV.	12/2013)

# ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA — DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE	
ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT	Г
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)	
STD. 399 (REV. 12/2013)	

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINU	JED)
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2. Summarize the total statewide costs and benefits from this regulation and each alternative considered:	
Regulation: Benefit: \$ Cost: \$	
Alternative 1: Benefit: \$ Cost: \$	
Alternative 2: Benefit: \$ Cost: \$	
<ol> <li>Briefly discuss any quantification issues that are relevant to a comparison of estimated costs and benefits for this regulation or alternatives:</li> </ol>	
<ul> <li>4. Rulemaking law requires agencies to consider performance standards as an alternative, if a regulation mandates the use of specific technologies or equipment, or prescribes specific actions or procedures. Were performance standards considered to lower compliance costs? YES NO</li> </ul>	
Explain:	
E. MAJOR REGULATIONS Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.	
California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) boards, offices and departments are resubmit the following (per Health and Safety Code section 57005). Otherwise, skip to E4	
1. Will the estimated costs of this regulation to California business enterprises exceed \$10 million? YES NO	
If YES, complete E2. and E3 If NO, skip to E4	
2. Briefly describe each alternative, or combination of alternatives, for which a cost-effectiveness analysis was performed: Alternative 1:	· · ·
Alternative 2:	
(Attach additional pages for other alternatives)	
2 For the regulation and each alternative just described enter the estimated total each and every line of alternative	
3. For the regulation, and each alternative just described, enter the estimated total cost and overall cost-effectiveness ratio:         Regulation:       Total Cost \$         Cost-effectiveness ratio:       \$	
Alternative 1: Total Cost \$     Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$	
Alternative 2: Total Cost \$     Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$	
4. Will the regulation subject to OAL review have an estimated economic impact to business enterprises and individuals located in c exceeding \$50 million in any 12-month period between the date the major regulation is estimated to be filed with the Secretary after the major regulation is estimated to be fully implemented?	r doing business in Californi of State through12 months
YES NO	
If YES, agencies are required to submit a <u>Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment (SRIA)</u> as specified in Government Code Section 11346.3(c) and to include the SRIA in the Initial Statement of Reasons.	
5. Briefly describe the following:	
The increase or decrease of investment in the State:	
The incentive for innovation in products, materials or processes:	
The benefits of the regulations, including, but not limited to, benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment and quality of life, among any other benefits identified by the agency:	

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (REGULATIONS AND ORDERS) STD. 399 (REV. 12/2013)

# FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL EFFECT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.	Indicate appropriate boxes 1 th	rough 6 and attach calculations and assun	nptions of fiscal	mpact for the
1. Additional expenditures in the current State (Pursuant to Section 6 of Article'XIII B of the	e Fiscal Year which are reimburs California Constitution and Sec	able by the State. (Approximate) tions 17500 et seq. of the Government Code	<u>=).</u>	
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\$Check reason(s) this regulation is not reimbursa	— ble and provide the appropriate in	nformation:		
a. Implements the Federal mandate cont				
b. Implements the court mandate set for	th by the		Court.	
Case of:		vs		
c. Implements a mandate of the people of	f this State expressed in their ap	oproval of Proposition No.		
Date of Election:				
d. Issued only in response to a specific re	quest from affected local entity(	(s).		
Local entity(s) affected:				
e. Will be fully financed from the fees, rev	enue, etc. from:			
Authorized by Section:	o	f the	Code;	
f. Provides for savings to each affected u	nit of local government which v	vill, at a minimum, offset any additional cost	s to each;	
g. Creates, eliminates, or changes the per	nalty for a new crime or infractio	on contained in	1	
3. Annual Savings. (approximate)				
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4. No additional costs or savings. This regulatio	n makes only technical, non-subs	stantive or clarifying changes to current law re	egulations.	
S. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does	not affect any local entity or prog	ıram.		
6. Other. Explain				

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ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (REGULATIONS AND ORDERS) STD. 399 (REV. 12/2013)							
	FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED) B. FISCAL EFFECT ON STATE GOVERNMENT Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.						
1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)							
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It is anticipated that State agencies will:							
a. Absorb these additional costs within their existing budgets and resources.							
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3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any State agency or program.							
4. Other. Explain			-				
C. FISCAL EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF STATE PROGRAMS Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.	and attach calculo	itions and assur	nptions of fisca				
1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)			***				
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3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any federally funded State agency or program.							
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FISCAL OFFICER SIGNATURE	DATE	Calanta e policierar e recentrato	and the second second second second				
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The signature attests that the agency has completed the STD. 399 according to the instructions in Sz the impacts of the proposed rulemaking. State boards, offices, or departments not under an Agency highest ranking official in the organization.	<i>AM sections 660.</i> Secretary must l	l-6616, and u have the form .	iderstands signed by the				
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Finance approval and signature is required when SAM sections 6601-6616 require completion of F	iscal Impact Stat	ement in the S	TD. 399.				
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PROGRAM BUDGET MANAGER	DATE						
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Instructions and Code Citations: <u>SAM Section 6601-6616</u>

# STATE OF CALIFORNIA - DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

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Appendix C

# Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Proposed Amendments to Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations						
Lead Agency: Fish and Game Commission		Contact Person: Valerie Termini				
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 944209		Phone: 916-653-4899				
City: Sacramento	Zip: 94244-2090	County: Sacramento				
Project Location: County: State of California		V				
Cross Streets:		7:- 0-1				
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds):°	_′″N/°	°′ W Total Acres:				
Assessor's Parcel No.:	Section:	Twp.: Range: Base:				
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #:	Waterways: Zass					
Airports:	Railways:	Schools:				
Document Type:         CEQA:       NOP       Draft EIR         Early Cons       Supplement/Subsequent EII         X Neg Dec       (Prior SCH No.)         Mit Neg Dec       Other:	NEPA:	NOI     Other:     Joint Document       EA     Final Document       Draft EIS     Other:       FONSI				
Local Action Type:       Specific Plan         General Plan Update       Specific Plan         General Plan Amendment       Master Plan         General Plan Element       Planned Unit Development         Community Plan       Site Plan	I Land Divis	sion (Cultivities of )				
Development Type:         Residential: Units       Acres         Office:       Sq.ft.       Acres         Commercial:Sq.ft.       Acres       Employees         Industrial:       Sq.ft.       Acres         Educational:       Educational:       MGD	D Transpor Mining: Power: Waste Tr	rtation: TypeMW reatment: TypeMGD us Waste: TypeMGD				
Project Issues Discussed in Document:         Aesthetic/Visual       Fiscal         Agricultural Land       Flood Plain/Flooding         Air Quality       Forest Land/Fire Hazard         Archeological/Historical       Geologic/Seismic         Biological Resources       Minerals         Coastal Zone       Noise         Drainage/Absorption       Population/Housing Balan         Economic/Jobs       Public Services/Facilities	Recreation/Pa	arks   Vegetation versities   Water Quality ns   Water Supply/Groundwater ity   Wetland/Riparian Compaction/Grading   Growth Inducement   Land Use lous   Cumulative Effects				
Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:						

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

California Fish and Game Commission adoption of Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations for California.

# Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may reco If you have already sent	mmend State Clearinghouse distrib your document to the agency pleas	bution by n se denote th	narking agencies below with and "X". nat with an "S".		
X Air Resources B	oard		Office of Historic Preservation		
Boating & Water	rways, Department of		Office of Public School Construction		
	gency Management Agency	X	Parks & Recreation, Department of		
California Highv			Pesticide Regulation, Department of		
X Caltrans District			Public Utilities Commission		
Caltrans Division		Х	– Regional WQCB #		
X Caltrans Plannin			Resources Agency		
	lood Protection Board		Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of		
	Mtns. Conservancy	X	S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.		
X Coastal Commis			San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy		
X Colorado River I			San Joaquin River Conservancy		
X Conservation, De			Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy		
Corrections, Dep	•		State Lands Commission		
X Delta Protection			SWRCB: Clean Water Grants		
Education, Depa			SWRCB: Water Quality		
Energy Commiss			SWRCB: Water Rights		
Fish & Game Re		X	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency		
	ure, Department of		Toxic Substances Control, Department of		
	e Protection, Department of	X	Water Resources, Department of		
General Services	. –		-		
Health Services,			Other:		
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Lead Agency (Complet					
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Consulting Firm:		Applicant: Fish and Game Commission			
Address:		Addre	Address: 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320		
City/State/Zip:		_ City/S	City/State/Zip: Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 653-4899		
	, <sup>1</sup>	Phone	: (310) 000-4000		
Phone:		4			
		EF-	Date: 9/10/18		
Signature of Lead Agei	ncy Representative: 1/1119		Date: 11914		

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

# STATE OF CALIFORNIA

#### NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

#### FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

#### NEGATIVE DECLARATION

#### FOR

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FRESHWATER SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

# Prepared by:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Branch

This Report Has Been Prepared Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 State of California Natural Resources Agency Fish and Game Commission

State Clearinghouse # 2018092058

#### INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FRESHWATER SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

# TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

#### The Project

The Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend a variety of freshwater sport fishing regulations as set forth in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). As compared to existing regulations, this proposal will amend the definition of inland waters to clarify that inland waters do not include bays. It will also increase fishing opportunities for black bass in Lake Perris, and make needed corrections to existing regulations detailed further below. The proposed regulatory changes are needed to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement.

#### The Findings

The project will have a less than significant impact on greenhouse gases, recreation, and transportation/traffic. The project will have no impact to aesthetics, agriculture and forest resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems.

#### Basis of the Findings

Based on the initial study, the Commission finds that implementing the proposed project will have a less than significant to no impact on the environment. Therefore, a negative declaration is filed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resource Code Section 21080 (c)(2).

This proposed negative declaration consists of the following:

- Introduction Project Description and Background Information on the Proposed Amendments to Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations
- Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form
- Explanation of the Response to the Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FRESHWATER SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

# TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

#### Introduction

Annually, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) recommends sport fishing regulations to the Commission. The Commission then makes the final determination on what amendments to the regulations should be implemented, and is the lead agency for the purposes of CEQA. Under Fish and Game Code Section 200, the Commission has the authority to regulate the taking or possession of fish in the sport fishing context.

#### Project goals and objectives

The goal of this project is to amend selected sport fishing regulations in furtherance of the state's policy on conservation, maintenance, and utilization of California's aquatic resources. (Fish and Game Code, Section 1700). Fish and Game Code Section 1700 sets out this policy, which includes the following objectives:

- 1. Maintain sufficient populations of all aquatic species to ensure their continued existence.
- 2. Maintain sufficient resources to support a reasonable sport use.
- 3. Manage using best available science and public input.

#### Background

Annually, the Commission considers amendments to sport fishing regulations. Recommendations for changes come from Department staff, the public, Commission staff, Fish and Game Advisory Commissions, and local governments.

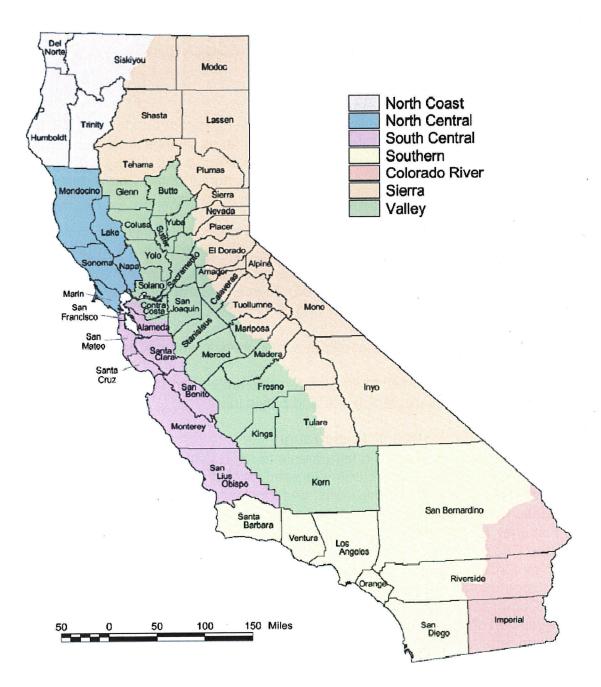
Recommendations are evaluated within the appropriate Department Region and by the statewide Fisheries Management Committee. If the proposed regulation change passes evaluation, the Department prepares a regulation change recommendation for the Commission to consider. Through a series of Commission meetings, the public has the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulation change. At the end of this public process, the Commission may add, amend, or repeal regulations related to the proposed regulation change. The Commission most recently adopted amendments to the sport fishing regulations in December 2017.

#### Project Location

Freshwater sport fishing regulation changes proposed by this project and analyzed in this proposed negative declaration occur in the inland waters of California. The inland waters of California are divided into seven sport fishing districts, the North Coast, North Central, South Central, Southern, Valley, Sierra, and Colorado River districts. These districts are shown in the map below.

2

# CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING DISTRICTS



#### Schedule

If adopted by the Commission and approved by the Office of Administrative Law, the proposed regulatory amendments described below will go into effect March 1, 2019.

#### **Project Description**

The proposed project includes both Department and public recommendations for amendments to sport fishing regulations set forth in Title 14 of the CCR. The proposed amendments would modify existing sport fishing regulations as follows:

## INLAND WATERS DEFINITION

The current definition of inland waters can be confusing to anglers who want to fish two rods in a bay, but are not sure if a second rod validation is required. A second-rod validation is only required in inland waters. However, the current definition of inland waters (Title 14, Section 1.53) is not clear regarding whether inland waters include or exclude bays. The definition reads, "Inland waters exclude the waters of San Francisco Bay and the waters of Elkhorn Slough..." The definition only excludes San Francisco Bay. Title 14, Section 27.00, Definition of the Ocean and San Francisco Bay District reads, "The ocean is...the waters of open or enclosed bays contiguous to the ocean." This definition clearly states that all bays are considered waters of the ocean. To be consistent and clear, the definition of inland waters should state that all bays are excluded, not just San Francisco Bay. Amending the definition will clarify that inland waters do not include bays and, therefore, a second rod validation is not required in a bay.

#### LAKE PERRIS LARGEMOUTH BASS SIZE AND BAG LIMIT

This proposal would restore the black bass regulation at Lake Perris from 2 fish at 15 inches to the statewide standard of 5 fish at 12 inches. The subject regulation was changed in 2009 to protect the fishery when the lake was drawn down by 43% to repair the dam. The dam repair was completed and the water restored to nearly full pool in late 2017. During the draw down period, CDFW placed 1,484 brush habitat structures into the remnant lake in 2008-2016 and built 109 rock reefs with approximately 109,000 sq/ft of gravel/cobble rock areas. Consequently, 12 years of terrestrial vegetation growth is now available in the littoral zone to help re-establish the bass population negating the need to protect the fishery beyond the statewide standard any further.

## Updates to Authority and Reference Citations Based on Recent Legislation

Senate Bill 1473 (Stats. 2016, Ch. 546) made organizational changes to the Fish and Game Code that became effective January 1, 2017. The changes included moving the Commission's exemptions from specified Administrative Procedure Act time frames from Section 202 to Section 265 of the Fish and Game Code, moving the Commission's effective date procedures from Section 215 to Section 270 of the Fish and Game Code, moving the Commission's effective period procedures from Section 220 to Section 275 of the Fish and Game Code, and moving the Commission's authority to adopt emergency regulations from Section 240 to Section 399 of the Fish and Game Code. In accordance with these changes to the Fish and Game Code, sections 202, 215, and

220 are removed from, and sections 265, 270, and 275 are added to, the authority and reference citations for this rulemaking.

# **Minor Editorial Corrections for Clarity**

In addition to the above proposals, minor editorial corrections are proposed to correct typographical errors and to improve regulation clarity.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

- Project Title: Proposed Amendments to Sport Fishing Regulations, Title 14, California Code of Regulations
- Lead Agency Name and Address: California Fish and Game Commission 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320 Sacramento, CA 95814
- 3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Valerie Termini, (916) 653-4899
- 4. Project Location: Inland waters of the State of California
- Project Sponsor's Name and Address: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Branch 830 S Street Sacramento, CA 95811
- 6. General Plan designation: N/A (statewide)
- 7. Zoning: N/A (statewide)
- Description of Project: Amend selected sport fishing regulations to maintain consistency with the state's policy to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.
- 9. Surrounding land uses and setting: N/A
- 10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required: None.
- 11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project are requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.31? No.

# ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

	Aesthetics	Agriculture and	Air Quality
	•	Forestry Resources	
	<b>Biological Resources</b>	Cultural Resources	Geology/Soils
	Greenhouse Gas	Hazards and	Hydrology/Water
<u> </u>	Emissions	Hazardous Materials	Quality
	Land Use/Planning	Mineral Resources	Noise
	Population/Housing	Public Services	Recreation
	Transportation/Traffic	Utilities/Service	Tribal Cultural
	• •	Systems	Resources
	Mandatory Findings of		
	Significance		

This project will not have a "Potential Significant Impact" on any of the environmental factors listed above; therefore, no boxes are checked.

# DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to

applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

# Valerie Termini, Executive Director

Date

		Potentially	Significant	Impact	Less Than	Significant	With Mitication	Incorporated	Less Than	Significant Impact	No Impact
	. AESTHETICS. Would the project:	_			_						
	a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?										
   i	b) Substantially damage scenic resources, ncluding, but not limited to, trees, rock putcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?										
	c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?										
	d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?						-	-			
	I. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:										

<b></b>			,	
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non- agricultural use?				
<ul> <li>b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?</li> </ul>				$\boxtimes$
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				
<ul> <li>d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</li> </ul>				
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				
<b>III. AIR QUALITY.</b> Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:			•	
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				$\boxtimes$

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non- attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?		•		
d) Expose sensitive receptors to				$\square$
<ul><li>substantial pollutant concentrations?</li><li>e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?</li></ul>				
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				. '
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?				
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				

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	Potentially Significant Imnact		Significant	with	Mitigation	Incorporated	Less Than	Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Interfere substantially with the			٦.				Π		$\square$
movement of any native resident or	bal	-							
migratory fish or wildlife species or with									
established native resident or migratory									
wildlife corridors, or impede the use of									
native wildlife nursery sites?									
e) Conflict with any local policies or			]						$\square$
ordinances protecting biological resources,						ľ			
such as a tree preservation policy or									
ordinance?									
f) Conflict with the provisions of an			]						$\square$
adopted Habitat Conservation Plan,									
Natural Community Conservation Plan, or									
other approved local, regional, or state									
habitat conservation plan?	<u></u>								
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the									
project:									
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in									
the significance of a historical resource as		·							
defined in §15064.5?		┼┍	_						
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in		L							
the significance of an archaeological									
resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<u> </u>		-	<u> </u>					<u> </u>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique									$\square$
paleontological resource or site or unique									
geologic feature?		+	<b>-</b>						
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal			<b>_</b>						
cemeteries?									
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the	1								I
project:									
a) Expose people or structures to potential			7				· ]		
substantial adverse effects, including the		.	_				I		
risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	1				•				

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as				$\square$
delineated on the most recent Alquist-	المسل			
Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map				
issued by the State Geologist for the area		•		
or based on other substantial evidence of				
a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines				
and Geology Special Publication 42.				
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including				$\boxtimes$
liquefaction?				
iv) Landslides?				$\boxtimes$
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the			· ·	$\boxtimes$
loss of topsoil?				
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that				$\boxtimes$
is unstable, or that would become unstable				
as a result of the project, and potentially				
result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral				
spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or				
collapse?			<b></b>	
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined				$\square$
in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building				
Code (1994), creating substantial risks to				
life or property? e) Have soils incapable of adequately		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
supporting the use of septic tanks or				
alternative waste water disposal systems				
where sewers are not available for the				
disposal of waste water?				
VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.				
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions,			$\square$	
either directly or indirectly, that may have a				
significant impact on the environment?			 	5-7
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy				$\square$
or regulation adopted for the purpose of				
reducing the emissions of greenhouse				
gases?				
VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS				
MATERIALS. Would the project:				

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous				
materials? b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
<ul> <li>f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?</li> </ul>				
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				

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	Potentially	Significant	Impact	Less Than	Significant	Mitigation	Incorporated	Less Than	Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:										
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?										$\square$
b) Substantially deplete groundwater										$\boxtimes$
supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there										
would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or										
a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-										
existing nearby wells would drop to a level										
which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have										
been granted)?										
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including										$\square$
through the alteration of the course of a										
stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on-										
or off-site?										
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including								L		
through the alteration of the course of a										
stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a										
manner which would result in flooding on-										
or off-site?										
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or										
planned stormwater drainage systems or										· ·
provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?										
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water								L		
quality? g) Place housing within a 100-year flood										
hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood										
Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation										
map?									-	

			_ ·	
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				
<ul> <li>i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?</li> </ul>				
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				$\square$
X. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:			·	-
a) Physically divide an established community?				
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				
XI. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				
XII. NOISE. Would the project result in:		1		
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				
<ul> <li>c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?</li> </ul>				
XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES.				

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<ul> <li>a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:</li> <li>Fire protection?</li> <li>Police protection?</li> <li>Parks?</li> <li>Other public facilities?</li> </ul>				
XV. RECREATION.			<u>                                      </u>	
		•		
<ul> <li>a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?</li> <li>b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?</li> </ul>				
XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.		•		
Would the project: a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				$\boxtimes$
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?				
XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or				
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by				

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
substantial evidence, to be significant				
pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision				
(c) of Public Resources Code Section				
5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the				
significance of the resource to a California				
Native American tribe.				
XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE	•			
SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment				
requirements of the applicable Regional				
Water Quality Control Board?				
b) Require or result in the construction of				
new water or wastewater treatment				
facilities or expansion of existing facilities,				
the construction of which could cause			. *	
significant environmental effects?				<u> </u>
c) Require or result in the construction of				
new storm water drainage facilities or				
expansion of existing facilities, the				
construction of which could cause				
significant environmental effects?				<b>N</b> 7
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing				
entitlements and resources, or are new or			-	
expanded entitlements needed?				
e) Result in a determination by the			<b></b>	
wastewater treatment provider which	<b>L</b>			
serves or may serve the project that it has				
adequate capacity to serve the project's				
projected demand in addition to the				
provider's existing commitments?				
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient				$\square$
permitted capacity to accommodate the			• ·	
project's solid waste disposal needs?				
g) Comply with federal, state, and local				$\boxtimes$
statutes and regulations related to solid				
waste?				
·		·		

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				

## EXPLANATION OF RESPONSES TO INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

## I. AESTHETICS

- a) The project will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- b) The project will not damage scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- c) The project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the work sites and their surroundings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- d) The project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

## **II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES**

- a) The project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timber zoned Timberland Production. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- d) There will be no loss of forest land and the project will not result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.

## **III. AIR QUALITY**

- a) The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors). Such an impact will not occur because the project involves no ongoing sources of air pollution.
- d) The project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not increase pollutant concentrations.
- e) The project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

## **IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

- a) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies and regulations, or by the CDFW or the USFWS. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- d) The project will not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Such an impact

will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

- e) The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not result in any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- f) The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

## V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect historical resources.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. There is not ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect archaeological resources.
- c) The project will not directly or indirectly destroy any unique paleontological resources or sites, or unique geologic features. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect paleontological resources.
- d) The project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect human remains.

## **VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

- a i) The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- a ii) The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- a iii) The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground

failure, including liquefaction. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.

- a iv) The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- b) The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- c) The project will not be located on a geologic unit or soil that unstable, or that would become unstable and potentially result in on- or off- site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- d) The project will not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- e) The project will not create any sources of waste water requiring a septic system

### **VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

a) The project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.

The proposal to restore the black bass regulation at Lake Perris from 2 fish at 15 inches to the statewide standard of 5 fish at 12 inches will increase fishing opportunity at the lake, as anglers will be able to take more fish per day/visit. This proposal is not anticipated to result in an increase in new anglers. However, there is the potential for the redistribution of existing anglers to this lake. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access the lake and their internal combustion engines will produce some emissions. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of the increased recreational angling opportunity at Lake Perris is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Thus, the impact of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced by the use of vehicles will be negligible.

b) The project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG.

## **VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

- a) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- b) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- c) The project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- d) The project will not be located on any site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.
- e) The project will not be located within an airport land use plan area.
- f) The project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.
- g) The project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- h) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wild land fires. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

## IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

- a) The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, water use, or water discharge.
- b) The project will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.
- c) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the work sites in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.

- d) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the work sites, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- e) The project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm-water drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- f) The project will not substantially degrade water quality. The project will not involve any construction or land alteration, and thus will not have any adverse impacts on water quality.
- g) The project will not place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on any flood hazard delineation map. No housing will be created as part of this project.
- h) The project will not place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would significantly impede or redirect flood flows. No new structures will be associated with this project.
- The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- j) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

# X. LAND USE AND PLANNING

- a) The project will not physically divide an established community. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project does not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not conflict with any Habitat Conservation or Natural Community Conservation plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

## **XI. MINERAL RESOURCES**

- a) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

#### **XII. NOISE**

- a) The project will not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of noise levels in excess of, standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land, and its implementation will not generate noise levels in excess of agency standards.
- b) The project will not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of, excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land.
- c) The project will not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land, or the creation of any permanent noise sources.
- d) The project will not result in a substantial temporary, or periodic, increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land.
- e) The project will not be located within an airport use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.
- f) The project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

#### XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

- a) The project will not induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not construct any new homes, businesses, roads, or other human infrastructure.
- b) The project will not displace any existing housing and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

c) The project will not displace any people and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

## **XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES**

a) The project will not have any significant environmental impacts associated with new or physically altered governmental facilities. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

## **XV. RECREATION**

a) The increase of the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities will be less than significant due to project implementation.

The proposal to restore the black bass regulation at Lake Perris from 2 fish at 15 inches to the statewide standard of 5 fish at 12 inches is not anticipated to result in an increase in new anglers. Although there is the potential for the redistribution of existing anglers to this lake, the number of additional angling trips would be minimal. Thus, the project is not expected to result in an overall increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities.

b) The project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes. There will be no construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

## XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

a) The project will not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit.

The proposal to restore the black bass regulation at Lake Perris from 2 fish at 15 inches to the statewide standard of 5 fish at 12 inches will increase fishing opportunity at the lake, as anglers will be able to take more fish per day/visit. This proposal is not expected to result in an increase in new anglers. However, there may be a redistribution of existing anglers to this lake. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of the increased recreational angling opportunity at Lake Perris is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Thus, the project will not produce a significant amount of traffic.

b) The project will not conflict, either individually or cumulatively, with any applicable congestion program established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways.

- c) The project will not result in any change in air traffic patterns.
- d) The project will not alter terrestrial features or is incompatible with uses of equipment.
- e) The project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The project does not involve construction.

f) The project will not significantly affect parking capacity or demand for parking.

## **XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource determined by the lead agency to be significant to a California Native American tribe. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

## XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

- a) The project will not produce wastewater.
- b) The project will not require, or result in the construction of, new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not produce wastewater.
- c) The project will not require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities.
- d) The project will have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources.
- e) The project will not produce wastewater.
- f) The project will not generate solid waste requiring disposal in a landfill.
- g) The project will not create solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with federal, state, and local statutes related to solid waste.

# XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- a) The project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The project is consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.
- b) The project does not have adverse impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Cumulative adverse impacts will not occur because there are no potential adverse impacts due to project implementation.
- c) The project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or the creation of new infrastructure.