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Fish and Game Commission



*Celebrating 150 Years of
Wildlife Heritage and Conservation!*

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Has it really been 150 years? A muted acknowledgement during the COVID-19 crisis

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Last week the Commission reached a significant milestone in its history as it marked 150 years since the California Board of Fish Commissioners, the first iteration of our organization, was established. (By the way, that makes it our sesquicentennial, as well as a special milestone for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, which also originated from the board.) Staff has long been preparing for what was to be a variety of activities to celebrate this special year in the organization's history. Alas, the circumstances of the global pandemic have redirected our attention.

We are collectively living in uncertain times. One thing remains constant and that is the California Fish and Game Commission is committed to continuing to do good work on behalf of the people of California, while adapting participation in a way that protects commissioners, staff and the public. Staff is modifying the venue for the April 15-16 Commission meeting to a teleconference and webinar format to ensure that our stakeholders can actively participate; we will be doing the same for future meetings while the stay-at-home guidelines remain in place. Staff continues to be available (email is best) during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) and is doing so primarily through telework, following guidelines from the public health agencies. Working together and following safety guidelines is our best hope for saving lives and defeating the pandemic.

In the midst of the current worldwide crisis, it's humbling to even begin thinking about from where this organization has come and how we want to shape its next 150 years. While our attention is necessarily first and foremost focused on health and safety, we are confident that Californians—and their state government, including the Commission—will emerge stronger and more flexible. When we do reach the other side, we can begin planning how we can do even better in the years to come.

On behalf of the Commission and staff, thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging times. We're all in this together!

Stay safe and be well,

Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director