Department of Fish and Game

DIRECTOR'S BULLETIN

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To: All Department Staff Date: April 22, 2008

From: Donald Koch Donald Koch

Director

Subject: Climate Change

In keeping with its mission, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is committed to reducing the effects of climate change on the state's natural resources and taking action designed to mitigate the impacts and help species adapt to a changing landscape. By completing a thorough evaluation of our internal and external conservation programs to look for opportunities to mitigate climate change, participating in regional and national efforts, and identifying emerging partnerships, DFG is positioning itself to continue to serve in a leadership capacity to guide efforts in the state on climate change impacts to fish and wildlife. We have made significant advances in the last six months and this bulletin will serve as an update on our efforts.

Providing climate leadership through personnel additions

• In February 2008, DFG hired a Climate Change Advisor, Amber Pairis, Ph.D., who will focus on coordinating activities related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. In addition to reviewing listing petitions and other sensitive documents related to climate change, she will manage the internal climate change task force, work closely with stakeholders and technical specialists to develop and disseminate climate change information, participate as DFG's representative on several of the Resource Agency's climate action team subgroups, and convene a working stakeholder group to determine the views and priorities of partners. Through the efforts of the Climate Change Advisor, we are focusing on developing a climate change strategy for fish and wildlife within DFG's management and policy branches and integrating a thought process into all natural resources activities that actively addresses climate change.

Identify and reduce our carbon footprint

Following through on DFG's commitment to report its greenhouse gas emissions as a member of the California Climate Action Registry, DFG is on target with its goal to collect 2007 emissions data from its extensive fleet of vehicles and equipment, a number of buildings and more than 2,000 employees throughout the state.

Educate ourselves

 A Web site has been created <u>www.dfg.ca.gov/climatechange</u> that will be a resource to DFG employees and others and serve as a venue for sending a message to the public and our partners about DFG's commitment to addressing the challenges of climate change in all of its endeavors.

Climate task force

- DFG established an internal climate change task force comprised of representatives of all DFG's branches and functions. The task force will initiate a planning process with respect to climate change and will review DFG regulations, policies, and practices to look at how we can change the ways we conduct business to reduce our carbon footprint and better respond to the effects of climate change on fish and wildlife. The group held its first meeting in November 2007 and will be reconvening this month.
- Stakeholder outreach: In order to maintain and increase communication and collaboration among stakeholders and DFG, partners from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, state, and federal agencies were brought together to provide direct input to the climate change task force. Stakeholders from more than 25 different organizations and agencies met for the first time on April 2, 2008 to share their views of the types of issues DFG should be addressing while constructing an overall climate change strategy.

Work with partners

In addition to the work with stakeholders, DFG is working with various partners on climate change projects at the national, regional, and local levels including the climate change subcommittee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Western Governors Association, and various California partners including the California Biodiversity Council and the California Council on Science and Technology.

Work with other departments

Resources Agency's climate action team subgroups: Gov. Schwarzenegger
directed the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency to
coordinate with the appropriate agencies to lead a climate action team to
implement global warming emission reduction programs and report on the
progress to meet statewide greenhouse gas targets. Subgroups have been
created to take on different aspects of this task and the Climate Change Advisor
participates in the forest, land use, and water and energy climate action team
subgroup meetings and advises the state on factors relating to adaptation and
mitigation for climate change effects on fish and wildlife.

 CEQA and climate change: DFG has taken a leadership role in developing approaches to address California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance with respect to natural resource conservation and climate change. DFG is working closely with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the Attorney General's office to develop new standards for impact assessment and mitigation measure development.

As we look to the future, we will need to focus on information sharing, education, and collaborative efforts that allow us to address climate change challenges on multiple scales and develop innovative and creative ways to help fish and wildlife persist in the face of these challenges. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the new Web site and think about how you can contribute to and support DFG's efforts to integrate climate change into our mission.