

Notes from the Editor

With this issue of the *Journal* we are making the transition to a new Editor-in-Chief. I have now retired, bringing to an end, my 32-plus year career with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Looking back, it doesn't seem like it was that long ago that I started my career, my first day, at Grizzly Island Wildlife Area participating on a tule elk capture. That was a sign of good things to come. My career spanned three regions beginning in Santa Cruz as a unit wildlife manager. From there I was fortunate enough to move to Eureka to work on spotted owls and timber harvest review on the north coast, then to the central Sierra Nevada as a wildlife program manager. Then, finally, Headquarters as special advisor. My proudest accomplishment of course would be leading the 2015 update of the State Wildlife Action Plan. Admittedly the plan's a bit big, but for those who take the time to read it, they will learn it's a blueprint for implementing priority conservation in California. Literally just cut and paste the strategies, add the dates, location and a budget, and voila. It was the regional staffs that developed the strategies; I was privileged to be part of it. It was a remarkable career and along the way I met and worked with remarkable people like Chuck Graves, Bruce Elliott, Ken Moore, Gary Stacey, Mark Stopher, and Kevin Hunting. These awesome people were some of my supervisors who shared their knowledge and skills and helped guide my career to its successful conclusion. I'm leaving in hopes that the Department will continue on its path of reestablishing itself as a leader in science and conservation. There are tremendous people working here who will face an almost unsurmountable challenge ahead with climate change, invasive species and population growth. Species and habitats are changing and it's predictable that it's going to be difficult to keep up with the change once it gets going. This is foreseeable, which means it would be negligent to not take action now to prepare, e.g. SWAP. I'm not going far, in fact I be back although in the private non-profit sector following law school. I hope to see you again, and thanks for everything.

Armand Gonzales
Editor-in Chief