

CDFW Branch Chiefs, Regional Managers and Executive Staff and Support Email

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This message is being sent to all CDFW Branch Chiefs, Regional Managers and Executive Staff and Support.

Regional Managers and Branch Chiefs,

CDFW's COVID-19 Task Force is continuing to evaluate Tier 1 and Tier 2 field work needs while maintaining compliance with state, county and local ordinances. This update is to provide some additional conditions that may allow many of our currently suspended field work activities to resume beginning Monday, May 18, 2020.

At this time CDFW is rescinding the April 14, 2020 provision to only allow the [list of critical field work](#) to continue and in place, is allowing all field work to continue if the program can ensure compliance with CDFW's [Critical Field Work Best Practices](#) and after the approving manager/supervisor has evaluated the following questions and found that the field work is consistent with the following criteria:

- Can the work can continue without field work and not delay implementation timelines?
- Can the work can be done remotely using alternative sources of information?
- Can the work can be delayed?
- The work is essential to another state or federal agency.
- The work concerns the health and safety of fish and wildlife (e.g., disease issues, low populations of T&E species, etc.)
- The work is consistent with the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Guidelines.
- The work can be conducted safely under current guidelines (state and department).
- Travel to field sites can be localized and contact minimized to reduce potential spread to more remote communities.
- Current staffing allows for the work to be completed.
- Staff are willing to conduct the work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Field work involving handling of bats or carnivores must adhere to [current Guidance for CDFW staff required to handle bats and/or carnivores](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Any field work that cannot ensure compliance with CDFW's [Critical Field Work Best Practices](#), and that has not already been approved but that is believed to be critical in nature, should be brought to the attention of the COVID-19 Task Force by way of the regional manager or branch chief. The regional manager or branch chief should provide a recommendation to the COVID-19 Task Force after evaluating the field work against the updated [Guidelines for Assessing Critical Department Functions](#), including

how the field work will be conducted to maximize protection measures and utilize personal protective equipment. These requests will be reviewed by the COVID-19 Task Force on a case-by-case basis. Managers and supervisors with field staff affected by a continued suspension of field activities should continue working with staff to develop alternative workplans. Additional information on teleworking and suggestions for alternative work tasks can be found in the [Telework Toolkit](#).

CDFW remains diligent in its review and response to COVID-19, while also ensuring the safety of our employees. Therefore, decisions regarding the allowance of field work or other work site visits must remain flexible and able to adapt based on current or changing circumstances. We appreciate your continued patience as we work through this pandemic together.

Thank you,

The COVID-19 Task Force