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Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
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California Fish and Game Commission Notice of Receipt of Petition

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the provisions of California Fish and Game Code Section 2073.3, that on March 5, 2024 the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) received a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Burrowing Owl Preservation Society, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Urban Bird Foundation, Central Valley Bird Club, and San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society, to list western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*) as a threatened or endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act.

The western burrowing owl is a small bird of prey that lives in open, arid, relatively flat to rolling terrain covered by low stature vegetation, such as grasslands, prairies, shrub steppes, and desert shrubs. Vegetation cover and height are significant habitat factors due to the ground-dwelling nature and small size of the burrowing owl. Vegetation cover that prevents the owl from observing approaching predators places the burrowing owl at a severe disadvantage. The owl nests and roosts in underground burrows that are typically excavated by other fossorial animals such as ground squirrels, coyotes, foxes and tortoises.

On March 18, 2024, pursuant to Section 2073 of California Fish and Game Code, the Commission transmitted the petition to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) for review pursuant to Section 2073.5. The Commission will publicly receive the petition at its April 17-18, 2024 meeting. Unless an extension is requested, the Department's evaluation and recommendation relating to the petition is expected to be received by the Commission at its June 19-20, 2024 meeting.

For information about the petition or to submit information to the Department relating to the petitioned species, interested parties may contact the Anne Hilborn, Endangered Species Listing Coordinator, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, or by email at wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov.

California Fish and Game Commission

March 26, 2024

Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director