



**California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14 Section 679 Rulemaking Process
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. WHAT ROLE DOES THE CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION HAVE IN REGULATIONS?

The Fish and Game Commission (FGC) has a wide range of responsibilities that continually expands and includes the formulation of general policies for the conduct of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW); establishing seasons, bag limits and methods of take for game animals; listing and delisting of species under the California Endangered Species Act; playing a quasi-judicial role in appeal hearings for revocation or suspension of licenses and permits; and prescribing terms and conditions for license and permit issuance, suspension, or revocation.

2. WHAT ROLE DOES THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE HAVE IN REGULATIONS?

CDFW is a separate entity from the FGC. CDFW staff assist with providing the content of proposed regulations and may make recommendations. Once adopted by the FGC, CDFW is responsible for enforcing codes and regulations which include conserving wildlife through science-based management and ensuring compliance with all laws.

3. AT WHAT POINT IN THE REGULATORY PROCESS IS DRAFT LANGUAGE CONSIDERED “FINALIZED” WITH REGARD TO MAJOR CHANGES?

Proposed regulatory text is not finalized until the FGC votes to adopt the regulations. Until that point, the public can make comments and provide feedback on the draft text. Wildlife rehabilitators may continue to propose changes via ongoing engagement with CDFW program staff.

4. WHAT LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT IS OUTLINED IN Phase III of the 679 OUTREACH FRAMEWORK?

Consistent with all outreach and engagement to date, Department staff have created a 679 Outreach Framework intended to be responsive to input and/or preferences for how each “phase” of outreach is conducted. To date, there have been multiple Town Halls, Discussion Groups (roundtable), Manual Review Teams, and ongoing mini review periods, formation of an independent California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators (CCWR) 679 Kickoff Committee. The Department has continued to solicit feedback from wildlife rehabilitators on preferred meeting frequency, format (e.g., discussion group, review team), and focus (e.g., 679 sections, 679 manual, forms).

5. WHY DID THE DEPARTMENT CREATE A 679 WILDLIFE REHABILITATION REGULATIONS MANUAL?

CDFW has developed a DFW 679 Manual to incorporate by reference the DFW 679 Manual because publication of these requirements in full in the CCR language would be cumbersome, unduly expensive, or otherwise impractical (Section 20, Title 1, CCR). Chapters 2 and 3 of the DFW 679 Manual are necessary because the requirements for taxa and species-specific minimum enclosure sizes, construction materials, and enrichment items; biosafety and cleaning; diseases of concern in California; acceptable euthanasia methods; and carcass disposal require a level of detail most appropriate in a manual format and allows permittees to easily distribute the relevant requirements to all personnel.

6. WHEN MIGHT THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS BE ENACTED? April 1, 2025.

7. WHAT TEXT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE REGULATIONS TO REQUEST A “VARIANCE”?

Two sections of regulatory text specifically address enclosure variance requests, using a form provided by CDFW, and a transition period for permittees operating under a current valid permit and memorandum of understanding, to ensure a seamless transition for permit holders. The variance process establishes the requirements for CDFW staff to document, review, and approve or deny a variance, and ensures transparency and accountability throughout the variance process. CDFW will maintain all documentation, and approved variances, as a formal record in the statewide online Automated License Data System (ALDS). ALDS has replaced the prior (outdated) paper license and permit inventory system, allowing CDFW staff to remotely access and verify permits at any time (e.g., Wildlife Officers).

8. HOW DOES THE USE OF “SATELLITES” DIFFER UNDER CURRENT VS. PROPOSED 679 REGULATIONS ?

TOPIC	CURRENT MOU	PROPOSED REGULATIONS
Minimum experience and training requirements	Not addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 500 hours for Sub-Permittee ▪ 40 hours for Authorized Person
Ability for permittee to add a person (satellite) under their permit	Notify CDFW via Annual report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sub-permit: Application form, CDFW approval ▪ Authorized Person: Form, CDFW notification
Ability for permittee to remove a person (satellite) under their permit	Not addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes, formal process to request revocation (removal) of person from permit