

Memorandum

Date: November 26, 2024

To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director
Fish and Wildlife Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Submission of Pre-Adoption Statement of Reasons for the December 11, 2024 Fish and Game Commission meeting: RE: Amend the additions of Sections 679.1 through 679.9 and DFW 679 Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Regulations Manual**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has prepared this memorandum to update the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) and the public on the Department's request to add Sections 679.1 through 679.9, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, and the Native Wildlife Rehabilitation 679 Regulations Manual. By way of background, the Commission posted notice of a 15-day continuation period on August 26, 2024 to provide notice to the public of certain revisions to the proposed regulatory language and as explained in the Amended Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR). For the enclosed Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons, whenever the regulatory language has minor amendments proposed, the added text will appear in bold, deleted text will appear with strikethrough to reflect further proposed changes from the Amended ISOR. Changes to the Wildlife Rehabilitation 679 Manual are shown with yellow highlight to distinguish changes already posted with the 15-day continuation period.

There were 8 written comments received and 17 minor edits to the regulatory text. The amendments of the proposed regulatory text in Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 of the Native Wildlife Rehabilitation 679 Regulations Manual, incorporated by reference, clarify certain requirements and procedures without significant change to the purpose of the rulemaking.

The purpose of the proposed regulations is to update the requirements for the temporary possession and rehabilitation of injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife for the purpose of their release to the wild. Further, these proposed regulations are intended to address the deficiencies and issues that have been observed by the Department in the humane care and treatment of these wild animals. These provisions are necessary since the requirements, acceptable standards, and best practices for wildlife rehabilitation have changed significantly since the last minor regulation change in 2007.

The Department's point of contact for public notice of this rulemaking is Vicky Monroe, Statewide Conflict Programs Coordinator. She can be reached by telephone at (916) 358-2790 or email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov.

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
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