

Staff Summary for April 16-17, 2025

15. Recovery Planning for CESA-Listed Species**Today's Item**Information Action

Receive a presentation on the Department's development of California Endangered Species Act (CESA) recovery planning guidelines, and announce the public review period and public meeting to discuss the draft guidelines.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

Section 2079.1 of the California Fish and Game Code states that the Department may "develop and implement nonregulatory recovery plans for the conservation and survival of species listed as an endangered species or as a threatened species." The code requires that recovery plans must be based on the best available scientific information and have certain elements that they must contain, such as recovery goals, measurable criteria, and the estimated costs of species recovery.

In recent years, the Department has received positions committed to developing recovery plans for threatened and endangered species, which may include reviewing and considering the adoption of all or parts of federal recovery plans for species listed under both CESA and the federal Endangered Species Act. Section 2079.1 also states that the Department will adopt guidelines and criteria for aiding in developing recovery plans, and that the public and interested parties will have an opportunity to provide input at a public meeting.

Today, the Department will present an overview of species recovery, the importance of recovery planning and development of recovery plans, and the anticipated process for developing recovery plan guidelines (Exhibit 1).

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. [Department presentation](#)

Motion (N/A)



RECOVERY PLANNING

AND THE CALIFORNIA ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (CESA)

CA Fish and Game Commission

April 16-17, 2025



Raffica La Rosa, PhD | Native Plants Recovery Coordinator

How is CDFW involved in CESA?

- Evaluates and writes listing petitions; conducts scientific assessments of candidate species
- Periodically reviews the status of listed species
- Issues permits to authorize take of listed species, and monitors compliance
- Maintains an extensive database of listed species occurrences
- ***NEW*** Leads recovery planning for listed species



San Joaquin kit fox



Western Joshua tree

Taxon-focused Recovery Coordinators



Fresno kangaroo rat

- **Native plants** - Raffica La Rosa
- **Inland fish** - Robin Shin
- **Anadromous fish** - Chenchen Shen
- **Marine species** - Dylan Stompe
- **Wildlife** - Austin Roy



Listing of Endangered and Threatened Species

Endangered (194 species):

at risk of becoming extinct

Threatened (73 species):

likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future



Lost River sucker

Factors:

- Habitat destruction and modification
- Overexploitation
- Predation
- Competition
- Disease
- Other natural occurrences or human-related activities



Recovery Planning Under Fish and Game Code

- Section §2079.1 authorizes:
 - Development of recovery plans
 - Adoption of federal recovery plans
- And requires:
 - Adoption of recovery planning guidelines
 - Best available scientific information, including Traditional Ecological Knowledge
 - Public process



Shasta crayfish



Alameda whip snake



What Does it Mean to Recover a Listed Species?



Large-flowered fiddleneck

- Recovery: improve status to the point at which CESA protections are no longer needed
 - Process-based, requires active steps (e.g., conservation and restoration)
- Recovered species are stable enough to be delisted
- Delisting is a separate, formal process to remove a species from CESA

Why Do We Need State Recovery Plans?

- Builds collaboration between many groups
 - Species experts
 - Tribes and federal to local governments
 - Private entities
- Guides conservation efforts through site-specific management actions
- Informs long-term planning and prioritization
- Identifies funding needs
- Addresses recovery of state-listed species



Santa Ana River woollystar

Recovery Guidelines: 3-Part Framework

Scientific Assessment	Recovery Plan			Implementation Strategy
	<i>Recovery Criteria</i>	<i>Recovery Actions</i>	<i>Time and Cost Estimates</i>	

- Scientific assessment: a comprehensive, biological report
- Recovery plan:
 - Measurable criteria that indicate when recovery has been met
 - Site-specific actions to meet the criteria
 - Time and cost estimates of recovery
- Implementation strategy: a detailed guide that breaks down the actions



Recovery Teams



Coho salmon

- Recovery teams may be made up of CDFW, agency, tribal, NGO, and private individuals
- Draft the Plan and Implementation Strategy
- Team composition may change based on recovery phase



Next Steps



Tricolored blackbird

- Tribal and public review (May-July 2025)
- Draft Recovery Guidelines (May 2025)
- Public meeting (June or July 2025)
- Finalize Recovery Guidelines
- Species prioritization
- Scientific assessments
- Form recovery teams & develop recovery plans





Announcements and Information



Recovery planning
web page

State-listed
plants



<https://wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/cesa/recovery-planning>
CESArecovery@wildlife.ca.gov



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