

Staff Summary for December 10-11, 2025

3. Department Extension Requests under the California Endangered Species Act (Consent)**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Consider approving the Department's requests for 30-day extensions to review petitions received to list species as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

- (A) Petitions from John C. Hunter, Ph.D., to list 19 plants as threatened or endangered under CESA
- (B) Petition to list Bendire's thrasher (*Todxostoma bendirei*) and LeConte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*) as threatened or endangered under CESA.
- (C) Petition to list western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*) as threatened or endangered under CESA.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions**(A) *Petitions from John C. Hunter, Ph.D. to list 19 plants***

- Received petitions August 29, 2025
- Transmitted petitions to Department September 8, 2025
- Public receipt of petitions October 8-9, 2025
- **Today consider Department's request for 30-day extensions December 10-11, 2025**

(B) *Bendire's Thrasher and LeConte's Thrasher*

- Received petition September 16, 2025
- Transmitted petition to Department September 26, 2025
- Public receipt of petition October 8-9, 2025
- **Today consider Department's request for 30-day extension December 10-11, 2025**

(C) *Western Spadefoot*

- Received petition September 24, 2025
- Transmitted petition to Department October 6, 2025
- Public receipt of petition October 8-9, 2025
- **Today consider Department's request for 30-day extension December 10-11, 2025**

Background

California Fish and Game Code Section 2073.5 requires that the Department evaluate the petition and submit a written evaluation with a recommendation to the Commission within 90 days of receiving the petition. Under this section, the Department may request an extension of up to 30 days to complete the evaluation.

Staff Summary for December 10-11, 2025

(A) ***Petitions from John C. Hunter, Ph.D. to List 19 Plants***

On August 29, 2025, the Commission received 19 petitions to list various species of plants as threatened or endangered under CESA. On September 8, 2025, staff transmitted the petitions to the Department for review. The Department has requested a 30-day extension to evaluate the petitions (Exhibit A1). If approved, the due date for the Department's petition evaluations would change to January 6, 2026.

(B) ***Bendire's Thrasher and LeConte's Thrasher***

On September 16, 2025, the Commission received a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity to list Bendire's thrasher and LeConte's thrasher as threatened or endangered under CESA. On September 26, 2025, staff transmitted the petition to the Department for review. The Department has requested a 30-day extension to evaluate the petition (Exhibit B1). If approved, the due date for the Department's petition evaluation would change to January 24, 2026.

(C) ***Western Spadefoot***

On September 24, 2025, the Commission received a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity to list the northern and southern populations of western spadefoot as threatened or endangered under CESA. On October 6, 2025, staff transmitted the petition to the Department for review. The Department has requested a 30-day extension to review the petition (Exhibit C1). If approved, the due date for the Department's petition evaluation would change to February 3, 2026.

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

Commission staff: Approve the Department's requests for 30-day extensions to evaluate multiple petitions received to list species as threatened or endangered under CESA.

Department: Approve the requests for 30-day extensions to allow the Department additional time to analyze and evaluate CESA petitions and complete written evaluation reports.

Exhibits

- A1. [Department memo requesting a 30-day extension, received November 20, 2025](#)
- B1. [Department memo requesting a 30-day extension, received November 14, 2025](#)
- C1. [Department memo requesting a 30-day extension, received November 14, 2025](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for items 3 through 5 on the consent calendar.

Memorandum

Date: November 6, 2025

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

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Request for 30-day Extension, Petition Evaluations for 19 Plant Species**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests a 30-day extension of time pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2073.5 to allow the Department additional time to analyze and evaluate the petitions to list 19 plant species under the California Endangered Species Act and to complete the evaluation reports. The request for a 30-day extension is for the following plant species:

- Abbott's bushmallow (*Malacothamnus abbottii*)
- Alkali-sink goldfields (*Lasthenia chrysantha*)
- Bearded popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys hystriculus*)
- California beaked-rush (*Rhynchospora californica*)
- Carquinez goldenbush (*Isocoma arguta*)
- Diamond-petaled California poppy (*Eschscholzia rhombipetala*)
- Ferris' milkvetch (*Astragalus tener* var. *ferrisiae*)
- Guggolz's harmonia (*Harmonia guggolziorum*)
- Legenere (*Legenere limosa*)
- Lesser saltscale (*Atriplex minuscula*)
- Lime Ridge navarretia (*Navarretia gowenii*)
- Mount Burdell jewelflower (*Streptanthus anomalus*)
- Pajaro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pajaroensis*)
- Red Bluff dwarf rush (*Juncus leiospermus* var. *leiospermus*)
- Rincon Ridge ceanothus (*Ceanothus confusus*)
- Shasta orthocarpus (*Orthocarpus pachystachyus*)
- Slough thistle (*Cirsium crassicaule*)
- Small pincushion navarretia (*Navarretia myersii* ssp. *deminuta*)

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
November 6, 2025
Page 2

- Veiny monardella (*Monardella venosa*)

This extension would extend the Department's review time from 90 to 120 days and would change the statutory due date of the Department's evaluation report from December 7, 2025, to January 6, 2026.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager, Habitat Conservation and Planning Branch at NativePlants@wildlife.ca.gov or (916) 203-3193.

cc: Joshua Grover
Deputy Director
Ecosystem Conservation Division

Isabel Baer
Environmental Program Manager
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch

Kristi Lazar
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch

Steven Ingram
Assistant Chief Counsel
Office of the General Counsel

Memorandum

Date: November 12, 2025

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

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Request for 30-day Extension, Bendire's Thrasher and LeConte's Thrasher
Petition Evaluation**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests a 30-day extension of time pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2073.5 to allow the Department additional time to analyze and evaluate the petition to list Bendire's Thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*) and LeConte's Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*) under the California Endangered Species Act and to complete the evaluation report. This extension would extend the Department's review time from 90 to 120 days and would change the due date of the Department's evaluation report from December 25, 2025 to January 24, 2026.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Scott Gardner, Wildlife Branch, at Scott.Gardner@wildlife.ca.gov.

cc: Chad Dibble
Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Steven Ingram
Assistant Chief Counsel
Office of the General Counsel

Scott Gardner
Branch Chief
Wildlife Branch

Pete Figura
Environmental Program Manager
Wildlife Branch – Wildlife Diversity Program

Neil Clipperton
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)
Wildlife Branch – Wildlife Diversity Program

Austin Roy
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
Wildlife Branch – Wildlife Diversity Program

Memorandum

Date: November 12, 2025

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

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: Request for 30-day Extension, Western Spadefoot Petition Evaluation

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests a 30-day extension of time pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2073.5 to allow the Department additional time to analyze and evaluate the petition to list the western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*) under the California Endangered Species Act and to complete the evaluation report. This extension would extend the Department's review time from 90 to 120 days and would change the due date of the Department's evaluation report from January 4, 2026, to February 3, 2026.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Scott Gardner, Wildlife Branch, at Scott.Gardner@wildlife.ca.gov.

cc: Chad Dibble
Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Steven Ingram
Assistant Chief Counsel
Office of the General Counsel

Scott Gardner
Branch Chief
Wildlife Branch

Pete Figura
Environmental Program Manager
Wildlife Branch – Wildlife Diversity Program

Neil Clipperton
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)
Wildlife Branch – Wildlife Diversity Program

Austin Roy
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
Wildlife Branch – Wildlife Diversity Program