

## Staff Summary for April 15-16, 2026

**23. Regulation Change Petitions (Wildlife and Inland Fisheries)****Today's Item**Information Action 

This is a standing agenda item for the Commission to receive new regulation change petitions and act on regulation change petitions received from the public at previous meetings. This meeting will address:

- (A) Action on previously received regulation change petitions
- (B) Receipt of new petitions for regulation change
- (C) Comments received on referred petitions not yet scheduled for action

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions****(A) *Petitions for Regulation Change - Scheduled for Action***

- Commission received Petition 2021-006 June 16-17, 2021
- Commission received Petition 2024-011 October 9-10, 2024
- Commission received Petition 2025-12 October 8-9, 2025
- Commission received Petition 2025-20 February 11-12, 2026
- **Today potentially act on petitions April 15-16, 2026**

**(B) *New Petitions for Regulation Change - Receipt (N/A)*****(C) *Comments Received on Referred Petitions (N/A)*****Background****(A) *Petitions for Regulation Change - Scheduled for Action***

Petitions received at the previous meeting are scheduled for Commission consideration at the next regularly scheduled business meeting. A petition may be: (1) denied, (2) granted, or (3) referred to a Commission committee, staff, legal counsel, or the Department for further evaluation or information gathering. Referred petitions are scheduled for action once a recommendation is received.

Today, four petitions are scheduled for action:

- I. *Petition 2021-006: Request to revise the deer tag fee structure (Exhibit A1)*
- II. *Petition 2024-011: Request to amend sport fishing regulations to provide additional protection for coastal rainbow trout in Middle Piru Creek (Exhibit A2)*
- III. *Petition 2025-12: Request to modify regulations for the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area to allow bicycle use on roads and levees during waterfowl season (Exhibit A3)*
- IV. *Petition 2025-20: Request to change Santa Barbara muzzleloading rifle/archery buck hunt to either sex-deer hunt (Exhibit A4)*

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Staff recommendations for the petitions are located in Exhibit A4. The Department has provided memoranda with recommendations for petitions 2021-006, 2024-011, and 2025-12 (exhibits A5, A6, and A7, respectively).

**(B) New Petitions for Regulation Change - Receipt**

Pursuant to Section 662, any person requesting that the Commission adopt, amend, or repeal a regulation must complete and submit Form FGC 1. Petitions submitted by the public are “received” at this meeting if they are delivered by the public comment or supplemental comment deadlines or delivered in person to the Commission meeting.

Under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the Commission cannot discuss or act on any matter not included on the agenda, other than to determine whether to schedule issues raised by the public for consideration at future meetings. Thus, petitions for regulation change generally follow a two-meeting cycle of receipt and decision. The Commission will act on petitions received at today’s meeting at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting (June 17-18, 2026) following staff evaluation, unless the petition is rejected under the 10-day staff review as prescribed in subsection 662(b).

*The Commission received no new wildlife and inland fisheries petitions for regulation change by the comment deadline for this meeting.*

**(C) Comments Received on Referred Petitions**

This item provides an opportunity for public comment on any petition previously referred for review and recommendation, but not yet ready for Commission action. Action on any referred petition will be scheduled once the Commission receives a recommendation.

*Today, there are no comments on previously referred petitions.*

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

**Commission staff:** Deny petitions 2021-006 and 2024-011, and grant Petition 2025-12, based on the rationales in exhibits A5, A6, and A7, respectively. Refer petition 2025-20 to the Department for review and recommendation.

**Department:** Deny petitions 2021-006 and 2024-011, and grant Petition 2025-12, based on the rationales in exhibits A5, A6, and A7, respectively.

**Exhibits**

- A1. [Petition 2021-006, received April 23, 2021](#)
- A2. [Petition 2024-011, received August 8, 2024](#)
- A3. [Petition 2025-12, received September 3, 2025](#)
- A4. [Petition 2025-20, received December 10, 2025](#)
- A5. [Summary table of petitions and staff recommendations, updated April 6, 2026](#)
- A6. [Department memo regarding Petition 2021-006, received March 30, 2026](#)

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- A7. [Department memo regarding Petition 2024-011, received March 25, 2026](#)
- A8. [Department memo regarding Petition 2025-12, received January 20, 2026](#)

**Motion**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for petitions 2021-006, 2024-011, 2025-12, and 2025-20, as reflected in Exhibit A4.



Tracking Number: (\_2021-006\_)

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission's authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

### **SECTION I: Required Information.**

*Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages*

**1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)**

Organization requesting: County of Siskiyou

Name of primary contact person: Matt Parker – County of Siskiyou Natural Resources

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

**2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Division 1, Chapter 2 §200 (Commission's Power to Regulate Taking Fish and Game) and §203 (Bird and Mammal Regulations) and §1050 (Preparation, Issuance, Displaying and Establishment of Fees)**

**3. Overview (Required) –** Existing statute requires a fee to obtain a deer tag. Title 14 Section 702(c)(1) identifies a dollar amount for the tag fee and a separate fee for processing. This processing fee is presumed to be what is also referred to as the tag application fee when described in the Big Game Digest and license sales website when purchasing other big game tags such as elk, antelope, and sheep. It is unclear why the deer tag fee and the processing fee are both required when applying for premium and restricted deer tags. It is unclear what authority the Department has to require the deer tag fee in addition to the processing or application fee in order to apply for a deer tag and obtain a preference point if unsuccessful. There is no refund mechanism if the applicant is unsuccessful and requires applicants to purchase a tag and pay a fee beyond that authorized in Fish and Game Code Section 1050(f). The proposed change would establish an application fee consistent with what is already defined in Section 702 that does not also include the cost of the tag and be consistent with the intent of Fish and Game Code Section 1050(f). The tag fee would become a separate item and paid if the applicant is successful. This would be consistent with how



controlled sheep, elk, and pronghorn hunt fees in California and most if not all other western states.

4. **Rationale (Required) - Deer** tag allocation and associated fees has been unchanged for the last 30 + years while tag definitions have changed. The current tag allocation system was developed when there was an open gate to all zones during the general season. There are now premium, restricted, junior, and additional hunts that make drawing a preferred tag more complicated and difficult. There is growing number of hunters that are forced into selecting a tag choice that they have no real desire or intention of using. It is inequitable with other big game tags where an applicant applies for a tag without being required to pay the full cost of the tag unless successfully drawn.

It is apparent in Fish and Game Code Section 4332 that a fee is required to obtain a deer tag. It is not clear, however, why the entire deer tag fee is required up front and then lumped together with the processing fee (aka application fee) and deemed non-refundable.

While we recognize that there are a lot more deer tags than the other species, there is growing sentiment that the system is cost prohibitive by requiring hunters to pay the same fee for a preference point as hunters who receive a tag. Has the Department looked at this inconsistency compared to the other tags and considered the potential impact to hunter retention? It is unclear to the hunters why the cost of a deer tag is required up front, in addition to the processing fee (as defined in 702) and not refundable while the other tag fees are not required in addition to the processing fee (as defined in 702). It is also not clear why the deer tag fee and the processing fee are then identified as a single fee for a first deer tag or as the drawing application fee. That is a very different approach to how the elk, antelope, and sheep tags are handled despite how each fee is defined in Section 702.

## SECTION II: Optional Information

5. **Date of Petition:**
6. **Category of Proposed Change**
- Sport Fishing
  - Commercial Fishing
  - Hunting
  - Other, please specify:



- 7. **The proposal is to:** *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*  
 Amend Title 14 Section(s): 702(c)(1) |  
 Add New Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#) |  
 Repeal Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#) |
  
- 8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** [Click here to enter text.](#)  
 Or,  Not applicable.
  
- 9. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation.  
 If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: Hunting year 2022
  
- 10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: A further economic analysis is needed.
  
- 11. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: The proposed action is expected to increase revenue for the Department by reinitiating big game hunters who will now at least apply for big game drawings that aren't applying currently.
  
- 12. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:  
[Click here to enter text.](#) |

**SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only**

Date received: [Click here to enter text.](#) |

FGC staff action:

- Accept - complete
  - Reject - incomplete
  - Reject - outside scope of FGC authority
- Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: \_\_\_\_\_ |

Meeting date for FGC consideration: \_\_\_\_\_ |

FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
- Denied - same as petition \_\_\_\_\_ |  
 Tracking Number
- Granted for consideration of regulation change



Tracking Number: ([2024-11](#))

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to [FGC@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:FGC@fgc.ca.gov). Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

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### **SECTION I: Required Information.**

*Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages*

**1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)**

Name of primary contact person: Andrew Reynolds

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

**2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested:**

a. Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 315 and 399, Fish and Game Code.

b. Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 270, Fish and Game Code.

**3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: This petition advocates for the protection of the wild and native coastal rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) population in "Middle" Piru Creek through three key measures:**

a. Expanding the coverage of Special Regulations (7.50) to encompass all of Middle Piru creek and its tributaries (starting from 300 yards below Pyramid Lake dam to Piru Lake)

b. Updating old / adding new signage at Frenchmen's Flat Day Use Area on "Middle" Piru Creek to ensure clarity and compliance with regulations.

c. Implementing low flow / hoot owl restrictions (closing the creek to fishing during warmest hours of the day during certain times of year) to mitigate adverse impacts on the trout population.



4. **Rationale (Required)** - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: The cessation of stocking programs in “Middle” Piru Creek approximately 15 years ago has rendered current regulations and signage inadequate for protecting the wild and native coastal rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) population from poaching, unsustainable fishing practices, and the impacts of climate change. Recent years have seen a notable increase in poaching incidents, evident from heightened reports to CAL-Tip and citations issued by CDFW wardens. Both the wild trout section (under Special Regulations 7.50) and sections under general statewide trout regulations witness illegal fishing activity, including during months when zero limit trout regulations are in effect. Furthermore, sporadic and erroneous placement of signage along Middle Piru Creek, particularly at the Frenchmen’s Flat Day Use Area parking lot, fails to effectively communicate regulations or enforce compliance. The escalating threat of climate change exacerbates existing challenges. Historical droughts, elevated water temperatures, and inevitable low flows (minimum 3 CFS) from the Pyramid Lake dam underscore the urgency of implementing seasonal closures and hoot owl measures. These measures are critical to mitigating higher fish mortality rates and preserving vital spawning habitat. Simple yet strategic deployment of new signage, coupled with enhanced enforcement efforts, could serve as effective deterrents against poaching and promote awareness of responsible angling practices.
  
5. **SECTION II: Optional Information**
  
6. **Date of Petition:** 8/8/2024 [Click here to enter text.](#)
  
7. **Category of Proposed Change**  
 Sport Fishing  
 Commercial Fishing  
 Hunting  
 Other, please specify: [Click here to enter text.](#)
  
8. **The proposal is to:** (*To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>*)  
 Amend Title 14 Section(s): Division 1, Subdivision 3, General Regs [Click here to enter text.](#)  
 Add New Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#)  
 Repeal Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#)
  
9. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** [Click here to enter text.](#)  
Or  Not applicable.
  
10. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation. If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: Immediate implementation requested. Though the necessity of proposed changes is not deemed an emergency, expedited action is preferred. By securing this watershed during



periods of high water flow, we establish vital protections for the wild and native trout population, safeguarding against potential threats during inevitable drought cycles and during months of extreme heat. Any mitigation of poaching sooner rather than later is beneficial to all parties involved. If regulation changes cannot be made in 2024, we request they take effect in January of 2025.

- 11. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: Included with this document, please find “FGC1\_Piru\_Creek\_Petition\_Letter\_240808”. [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 12. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: Aside from the initial signage installation costs, the adverse impact on CDFW revenues is projected to be minimal. Transforming the entirety of Middle Piru Creek into a year-round catch-and-release fishery enhances sustainability, thereby attracting more anglers and bolstering revenue through increased fishing license purchases. Additionally, with a sustainable, consistent local fishery, the CDFW attracts a potential increase in guide licenses purchased.
- 13. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:  
[Click here to enter text.](#)

**SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only**

Date received: [Click here to enter text.](#)

FGC staff action:

- Accept - complete
- Reject - incomplete
- Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting date for FGC consideration: \_\_\_\_\_

FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
- Denied - same as petition \_\_\_\_\_

Tracking Number

- Granted for consideration of regulation change

**From:** Andy Reynolds <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 8, 2024 11:54 AM

**To:** FGC <[FGC@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:FGC@fgc.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** Southern California - Piru Creek Petition - Re-Submitted

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find attached the re-submitted petition for regulation changes at "Frenchman's Flat" Day use area at Middle Piru Creek in Southern California.

Updated to include a valid authority citation.

I request to waive the 10-day response requirement.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration in this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

--

**Andy Reynolds**

[REDACTED]

Subject: Petition for Changes to Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations to Protect Coastal Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) in Middle Piru creek, Southern California

Dear California Fish And Game Commission,

As a group of passionate anglers and advocates for environmental conservation, we write to you today to urgently request changes to the fishing regulations governing “Middle” Piru creek at Frenchmen’s Flat day use area in Southern California. Specifically, the implementation of stricter regulations and new signage to safeguard the wild and native coastal rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) population inhabiting this precious waterway.

The cessation of stocking programs in “Middle” Piru Creek approximately 15 years ago has rendered current regulations and signage inadequate for protecting the wild and native coastal rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) population from poaching, unsustainable fishing practices, and the impacts of climate change.

As practicing catch and release anglers, we are deeply concerned about the already present and escalating threat of poaching at Frenchmen’s Flat Day Use Area. Recent years have seen a notable increase in poaching incidents, evident from heightened reports to CALTIP and citations issued by CDFW wardens. Both the wild trout section (under Special Regulations 7.50) and sections under general statewide trout regulations witness illegal fishing activity, including during months when zero limit trout regulations are in effect. These accounts of wrongdoing have been witnessed not only by the anglers writing this letter, but as well as volunteers within the Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps during patrol and clean up outings.

Furthermore, sporadic and erroneous placement of signage along Middle Piru Creek, particularly at the Frenchmen’s Flat Day Use Area parking lot, fails to effectively communicate regulations or enforce compliance. The escalating threat of climate change exacerbates existing challenges. Historical droughts, elevated water temperatures, and inevitable low flows (minimum 3 cubic feet per second) from the Pyramid Lake dam underscore the urgency of implementing seasonal closures and hoot owl measures. These measures are critical to mitigating higher fish mortality rates and preserving vital spawning habitat.

Simple yet strategic deployment of new signage, coupled with enhanced enforcement efforts, could serve as effective deterrents against poaching and promote awareness of responsible angling practices. It is imperative that we take decisive action to curb these unlawful practices and ensure the long-term viability of this cherished species.

Moreover, recent actions by a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge to reject a challenge from a water agency seeking to strip protections from the Southern California steelhead underscores the importance of protecting this species and population of trout in Piru Creek. Biology reports have proven that the wild and native fish inhabiting Middle Piru creek are in fact genetically identical to the Southern California Steelhead.

We implore the California Fish And Game Commission and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to recognize the critical importance of prioritizing the conservation of the thriving trout population in Middle Piru creek by considering the following proposed changes to the fishing regulations for “Middle” Piru creek:

- Implement year-round zero limit, catch-and-release-only, with single barbless hook regulations for the entire Middle Piru section and its tributaries (from 300 yards below Pyramid Lake Dam to Piru Lake, approx 16 miles) in order minimize mortality rates and protect breeding populations.
- Replace current signage and install new signage to better communicate fishing regulations and restrictions (specifically in the parking area at Frenchmen’s Flat). The new signage would also include information on how to report poaching or unlawful activity to CALTIP.
- Enforce seasonal closures and hoot owl measures at minimum flows and higher water temperatures to prevent higher fish mortality rates and safeguard critical spawning habitat.

By adopting these measures, we can mitigate the immediate threats facing the coastal rainbow trout population in Middle Piru creek and contribute to the overall conservation of our precious natural resources.






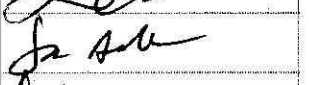

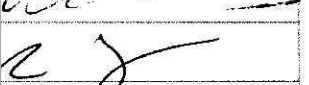
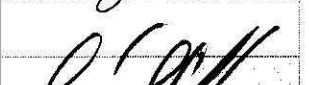


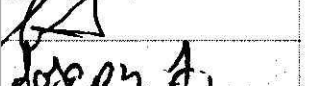

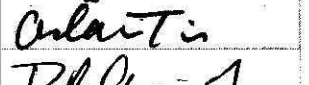


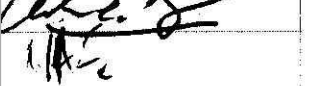





We trust that you will give due consideration to this petition and take decisive action to protect this thriving trout population. Together, we can ensure a sustainable future for both wildlife and the angling community in Southern California.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,

The Southern California Angling Community

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	SIGNATURE
HAIK TOPADZHIDIAN			HaiK Topadzhidian
ANDY REYNOLDS			AR
DAVID KORTY			David Korty
Chris Ost;			Chris Ost
L. Scott Clark			L. Scott Clark
Eric Arentsen			Eric Arentsen
JOHN DICKEY			John Dickey
Dave Baumgartner			Dave Baumgartner
Dale Leshaw			Dale Leshaw
Ray Harlow			Ray Harlow
RACHEL FERREIRA			Rachel Ferreira
Michael Perinos			Michael Perinos
Ben Chasanoff			Ben Chasanoff
JOHN KIM			John Kim
Paul Pigman			Paul Pigman
ANDREW CONE			Andrew Cone
LAURA AYALA-HUNT			Laura Ayala-Hunt
Tony G. Kysan			Tony G. Kysan
Zen Dochtrman, Ph.D			Zen Dochtrman
Steve Fernein			Steve Fernein
STEVEN HUNTLY			Steven Huntly
Randy Mullins			Randy Mullins
Jane Baumgartner			Jane Baumgartner
MICHAEL HEMBREE			Michael Hembree
ANTON YUPANGCO			Anton Yupangco
JOE DEKIN			Joe DeKin
Daniel Bray			Daniel Bray
Brooks Bonstini			Brooks Bonstini

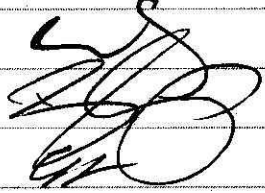
Sam Reese	Samuel A Reese
Steve Ellis	
LARRY KASTER	
Joseph Knawles	
Daniel Esquivias	
ALEX WRIGHT	
CHRIS HELLAND	
JULIEN COHEN	
Jose Aviles	
Andy Becker	
Chris Nichols	
Rodolfo Grechiga	
Gregg Martin	
David Shaffer	
Sara Shaffer	
ARTIN MARCOO	
Abraham Hidalgo	
Joseph Torres	
Henry Truong	
Arlene Tieu	
ROBERT BROWN	
H. Carl Crawford	
Camara Perry	
Andrea Lavie	
MICHAEL FORREST	
Justin Townsend	
Devon Tsuno	
GROSBEE ORTEGA	



Jeff Jacobs



Chris Toy  
BEN CHUMP



Ethan Drury

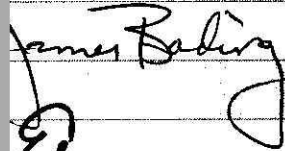
Lauren Drury



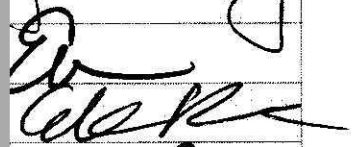
Don Shaul



James Bading



Eza Burke  
Ethan Roseberg

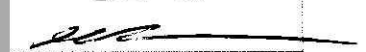
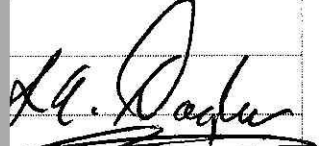



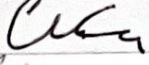






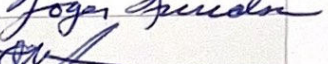




STEVE  
DOUGLAS

Trevor Tanne

MARSHALL BRESLIN

Glenn Hiroyas



NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	SIGNATURE
Andrew Reynolds			
Christina			
Chandler Auben			
Belle Cook			
Michael Hathaway			
Scott Robinson			
James Pexte			
Chris Austin			
ROGER KNUDSEN			
Tom Page			
KENN GANSON			
Naomi Kim			
Audrey Kim			





Tracking Number: ( 2025-12 )

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

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### **SECTION I: Required Information.**

*Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages*

**1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)**

Name of primary contact person: Phillip Sanders

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

**2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: California Fish and Game Code Section 200**

**3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: Modify the bicycle regulations on the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area to allow bicycle use on roads or levees for transportation between parking lots and hunting areas during the water-**

**4. fowl season.**

**5. Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: The current regulations that restrict bicycle use on the Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA unfairly limit access for older hunters and junior hunters who would be better able to access waterfowl hunting opportunities via bicycle rather than on foot. Bicycle access is already allowed on type A and type B waterfowl hunting units. Bicycles on these types of units enable access for hunters for whom walk-in only access would be impractical and allow hunters in free roam areas to more easily spread out rather than compete for sites close to the parking lots. Hunters should not be required to pay for the privilege of using bicycles for access to waterfowl hunting, which is what limiting bicycle use to only type A and B units does. Instead, hunters should be allowed to use bicycles for improved access on type C waterfowl units as well. The Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA has existing, convenient roads and levees that lend themselves to bicycle access as-is, and would not require any alterations to implement this access and equity improvement.**



**SECTION II: Optional Information**

6. **Date of Petition:** 9/3/2025

7. **Category of Proposed Change**

Sport Fishing

Commercial Fishing

X Hunting

Other, please specify:

8. **The proposal is to:** *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*

X Amend Title 14 Section(s):

Add New Title 14 Section(s):

Repeal Title 14 Section(s):

9. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition**

Or X Not applicable.

10. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation.

If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: 10/8/2025

11. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents:

12. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: None

13. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:

**SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only**

Date received:

FGC staff action:

Accept - complete

Reject - incomplete

Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action:

Meeting date for FGC consideration:



FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
- Denied - same as petition   
Tracking Number
- Granted for consideration of regulation change



Tracking Number: ( 2025-20 )

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission’s authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

**SECTION I: Required Information.**

*Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages*

**1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)**

Name of primary contact person: Robert Blackstone

Address: [Redacted]

Telephone number: [Redacted]

Email address: [Redacted]

**2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested:** [division 1, chapter 2, Article 1, section 203.]

**3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations:** Change 360 ( C ) 26 MA-3 Santa Barbara Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery buck hunt to **Santa Barbara Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt.** ]

**4. Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change:** [I have been hunting in Santa Barbara County as a resident of the county for many years. I tend to see more DOE the Bucks.]

**SECTION II: Optional Information**

**5. Date of Petition:** 12/08/2025

**6. Category of Proposed Change**

Sport Fishing

Commercial Fishing

Hunting

Other, please specify: [Click here to enter text.]



7. **The proposal is to:** (To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)

- Amend Title 14 Section(s): 360 (c) 26
- Add New Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#)
- Repeal Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#)

8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** [Click here to enter text.](#)  
Or  Not applicable.

9. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation. If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: 11/2026.

10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: [Click here to enter text.](#)

11. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: You may see an uptick in applications for this hunt if it is changed to any sex which would bring revenue to the CDFW.

12. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:  
[Click here to enter text.](#)

**SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only**

Date received: 12/10/2025

FGC staff action:

- Accept - complete
- Reject - incomplete
- Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting date for FGC consideration: \_\_\_\_\_

FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
- Denied - same as petition [Click here to enter text.](#)  
Tracking Number
- Granted for consideration of regulation change



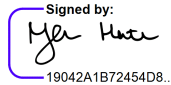
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 30, 2026

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

From: Meghan Hertel, Director

Signed by:  
  
19042A1B72454D8...

**Subject: Recommendation to Deny Regulation Change Petition No. 2021-006 Regarding First Deer Tag Application Fees**

In August 2021 the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) referred Petition 2021-006 to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) for recommendation. The petitioner requests revision of the fee structure to earn deer preference points and apply for deer tags. The proposed change would only require an application fee to apply for a deer tag and earn a preference point. Further, only if the hunter draws a premium or restricted deer tag, would a tag fee be due. This proposal seeks to align the deer application and drawing process with the existing method for drawing elk, antelope and bighorn sheep tags. The petitioner also seeks clarity in the Department's authority in collecting a deer tag fee and processing or application fee to obtain a preference point.

Background Authority

Fish and Game Code Section 4332 provides the authority to collect a tag fee, and Section 1050 provides the authority to establish a fee to recover reasonable administrative and implementation costs related to a particular license or permit. Per Title 14 Section 708.14(f), individuals who do not wish to apply for a tag but would like to earn a preference point may submit the appropriate application, per Section 708.1, and must fulfill the same application requirements as applicants who wish to apply for a tag. This includes the fees required to apply, per Title 14 section 708.2(b). The fees include a prerequisite deer tag fee and a processing fee, also known as an application fee.



Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director

March 30, 2026

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### Additional Considerations

The chief constraint to implementing the request as presented is the volume of deer tags and applicants, and consequential loss in funds to the Big Game Management Account (BGMA), as explained below.

The Department acknowledges that the application methods for drawing approximately 30,000 premium tags deer tags and accruing preference points differ from elk, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep which total approximately 552 tags (FY 2025). Deer tags (premium, restricted, and unrestricted) represent over 99% of all big game tags managed in the Automated License Data System (ALDS). Reasonably, this primary user group recovers administrative and implementation costs. Participation in the first deer tag drawing applications also closely overlaps with participation in other big game draws; in 2025, of the approximately 70,000 first deer tag premium hunt applicants, over 38,000 went on to apply for elk, antelope, and/or bighorn sheep tags.

The number of tags is a factor in multiple aspects of the proposal and affected processes. The Department facilitates a manual step to contact alternates and reissue declined tags for elk, antelope, and bighorn sheep. While time-consuming, this is still feasible for the number of contacts made. This model is not scalable to the volume of deer tags and contacts that would need to occur to provide those hunt opportunities and not let them go unfilled. Conversely, if tag numbers for elk and other species continue to grow and exceed the Department's ability to facilitate this manual process, then a future alignment may be needed to how deer are currently managed in ALDS.

The petitioner's request to change the fee structure is not supported by the current licensing system and would require new drawing models for all big game species. The new drawing model would need to address multiple choice applications and distribution of unclaimed tags. The development cost to separate the fee for a new drawing model is estimated to be a minimum of \$100,000 - \$150,000. Budgets for these changes are not currently available.

The Department aims to foster access to hunt opportunities and maintain a relatively low-cost entry point to participate in the big game drawing and point accrual by relying on the first deer tag fee to cover the administrative costs of ALDS. A 2026 elk tag fee is \$595.25, a pronghorn antelope fee \$200.62 and bighorn sheep fee of \$545. A first deer tag in

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director

March 30, 2026

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2026 is \$41.30 and other big game tags are of much higher value and would consider a bigger impact on the individual hunter.

Finally, the proposed change would have financial impacts on the fund sources relied upon for the conservation and management of big game species and their habitats. In 2025 approximately 11,000 applicants applied with, "Preference Point Only" as their first choice. Converting these applicants to a process with a reduced fee would result in a reduction in revenue for the BGMA of over \$440,000 annually.

#### Department Recommendation

The Department recommends the Commission deny the petition based on the Department's authority to collect the fee, the BGMA reliance on these funds which are available for conservation of all big game species, and the additional cost to the licensing system.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Scott Gardner, Wildlife Branch Chief, at (916) 801-6257.

ec: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director  
Wildlife and Inland Fisheries Division

Scott Gardner, Branch Chief  
Wildlife Branch

Mario Klip, Environmental Program Manager  
Wildlife Branch

Regina Vu, Regulations Coordinator  
Wildlife Branch

Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager  
Northern Region (Region 1)

Jeff Stoddard, Environmental Program Manager  
Northern Region (Region 1)

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** March 24, 2026

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

**From:** Meghan Hertel  
Director

**Subject: Recommendation to Deny Regulation Change Petition No. 2024-011 Requesting to Amend Regulations for Middle Piru Creek Within Title 14, Section 7.50, Alphabetical List of Trout Waters with Special Fishing Regulations**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed California Fish and Game Commission Petition for Regulation Change No. 2024-011, which requests amendments to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 7.50(b) – Alphabetical List of Trout Waters with Special Fishing Regulations. The Petition proposes establishing a year-round, zero-limit, catch-and-release fishery using artificial lures with single barbless hooks throughout the Middle Piru Creek section in Ventura and Los Angeles counties.

Currently, the portion of Middle Piru Creek from Pyramid Dam downstream to the bridge approximately 300 yards below Pyramid Lake is closed to fishing year-round. From that bridge downstream to the falls approximately one-half mile above the old Highway 99 bridge, angling is permitted year-round under a zero-bag limit with artificial lures and barbless hooks required. The remainder of Middle Piru Creek is managed under general statewide trout regulations, open from the last Saturday in April through November 15 with a five-trout daily bag and ten-trout possession limit and no gear restrictions. From November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April, a zero-trout bag limit applies, and only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used for all species.

The Petition asserts that the cessation of trout stocking in Middle Piru Creek approximately 15 years ago has rendered existing regulations and signage inadequate to protect the wild and native Coastal Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) population. It also states that poaching has increased in recent years, citing reports to CAL-Tip and warden-issued citations, and that inconsistent or poorly placed signage, particularly at the Frenchmen's Flat Day Use Area, fails to clearly communicate regulations. The Petition also identifies climate change, drought, elevated water temperatures, and low flows from Pyramid Lake Dam as increasing the risk of fish mortality and habitat degradation.

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1726.4(b), the Department's Heritage and Wild Trout Program (HWTP) maintains an inventory of California trout waters to assess resource condition, identify threats, evaluate angling opportunities, and recommend appropriate

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission  
March 24, 2026  
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regulations. As part of this mandate, the HWTP conducted a comprehensive survey of Middle Piru Creek and selected tributaries during summer 2025. Survey results indicate that portions of Middle Piru Creek and its tributaries currently support a robust Rainbow Trout population.

A comparison with 2019 CDFW survey data (unpublished) suggests that trout densities have increased substantially. In 2019, estimated trout density along the main stem of Middle Piru Creek was approximately 0.0025 trout per square meter, while Agua Blanca and Fish Creek supported densities of approximately 0.019 and 0.084 trout per square meter, respectively. In 2025, estimated trout density along the main stem was approximately 0.204 trout per square meter, with tributary densities of approximately 0.113 trout per square meter in Agua Blanca and 0.408 trout per square meter in Fish Creek.

Based on this evaluation, the Department has determined that the proposed year-round, zero-limit regulation is not biologically justified at this time. Although intended to provide additional protection, current angling pressure in the proposed area appears low, largely due to difficult access and limited entry points, and does not represent a limiting factor for population sustainability. Instead, the primary constraints on trout abundance and recruitment are likely related to non-native species interactions, limited perennial habitat, variable surface water availability, and periodic drought conditions. Implementation of more restrictive angling regulations would likely provide minimal additional conservation benefit while increasing regulatory complexity for anglers and enforcement staff.

Accordingly, the Department recommends that the Commission deny Petition 2024-011. Staff will continue monitoring habitat conditions and population trends to inform future management decisions. The Department is willing to coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service to improve signage placement and enhance public awareness of existing regulations within Middle Piru Creek.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jay Rowan, Chief, Fisheries Branch, at [fisheries@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:fisheries@wildlife.ca.gov).

ec: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director  
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Jay Rowan, Fisheries Branch Chief  
Wildlife Fisheries Division

Kyle Evans, Env. Program Manager  
South Coast Region (Region 5)

Joseph Stanovich, Sr. Env. Scientist (Supervisor)  
South Coast Region (Region 5)

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission  
March 24, 2026  
Page 2

David Thesell, Deputy Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

Ari Cornman, Wildlife Advisor  
Fish and Game Commission

State of California

Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Memorandum

Date: January 20, 2026

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

From: Valerie Termini  
Acting Director

Subject: **Department recommendation regarding petition to allow bicycle use at Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA during waterfowl season (Tracking number: 2025-12)**

On December 10, 2025, the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) referred Petition 2025-12 to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) for recommendation. The Petition proposes to amend Section 551(j) to allow bicycle use during waterfowl season on Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area (NSMWA), a type C Wildlife Area. The petitioner noted that bicycle use is allowed on type A and type B wildlife areas for hunters during waterfowl season. Allowing the use of bicycles on NSMWA during waterfowl season would allow older and junior hunters better access to waterfowl hunting opportunities and reduce the competition for sites near parking lots.

The Department has evaluated the proposal and recommends the Commission grant Petition 2025-12 for further consideration in a future rulemaking package.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Scott Gardner, Wildlife Branch Chief, at (916) 801-6257.

ec: **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Chad Dibble, Deputy Director  
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Robert Pelzman, Assistant Chief  
Wildlife Law Enforcement Division

Scott Gardner, Branch Chief  
Wildlife Branch

Erin Chappell, Regional Manager  
Bay Delta Region

Michelle Selmon, Environmental Program Manager  
Lands Program

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director  
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Regina Vu, Wildlife Branch Regulations Coordinator  
Wildlife Branch

Kristi Cripe, Ecological Reserves Coordinator  
Lands Program