

Staff Summary for August 12-13, 2026

15. 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***

- Received Petition 2023-01 February 8-9, 2023
- Referred Petition 2023-01 to Department for review April 19-20, 2023
- Received petitions 2026-06, -09, -11 and -12 June 17-18, 2026
- **Today, consider action on petitions August 13-14, 2025**

(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, five petitions are scheduled for action:

- I. *Petition 2023-01*: Request to create a "night use stamp" for night hunting and fishing with a valid license in Department Region 2 (North Central Region) Type C Wildlife Areas

In April 2023, the Commission referred the petition to the Department for its review and recommendation. The Department has completed its review and provided a memo with a recommendation to deny the petition (Exhibit A7).
- II. *Petition 2026-06*: Request to allow the possession of certain primate species for use as companion animals without requiring a restricted species permit
- III. *Petition 2026-09*: Request to allow a limited exception to the 150-yard trapping restriction, specifically for urban coyote conflict
- IV. *Petition 2026-11*: Request to amend regulations to allow for "Junior Handler" or "Supervised Student" status at wildlife rehabilitation centers

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- V. *Petition 2026-12: Request to allow take of western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*) for certain qualifying solar projects, under an emergency action*

Staff recommendations and rationale for subitems II-V, which were developed after conferring with the Department, are provided in Exhibit A1. In addition, Exhibit A8 is an analysis of Petition 2026-11 that staff prepared based on additional input from the Department to support the staff recommendation with further rationale.

(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 (October 13-16, 2026) following staff evaluation, unless the petition is rejected under the 10-day staff review as prescribed in subsection 662(b).

No new petitions were received for this meeting by the comment deadline.

(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.

There are no comments on previously referred petitions.

Significant Public Comments

1. *Petition 2026-06 (Possession of certain primate species for use as companion animals without restricted species permits) – 4 comments*

World Animal Protection, Humane World for Animals, the Animal Welfare Institute, and Social Compassion in Legislation oppose Petition 2026-06. Commenters believe that allowing primates as companion animals would exacerbate wildlife trafficking, pose safety risks to individuals and the community, and negatively affect primate welfare. They note that primates cannot thrive in human homes and that monkeys in the pet trade often experience significant psychological trauma (exhibits A9 – A12).

2. *Petition 2026-09 (Trapping restriction for urban coyote conflict) – 21 comments*

Twenty-one commenters support Petition 2026-09. They cite public safety, public health concerns, and the impracticality of the regulation, as proposed, for urban environments. Two sample comments are provided in Exhibit A13.

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Recommendation

Commission staff: For the reasons provided in exhibits A1, A7, and A8:

- (1) deny petitions 2023-01 and 2026-11;
- (2) if the Commission makes western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*) a candidate species under CESA (Agenda Item 14, this meeting), grant Petition 2026-12 for consideration under Agenda Item 16 of today's meeting – otherwise deny the petition; and
- (3) refer petitions 2026-06 and 2026-09 to the Department for review and recommendations.

Department: Deny Petition 2023-01 based on rationale in the Department's memo (Exhibit A7).

Exhibits

- A1. [Summary table of petitions scheduled for action and staff recommendations](#), updated August 7, 2026
- A2. [Petition 2023-01](#), received January 19, 2023
- A3. [Petition 2026-06](#), received April 20, 2026
- A4. [Petition 2026-09](#), received May 21, 2026
- A5. [Petition 2026-11](#), received June 1, 2026
- A6. [Petition 2026-12](#), received June 5, 2026
- A7. [Department memo regarding Petition 2023-01](#), received May 14, 2026
- A8. [Staff memo – Analysis and Recommendation for Petition 2026-11](#), dated August 7, 2026
- A9. [Letter from Liz Cabrera Holtz, Esq., Senior Campaigns Manager, World Animal Protection](#), received July 29, 2026
- A10. [Letter from Jenny Berg, California State Director, Humane World for Animals](#), received July 29, 2026
- A11. [Letter from Kate Dylewsky, Assistant Director, Government Affairs, Animal Welfare Institute](#), received July 20, 2026
- A12. [Email from Nickolaus Sackett, Director of Legislative Affairs, Social Compassion in Legislation](#), received July 29, 2026
- A13. [Emails from anonymous commenter and Beverly Paras](#), received June 26 and July 8, 2026, respectively

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for regulation change petitions 2023-01, 2026-06, 2026-09, 2026-11 and 2026-12, as reflected in Exhibit A1.

[illegible]



Tracking Number: (_2023-01_)

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: Dale Tobiassen

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: Sections 200, 1050, 1530, 1764, 1765, 3031 and 10504, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 355, 711, 713, 1050, 1055.3, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1764, 1765, 2006, 2020, 10504 and 12000, Fish and Game Code; and Section 14998, Government Code.

3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: To create a "Night Use Pass" for the Type C Wildlife areas in North Central Region 2 for night hunting and fishing with a valid license.

4. Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: I've hunted the 11,900 acres of the Spenceville wildlife area (WLA) and other North Central Region 2 WLA's for over 35 years at night, through these many years I have been checked by the wardens at least once a year and in those numerous encounters I have never been cited or informed that it wasn't legal to be in the WLA's at night. In March of 2021 I was informed that Spenceville was going to enforce a regulation (14CCR 550 c (C) that had been a regulation for years but that law enforcement was not enforcing on most WLA's, specifically not in Spenceville WLA since its creation in 1968. The Spenceville WLA was posted "Day Use Only" with modified hours from 1.5 hours before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset (the Oroville WLA is the only WLA I know of that was enforcing the night closure of sunrise to sun set before 2021). This closure started at the Spenceville WLA with the change in the CDFW law enforcement lieutenant for Yuba County who



had been transferred from the Oroville WLA. I have been told that this regulation is being enforced on most of the Region 2 WLAs now.

The reasoning for the sudden enforcement of the above regulation stated by CDWF to the sportsmen and women was due to illegal activity, (vandalism, graffiti, trash, illegal camping and camp fires) by the general public mostly around the swimming hole area of Dry Creek in Spenceville I was told by the area manager.

In the past year and a half, I have been involved in several zoom meetings with the department trying to come up with an equitable solution to allow continued night hunting for the hunters who hunt legal nocturnal animals.

In June of 2021 I attended a zoom meeting with the Region 2 management representing the biology and law enforcement departments of CF&W to see if we could work out a reasonable and rational solution that would address both the departments concerns while keeping WLA's open for the night hunters. During this meeting the Region 2 manager stated "Houndsmen have not and are not the problem at the Wildlife areas and that the department considers the houndsmen another set of eyes and ears for law enforcement and their presence acts as a deterrent for illegal activity". I explained to him that we have always had unrestricted access at night without any issues and that we shouldn't be restricted to only being allowed access from 1.5 hours before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset to hunt **nocturnal** nongame mammals because of the public's illegal activity, he assured us that he was aware that this closure was having unintended consequences putting the hunters in the middle, and that it was not the departments intent to close night hunting but to stop illegal activity at night. He stated he would meet with the area manager and see about getting night access back for the houndsmen.

After the above-mentioned meeting, the Region 2 managers choose to allow us continued night hunting privileges if we would hunt under our local houndsmen clubs "Special Use Permit" the club is required to purchase to hold special events, this permit is purchased by our houndsmen club so we may host our annual field trials held at the Spenceville WLA.

While I appreciated the department's efforts to accommodate us, after hearing the requirements we would have to implement and administer, I had to inform the Department that their proposed option to allow night hunting under the clubs Special Use Permit would not work for the following reasons:

(1) I am asking for this change as an individual, not as a member of our houndsmen club that hosts the field trials and we are not looking as a club to host hunting events.

(2) The first requirement for obtaining a special use permit is it to provide liability insurance for field trials, our houndsmen clubs' insurance will not crossover to cover hunting of any kind and our club can't assume the liability of all the hunters who want access to the Spenceville WLA.

(3) The three "dog training areas" the department designated for night hunting under the Special Use permit are small areas, the largest of them being only 700+/- acres of the entire WLA's 11,900 acres. The dog training areas were set up where they are by the prior Wildlife habitat supervisor in the early 1990's because hunters don't utilize the areas due to the lack of huntable habitat, he understood the



process of hunting with dogs and chose these areas specifically so our field trials wouldn't interfere with the other hunters pursuing game during our field trial races.

These areas while being able to accommodate the use of a designated track in the controlled environment of the field trial races, is not large enough for running live game with dogs, we are concerned for the safety of our dogs while hunting as two of the three areas are bordered by Beale ABF to the West which is a restricted area while the East side of the area is a fastmoving public road and the third is bordered by a fastmoving public road on its three sides.

(4) The area manager would require our club to submit the following information with our application for our club's Special use permit:

- A). The names of all "statewide hunters" that would like to hunt.
- B). Number of dogs.
- C). Specific date (only one night of hunting a week)
- D). Reserve one of the three small designated dog training areas (making sure the area isn't already booked), all of these hunters would only have permission to hunt one day a week, rotating weekly between the three areas.

All of this a year in advance. We would be required to prepare and submit our application for our permit by November the prior year we are booking. While we can schedule our field trial's a year in advance, it is not possible for our club to administer and meet these requirements.

At this point, when their offer of the Special Use Permit wouldn't work I proposed the use of a modified "Land Use Pass"(title 14 550 (c) 11) for night access, the "Land Use Pass" is used on some of the Type A & B wildlife areas for public access, the department's response was that it would be too confusing for the wardens to figure out who was allowed in the WLA at night, I stated that even with the WLA being posted "Day Use Only" most of the WLA's are still accessible at night to the public, as all the roads in and out of the area are open public county maintained roads that cannot be closed, the main artery of roadways are the only access to many private property owners beyond the WLA boundaries. These roads while being open public roads in and beyond the WLA still needs to be patrolled due to the potential of illegal activity, and by not allowing night access to sportsmen/women would not change the fact the public has 24/7 unimpeded access into the entire WLA.

The department has chosen to allow overnight camping from 1 September through the closure of spring turkey season the 1st Sunday of April approximately 8+ months of the year to the public at the Spenceville WLA's camping area, that is located in the center of the WLA and the dates of use are clearly during the height of fire season, this being another reason for the night closure, illegal campfires during high fire danger

After going back and forth without a resolution that would work for both the department and the WLA users I'm proposing the commission create a **"Night Use Stamp" for the Region 2, type C Wildlife Areas**, similar to the Hunting Pass (title 14 550 (b) 7) I believe this will provide an equitable remedy to the satisfaction of all the parties involved, this would accomplish both the departments' goals of keeping WLA's day use only for the general public and night access to the WLA for legal Sportsmen/women.

The **"Night Use Stamp"** proposal will alleviate one other issue brought up by the area manager that they could not just close the WLA to the general public but allow the hunters and anglers to keep using the area at night. We would be purchasing our right to access the WLA at night, not unsimilar to



the offer of us using the Special Use Permit our club purchases to access the WLA or a Hunting Pass.

Implementing a “**Night Use stamp**” would generate income for the department with the fee to be determined by the CDFW. This should be an easy and inexpensive option for the Department to add as there is already a stamp program in place through the departments automated license data system and can be purchased through licensed agents and licensed sales offices, the same as hunters purchasing upland game stamps, hunting passes, anglers when purchasing specialized stamps for strippers, salmon and steel head fishing.

We are asking for the Night Use Stamp to be valid from the night of the closure of general deer season this date of course would vary year to year, and there will not be a conflict with deer season, though 15 March (the closure of dog training in the WLA’s) for hunters and open year-round for the anglers.

The bottom line is the night sportsmen and women should not be the victims of unintended circumstance by losing more of our extremely limited hunting area that we have had the use of for over 50 years because of the illegal activities of others when there can be a simple resolution to this problem. I believe my proposal will meet everybody’s concerns by keeping the areas closed to the general public intent on illegal activities, which according to the department management was their main intent in closing the WLA’s for night use.

Please note I am wanting to bring to the commission’s attention a letter in the R3 action Plan from director Bonham, this letter is basically mandating the department to follow the R3 program, to regenerate, retention and reactivate hunters and anglers, and as you will see the number one priority is “access and opportunity” for hunters. Not allowing this does not in any way work towards achieving the goal for our states R3 action plan, a link to the R3 is included in the supporting documentation section.

SECTION II: Optional Information

1. **Date of Petition:** 1/6/2023
2. **Category of Proposed Change**
 - ☒ Sport Fishing
 - ☐ Commercial Fishing
 - ☒ Hunting
 - ☐ Other, please specify: [Click here to enter text.](#)
3. **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): 550.5
 - ☒ Add New Title 14 Section(s): 550,5
 - ☐ Repeal Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#)
4. **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.

5. **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:
June 1, 2023
6. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: From the R3 Action Plan. The plan is structured under eight topics of interest that reflect the work of the R3 subcommittees (1) Access and Opportunity, (2) Adult-Onset Participation, (3) Mentorship, (4) Youth and Families, (5) Reactivation, (6) Marketing and Public perception, (7) License Structure and (8) Funding and Grants.
R3 <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=165196&inline>
"Special Use Permit "(<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=89249&inline>)
[2023 Permit Application for Special Use of Department Lands](#)
7. **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: .
8. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:
[Click here to enter text.](#)

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: 01/09/2023

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: _____ 4/19-20/2023 _____

FGC action:

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



Tracking Number: (2026-06)

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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:

Akira Lincome

Address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

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

The requested regulation change is within the California Fish and Game Commission's authority under California Fish and Game Code Sections 2118 and 2120, which govern the importation, transportation, and possession of restricted species, and under Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 671 (Restricted Species), which includes mammals of the order Primates.

3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations:

This petition requests that the California Fish and Game Commission amend Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 671 (Restricted Species) to create a narrow exemption that allows responsible legal possession of specified non-human primates (monkeys) as household companion animals, without requiring a restricted-species permit, under defined conditions. The proposed exemption would distinguish between larger or higher-risk primates and certain small to medium-sized monkey species that can be safely housed in a controlled home environment and would authorize the Commission to adopt clear standards for care, containment, and public safety for these exempt species. The monkey species requested for consideration under this exemption include: Common marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*) and closely related marmoset species, Capuchin monkeys (*Cebus* spp. and *Sapajus* spp.),



Macaques (*Macaca* spp.), including pigtail macaques (*Macaca nemestrina*), Spider monkeys (*Ateles* spp.)

- 4. Rationale (Required)** - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: Under current regulations, non-human primates are classified as “restricted species” under Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 671, and are effectively prohibited as household pets for ordinary California residents, regardless of species, size, temperament, or advances in animal-care standards. This blanket approach does not distinguish between larger, higher-risk primates and smaller or medium-sized monkey species that can be safely managed in a structured home environment by responsible owners following appropriate standards. By contrast, many other U.S. states regulate pet monkeys rather than imposing a total ban. Common examples include Texas, Ohio, Alabama, Mississippi, Nevada, and North Carolina, where state wildlife or agriculture agencies regulate primate ownership through permits, enclosure standards, and species restrictions. In several jurisdictions, only smaller species such as marmosets are allowed for private ownership, while larger or higher-risk primates remain prohibited. These approaches show that states can differentiate between species and manage risk through clear standards instead of total prohibition. Publicly available, long-term observational sources indicate that certain small and medium-sized monkey species can be safely kept in a home setting when appropriate enclosures, enrichment, training and daily routines are provided. These monkeys are highly intelligent and social and can learn consistent routines, are capable of feeding themselves from eating and drinking cookware, can groom, bath, use toilet, and clothe themselves, as well as follow simple cooperative tasks in helping with household chores and other functions which makes them great suitable companion animals for both children and adults. Under appropriate care and supervision, their overall risk of causing harm or injury appears comparable to, or lower than, that of many common companion animals such as cats and dogs, which currently do not require comparable permits, specialized permits and not banned. Creating a narrow exemption in section 671 for specified small and medium-sized monkey species, combined with clear standards for care, containment, and oversight, would modernize California’s approach and align it more closely with these other regulatory models. The petition therefore asks the Commission to allow responsible ownership of these species without an individual restricted-species permit, conditioned on baseline requirements such as: (1) an initial home inspection to verify secure indoor and outdoor enclosures and an appropriate household setting; (2) written standards for diet and food preparation and presentation; (3) daily access to exercise and enrichment areas that allow natural climbing, swinging, and running behaviors; and (4) proof of ongoing veterinary care and pet insurance to cover immunizations and reasonably anticipated illness or injury. These measures would protect public safety and animal welfare while allowing Californians to benefit from living with highly intelligent, socially complex primates as emotional or family pets.

SECTION II: Optional Information

- 5. Date of Petition:** April 18, 2026
- 6. Category of Proposed Change**
- ☐ Sport Fishing
 - ☐ Commercial Fishing
 - ☐ Hunting



☒ Other, please specify: **Restricted Species/Wildlife possession regulations change (Non-Human Primates)**

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):

☐ Add New Title 14 Section(s):

☐ Repeal Title 14 Section(s):

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

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: Petitioner requests that the regulation change be adopted April 18, 2026 immediately upon approval after filing, or on the earliest date permitted by law. There is an immediate implementation to provide a lawful pathway for responsible ownership of specified small- and medium-sized monkey species as emotional-support and companion animals for persons with physical and mental health conditions, and for families, while also supporting the long-term conservation and welfare of primate species through regulated, humane captive care. Under the current blanket prohibition, individuals who could safely and humanly keep these animals in appropriate home settings have no legal option to do so, which puts individuals at risk for breaking the law to have these animals, which creates ongoing hardship for prospective owners and leaves existing animals in precarious legal status and in endangered situations. Prompt implementation of a narrowly tailored exemption allowing responsible ownership and possession of monkeys as pets, subject to clear care, housing, and safety conditions, is necessary to remove these ongoing obstacles without delay.

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

Overview Of Supporting Documentation

Scientific and veterinary sources recognize that small and medium-sized primates (macaques, including pig-tailed macaques, marmosets, capuchins, and spider monkeys) can present health, safety, welfare, and conservation concerns if they are kept in poor or unregulated conditions. The proposed regulation is intended to minimize these risks by requiring responsible owners to maintain ready access to veterinary services, follow species-appropriate diet and housing guidelines, supervise interactions with children and visitors, provide secure but humane enclosures and supervised outdoor activity, retain documentation of lawful origin, and carry liability insurance. Based on years of observing small and medium-sized monkeys living in stable home environments, Petitioner has found that, under these managed conditions, such monkeys typically show gentle, affectionate, and intelligent behavior toward people and do not behave as inherently dangerous animals. The written sources below show what the risks are for each group and how the proposed management measures are designed to keep real-world incidents to a minimum.

1. Health / public-safety impacts



(macaques, marmosets, capuchins, spider monkeys)

Risk: Scientific and veterinary sources show that some small and medium-sized primates—particularly macaques and pig-tailed macaques—can carry viruses such as Herpes B, and that pet primates of several species (including macaques and capuchins) have occasionally bitten or escaped when not properly supervised.

Management: Under the petition, owners of all covered species (macaques including pig-tails, marmosets, capuchins, and spider monkeys) will work with veterinarians for initial health checks, follow written bite/escape response plans, supervise interactions (especially with children), and provide secure but humane housing and liability insurance. These measures are intended to keep incident rates very low and comparable to other companion animals that can bite, such as dogs, while still permitting supervised outdoor activity and family contact.

Macaques / pig-tailed macaques (disease risk):

Merck Veterinary Manual – “Viruses That Cause Disease in Nonhuman Primates”:

<https://www.merckvetmanual.com/exotic-and-laboratory-animals/nonhuman-primates/viruses-that-cause-disease-in-nonhuman-primates>

CDC / Emerging Infectious Diseases – “Prevalence of Herpes B Virus in Wild Long-Tailed Macaques”:

https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/31/4/24-1197_article

PubMed – “B-virus from pet macaque monkeys: an emerging threat in the United States”:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/9452406/>

All species (documented incidents, including capuchins and other pet primates):

Animal Welfare Institute – “Incidents Involving Primates Kept as Pets 1990 to present”:

<https://awionline.org/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/Incidents-Primate-Pets.pdf>

2. Welfare / husbandry / veterinary needs

(marmosets, capuchins, spider monkeys, applied to all small/medium monkeys)

Risk: Marmosets, capuchins, and other small primates can develop serious health and behavioral problems—such as metabolic bone disease, rickets, dental disease, and stress behaviors—when kept without correct diet, space, enrichment, or veterinary care. Spider monkeys need large, complex spaces and can suffer if confined in small or barren environments.

Management: The petition requires, for all covered species, species-appropriate diet plans prepared with a veterinarian, regular wellness exams, adequate indoor and outdoor space with climbing structures and enrichment, and owner education. These measures are intended to keep small and medium-sized monkeys healthy and calm and to allow safe, supervised interaction with family members, rather than the problems seen in poorly managed situations.

Marmosets (diet and bone disease):

PubMed – “Unusual Case of Metabolic Bone Disease in a Common Marmoset”:



<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/9717224/>

“Bone Disease in the Common Marmoset” (Veterinary Pathology):

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0300985815589354>

New England Primate Conservancy – “Common Marmoset (Pro)” (care and dietary needs):

<https://neprimateconservancy.org/common-marmoset-pro/>

Capuchins (space, enrichment, behavior):

RSPCA – “Keeping Capuchin Monkeys as Pets” (welfare problems and needs for capuchins kept as pets):

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/other/primates/capuchins>

Spider monkeys (specialized housing and care):

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance – “Illegally Trafficked Spider Monkeys Receive Expert Care”:

<https://sandiegozoowildlifealliance.org/PR/spider-monkey-confiscation>

Application to all covered monkeys:

The same husbandry principles—proper diet, veterinary oversight, adequate space and enrichment, and owner education—are applied in the petition to macaques (including pig-tailed macaques) as well as marmosets, capuchins, and spider monkeys, so that each species’ needs are met in a family home.

3. Environmental / conservation / illegal-trade impacts (macaques, marmosets, capuchins, spider monkeys)

Risk: Conservation organizations report that many primate species—including macaques, marmosets, capuchins, and spider monkeys—are threatened by habitat loss, hunting, and illegal capture for the pet trade. Capture of wild monkeys for sale often harms family groups and leads to high mortality.

Management: To avoid contributing to these problems, the petition limits eligibility to captive-bred or legally rescued monkeys of all four groups, requires owners to keep documentation of lawful origin, and is intended to provide safe long-term homes for existing captive animals and future captive-bred companions, not to encourage removal of any monkeys from the wild.

All primates / general threats:

New England Primate Conservancy – “Primates in Jeopardy”:

<https://neprimateconservancy.org/primates-in-jeopardy/>

Capuchins (status and pet-trade impacts):

New England Primate Conservancy – “Capuchin Monkeys”:

<https://neprimateconservancy.org/capuchin-monkeys/>

“Impact of the pet trade on the Margarita capuchin monkey *Cebus apella margaritae*”:

<https://www.int-res.com/articles/esr2010/12/n012p057.pdf>



Marmosets (status and threats):

New England Primate Conservancy – “Common Marmoset, *Callithrix jacchus*”:

<https://neprimateconservancy.org/common-marmoset/>

Spider monkeys (illegal trafficking):

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance – “Illegally Trafficked Spider Monkeys Receive Expert Care”:

<https://sandiegozoowildlifealliance.org/PR/spider-monkey-confiscation>

(Macaques are included in the general NEPC “Primates in Jeopardy” overview and the broader discussion of trade impacts; the petition’s captive-bred / lawful-origin requirement applies to macaques as well.)

**4. Overall justification / regulatory context
(all small/medium monkeys together)**

Risk: Reviews of the U.S. pet-primate trade describe welfare and safety concerns and gaps in oversight when primates of any species are kept without clear rules, including small and medium-sized monkeys similar to those covered by this petition.

Management / justification: Instead of unregulated possession, the petition proposes clear expectations for all owners of macaques (including pig-tailed macaques), marmosets, capuchins, and spider monkeys: maintaining veterinary care and appropriate diet, supervising interactions, providing secure housing and supervised outdoor activity, using only captive-bred or legally rescued animals, and carrying liability insurance. These measures aim to keep incident rates very low while allowing California residents to responsibly share their homes with small and medium-sized monkeys.

All species / national context:

Open Access Government – “The pet primate trade in the U.S.”:

<https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/article/the-pet-primate-trade-in-the-u-s/175099/>

Petitioner will also provide a list of online videos documenting small and medium-sized macaques (including pig-tailed macaques), marmosets, capuchins, and spider monkeys living in supervised home environments. These videos show that, in practice, when these monkeys are kept with proper care, supervision, and veterinary support, their behavior toward family members is typically gentle, affectionate, and not consistent with the image of universally dangerous animals. here to enter text.

**Statement of Purpose – Companionship
For Emotional Support And Families
and Managed Safety Of Pets**

The purpose of this petition is to allow small and medium-sized monkeys (macaques, including pig-tailed macaques, marmosets, capuchins, and spider monkeys) to be kept as companion animals in California under managed, family-home conditions, so that residents with physical and mental-health challenges can benefit from their companionship while risks are kept very low through clear care and safety expectations. Research on emotional-support and companion animals in general shows that close daily interaction with animals can reduce anxiety, depression, loneliness, and stress hormones, while increasing feelings of calm and social connection.



My goal is to extend those benefits to carefully selected small and medium-sized monkeys in homes that meet basic standards for veterinary access, supervision, housing, and insurance.

Publicly available observational sources, including long-term educational channels, show that certain small and medium-sized monkey species can be safely kept when proper enclosures, a loving and stable home environment, enrichment, training, and daily routines are provided.

In these settings, the monkeys are highly intelligent and social and are able to feed themselves from designated dishes, follow daily routines, bathe and groom, use the restroom or diapers on a schedule, dress in their own clothes, and participate in simple household tasks such as retrieving objects or helping with light chores, all while interacting gently with family members. Informal examples documenting these behaviors in household environments, such as the “Monkey Kyo Family” channel (for example, a small monkey calmly feeding herself, assisting with small tasks, and safely playing with adults and children in the home), are provided in the attached video list to illustrate that, under structured conditions, small and medium-sized monkeys can live peacefully in family homes and often behave more predictably than some common pets like cats and dogs.

The accompanying regulation change and supporting documentation explain how the identified risks (disease, bites, welfare problems, and illegal trade) can be minimized through responsible ownership—regular veterinary care, species-appropriate diet and housing, supervision of interactions, lawful sourcing of animals, and liability insurance—so that Californians can safely experience the emotional and practical benefits of living with these intelligent and affectionate animals.

Observation You Tube Channels Of Videos Showing Multiple Types Of Monkeys Including Small to Medium Sized-(Macaques, Pigtail, Marmosets, Spider Monkeys, And Capachins)

Macaques Monkeys (also known as pigtails)

1.Kyo Family Channel- small monkey Kyo feeding herself, safely interacting with family members, and participating in daily home activities.

<https://youtu.be/sbguCdqv0bk?si=2ndC-KwGrHotjiCL>

2.Curious Monkey Family Channel-small monkey Kiki feeding herself and lovingly interacting with the owner giving food.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/AG0F-FcupPE?si=W04Uhvta2ziurRXF>

3.Monkey Lily’s Life Channel-small Monkey Lily is feeding himself after the parent owner gives him a meal showing highly intelligent monkeys capable of eating like humans from cookware.

https://youtube.com/shorts/_BR1nAK3dTg?si=w56SwX2xWxhuZCmJ

4.Monkey Lily’s Life Channel-small Monkey Lily cleans up own drink spill accident and becomes playful after showing they are helpful with cleaning up after themselves and playful and funny.

<https://youtu.be/SODnteYYb9k?si=FjINOP1Yqmp6hz-P>



5.The Springangel Channel-medium monkey showing owner teaching monkey to brush teeth demonstrating highly intelligent to follow routine.

https://youtube.com/shorts/eC0H_flSzu4?si=Bp8iflB3P9tfDjL7

6.Monkey Lyly Channel-medium size Monkey Lyly is highly intelligent to be sent to the store with money by the owner and buy product and return home demonstrating the monkey is adaptable to carry out routine on its own in public setting outside and successfully return safely back home.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/CWJwjQXjmpU?si=EwkjaodNCsJ0FIU1>

7.Xuxu Monkey Channel-small macaques monkeys being trained by owners to retrieve their own food and feed themselves demonstrating they are harmless than most domestic animals such as cats and dogs.

https://youtube.com/shorts/XHcsKbhWBOY?si=KVmgalch1RA_ZXd9

8.Xuxu Monkey Channel-small monkey being observant of environment and other species calm demonstrating no kind of harm to others eventually they have shown to love and interact with other animals forming a bond.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/3S4vUtG2aNQ?si=OYm3mxy8c3pgiKJQ>

9.Xuxu Monkey Channel -

small/medium macaque monkeys are extremely playful, harmless, and fun to watch as a pet owner.

https://youtube.com/shorts/5SVjXOpgzho?si=kEzkUkF-w0NS3_ck

10.Xuxu Monkey Channel-owner of a small monkey at doctors visit ensuring health is followed-up on demonstrates proper care and veterinary check-ups along with requiring pet insurance for any accidents or injury that may arise is in place will prevent or minimize diseases and illnesses that should be required as standard regulation.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/aLnQR63YkYw?si=rBzMzV5uLDKniBDv>

11.Xuxu Monkey Channel-medium macaque monkey drinking own bottle to feed self interacting with owner non violent and harmless dressed in clothes and cared for like human children.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/wnayAVpgt7M?si=QEWQpMbpsBYKoNI9>

Capuchin Monkeys

1.Life With Gaitlyn Channel-medium size Monkey Gaitlyn is highly intelligent and loves performing cooking skills. Capuchin monkeys demonstrate being highly technical.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/i6L19AcnfTU?si=a7TbUKeBBin2rIKO>

2.Life With Gaitlyn Channel-medium size monkey eating breakfast at family table feeding himself demonstrating extreme intelligent capabilities to self care for self with assistance of owner.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/rwic4FcyBzs?si=1tgfoc7qtx9U64hZ>



3. Life With Gaitlyn Channel-medium sized Monkey Gaitlyn sitting with owner and family enjoying movies and eating popcorn together demonstrating the monkey is in a safe environment and reacting within family safely around children.

https://youtube.com/shorts/OGAOTaYAcg?si=X1a_gAPcmGPbBcU5

4. Life With Gaitlyn Channel-medium size Monkey Gaitlyn shows he loves to help clean the household demonstrating structure and routine to help owners with chores as companion animals that can be helpful for disabled persons needing assistance.

https://youtube.com/shorts/CHxMWIGMgQg?si=BWSPq94BH1_s4Lzk

5. Mrs. Bench Channel-this channel promotes toys and is a friend to Monkey Gaitlyn owners on Life With Gaitlyn Channel who gave monkey toys and demonstrate capuchin monkeys are very smart and love technical toys to play with and put together showing.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/M2DATWcWbO4?si=TKhEnx5xsyW9kmGa>

Spider Monkeys

1. Medium sized spider monkey from small infant through growth demonstrates being friendly in nature and adaptable to being taught routine by owner.

https://youtube.com/shorts/4_mMlfJz_MU?si=SCQ6_dlgAvaEXKwb

2. ViceGoneWild Channel-Small sized baby spider monkey wearing diaper patiently sitting while owner talks demonstrating no harm or threat to humans.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/LljluxaYiA8?si=hdppbp9qXuKR60IN>

3. You-Tube Channel-small spider monkey Winston chillin cool with his owner enjoying the monkey demonstrating spider monkey as a great pet to have that is not harmful or dangerous.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/K3upz3CNxMA?si=b92N2DHBG6tb4Fm9>

4. Wildlife Command Center Channel-small spider monkey just being cute and adorable without causing any harm.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/OljafjU4Vxk?si=peKAicZoJKDL1vqQ>

5. Viral Hog Channel-large spider monkey being playful and non-violent and harmless while following request by owner to obtain item from refrigerator and bring for whip cream treat demonstrating small/medium monkeys may grow to large size and remain a friendly pet raised within the family, contradicting claims all monkeys are dangerous and should not be around humans.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/bS4W2BTGTO4?si=oStDUIsWVFjooVd1>

Marmoset Monkeys

1. Exotic Pet Ranch Channel-this owner of a small marmoset monkey explains monkey is non-harmful and a great pet that is not wild demonstrating these types of monkeys are suitable in home settings and outside with supervision and care by the owner.

<https://youtu.be/4q-DnUA1KKY?si=3oZusdf0e4AcLNaB>

2. Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER Channel-veterinary doctor enforces importance of small marmoset monkeys of having a proper diet to follow and area for environmental enrichment for monkeys to thrive, while also instilling owners taking extra precaution to keep monkey safe



from public until older which demonstrates these same recommendations requesting in regulation change to legalize monkeys in California with proper standards and guidelines implemented to ensure safety, proper nutrition to follow, and offer home inspection to ensure environment is safe to have environment enrichment areas and shows the monkeys are not harmful and at more risk of being in public at early age.

<https://youtu.be/dbZLUHKngj8?si=Ezb5EMyer7SyFaCb>

3.Trim That Weed Channel-video informers viewers who take on ownership of marmoset monkeys suggest the type of housing they require for environmental habitat and health care to include which aligns with the requested standard regulation requirement to inspect home for proper housing safety for monkey that provides proper enclosure space for them to thrive and stay healthy.

https://youtu.be/KNtx_xK9FP8?si=-HLlhNuqOj_YTBf5

Spider, Marmoset, Capuchin, Monkeys

Taken together, spider, marmoset, capuchin, and macaque (including pig-tailed) monkeys are highly intelligent, social, nurturing, playful, and fun-loving animals. With responsible owners and clear Wildlife and Fish and Game regulation standards for housing, veterinary care, and supervision, these monkeys can be safe companion animals for individuals and families, including as emotional or physical support animals. Under this petition, owners would follow regulation standards requiring appropriate health insurance, a primary veterinarian with a species-appropriate care plan and diet, and an inspected, safe habitat that allows monkeys to live in a familiar, enriched animal space where they can climb, play, and interact, while still protecting people and other animals. These inspections and regulation standards are designed to ensure that each monkey's habitat supports its natural behaviors and well-being, and to minimize the risk of injury or illness to humans and the monkeys. With these regulation standards in place, it is unnecessary to keep all of these small to medium monkeys completely banned as pets in California, because a targeted regulatory approach can protect public safety and animal welfare without assuming that every monkey, in every situation, is too dangerous to live around humans.

https://youtube.com/shorts/o7l4A4_8Ya4?si=GiHW8p1OhFjk1fux

Many members of the public have the misconception that all monkeys are inherently dangerous and can never be safely kept as pets. From my experience and research, these particular small- and medium-sized species are no more likely to be harmful than common household pets such as cats and dogs when they are kept under clear regulation standards and responsible care. Without long-term observation or experience with these particular small and medium species, people often do not see that they are highly intelligent, social, and capable of forming affectionate, stable bonds with responsible caretakers. With clear regulation standards for housing, veterinary care, and supervision, these primates can provide family companionship and meaningful emotional and physical support to qualified owners, while also reducing incentives for illegal possession and abuse. I respectfully request that the Commission review this petition and the supporting information without bias from the general stigma that all primate species are too dangerous to be around people, and consider allowing Californians a carefully regulated opportunity to enjoy and care for these animals.

- 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: This proposal is not expected to have significant negative economic or fiscal impacts. It may generate modest additional revenue to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife through application and inspection fees associated with the proposed exemption, and could create limited new business activity in veterinary care services, enclosure construction, and specialized primary-care services. No adverse impacts are anticipated for other state or local agencies. By establishing clear legal standards for responsible care, housing, and veterinary oversight, the exemption is intended to increase the number of safe, regulated homes for small and medium-sized monkeys, reduce incentives for illegal trafficking and unsafe, unregulated possession, and complement broader conservation efforts for primate species that are already threatened in the wild by habitat loss, hunting, and illegal pet trade.

12. Forms: If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed: None.

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: 4/20/2026

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: (2026-09)

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 Beverly Paras :

Address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) -

Fish and Game Code sections 4150 and 4180 authorize the Commission to regulate the take of nongame mammals, including coyotes, and to amend Title 14 regulations related to take.

3. Overview (Required) -

Petitioner requests amendment of Title 14 to allow a limited exception to the 150 yard restriction for urban coyote conflict, enabling lawful intervention in dense residential areas when repeated conflict behavior occurs.

4. Rationale (Required) -

The 150 yard rule, combined with local restrictions, prevents effective response to urban coyotes even after repeated conflicts. This creates a gap where no action can be taken, allowing habituated behavior to escalate and increasing risk to people and pets.

SECTION II: Optional Information

5. Date of Petition: April 11 2026

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): Title 14 §465.5 (Use of Traps)
☐ Add New Title 14 Section(s):
☐ Repeal Title 14 Section(s):
8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition**
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: Upon adoption through the standard rulemaking process.
10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents:
Public reports of urban coyote incidents in Southern California, including pet attacks, daytime residential activity, and human safety incidents; local agency response limitations in dense residential areas due to the 150-yard trap placement restriction; and existing CDFW guidance on human-wildlife conflict.
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:
No significant new fiscal impact. Public agencies already incur costs responding to urban coyote conflicts; current regulatory limitations can constrain timely and effective response.
12. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: 5/21/2026

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
☐ Granted for consideration of regulation change

Tracking Number

Supporting Statement for Petition – Title 14 Amendment (Urban Coyote Conflict)

Dear Members of the California Fish and Game Commission,

I respectfully submit this letter in support of the attached petition requesting a limited amendment to Title 14, Section 465.5 (Use of Traps), addressing urban coyote conflict in residential areas.

Communities across Southern California are experiencing an increase in coyote activity within densely populated neighborhoods. These incidents are no longer limited to occasional sightings. Residents are reporting repeated daytime presence, coyotes entering private yards, and attacks on pets. Documented incidents involving young children, including bites and close-contact encounters, have further increased concern regarding public safety.

Under the current regulatory structure, a practical limitation exists. While the take of nongame mammals is authorized under certain conditions, the 150-yard trap placement restriction, combined with local ordinances, often prevents any lawful response in urban environments.

In many residential areas, lot sizes and housing density make it functionally impossible to meet this requirement, even when repeated conflict behavior is present. In many cases, even property owners experiencing repeated conflict on their own property are unable to meet the distance requirement, leaving them without a lawful option to respond despite ongoing incidents.

As currently structured, the regulations can unintentionally leave dense urban communities without a practical or lawful means to respond to repeated coyote conflict.

As currently applied, these regulations function more effectively in rural or low-density environments where distance requirements can realistically be met. In contrast, dense urban areas often cannot meet these conditions, leaving cities and residents without a practical or lawful tool to respond, even when repeated conflict behavior is present.

Urban environments present a regulatory challenge that is not always fully addressed within existing classifications. In practice, there is no clearly defined framework for addressing human-habituated coyotes in dense residential settings, where behavior,

risk factors, and response limitations differ significantly from rural or wildland conditions. As a result, communities are often left managing situations under regulations that do not fully align with on-the-ground realities.

This petition does not seek broad or unrestricted changes. It proposes a narrow, situational exception that would allow controlled intervention only when repeated conflict behavior is clearly established in residential areas.

Existing guidance from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife appropriately emphasizes prevention. However, in cases where coyotes have become habituated to human environments, preventative measures alone are not always sufficient. Urban coyotes frequently demonstrate reduced sensitivity to noise and human activity, and may continue returning to the same locations despite deterrence efforts.

This proposal is intended to provide a practical and reasonable tool for addressing those specific situations while remaining consistent with the intent of existing regulations.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Paras



Tracking Number: (2026-11)

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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: Evelyn Fehling

Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

United States

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: The Commission has the statutory authority under California Fish and Game Code Sections 200, 703, and 1002. These sections grant the Commission the power to regulate the protection, conservation, and possession of wildlife for scientific and educational purposes.

3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: The petition proposes amendments to Title 14, CCR, Sections 650 and 679 to establish a "Junior Handler" or "Supervised Student" status. This change would allow minors aged 15 or older to have direct contact with Rabies Vector Species (RVS), specifically bats (Chiroptera), provided they meet strict safety criteria. These criteria include proof of current Rabies Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) vaccination, 1-on-1 supervision by an authorized handler over age 21, and notarized parental consent with a liability waiver.

4. Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: The current 18-year-old age requirement is an administrative barrier that has outpaced the medical reality of modern rabies prevention. By requiring Rabies Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) vaccination, a 15-year-old volunteer becomes medically safer than an unvaccinated adult, creating a "double-layer" of protection when combined with professional handling equipment. This amendment addresses the "bottleneck" in wildlife conservation by allowing motivated students to gain essential field skills before choosing college majors, ensuring a future pipeline of California biologists. Furthermore, the change would increase the capacity of wildlife rehabilitation centers to care for orphaned bats, which are



currently being turned away due to a shortage of authorized adult handlers. This proposal aligns with existing California laws that already allow minors to engage in other supervised high-risk activities, such as student piloting or youth hunting.

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): *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.*

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: *Click here to enter text.*

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: *Click here to enter text.*

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: 6/1/2026

FGC staff action:

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

Tracking Number



PETITION TO THE CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION FOR REGULATION CHANGE

FGC 1 (Rev 06/19) Page 3 of 3

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: (2026-12)

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: [Shannon Eddy, Executive Director, Large-scale Solar Association / Brendan Cummings, Conservation Director, Center for Biological Diversity]
Address: [2501 Portola Way, Sacramento, CA 95818 / 2100 Franklin St Ste 375, Oakland, CA 94612-3030]
Telephone number: [(415) 819-4285 / (510) 844-7141]
Email address: [shannon@largescalesolar.org / bcummings@biologicaldiversity.org]

2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: [Fish and Game Code sections 399, 2084.]

3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations [The Large-scale Solar Association (LSA) and Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) together ask that the Commission approve a temporary pathway for certain Investment Tax Credit (ITC)-eligible clean energy projects to receive authorization for the incidental project-related take of western spadefoot, subject to avoidance, minimization and mitigation requirements, during the candidacy period for western spadefoot. CBD is the Petitioner to list the western spadefoot under CESA, and CBD and LSA have worked cooperatively to develop a mutually agreeable 2084 Rule informed by the best available science on western spadefoot in California.]

4. Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: [If the Commission determines that listing the western spadefoot as threatened or endangered under CESA "may be warranted," western spadefoot will become a "candidate" species. As a candidate species, the take prohibition of Fish and Game Code section 2080 will prohibit "take" of western spadefoot absent specific authorization. LSA member companies developing solar and solar/battery energy storage system projects on the San Joaquin Valley Floor wish to obtain incidental take authorization for the species during its candidacy in order to minimize risk and facilitate investment and financing for certain ITC-eligible projects. In order to take



advantage of the ITC, which was recently pared back by the federal “One Big Beautiful Bill” Act, utility-scale clean energy developers in California must promptly “begin construction” of their projects. It is essential that solar and solar/BESS projects in California be able to take advantage of the ITC for the State of California to meet its ambitious clean energy generation targets. Because solar and solar/BESS uses can be less impactful on western spadefoot than current active agricultural uses in the San Joaquin Valley, and because western spadefoot can utilize certain modified habitats, responsible solar and solar/BESS development can improve the habitat conditions for western spadefoot on lands currently under active agriculture. LSA and CBD have jointly developed this 2084 Rule to enable certain utility-scale clean energy projects to receive authorization for the incidental take of the species upon satisfaction of the requirements of the Rule, including but not limited to the conservation or creation and conservation of aquatic resources for the species on-site and/or, if necessary, off-site. Adoption of this Rule and its implementation by eligible projects and CDFW would result in a net conservation benefit for western spadefoot relative to the status quo on managed agricultural lands.]

SECTION II: Optional Information

5. **Date of Petition:** [June 5, 2026]
6. **Category of Proposed Change**
☐ Sport Fishing
☐ Commercial Fishing
☐ Hunting
☒ Other, please specify: [Emergency rule to authorize incidental take of western spadefoot pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2084]
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): []
☒ Add New Title 14 Section(s): [Section 749.15]
☐ Repeal Title 14 Section(s): []
8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition []**
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: [Immediately. Qualifying clean energy projects are on a strict schedule to “begin construction” within the meaning of the ITC, and climate change is a recognized threat both to public health in the State of California and to the future viability of western spadefoot.]
10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: [Attached hereto is LSA and CBD’s proposed regulatory 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: [The proposed regulation will enable utility-scale solar projects and combined solar and BESS projects to make the financial commitments necessary to “begin construction” within the meaning of the federal ITC tax credit and applicable IRS Notices. The Department of Fish and Wildlife is expected to incur costs covered by existing appropriations associated with reviewing project proponents’ requests to register under the proposed regulation and determining whether the projects requesting registration qualify for take authorization pursuant to the proposed regulation.]
- 12. Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:
[N/A]

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: [6/5/2026]

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

Special Order Relating to Take of Western Spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*) During Candidacy Period¹

(a) Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply to this section.

- (1) “Aquatic resource” means all “waters of the state” as defined in Water Code section 13050, subdivision (e), and all vernal pools, seasonal depressions, and other seasonal or perennial surface aquatic features, including constructed features, that retain water for at least 30 consecutive days during the western spadefoot breeding and dispersal season, including but not limited to agricultural sumps, tailwater ponds, and irrigation ditches.
- (2) “Begin construction” means to begin construction within the meaning of Sections 45Y and 48E of the federal Internal Revenue Code, and as defined pursuant to applicable Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Notices.
- (3) “Breeding and dispersal season” means the first day after October 1 with measurable rain but no later than January 31, until May 1.
- (4) “Conserve” means to record a perpetual conservation easement on real property in a form approved in writing by the department, with a grantee approved in writing by the department, and with a long-term management endowment established for the property in a form and an amount, and with a long-term endowment holder approved in writing by the department.
- (5) “Constructed ponds” means ponds that retain water for between 60 and 200 days per year during the breeding and dispersal season and are constructed by the project proponent.
- (6) “Eligible project” means a project that the department has determined satisfies all of the requirements of subsection (b) of this section and has placed on the registry of eligible projects pursuant to subsection (c)(1).
- (7) “Impermeable features” means Battery Energy Storage System pads, substation pads, roads which are made of concrete or asphalt, and Operations and Management (O&M) facilities.
- (8) “Managed or cultivated agricultural land” means land which has been both predominantly used for the production of food or fiber for humans or livestock and disced, plowed, and/or planted within the previous 5 years, or orchards or other lands with long-established trees, shrubs, or vineyards.
- (9) “Off-site ponds” means ponds that retain water for between 60 and 200 days per year during the breeding and dispersal season.
- (10) “Open space, undeveloped, or other land substantially in its natural condition” means land which is predominantly in its natural, scenic, forested, open-space

¹ Proposed to be chaptered at 14 C.C.R. § 749.15.

condition, and which is not predominantly subject to any residential, commercial, or industrial use, but excluding managed or cultivated agricultural land.

- (11) “Occupied spadefoot habitat” means aquatic resources or land, within 1,000 feet of where an individual western spadefoot has been documented by visual, eDNA, or acoustic surveys or recorded in the CNDDDB, within the prior five (5) calendar years. Such documentation or recordation shall establish a presumption of occupancy for any aquatic resource or land within 1,000 feet of a documentation or recordation.
- (12) “San Joaquin Valley floor” means lands within the San Joaquin Valley at an altitude of no greater than 1,000 feet above sea level.
- (13) “Suitable spadefoot habitat” means any aquatic resource, and lands within 1,000 feet of that aquatic resource, within the range of the western spadefoot, excluding occupied spadefoot habitat.
- (14) “Western spadefoot” means western spadefoot, an amphibian currently bearing the scientific name *Spea hammondi*, and shall include any subsequently described taxa split from *Spea hammondi*.

(b) Take Authorization Eligibility.

Projects that satisfy all of the following criteria are eligible to apply for authorization to take, as defined by Fish and Game Code Section 86, western spadefoot during the species’ candidacy period:

- (1) No more than 10 percent of the disturbed area of the project site shall be open space, undeveloped, or other land substantially in its natural condition.
- (2) This section shall only apply to a project which is located substantially on managed or cultivated agricultural land on the San Joaquin Valley floor within the County of Madera, County of Fresno, County of Kern, County of Kings, County of Tulare, County of Merced, County of Stanislaus, or County of San Joaquin.
- (3) This section shall only apply to a project included in the California Independent System Operator’s interconnection Cluster 15 or a lower-numbered cluster, and which could reasonably be expected to qualify for the Clean Energy Investment Tax Credit under Section 48E of the Internal Revenue Code, including transferability under Section 6418, as implemented through applicable Treasury regulations (26 CFR Part 1) and Internal Revenue Service guidance, based on a valid beginning of construction on or before July 4th, 2026 and satisfaction of continuity requirements pursuant to applicable IRS Notices.
- (4) This section shall only apply to incidental take associated with the development, construction, and operation of the following types of utility-scale projects:
 - (A) A solar photovoltaic project, including any appurtenant infrastructure improvement, and any associated electric generation-tie line carrying electric power from a facility that is located in the state to a point of junction with any California-based balancing authority, and which interconnects or will interconnect at a voltage of 115 or more kilovolts (kv).

- (B) A combined solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage project, including any associated electric generation-tie line carrying electric power from a facility that is located in the state to a point of junction with any California-based balancing authority, and which interconnects or will interconnect at a voltage of 115 or more kilovolts (kv).

(c) Take Authorization Process.

- (1) The department shall establish and make publicly available a registry of eligible projects. To be considered for inclusion on the registry, the project proponent must submit a written request for registration to the Regional Manager of the department region within which the project is located within 60 days after the effective date of this section. The department shall, within 30 days of such submission, include on the registry of eligible projects any project that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection (b)(1)-(4).
- (2) The project proponent for an eligible project shall perform focused survey(s) to identify and map all aquatic resources (dry or wet at the time of survey) located on or within 1,000 feet of the project site (when legally accessible). The project proponent shall perform focused surveys consistent with established protocols to document the presence of western spadefoot on the project site, unless the project proponent elects to presume the project site or portions thereof within 1,000 feet of an aquatic resource are occupied by western spadefoot. All project areas within 1,000 feet of an aquatic resource not known or presumed as occupied shall be mapped as suitable spadefoot habitat, and a total project acreage of suitable and occupied spadefoot habitat shall be identified. Authorization for the take of western spadefoot incidental to surveying for projects that have been included on the registry is effective upon submission of a written request for registration.
- (3) The project proponent for an eligible project shall submit to the department for its review and approval all of the following:
 - (A) The results of the focused aquatic resource survey(s) required by subsection (c)(2);
 - (B) A written proposal explaining how many acres the project proponent proposes to avoid, protect temporarily, or conserve, of aquatic resources and any lands surrounding them; and
 - (C) A detailed workplan for construction of any seasonal ponds required to satisfy the requirements of subsection (e).
- (4) Authorization for the incidental take of western spadefoot pursuant to this section shall be effective upon the department's written determination that:
 - (A) The project proponent has received department approval for its focused survey(s) and its proposal for how the project will mitigate for the take;
 - (B) The project proponent has completed the approved mitigation pursuant to subsection (e) or provided the department with performance security pursuant to subsection (f);

- (C) The lead agency has certified the Final Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the project or the California Energy Commission has completed its certified regulatory program process for the project; and
 - (D) The project has received all necessary land use approvals, licenses, and entitlements from the relevant public agency.
- (5) No project shall be included on the registry of eligible projects or receive take authorization under this section if any of the following applies:
- (A) The project proponent materially adversely modifies suitable spadefoot habitat on the project site after April 17, 2026, other than as authorized by this section or in compliance with sections 2081 and 2835 of the Fish and Game Code.
 - (B) The project proponent has not completed a conditional use permit or special use permit application, filed with a CEQA lead agency, on or before the date that western spadefoot is listed by the commission as threatened or endangered, if the western spadefoot is listed.
 - (C) The project proponent does not begin construction, on- or off-site, per the requirements identified in applicable IRS Notices, before July 4, 2026.
- (6) Take authorization pursuant to this section shall extend to the whole geographic area of the project site, meaning the applicable project footprint identified in the project description prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15124, or pursuant to any equivalent process provided by the California Energy Commission, including any electric generation-tie lines and all project impact areas, for any project receiving take authorization.
- (7) The department shall within 30 days remove from the registry any project for which the project proponent submits a written request for de-registration.

(d) Avoidance and Minimization.

To obtain and maintain take authorization pursuant to this section, each eligible project shall satisfy the following avoidance and minimization requirements:

- (1) Avoid ground-disturbing activities and placement of impermeable features in or immediately adjacent to aquatic resources in occupied spadefoot habitat to the maximum extent practicable, for the duration of the project.
- (2) Avoid permanent loss or materially adverse hydraulic alteration of aquatic resources (other than alterations designed to improve habitat functionality for western spadefoot), to the maximum extent practicable.
- (3) Conduct all ground-disturbing project activities within occupied or suitable spadefoot habitat outside the breeding and dispersal season to the maximum extent

practicable, for the purpose of minimizing impacts to above-ground western spadefoot breeding adults, metamorphs, eggs, and/or tadpoles. If ground-disturbing activities must be implemented within occupied or suitable western spadefoot habitat during the breeding and dispersal season, a qualified biologist shall monitor all such ground-disturbing activities, and fencing shall be temporarily installed around aquatic resources within the project site before the first day of the breeding and dispersal season or as soon thereafter as feasible to the satisfaction of the qualified biologist. Such fencing shall be intended to retain and protect spadefoot during the breeding and dispersal season in and around aquatic resources. Such fencing shall be removed at the conclusion of ground-disturbing activities within occupied or suitable habitat during the breeding and dispersal season. No aquatic resource may be destroyed or materially adversely modified when western spadefoot are present within the aquatic resource.

- (4) To protect estivating western spadefoot, minimize grading or other necessary land disturbance in occupied spadefoot habitat to less than 20cm depth, to the maximum extent practicable.
- (5) To prevent western spadefoot from becoming entangled, trapped, or injured, erosion control materials that use plastic or synthetic monofilament netting will not be used. Acceptable materials include natural fibers such as jute, coconut, twine, or other similar non-entangling fibers.
- (6) If a project activity must be undertaken within occupied or suitable western spadefoot habitat, all excavated steep-walled holes and trenches more than 6 inches deep will be covered with plywood or similar material or provided with one or more escape ramps at the end of each workday or 30 minutes prior to sunset, whichever occurs first. A qualified biologist shall search all such excavations each morning for trapped adults or metamorphs. Any detected western spadefoot shall be captured and relocated as described in subsection (d)(7).
- (7) If a juvenile or adult western spadefoot is encountered during construction activities, the project proponent or qualified biologist will notify the department immediately. Construction activities will be suspended in the immediate vicinity of the animal under supervision of the qualified biologist. Sections of fencing shall be temporarily removed or altered to allow the animal to leave the construction area of its own volition. If the animal does not leave the area within 48 business hours, a qualified biologist may relocate the animal to a suitable location away from the construction footprint. The animal shall not be held for longer than 18 business hours, and shall be released after sunset to a site in suitable spadefoot habitat or occupied spadefoot habitat with burrows or other refugia no more than 1,000 feet from the site of capture unless an alternative location is approved in writing by the department. While held, the individual(s) should be kept in a suitable container in appropriate environmental conditions (e.g. shade, moderate temperature, humid or with water) as determined by the qualified biologist and age classes separated in the event of multiple individuals being captured simultaneously. If the animal is handled, a report will be submitted to the appropriate department Regional Manager within 2 business days, including date(s), location(s), habitat description, and any corrective measures taken to protect the western spadefoot.
- (8) All containers used to hold western spadefoot as described in subsection (d)(7) shall be cleaned between each use with 6% bleach solution prepared with household

bleach with water at a 1:20 ratio. The container shall be soaked or saturated with the bleach solution for at least 5 minutes, rinsed with clean water, and thoroughly air-dried before subsequent use.

- (9) If any worker inadvertently injures or kills a western spadefoot or finds dead, injured, or entrapped western spadefoot(s), the project proponent must report the incident to the qualified biologist and the appropriate department Regional Manager within 24 hours of the incident or discovery.
- (10) Nighttime construction activity shall be avoided when feasible during the breeding and dispersal season. When night-time driving is necessary for project activities, limit vehicle speed to 15 miles per hour during the breeding and dispersal season to the maximum extent practicable except in emergency situations. If nighttime construction is necessary during the breeding and dispersal season, in all areas of occupied spadefoot habitat and suitable spadefoot habitat, a qualified biologist shall proceed on foot before the equipment with a high powered flashlight or spotlight and relocate any observed western spadefoot as described in subsection (d)(7). For all western spadefoot handled, a report will be submitted to the appropriate department Regional Manager within 2 business days, including date(s), location(s), habitat description, and any corrective measures taken to protect the western spadefoot.
- (11) The use of any second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone, and difenacoum) and any first-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (diphacinone, chlorophacinone, and warfarin), and of atrazine, carbaryl, and chlorpyrifos is prohibited on the project area. The project proponent shall ensure that all herbicide use (mixing, application, and clean-up) is done by a licensed applicator in accordance with all applicable state, federal, and local regulations. The project proponent shall only apply herbicide sprays via ground application when wind speed measures less than 3 mph. The project proponent shall ensure that great care is taken to avoid herbicide contact with any native vegetation, as feasible, and all herbicide sprays utilized within and adjacent to identified habitat features suitable for western spadefoot contain a dye (registered for aquatic use by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, if warranted) to prevent overspray.
- (12) To the maximum extent practicable, avoid the loss of mammals that create burrows that may be suitable for western spadefoot (e.g. California ground squirrel and kangaroo rat species) unless such removal is necessary to avoid damage to project facilities and/or for construction activities.
- (13) Provide the department with an Annual Status Report (ASR) no later than January 31 of every year beginning with the project proponent's registration under this section. Each ASR shall include, at a minimum: (1) a general description of the status of the project area and development, construction, and/or operations activities, including actual or projected completion dates if known; (2) a description of the current implementation status of all measures required pursuant to this subsection (c); (3) all available information about project-related incidental take of western spadefoot; and (4) information about other project-related impacts on western spadefoot.

(e) Mitigation.

To obtain and maintain take authorization pursuant to this section, each eligible project shall provide mitigation pursuant to this subsection. A project proponent shall mitigate onsite to the maximum extent practicable. Onsite mitigation shall be located on the project site or within 1,000 feet of the project site. Where the size, design, or some other feature of the project or project site does not reasonably allow for some or all mitigation to be located on-site, the project proponent shall mitigate off-site for any impacts that cannot be mitigated onsite.

- (1) To the maximum extent practicable, the project proponent shall create, maintain, and conserve, on site at a 2:1 ratio to the number and acreage of the aquatic resources in occupied spadefoot habitat that are destroyed or materially adversely altered, constructed ponds, except that for each aquatic resource destroyed and replaced with impermeable features, a 3:1 ratio of constructed ponds to such aquatic resources shall be required. Such ponds may include stormwater retention basins with headgates operated to mimic seasonal pools, and/or artificial vernal pools with substantially the same total liquid volume (or more) as the aquatic resources destroyed or materially adversely altered by project activities. No more than 10 acres within 1,000 feet of any such ponds shall contain or be covered by impermeable features (as defined in section (a)(7)). If constructed ponds are required, such ponds and the lands around them shall be conserved to prohibit any ground-disturbing activities within 500 feet of such ponds and to allow only project activities on the remaining lands extending to 1,000 feet from such ponds. Ground-disturbing activities may be permitted in the area between 300 and 500 feet from such ponds if the project proponent submits, and the department approves, a plan to enhance western spadefoot habitat within that area.
- (2) To the maximum extent practicable, the project proponent shall create, maintain, and conserve, on site at a 1:1 ratio to the number and acreage of the aquatic resources in suitable spadefoot habitat that are destroyed or materially adversely altered, constructed ponds, except that for each aquatic resource destroyed and replaced with impermeable features, a 1.5:1 ratio of constructed ponds to such aquatic resources shall be required. Such ponds may include stormwater retention basins with headgates operated to mimic seasonal pools, and/or artificial vernal pools with substantially the same total liquid volume (or more) as the aquatic resources destroyed or materially adversely altered by project activities. No more than 10 acres within 1,000 feet of any such ponds shall contain or be covered by impermeable features. If constructed ponds are required, such ponds and the lands around them shall be conserved to prohibit any ground-disturbing activities within 300 feet of such ponds and to allow only project activities on the remaining lands extending to 1,000 feet from such ponds. Ground-disturbing activities may be permitted in the area between 300 and 500 feet from such ponds if the project proponent submits, and the department approves, a plan to enhance western spadefoot habitat within that area.
- (3) For any project where the project proponent does not own the project site lands in fee, and instead has possession or control of the project site lands pursuant to a lease, contract, or other instrument or agreement, the constructed ponds required by paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection shall be created and maintained for the life of the project. For every acre of onsite constructed ponds maintained pursuant to this paragraph, the project proponent will be credited at a 0.5:1 ratio to the number and acreage of the aquatic resources in occupied or suitable spadefoot habitat that are destroyed or materially adversely altered on the project site.

- (4) The department may authorize onsite mitigation pursuant to paragraphs (1) or (2) of this subsection at a lower ratio to the number of aquatic resources that are destroyed or materially adversely altered on the project site, provided that the same acreage ratio is provided as mitigation and that the department determines that the mitigation will provide equivalent or greater biological value to western spadefoot.
- (5) All onsite constructed ponds required by paragraphs (1) or (2) of this subsection shall be designed and managed where practicable to avoid the establishment of predators (e.g., bullfrogs), including by causing such ponds to dry out to prevent more than 200 days of water retention during the breeding and dispersal season.
- (6) To the extent that the mitigation obligation in paragraph (1) cannot be satisfied on site, the project proponent shall provide off site at a 3:1 ratio to the number and acreage of the aquatic resources in occupied spadefoot habitat that are destroyed or materially adversely altered on the project site, off-site ponds, except that for each aquatic resource destroyed and replaced with impermeable features, a 3.5:1 ratio of off-site ponds to such aquatic resources shall be required. Such ponds may include natural aquatic breeding habitat, stormwater retention basins with headgates operated to mimic seasonal pools, and/or artificial vernal pools with substantially the same total liquid volume (or more) as the aquatic resources destroyed or materially adversely altered by project activities. Such ponds and the lands around them shall be conserved to prohibit any ground-disturbing activities within 1,000 feet from such ponds.
- (7) To the extent that the mitigation obligation in paragraph (2) cannot be satisfied on site, the project proponent shall provide off site at a 1.5:1 ratio to the number and acreage of the aquatic resources in suitable spadefoot habitat that are destroyed or materially adversely altered on the project site, off-site ponds, except that for each aquatic resource destroyed and replaced with impermeable features, a 2:1 ratio of off-site ponds to such aquatic resources shall be required. Such ponds may include natural aquatic breeding habitat, stormwater retention basins with headgates operated to mimic seasonal pools, and/or artificial vernal pools with substantially the same total liquid volume (or more) as the aquatic resources destroyed or materially adversely altered by project activities. Such ponds and the lands around them shall be conserved to prohibit any ground-disturbing activities within 1,000 feet from such ponds.
- (8) The project proponent shall provide any off-site ponds required by paragraphs (6) or (7) of this subsection by either constructing, maintaining, and conserving such ponds or by conserving existing ponds, except that the project proponent shall not create new ponds on lands with existing ponds if doing so would destroy or degrade those existing ponds or otherwise diminish the habitat value of those ponds or the lands surrounding them for western spadefoot.
- (9) The department may approve a lower mitigation ratio for the offsite mitigation lands provided pursuant to paragraphs (6) or (7) of this subsection as appropriate based on factors including, but not limited to, the adjacency of mitigation lands to existing conservation reserves known to benefit western spadefoot.
- (10) All off-site ponds required by paragraphs (6) or (7) of this subsection shall be designed and managed where practicable to avoid the establishment of predators (e.g., bullfrogs), including by causing such ponds to dry out to prevent more than 200 days of water retention during the breeding and dispersal season.

- (11) For any off-site ponds required by paragraphs (6) or (7) of this subsection, the project proponent shall ensure a supply of sufficient water for such ponds to retain water for between 60 and 200 days per year during the breeding and dispersal season.

(f) Security.

Except for take associated with focused surveys pursuant to subsection (c)(2), a project proponent may not proceed with development, construction, or operations activities that have the potential to take western spadefoot until the project proponent has completed the required mitigation or has provided performance security to ensure adequate funding to complete the mitigation required by subsection (e) and the relevant department regional office has given written approval of the provided form and amount of security. If security is provided, all mitigation pursuant to this section must be completed within eighteen (18) months of the department's determination pursuant to subsection (c)(3). The project proponent shall provide performance security as follows:

- (1) The performance security shall be in an amount to be calculated as follows:
 - (A) Land acquisition costs in the amount of \$10,000 for each acre of mitigation lands to be acquired pursuant to subsection (e);
 - (B) \$10,000 for all other costs necessary to review and acquire the mitigation lands in fee title and record a conservation easement, if necessary;
 - (C) Start-up costs for mitigation lands, including initial site protection and enhancement costs, estimated at \$100,000;
 - (D) Interim management period funding, estimated at \$100,000;
 - (E) Long-term management funding estimated at \$4,000 for each acre of mitigation lands to be acquired pursuant to subsection (e);
 - (F) Related transaction fees, estimated at \$4,000 including but not limited to account set-up fees, administrative fees, title and documentation review and related title transactions, expenses incurred from other state agency reviews, and overhead.
- (2) The performance security shall be in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit or another form approved in advance in writing by the department's Office of the General Counsel.
- (3) The performance security shall be held by the department.
- (4) The performance security shall allow the department to draw on the principal sum if the department determines in its sole discretion that the project proponent has failed to comply with the requirements of subsection (e).

- (5) The performance security (or any portion then remaining) shall be released to the project proponent after the department has conducted an onsite inspection of the mitigation lands and confirmed that all secured requirements have been satisfied.
- (6) Even if performance security is provided, the project proponent shall submit a habitat mitigation lands package that meets the criteria provided in subsection (e) prior to the start of covered activities and will work in good faith with the department to advance the package through the department's Habitat Mitigation Land Acquisition (HMLA) process. The department may require the project proponent to provide additional reasonable mitigation and/or additional reasonable funding to ensure the impacts of the authorized taking of western spadefoot are minimized and mitigated pursuant to this section, if the project proponent does not complete these requirements within the specified time frame.

(g) Expiration of Take Authorization.

- (1) The take authorization provided by this section shall expire upon the effective date of the commission's decision pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2075.5, subsection (e). Notwithstanding the expiration of the take authorization, and subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection (g), the project proponent shall remain liable for completion of all of the mitigation required for the project.
- (2) If an eligible project has received take authorization pursuant to this section but has not completed the project activities that could result in take of western spadefoot, the project proponent may apply to the department for an incidental take permit for the project pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (b). To the extent the project proponent has mitigated or provided performance security for mitigation for impacts contemplated by this section but not yet incurred at the time the take authorization expires, the department shall credit the project proponent for that mitigation in determining the amount of mitigation necessary under the incidental take permit. The department shall make all reasonable efforts to incorporate the terms and conditions of this section into any incidental take permits it issues for eligible projects receiving take authorization pursuant to this section.
- (3) If take authorization is needed for the ongoing management of seasonal ponds created, maintained, and conserved pursuant to subsection (e), the project proponent may apply to the department for a management permit pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (a).

(h) Ongoing research and monitoring.

- (1) Take of western spadefoot in the course of ongoing research and monitoring for this species by public agencies other than the department and by private parties holding a Scientific Collecting Permit issued by the department under Fish and Game Code section 1002 or 1002.5 for the take of western spadefoot, California tiger salamander, or California red-legged frog, is authorized provided that a written, detailed project progress report describing objectives, methods (gear, sampling schedules and locations), efforts to minimize adverse effects to the species, and estimated level of take of the species shall be provided to the department's Habitat Conservation Planning Branch chief.

June 5, 2026

- (2) All research and monitoring activities not addressed by the procedures in subsection (f)(1) may receive separate authorization for take of western spadefoot pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081.

(i) Limitations

- (1) Nothing in this section is intended to be or shall be construed to be a general project approval. It shall be the responsibility of each project proponent receiving take authorization pursuant to this section to obtain all necessary permits and approvals and to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- (2) Nothing in this section is intended to be or shall be construed to prohibit any project qualifying for take authorization pursuant to this section from electing to obtain incidental take coverage for western spadefoot through Fish and Game Code section 2081 or other procedures authorized by law.

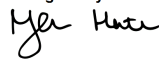
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 14, 2026

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

From: Meghan Hertel, Director

Signed by:

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Subject: Recommendation Regarding Petition 2023-01 to Create a Night Use Stamp

At the California Fish and Game Commission's (Commission) April 19-20th, 2023 referred petition No. 2023-01 to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) for evaluation. The petitioner requests the creation of a "night-use stamp" that would allow nighttime access to wildlife areas (WAs) in the North Central Region, citing Spenceville WA in particular, to hunt. The Department recommends denial of this petition.

Pursuant to Title 14 CCR Section 550(c)(2)(C), visitor entry on Department lands is authorized from sunrise to sunset. Access prior to sunrise and after sunset may be permitted for Department authorized hunting or fishing opportunities, for example specific hunting seasons or special hunts.

Pursuant to Title 14 CCR Section 550(i)(1), the Regional Manager has the authority to place temporary restrictions on visitor use of Department lands for the purposes of protecting public health, safety, or natural resources. Under the Regional Manager's authority, night hunting at relevant wildlife areas is currently restricted. The visitor hours are set to allow for public use, protect natural resources, and prevent incompatible uses of the property.

Individuals or groups seeking to conduct activities outside of the hours authorized by the Regional Manager may apply for a special use permit ([DFW 730](#)).

Please direct any questions to Kevin Thomas, Regional Operations Deputy Director, at (916) 817-9467 or by email at Kevin.Thomas@wildlife.ca.gov.



Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director

May 6, 2026

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ec: **Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Kevin Thomas, Deputy Director
Regional Operations

Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Inland Fisheries Division

Scott Gardner, Chief
Wildlife Branch

Mario Klip, Environmental Program Manager
Wildlife Branch

Regina Vu, Regulations Coordinator
Wildlife Branch

Robert Pelzman, Assistant Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Fish and Game Commission

Ari Cornman, Wildlife Advisor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 7, 2026

TO: President Sklar, Vice President Anderson, and
commissioners Hostler-Carmesin, Murray and Zavaleta

FROM: Commission staff

SUBJECT: Analysis and Recommendation for Regulation Change Petition 2026-11

On June 1, 2026, the Commission received regulation change petition 2023-01, proposing amendments to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, sections 650 and 679. After consulting with colleagues at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), staff developed an analysis to support the staff recommendation.

Petition Summary

The petitioner requests that the Commission establish a "junior handler" or "supervised student" status at wildlife rehabilitation centers that would reduce what the petitioner believes to be "the current 18-year-old age requirement" to 15 years of age. The stated goal is to allow minors aged 15 years or older to have direct contact with rabies vector species, specifically bats (*Chiroptera*), provided they meet strict safety criteria. The proposed criteria include proof of current rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) vaccination, supervision by an authorized handler aged 21 or older, and notarized parental consent with a liability waiver.

Petition Analysis

Staff identified three issues for analysis in the petitioned request: age requirement, liability, and vaccination. Note that in this analysis, any reference to "section" or "subsection" is to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

Age Requirement

Staff was unable to identify any statutory or regulatory requirement that a person must be 18 years of age or older to have direct contact with bats for either wildlife rehabilitation (Section 679) or under a scientific collecting permit (SCP) issued by the Department pursuant to Section 650. Staff is unclear which regulatory section the petitioner is referencing with regard to a "current 18-year-old age requirement." While sections 650 and 679 contain definitions that reference a minimum age of 18 years, those definitions do not relate to the activities described in the petition, nor do they prohibit minors from assisting under adult supervision.

Table 2 in the 679 Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual (incorporated into wildlife rehabilitation regulations in Section 679.1), a minor aged 15 or older would fall under the category of “general volunteer,” defined as “...a person of an age and training as determined by the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee who may provide general animal care and facility support (e.g., washing dishes, animal diet) under direct supervision of such persons.”

There is no minimum age for general volunteers, and their duties, supervision and associated liability are at the sole discretion and responsibility of the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee. For SCPs, the minimum age to be listed as an “authorized individual” is 18 years; however, this requirement does not prohibit minors from working under the direct supervision of an authorized individual.

Liability

Staff was unable to identify any statute or regulation that prohibits an individual rehabilitator, rehabilitation center, SCP permittee, or authorized individual from establishing additional specific requirements for minors working with a rabies vector species. Any liability borne by the permittee for potential rabies exposure or other injuries to employees, volunteers, or students is governed by applicable law and any waivers or agreements they implement.

Liability protections for the state of California from wildlife rehabilitation activities are addressed in subsection (a)(2) of Section 679.4: “A permittee, their designee, or sub-permittee shall indemnify, defend, and save harmless the State, its officers, agents, and employees from any claims and losses occurring or resulting to any person or property in connection with the capture or treatment, confinement, or transportation of any rehabilitation animal while in the possession of such a person.”

Vaccinations

Chapter 1 of the 679 *Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual* states that persons working in close contact with rehabilitation animals are at increased risk of exposure to communicable wildlife diseases and recommends personal protective equipment, vaccinations, and timely case diagnoses. The manual does not restrict participation in wildlife rehabilitation activities based on vaccination status.

Staff is not aware of any state regulatory or statutory requirement mandating rabies vaccination when working with rehabilitation animals. However, the Department states that it and the California Department of Public Health routinely recommend rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) vaccination for any individuals who handle rabies vector species.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Based on this analysis of the three issues raised by the petition, staff concludes that the activities described in the petition are allowed under existing regulations. Therefore, staff recommends ***the Commission deny the petition.***



July 29, 2026

California Fish and Game Commission
Sacramento, CA 94244

Dear California Fish and Game Commission,

World Animal Protection, on behalf of its California supporters, **opposes the petition seeking to authorize the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue permits allowing private individuals to possess small nonhuman primates.**

California law prohibits the importation, transportation, and possession of nonhuman primates except under limited permits. Permits are not issued for those seeking to possess nonhuman primates as companions, and rightfully so. The private possession of these species jeopardizes public health and safety and undermines animal welfare.

Small Nonhuman Primates Pose a Safety Risk to the Community

Small nonhuman primates, such as capuchins and macaques, are wild animals who can inflict serious injuries to humans. Monkeys kept as “pets” often become destructive, knocking over furniture and ripping curtains. Monkeys may also attack or bite people out of frustration. It is not uncommon for a monkey’s teeth to be removed in an attempt to make them more easily managed. People may also remove a monkey’s nails or use chains to stop them from biting and scratching.

Public safety incidents involving small nonhuman primates are frequently in the news. For example, a loose monkey kept as a companion in Oklahoma [attacked a woman](#), resulting in part of her ear being ripped off. This summer, a six-year-old boy in Thailand [died](#) after being attacked by a macaque kept by his grandfather. The macaque was tethered at the time, but his fangs punctured the child’s lungs, and the child died shortly after. In Alabama, a monkey [attacked](#) a Starbucks employee after jumping from a car and through a drive-thru window.

Keeping nonhuman primates is also a zoonotic disease risk. Whether through bites, scratches, or just close contact, non-human primates can transfer serious viruses such as Herpes B, tuberculosis, and Ebola. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control [banned](#) the importation of nonhuman primates for use as “pets” in 1975 due to these concerns, in part.

Nonhuman Primates Cannot Thrive in Human Homes

Wild animals kept in human homes are deprived of the ability to engage in their natural behaviors, resulting in physical and psychological suffering. Non-human primates have complex social structures with many species living in large social groups. For example, capuchin monkeys live in groups of 10 to 40 individuals. Being isolated from their peers causes severe psychological damage. And while different species of monkeys



have different needs, non-human primates generally require large outdoor areas with trees, perches, and bodies of water for exploration.

Monkeys in the pet trade are prematurely separated from their mothers, usually when they're as young as a few days old. Not only does this cause significant trauma for both the mother and baby, but the young monkey is denied the mother-child relationship critical to normal physical and psychological development. Even if well-intentioned, it's not possible for private individuals to recreate the complex habitat, family structure, and freedom that a nonhuman primate enjoys in the wild.

To protect animal welfare and public safety, World Animal Protection urges the California Fish and Game Commission to reject this petition.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Cabrera Holtz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Cabrera Holtz, Esq.
Senior Campaigns Manager
World Animal Protection

From: Jenny Berg <jberg@humaneworld.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 1:06 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Cc: Gabe Wigtil <gwigtil@humaneworld.org>
Subject: Petition Petition 2026-06 Comments Humane World For Animals

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of Humane World for Animals, I would like to submit this comment letter in opposition to Petition 2026-06, a request to allow for the possession of certain primate species for use as companion animals without requiring a restricted species permit.

Please find the letter attached and let us know if you have any questions or need any other resources from our organization.

Thank you,

Jenny Berg

California State Director, State Affairs

jberg@humaneworld.org

P 916-201-7594

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Together, we tackle the root causes of animal cruelty and suffering to create permanent change. Stay up to date with our work to help animals and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [YouTube](#) and subscribe to our [blog](#).



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July 30, 2026

President Eric Sklar
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Petition 2026-06, a request to allow for the possession of certain primate species for use as companion animals without requiring a restricted species permit

Dear President Sklar and Members of the Fish and Game Commission,

On behalf of Humane World for Animals and our members and supporters in California, we write in strong opposition to Petition 2026-06.

Primates kept as pets threaten public safety, cost law enforcement resources, and suffer in private homes. The private possession of primates is inhumane, poses unacceptable safety and zoonotic disease risks to the community and emergency responders, and is detrimental to true wildlife conservation efforts. Keeping primates as pets forces intelligent, social animals into solitary confinement with unqualified caretakers, often leading to severe psychological and physical suffering. Moreover, it fuels illegal wildlife trade and poses significant health and safety risks to humans.

Experts, including the late renowned primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall, the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA; [white paper on personal possession of non-human primates](#)), oppose the private ownership of primates. The National Sheriffs' Association [supports the federal Captive Primate Safety Act](#), a federal bill that would prohibit the trade and private possession of non-human primates as pets, because the association "recognizes that the private ownership of non-human primates in America is a serious public safety problem."

Primates are wild animals, and keeping them in a home, dressing them in human clothing, restraining them with a collar and leash, and treating them like surrogate children won't change that.

California law currently prohibits the importation, transportation, and possession of non-human primates in the state except under limited permits issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. See Cal. Fish & Game Code § 2118 and Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 671. While California issues restricted species permits for certain limited purposes, it does not offer permits for private pet or companion-animal ownership.

Allowing primates to be kept as companion animals would undermine longstanding protections designed to safeguard animal welfare and protect public health and safety.

Public safety

Non-human primates are inherently wild and unpredictable; even the smallest species are incredibly strong and can inflict serious injuries with their teeth or nails, including puncture wounds, severe



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lacerations, and infections. Purchased as cute and seemingly manageable infants, all primate species inevitably become aggressive, unpredictable, and territorial as they mature, often attacking their owners or other people, escaping cages, and causing damage to household items and property.

Primates are escape artists and pose a risk to the community when kept as pets in residential areas. Escaped pet primates are often shot by authorities or members of the public. And if the primate does attack a human, the pet may be captured and killed to be tested for disease. Owners of pet primates might also be liable for any damage the animal causes to other humans or their property, as the animal is likely not covered under homeowner's insurance.

According to Humane World for Animals data, which tracks incidents reported by media and government agencies, more than 380 dangerous incidents (primarily attacks and escapes) involving pet primates have occurred since 1990. These incidents have occurred in 45 states, resulting in injuries to 273 people, including 89—nearly a third—children and the deaths of more than forty primates. A table of selected California incidents involving privately kept or illegally possessed primates is attached.

California has experienced multiple dangerous incidents involving pet primates.¹ In San Diego, a marmoset kept as a pet escaped their home and ran through a grocery store, jumping on people's shoulders. In Beaumont, a capuchin monkey bit a woman when she stepped outside a restaurant to make a phone call and encountered a woman who had three primates with her. The victim had to get stitches and undergo rabies injections. In Paso Robles, a woman was treated at a hospital after she suffered several severe bites to her arm and fingers from her pet Java macaque. The 22-year-old primate was obese because of an improper diet that included Frosted Flakes and other junk food and was kept inside their trailer in a pet travel crate intended for a small dog. It was not the first time the monkey had bitten the woman. In Rancho Bernardo, an escaped 3-foot-tall spider monkey led police on a two-hour chase, frightened residents, and bit a police officer.

Public health

Primates can spread deadly viral, bacterial, fungal, and parasitic infections that pose serious health risks to humans, such as tuberculosis, shigellosis, campylobacter, klebsiella, Herpes B, Simian Immunodeficiency Virus, and poxviruses.^{2,3} Up to 90 percent of adult macaque monkeys—which are popular in the pet trade—are infected with the Herpes B virus.⁴ Infected monkeys are often asymptomatic, yet human exposure through monkey bites or bodily fluids can be fatal.

And people can transmit diseases to pet primates. Some primates are susceptible to measles, and the virus that causes cold sores in people can be deadly to smaller primates. According to the AZA, "disease transmission risk is high with the level of casual contact that occurs in personal possession, such as food-

¹ See *Table. Selected California incidents with primates* attached to this comment letter.

² Golab, G. C. (2008, March 11). *Testimony of Dr. Gail Golab, Director of the Animal Welfare Division of the American Veterinary Medical Association, on the Captive Primate Safety Act (H.R. 2964), before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans*. American Veterinary Medical Association.
<https://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/golabtestimony03.11.08.pdf>

³ Renquist, D. M., & Whitney, R. A., Jr. (1987). Zoonoses acquired from pet primates. *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice*, 17(1), 219–240.

⁴ Ostrowski, S. R. et al. (1998). B-virus from pet macaque monkeys: an emerging threat in the United States? *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 4(1), 117.



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sharing, kissing, hugging, bed-sharing, and often blood contact that occurs when non-human primates bite or scratch.”⁵ Public exposure to primates at stores, banks, parks, restaurants, and other public settings not only puts the public at risk, but also the health of the primate.

Primates’ complex needs

Primates are extremely intelligent and have complex social, physical, and psychological needs. Kept as pets, primates are typically denied mental stimulation, sufficient exercise, proper diets, interaction with others of their kind, and the ability to express natural behaviors.

In a professional setting, interactions between primates and keepers are limited. Primates are kept in appropriate social groupings with others of their own kind and provided with a variety of enrichments to keep them active, busy, and challenged.

In order to be sold as pets, infants are pulled from the nurturing care of their protective mothers often only hours or days after birth—a cruel and unhealthy practice that can lead to lifelong physical and psychological problems and even death. Kept in private homes, these intelligent, social animals are frequently kept in solitary confinement with unqualified caretakers, often leading to severe psychological and physical suffering.

Unlike licensed facilities, which are subject to the requirements of the federal Animal Welfare Act, private owners are unregulated and uninspected, allowing untold numbers of primates to suffer in substandard conditions. Due to the lack of regulation, it is currently unknown how many primates are kept as pets.

Pet trade

Most of the primates sold in the pet trade are bred by dealers here in the United States, but some are also wild-caught animals smuggled across borders. According to Science Advances, over 60% of primate species are threatened with extinction, a crisis exacerbated by wildlife trafficking for the pet trade.⁶

In California, primates have been victims of wildlife trafficking and connected with other illicit crimes. In Vallejo, an illegally possessed eighteen-month-old pet spider monkey was seized from her owner’s home, along with two rattlesnakes, methamphetamines, and drug-related items. In Madera County, California Highway Patrol officers confiscated a six-month-old spider monkey during a traffic stop. The driver, stopped for speeding, was found to be under the influence and was arrested for several charges, including DUI, possession of drugs for sale, and illegal possession of an exotic animal. This spider monkey was seized and cared for at the Oakland Zoo, where the veterinary facility reported the monkey to be malnourished and in critical condition, with an upper respiratory infection and coat and skin problems. In Calexico, the US Fish and Wildlife Service seized three infant Mexican spider monkeys who were being smuggled through the Calexico West Port of Entry, and the investigation revealed connections to the trafficking of other spider monkeys, whose fates were unknown.

⁵ Association of Zoos and Aquariums. (2015, July 21). *Personal possession of non-human primates* [White paper]. Association of Zoos and Aquariums. https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2332/personal_possession_of_non-human_primates_7212015.pdf

⁶ Estrada, A., et al. (2017). Impending extinction crisis of the world’s primates: Why primates matter. *Science Advances*, 3(1), e1600946. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.1600946>



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Importantly, primates raised in private homes cannot be returned to the wild because primates sold in the pet trade are typically hand-raised and deprived of learned survival skills. If released, they could also endanger wild populations by spreading diseases acquired in captivity.

There are some suitable places for them, like Humane World for Animals' Black Beauty Ranch, where some of the almost 600 sanctuary residents are wild animals once kept as pets. Such accredited sanctuaries provide proper enrichment, expansive habitats and critical social contact. These sanctuaries provide essential care, but they should not be asked to absorb the consequences of avoidable private ownership. Many animals at Black Beauty still bear the scars of their earlier traumas. Among the primates once kept as pets, we see anxious behaviors consistent with animals deprived of essential coping and resilience skills they should have learned from their mothers. Jackie, a nervous capuchin, grasps and holds her abdomen when she is stressed or overexcited. Cali, a marmoset, has bouts of unpredictable aggression. The sanctuary community does not have the resources or capacity to take in every primate in need of rescue; ensuring that no more primates enter private homes as pets is the most effective way to ensure that additional pressure is not placed on this already burdened community.

California must continue to protect primates, public health and safety and animal welfare by leaving in place the longstanding and commonsense restrictions on the possession of restricted primates. Opening the regulatory scheme for private possession of these primates as pets is inhumane, risky and backwards. We urge you to leave these restrictions in place and reject this petition. We respectfully request the commission to deny Petition 2026-06.

Sincerely,



Jenny Berg
California State Director
Humane World for Animals
jberg@humaneworld.org



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Table. Selected California incidents with non-human primates

Incident details	Source
May 8, 2025/Vallejo, California: An illegally possessed eighteen-month-old pet spider monkey was seized from her owner's home, along with two rattlesnakes, methamphetamines, and drug-related items. Animal control and the county sheriff's office were involved in the seizure, and the animal was placed temporarily at Oakland Zoo.	Jonathan Ayestas, "Meth, spider monkey, and rattlesnakes seized after Solano County traffic stop, officials say," KCRA3, May 12, 2025.
December 31, 2024/Madera County, California: California Highway Patrol officers confiscated a six-month-old spider monkey during a traffic stop. The driver, stopped for speeding, was found to be under the influence and was arrested for several charges, including DUI, possession of drugs for sale, and illegal possession of an exotic animal. The monkey, who was dressed in a onesie when seized, was cared for by Madera County Animal Services and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife before going to the Oakland Zoo. The zoo's veterinary facility reported the monkey to be malnourished and in critical condition, with an upper respiratory infection and coat and skin problems.	Briana Byus, "Monkey found during California traffic stop is getting a new home," FOX, January 1, 2025. Josh DuBose, "Baby spider monkey found inside Rolls-Royce in critical condition," KTLA, January 5, 2025.
January 20, 2024/California: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Wildlife Confiscations Network, and the Oakland Zoo seized a female marmoset being kept illegally at a private residence in southern California. The owner was arrested on charges unrelated to having the marmoset. The Oakland Zoo's veterinary staff found evidence of a pre-existing fracture in her left arm, likely due to trauma experienced while being kept in a birdcage by her owners. The bones had healed out of alignment, which can impact her movement. The Oakland Zoo planned to transfer the marmoset to Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation in Texas following quarantine.	"Oakland Zoo Provides Care for Seized Marmoset Monkey," Oakland Zoo news release, February 6, 2024.
August 14, 2023/Calexico, California: The US Fish and Wildlife Service seized three infant Mexican spider monkeys who were being smuggled through the Calexico West Port of Entry. Messages obtained in the investigation revealed that the defendant intentionally sought baby monkeys to make it easier to traffic them. In one instance, a two-week-old monkey was offered to a potential customer for \$8,000. The defendant, Sarmad Ghaled Dafar, pled guilty to federal wildlife trafficking charges, was sentenced to four months in custody and 180 days in home confinement, and was also ordered to pay \$23,501.70 in restitution for the cost of quarantining the seized monkeys. The investigation revealed that the defendant coordinated the trafficking of at least three other baby Mexican spider monkeys into the US. See June 9, 2022/Calexico, California and August 2, 2023/Calexico, California.	News Release, "Wildlife Trafficker Sentenced for Smuggling Baby Spider Monkeys," US Attorney's Office, Southern District of California, April 18, 2025.
August 2, 2023/Calexico, California: A US Fish and Wildlife Service investigation revealed that an offender, Sarmad Ghaled Dafar, coordinated the trafficking of two baby Mexican spider monkeys into the U.S. Dafar paid a \$1,600 CashApp down payment for the animals and received them after they were smuggled into the country. The spider monkeys did not undergo the required quarantines to prevent the spread of disease, and their fate remains unknown.	Plea Agreement, <i>USA v. Dafar</i> , 3:24-cr-00615-RSH, (S.D. Cal. Jan. 30, 2025), ECF No. 48. News Release, "Wildlife Trafficker Sentenced for Smuggling Baby Spider Monkeys," US Attorney's Office, Southern District of California, April 18, 2025.



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A later investigation revealed that Dafar coordinated the trafficking of at least four other baby Mexican spider monkeys into the U.S. See June 9, 2022/Calexico, California and August 14, 2023/Calexico, California.	
June 9, 2022/Calexico, California: A US Fish and Wildlife Service investigation revealed that an offender, Sarmad Ghaled Dafar, coordinated the trafficking of a baby Mexican spider monkey into the US. Dafar paid a \$2,800 CashApp down payment for the animal and received them after they were smuggled into the country. The spider monkey did not undergo the required quarantines to prevent the spread of disease, and their fate remains unknown. A later investigation revealed that Dafar coordinated the trafficking of at least five other baby Mexican spider monkeys into the U.S. See August 2, 2023/Calexico, California and August 14, 2023/Calexico, California.	Plea Agreement, <i>USA v. Dafar</i>, 3:24-cr-00615-RSH, (S.D. Cal. Jan. 30, 2025), ECF No. 48. News Release, "Wildlife Trafficker Sentenced for Smuggling Baby Spider Monkeys," US Attorney's Office, Southern District of California, April 18, 2025.
December 2, 2015/San Diego, California: A pet marmoset monkey escaped through a hole in a window screen and was on the loose for several hours during which time he ran into a grocery store and jumped on people's shoulders.	Delinda Lombardo, "So, this monkey walks into a grocery store," San Diego Reader, December 3, 2015.
August 3, 2014/Beaumont, California: A capuchin monkey bit a woman when she stepped outside a restaurant to make a phone call and encountered a woman who had three primates with her. The victim had to get stitches and undergo rabies injections. The capuchin was turned over to animal control officers for a six-month quarantine, and the other two primates—another capuchin and a tamarin—were confiscated because the woman did not have permits to own them.	Brian Rokos, "Woman surrenders monkeys after one bites restaurant guest," The Press Enterprise, August 5, 2014.
August 3, 2013/Palm Desert, California: Sheriff's deputies confiscated a 2-year-old marmoset monkey who was discovered when the officers executed a search warrant of a home.	"Marmoset monkey found at alleged Thousand Palms drug house," <i>Palm Desert Patch</i> , August 3, 2013.
August 29, 2012/Paso Robles, California: A woman was treated at a hospital after she suffered several severe bites to her arm and fingers from her pet Java macaque. The 22-year-old primate was obese because of an improper diet that included Frosted Flakes and other junk food and was kept inside their trailer in a pet travel crate intended for a small dog. The monkey was confiscated by authorities, taken to a veterinarian to have several tumors on her neck, rump and shoulder inspected and to be tested for tuberculosis, and then quarantined for 60 days. It was not the first time the monkey had bitten the woman.	Richard Winton, "Illegal monkey living on Frosted Flakes bites woman," <i>Los Angeles Times</i>, September 8, 2012. AnnMarie Cornejo, "Illegal pet monkey attacks woman in Paso Robles," The Tribune & SanLuisObispo.com, September 7, 2012. Christine Roberts, "Illegal pet monkey quarantined after biting Calif. Woman," <i>New York Daily News</i>, September 10, 2012.
June 27, 2006/East Palo Alto, California: A citizen called the Peninsula Humane Society when she spotted a tufted-eared marmoset monkey running along her back fence. The primate was captured by the agency's officers and, at the request of the Department of Fish and Game, was held at the shelter for nearly three months before he was transferred to a Florida primate sanctuary.	"Formerly stray marmoset enjoying new home in Florida sanctuary," Peninsula Humane Society news release, October 26, 2006.



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December 15, 1999/Rancho Bernardo, California: An escaped 3-foot-tall spider monkey led police on a two-hour chase, frightened residents, and bit a police officer.

Joe Hughes, "Monkey leads
police on chase, bites officer,"
San Diego Union-Tribune,
December 15, 1999.



Animal Welfare Institute

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July 29, 2026

California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

By email: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Re: Opposition to Petition 2026-06

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute, a national nonprofit animal advocacy organization with thousands of members in California, I respectfully urge the Commission to oppose Petition 2026-06, "Request to allow for the possession of certain primate species for use as companion animals without requiring a restricted species permit." This petition requests that the private possession of certain nonhuman primates, including marmosets, capuchins, macaques, and spider monkeys, be allowed in the state. Allowing these wild animals to be kept in private homes would jeopardize the safety and wellbeing of communities, first responders, and the animals themselves.

Threats to Public Safety & Public Health

Keeping primates as pets endangers both the owners and others in the community. Often purchased as cute infants, primates begin to exhibit unpredictable behaviors as they age. As they reach sexual maturity, they become larger, more aggressive, and will bite to defend themselves and establish dominance. Even small primates are incredibly strong and pose a serious physical safety risk to first responders, the public, and domesticated pets. They have long canines that can easily tear through flesh (see photos below). Primates can carry a range of zoonotic pathogens that are transmissible and potentially highly dangerous to humans, including yellow fever, pox viruses, hepatitis, foamy virus, herpes B virus, Ebola, dengue, and simian immunodeficiency virus.^{1,2}

¹ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2003. Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Nonhuman Primates, Chapter 3: Identifying Infectious Hazards Associated with the Use of Nonhuman Primates in Research. *The National Academies Press*. Available at: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/10713/chapter/5>

² Hu, G., et al. 2022. Herpes B virus: History, zoonotic potential, and public health implications. *Biosafety and Health*, 4(4), p.213-219. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bsheal.2022.05.005>

Incidents involving pet primates unnecessarily threaten public safety, strain community resources, and often lead to poor outcomes for the animals themselves. For example:

- A firefighter handling a motorcycle accident was bitten by a pet marmoset in the side bag as he reached over to turn off the motorcycle. (August 2012, Fort Lauderdale, FL)³
- Officials seized a juvenile macaque after the owner brought the monkey into a bank and the animal bit a bank employee. (January 2015, San Antonio, TX)⁴
- A pet capuchin monkey bit a person on the neck in a parking lot while the owner was showing the monkey to co-workers. (September 2021, Greer, SC)⁵
- A pet capuchin monkey bit a child who was attending an event at the owner's home. When the child attempted to high-five the monkey, the animal aggressively bit down on the child's hand and refused to let go, forcing the child to pry open the monkey's jaw. The monkey's owner refused to provide the animal's vaccination records, forcing the child to receive rabies treatments. The monkey's owner reportedly indicated that the animal had also previously bitten her. (October 2021, Austin, TX)⁶
- A 7-month-old capuchin monkey bit his owner outside of a Dollar General store as she offered him water. The diapered monkey then escaped into nearby woods. Police and animal control attempted to trap the monkey without success. Two weeks later, he was found by a motorist lying in the middle of a state highway, bleeding and emaciated. (May 2022, Corrigan, TX)⁷
- A woman was attacked by a neighbor's pet macaque monkey who escaped from his home. The woman called police when she saw the monkey pacing on her porch, jumping from the railing, hitting her door, and ripping off part of the door handle. The woman went outside when police arrived and the monkey crawled up her back, pulled out multiple handfuls of her hair, and nearly ripped her ear in half before running away. The ear was left hanging. The woman was taken to a hospital, received post-exposure rabies shots, and required plastic surgery for her ear. The monkey ran off and was later shot and killed by a relative of the woman. (March 2023, Dickson, OK)⁸

³ South Florida Sun Sentinel. Dec. 26, 2018. *Monkey bites firefighter at traffic accident*. <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/2012/08/25/monkey-bites-firefighter-at-traffic-accident/>

⁴ Davis, Vincent T. Jan. 30, 2015. *S.A. man cited after pet monkey bites North Side bank employee*. MySA. <https://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local/article/S-A-man-cited-after-pet-monkey-bites-North-Side-6051136.php>

⁵ S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, Animal Incident/Rabies Investigation Report, file number A42-2021-09-043, September 22, 2021.

⁶ Schlback, Mark. Dec. 4, 2021. *Texas assistant football coach Jeff Banks, girlfriend sued after monkey allegedly bites child*. ABC News. <https://abcnews.com/Sports/texas-assistant-football-coach-jeff-banks-girlfriend-sued/story?id=81560703>

⁷ Hastings, Deborah. May 24, 2022. *Missing Support Monkey That Bit Owner and Skipped Town Found on Texas Highway*. Inside Edition. <https://www.insideedition.com/missing-support-monkey-that-bit-owner-and-skipped-town-found-on-texas-highway-75019>

⁸ Pereira, Ivan. March 16, 2023. *Escaped pet monkey shot after it ripped a woman's ear in half*. ABC News, <https://abcnews.com/US/escaped-pet-monkey-shot-after-ripped-womans-ear/story?id=97914569>

- A pet capuchin monkey bit two people who approached the animal after the owner took the monkey outdoors to a lake. (July 2023, Irmo, SC)⁹
- An escaped 15-year-old pet macaque monkey was shot and killed by a homeowner after the homeowner reportedly found the monkey attacking his dog. (May 2024, Walterboro, SC)¹⁰
- A spider monkey bit a police officer after the officer stopped a woman with the monkey on her shoulders. (September 2025, Pelican Bay, TX)¹¹

These types of dangerous incidents would be substantially more likely to occur in California if private possession of primates like marmosets, capuchins, macaques, and spider monkeys is allowed.



Left: A macaque (*credit: Oklahoma Primate Sanctuary*)

Below: A capuchin (*credit: Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary*)



⁹ S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, Animal Incident/Rabies Investigation Report, file number A32-2023-07-22, July 7, 2023.

¹⁰ Renaud, Tim. May 29, 2024. *Escaped Monkey was Shot by Homeowner, Officials Say*. Count on News 2. <https://www.counton2.com/news/local-news/colleton-county-news/missing-monkey-in-walterboro-was-not-captured-alive-officials-say/>.

¹¹ Hurst, Marvin. Sept. 8, 2025. *North Texas police sergeant says spider monkey bit him; quarantine becomes challenging for owners*. CBS News. <https://www.cbsnews.com/texas/news/north-texas-police-sergeant-says-spider-monkey-bit-him-quarantine-becomes-challenging-for-owners/>

Animal Welfare Harms

Pet primates suffer in captivity. They are often taken from their mothers soon after birth, spend their lives confined to small cages, and endure unnecessary mutilation such as tooth extractions in an attempt to “tame” them or make them less of a safety risk. Unlike in the wild, where most live in large social groups, nearly all pet primates are kept in relative isolation, devoid of social contact with others of their species, and in conditions detrimental to their health and well-being. Many exhibit stereotypical behaviors as a result of the deprived life they endure.

While endearing at a young age, primates quickly mature and exhibit dangerous, wild behavior. Even well-meaning owners cannot provide the special care, housing, diet, socialization, and maintenance that wild animals require. Attempts to mold them to owner’s expectations—including the false belief that captive primates can act like “little humans”—generally end in pain and suffering for the primate. While a very few of these animals are fortunate enough to be placed in sanctuaries after an overwhelmed owner voluntarily or involuntarily relinquishes ownership, the majority of pet primates live a shortened, deprived, and unhappy existence.

Burdens on Community Resources & Animal Rescue Organizations

Private ownership of primates can also strain the resources of the community and of rescue organizations. Local police departments and other first responders are not trained or equipped to deal with wild animals, but when a dangerous primate escapes from someone’s home, they are the ones forced to make difficult decisions about how to handle these unpredictable situations.

Sanctuaries must also deal with the consequences of primate ownership, because they become the dumping grounds for unwanted animals. With limited resources, sanctuaries are strained further by each new animal who has nowhere else to go. While sanctuaries serve a vital role, they cannot be a comprehensive solution to the growing crisis of pet primate ownership.

Wildlife Trafficking, National Security, & Organized Crime

Any legal pet primate trade within the U.S. incentivizes international wildlife trafficking and poaching. Spider monkeys have become a particularly popular choice as a pet in recent years, correlating with a surge in trafficking of this species from Central and South America. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) agents are tipped off to spider monkeys for sale in Texas on a near-weekly basis, according to a USFWS agent.¹²

¹² Nelsen, A. 2023. “The Exotic Wildlife Trade Is Thriving in Texas.” Texas Monthly. Available at: <https://www.texasmonthly.com/travel/exotic-wildlife-trade-smugglers-texas/>

Because adults are harder to control and transport, infants are targeted, despite the extreme cost to wild populations. Spider monkey infants cling tightly to their mothers for the first year or more of life, so poachers kill the mother to get the baby.¹³ Most infants die immediately from trauma, or within days or weeks due to dehydration, malnutrition, stress, or disease due to harsh transport conditions. These infants are routinely transported to the U.S.-Mexico border stuffed inside bags, boxes, and car trunks.

From 2023 through 2025, 109 baby spider monkeys were confiscated at the US-Mexico border, and USFWS officials believe that is only a fraction of the number smuggled through undetected.¹⁴ These seizures pose a significant burden on the resources of the Department of Homeland Security, USFWS, and the Department of Justice, among other federal agencies. The surge in smuggled primates also poses safety risks for the federal officials conducting inspections at the border, who are exposed to wild animals who are unpredictable and potentially carry serious communicable diseases.

Wildlife trafficking is frequently linked to other organized crime and has increasingly become a component of larger trafficking networks involved in arms, drug, and human trafficking.¹⁵ In Mexico, the cartels have gotten involved in this lucrative market, including the Sinaloa cartel and the Jalisco New Generation cartel.¹⁶ These networks exploit the same smuggling routes, corrupt officials, and weak border controls, creating layered criminal ecosystems that undermine the rule of law and strain U.S. enforcement and intelligence resources.

The surge in primate smuggling at the southern border also creates a significant biosecurity hazard. Because humans and nonhuman primates have a close genetic relationship, the risk of transmission of pathogens from primates to humans is exacerbated. Furthermore, the exotic pet trade creates many points of exposure where humans come into contact with primates, including poachers, local middlemen, transporters, law enforcement officials, and buyers.¹⁷ Smuggled animals also evade the quarantine and veterinary screening that are mandatory for primates legally entering the United States.

¹³ U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of California. 2025. Wildlife Trafficker Sentenced for Smuggling Baby Spider Monkeys. Available at: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/wildlife-trafficker-sentenced-smuggling-baby-spider-monkeys>

¹⁴ Schechter, D., et al. 2025. "Poachers are killing families of spider monkeys, kidnapping their babies and selling them to Americans on social media." CBS News. Available at: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/poachers-killing-spider-monkeys-kidnapping-babies-selling-them-americans/>

¹⁵ Garber, P.A., et al. 2024. Global wildlife trade and trafficking contribute to the world's nonhuman primate conservation crisis. *Frontiers in Conservation Science*, 5. Available at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/conservation-science/articles/10.3389/fcosc.2024.1400613/full>

¹⁶ Nelsen, A. 2023. "The Exotic Wildlife Trade Is Thriving in Texas." Texas Monthly. Available at: <https://www.texasmonthly.com/travel/exotic-wildlife-trade-smugglers-texas/>

¹⁷ Garber, P.A., et al. 2024. Global wildlife trade and trafficking contribute to the world's nonhuman primate conservation crisis. *Frontiers in Conservation Science*, 5. Available at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/conservation-science/articles/10.3389/fcosc.2024.1400613/full>

It is crucial to minimize such biosecurity hazards, which increase the risk of disease outbreaks that could put human lives in jeopardy, strain public health infrastructure, and require a federal emergency response. Such vulnerabilities are increasingly recognized as national security threats, particularly in an era of heightened concern about pandemics and biological threats.

To minimize the national security risks associated with primate trafficking, it is essential to maintain bans on private ownership of primates, such as the one CA currently has.

Conclusion

The pet primate trade creates substantial public health and safety concerns, compromises animal welfare, strains community resources, and fuels wildlife trafficking. CA's current prohibition on the private possession of all nonhuman primates safeguards its citizens, protect these animals from suffering as pets, and reduces the demand for poaching and trafficking of primates across U.S. borders. It is essential that this full prohibition remains in place, and I respectfully request that the Commission oppose Petition 2026-06.

Sincerely,
Kate Dylewsky
Assistant Director, Government Affairs
Animal Welfare Institute

From: Bella Niven <bella@socialcompassion.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:34 AM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Cc: Nick <nick@socialcompassion.org>
Subject: Item 15: Opposing Petition 2026-06

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear California Fish and Game Commission,

I am submitting a public comment on behalf of Social Compassion in Legislation in opposition to Petition 2026-06. I have attached the public comment to this email as a PDF and I have pasted the text below.

Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear California Fish and Game Commission,

As a 501(c)(4) animal protection organization, Social Compassion in Legislation (“SCIL”) is in opposition to Petition 2026-06, which would create an exemption that allows for the legal possession of certain nonhuman primates as household companion animals without requiring a restricted-species permit. We respectfully urge the Commission to deny Petition 2026-06 because it raises significant animal welfare, public safety, and conservation issues.

The primates at issue in this petition, marmosets, capuchins, macaques, and spider monkeys, were originally designated as restricted species “for the welfare of the animals.” Primates are highly intelligent, social animals with complex physical, psychological, and behavioral needs that cannot be met in private households. As a result, privately possessed primates suffer from confinement, isolation, boredom, and stress, leading to self-harm, aggression, and anxiety.

Although the petition promotes “responsible ownership” of primates, even well-intentioned possessors cannot provide the complex social structures, environmental enrichment, space, and freedom that primates need to thrive. These concerns apply equally to small

and large primate species. Given the petition requires strict security measures and confinement of primates for public safety, household primates will suffer immeasurable psychological and physical harm.

Private possession of certain primates also presents serious risks to public safety, both in regard to animal attacks and zoonotic diseases.

Although Petition 2026-06 suggests that smaller monkeys pose fewer risks than larger primates, marmosets, capuchins, macaques, and spider monkeys are all capable of biting and inflicting serious injuries. In recent years alone, multiple people, including children, have required medical treatment after being bitten or attacked by these same species. The stressors primates face in captivity, such as confinement and social deprivation, frequently increase aggression and the likelihood of attacks.

Beyond the risk of physical injury, close contact with pet primates also poses significant concerns for zoonotic diseases. Because primates and humans share close genetic and biological similarities, monkeys can easily transmit numerous zoonotic diseases to humans, such as “yellow fever, monkey pox, Marburg virus disease, viral hepatitis, measles, herpes simian B virus, and simian immunodeficiency virus.” The petition’s proposed initial health screenings and supervised visits with primates are difficult to enforce and cannot eliminate these serious public safety and health risks.

Allowing the private possession of these primates would also contribute to wildlife trafficking and the illegal exotic pet trade. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (“IUCN”) classifies several species of macaque and spider monkey as endangered and many species of capuchin and marmoset as vulnerable or threatened. Research indicates that 94% of primates are experiencing population declines, driven largely by the illegal pet trade. A study conducted by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (“IFAW”), the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (“AZA”), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (“WWF”) found that marmosets, capuchins, macaques, and spider monkeys were among some of the most illegally traded primates in the United States.

Although the proposed regulation would prohibit consumers from acquiring primates illegally, wildlife traffickers routinely circumvent these restrictions. The IFAW study found that primates sold through social media platforms are frequently and falsely advertised as “rescued”

animals when they have been trafficked from the wild. Social media platforms already face challenges in detecting and removing wildlife trafficking activity. This proposed exemption would only exacerbate wildlife trafficking, causing wild populations of primates to plummet

further. At a time when wild primate populations are already under immense pressure from climate change, habitat loss, and hunting, California must not adopt a policy that furthers wildlife trafficking and threatens conservation.

For these reasons, Petition 2026-06 presents substantial animal welfare concerns, significant threats to public health and safety, and serious conservation implications. Accordingly, we respectfully urge the Commission to deny Petition 2026-06.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nickolaus Sackett
Director of Legislative Affairs
Social Compassion in Legislation

--

Bella Niven
Fellow, Social Compassion

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2026 01:27 AM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Petition 2026-09

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

I am writing in support of Petition 2026-09.

It is clear to me that coyote management in many cities and counties throughout California is not working effectively. As development continues to expand into former wildlife habitat, coyotes are increasingly displaced into residential neighborhoods where conflicts with people and pets have become more common.

Even one attack on a child is one too many.

I believe Petition 2026-09 deserves careful consideration because it asks the Commission to review the current 150-yard trapping setback. In many densely populated urban communities, the setback makes trapping unavailable as a management tool because there are very few locations where the required distance can be met. As a result, cities may have limited options when dealing with habituated coyotes that repeatedly create public safety or pet safety concerns.

I respectfully ask the Commission to consider whether the current 150-yard trapping setback continues to serve its intended purpose in today's urban environments. I believe it is time to determine whether adjustments for densely populated urban areas would provide cities with a practical tool while continuing to protect public safety.

Thank you for taking the time to review this petition and for considering my comments.

From: Beverly Paras [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 04:53 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment for Petition 2026-09

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear California Fish and Game Commission,

Please accept the following public comment in support of Petition 2026-09.

The objective of Petition 2026-09 is to request that the California Fish and Game Commission review whether the 150-yard trapping setback in Title 14, §465.5(g)(3) continues to function as intended in today's urban neighborhoods. As California has become increasingly developed, the current setback can make trapping impractical or unavailable in many urban areas where conflicts occur. This petition seeks to modernize the regulation so that cities and licensed wildlife professionals have a practical, behavior-based management tool when needed, while maintaining public safety and responsible wildlife management.

This petition is not intended to promote eradication or population control. Rather, its purpose is to ensure that residents, cities, and licensed wildlife professionals are not disadvantaged by the practical limitations the current 150-yard trapping setback creates in densely developed urban areas. If Title 14 is a statewide regulation, it should function as a practical wildlife management tool throughout California, including densely developed urban communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Beverly Paras
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]