

Staff Summary for October 13-16, 2026

2. General Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

Receive public comment regarding topics within the Commission's authority that are not included on the October 13-16, 2026 meeting agenda.

Background

This item is to provide members of the public an opportunity to address the Commission on topics not on the agenda. Staff may include written materials and comments received prior to the meeting as exhibits in the meeting binder (if received by the written comment deadline), or as supplemental materials and comments at the meeting (if received by the supplemental comment deadline).

General public comments are categorized as either: (1) requests for non-regulatory action or (2) informational-only. Under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the Commission cannot discuss or take action on any matter not included on the agenda, other than to schedule issues raised by the public for consideration at future meetings. Thus, non-regulatory requests generally follow a two-meeting cycle (receipt and direction). Any non-regulatory request received at today's meeting will be evaluated by staff and considered by the Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting (currently December 15-16, 2026) under "Non-regulatory requests from previous meetings."

Significant Public Comments

1. New, written non-regulatory requests are provided as exhibits 2.2 through 2.3
2. Informational comments are provided as exhibits 2.4 through 2.29

Recommendation

Commission staff: Consider whether to add any future agenda items to address issues that are raised during public comment.

Exhibits

1. [Summary table of two non-regulatory requests and 29 general public comment submissions](#), received August 7 through September 30, 2026

Motion (N/A)

California Fish and Game Commission
October 13-16, 2026 Commission Meeting
Non-Regulatory Requests and General Public Comment

(Comments received from 12:01 p.m. on Aug 7, 2026 through 5:00 p.m. September 30, 2026)

Unless otherwise noted, "Commission" refers to the California Fish and Game Commission"; "Department" refers to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife"; "SMCA" refers to State Marine Conservation Areas; "SMR" refers to State Marine Reserves; "MPA" refers to Marine Protected Areas

Subject	Exhibit Number	Date Received	Entity/Individual	Description	Number Rec'd
Non-Reg Request	2.2	9/4/2026	Margaret-Anne Coppernoll, Ph.D.	Requests the California Fish and Game Commission remove or suspend the steelhead trout restrictions on the Salinas River so communities can use the river's water to restore aquifers and meet the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The letter explains that critical groundwater aquifers in the Salinas Valley Basin are severely degraded, partly due to restrictions tied to the steelhead trout's threatened status, and maintains that the species is now thriving elsewhere and does not depend on the Salinas River for survival. This request is being received at this meeting and will be potentially acted upon at the December 15-16, 2026 Commission meeting.	1
Non-Reg Request	2.3	9/24/2026	Wendy Tochiara	Requests Commission action on the planned dewatering of Irvine Lake due to potential violations of Fish and Game Code §§2000 and 2002, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements to mitigate biological impacts, and possible California Endangered Species Act (CESA) implications, asking the Commission to require species-specific protections if sturgeon are present, mandate mitigation and restocking prior to reservoir drawdown, direct the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to investigate for sturgeon, and require the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and Orange County Water District (OCWD) to prepare a fish-salvage and relocation plan. This request is being received at this meeting and will be potentially acted upon at the December 15-16, 2026 Commission meeting.	1
General Public Comment	2.4	8/7/2026	Cynthia Sisemore	Requests an administrative review regarding the use of deceptive "Research" signage on a wildlife trap in South Lake Tahoe and that existing signage be replaced with accurate public-safety notices.	1
Deer Rutting Season	2.5	8/9/2026	Cynthia Grant and Eric Neel	The couple has observed that deer breeding season is occurring earlier each year and urges adjusting the timing and duration of the hunting season to reflect this change	2
Catalina Mule Deer	2.6	8/9 - 9/21/2026	Katherine Chavez, Briana Thomas and Judith	Requests a formal review of the Catalina Island deer management permit and a pause on the current culling project while the Catalina Island Conservancy, CDFW, and CFGC evaluate applicable regulatory requirements and fully consider regulated non-lethal management alternatives, including independent scientific review and humane population-management options.	3
Gray Wolf Conservation Plan	2.7	8/10/2026	Sunni Leavell	Requests CFGC and CDFW reassess the current Gray Wolf Conservation Plan's Phase 3 trigger, review the wolf's status under the California Endangered Species Act using updated depredation data, and expand statewide conflict-response tools to better match present conditions.	1
Los Angeles River Fishing Restrictions	2.8	8/10/2026	Mike Radis	Shares a letter to the City of Long Beach questioning the restrictions on fishing access along the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and asks whether these limitations align with state law and constitutional protections for public recreational fishing.	1
Marine Engineering Proposal	2.9	8/12/2026	Robert Cerny	Proposes global adoption of automated hydro-jet sorting systems to alleviate aquaculture bottlenecks and mitigate invasive-species impacts, requesting coordinated international evaluation and implementation.	1
California Fur Ban	2.10	8/14/2026	Robert Nowak	Urges CDFW to actively enforce the state's ban on the sale and manufacture of new fur products following recent reports of illegal fur sales in Los Angeles.	1
General Public Comment	2.11	8/17/2026	Mike Beanan, Laguna Bluebelt Coalition	Shares that Laguna Bluebelt Coalition's 15th Annual Photo Contest "...continues to educate and inspire protection of Laguna Beach's sea life and essential fish habitat as a critical feature of California's MPA Network.	1

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Big Game Hunting Program	2.12	8/24/2026	Frank Luna	Asks CDFW to review and revise the big game preference point system to ensure long-term applicants have a fair and timely opportunity to draw deer and elk tags.	1
Ferrets	2.13	8/31/2026	Brooklyn	10-year-old California resident shares art supporting ferret ownership.	1
San Francisco Bay Area	2.14	9/1/2026	Greg Fontana	Expresses concerns about the Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District's management practices—including grazing-lease decisions, wildlife issues, and interactions with local ranchers—and urges greater transparency and accountability.	1
California Endangered Species Act	2.15	9/2/2026	Sydney Wilkins, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center	Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center asks the Commission to grant permanent protections for the southern resident killer whale under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) due to its reliance on threatened salmon populations and the risks posed by logging and roadbuilding in National Forests.	1
Gray Wolf	2.16	9/5/2026	Anonymous	Opposes any effort to weaken or remove California's gray wolf protections in response to proposed federal changes and supports nonlethal prevention strategies and fair compensation for ranchers.	1
Axolotl	2.17	9/7/2026	Sven	A 12-year-old California resident asks the Commission to review restrictions on axolotl ownership and consider allowing regulated, captive-bred possession under strict safeguards to minimize ecological risk.	1
San Diego County	2.18	9/7/2026	Alexandira Lowry	Circulates a letter to the City of Santee highlighting concerns about local wildlife habitat loss and degradation related to a proposed housing project.	1
State Water Bottom Lease Renewal	2.19	9/9/2026	Bernard Friedman, President, Santa Barbara Mariculture Co.	The Santa Barbara Community Kelp Farm submits an application for a 15-year State Water Bottom Lease and aquaculture interagency meeting notes from meetings that were held in April and May of this year.	1
Regulation Change Petition 2025-03	2.20	9/13/2026	Pat Wright	Requests clarification on whether written notification required under Government Code §11340.7(b) was issued regarding the Commission's June 11, 2025 action on Petition 2025-03	1
Laguna Beach Sand Replenishment	2.21	9/16/2026	Wendy Tochiwara	Requests a joint review by CFGC and the California Coastal Commission, of Laguna Beach's emergency sand replenishment activities to ensure compliance with MPA protections and require full evaluation of future shoreline-altering proposals, as current actions are causing sand migration into protected intertidal habitat.	1
Live Import	2.22	9/17/2026	Jane Cartmill	Calls for legislation to end the import of live frogs and turtles due to their significant risks to public health and the environment	1
California Endangered Species Act	2.23	9/17/2026	Glenn Phillips, Executive Director, Golden Gate Bird Alliance	Executive Director of the Golden Gate Bird Association, urges the Commission to reject the petition to delist Swainson's Hawk alleging that the supporting data is limited and inconsistent, and habitat and environmental factors affecting the species remain unresolved.	1

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Tribal Licensing Agent	2.24	9/17/2026	Lisa Sherman	Requests the Commission and CDFW to expand or modify the licensing-agent program to allow mobile licensing services at Tribal reservations and Tribal community events statewide, and to develop a process enabling qualified Tribal licensing agents to serve multiple federally recognized Tribes. The requester also seeks Commission consideration of restorative-justice principles in future Tribal, fisheries, MPA, access, licensing, and stewardship policies, along with assistance identifying the appropriate procedures and requirements for expanding their role as a CDFW license agent.	1
Environmental Contamination	2.25	9/22/2026	Michelle Wahl	A resident of Logan Creek in Boulder Creek, California, requests soil and water testing, hazardous-waste screening, enforcement of teardown and vacancy orders, and an environmental health intervention to address multiple public-health and environmental hazards, including raw sewage discharge, chemical contamination, structural violations, and county non-compliance with existing court orders.	1
Hunting Permits	2.26	9/24/2026	Doug Brown, Secretary, Inyo County Fish and Wildlife Commission	Inyo County Fish and Wildlife Commission asks that CDFW rescind the "three-strikes" mountain lion permitting requirement and return to the original lethal-permit process established under Proposition 117.	1
State Water Bottom Lease Renewal	2.27	9/25/2026	Gary Fleener, Ph.D., Senior Director of Science and Policy, Hog Island Oyster Co.	Request to renew State Water Bottom Lease M-430-12, set to expire June 30, 2027.	1
MPA Review Input	2.28	9/30/2026	Corey Ridings	A group of environmental justice scholars ask the Commission to integrate environmental justice principles into its governance processes and to engage with environmental justice experts to create a transparent evaluation and reporting mechanism for Commission decision-making.	1
General Public Comment	2.29	8/20/2026	Fredrick Broad, Jr	Shares disappointment in how they were treated by a Department employee after presenting information at a recent California Waterfowl Association committee meeting. They felt their data on usage at Department-managed waterfowl hunting areas and related proposals were summarily dismissed, and that they were treated in a demeaning and overly dismissive manner.	1

September 4, 2026

California Fish and Game Commission

Subject: Request for Support and Action - Public Comment

Dear Commissioners:

This request concerns an issue that is urgent due to its existential character and required immediate attention. The Salinas River has been placed on a restricted list due to the published listing of the steelhead trout as a threatened species. The Salinas Valley Basin is on the California Critically Over drafted Groundwater Basins List as well as under mandate by the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) to restore seawater intruded aquifers to healthy condition. This unhealthy aquifer condition has been expanding due to agriculture irrigation and urban use. This use has, according to a ten-year scientific research study, contributed significantly to sea level rise. Over the ten year period of this study, sea level rose 24 inches. To add to this critical condition, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife placed the threatened steelhead trout on its CESA list and placed restrictions on the Salinas River.

Notwithstanding, the steelhead trout is now thriving both in the Carmel River and in hatcheries and safe rescue programs. The steelhead trout can easily be returned to full capacity in the Salinas River, but the Salinas River is not an ideal habitat because this river is shallow and its tributaries tend to dry up during drought or dry seasons, stranding steelhead that die in unfavorable conditions unless saved through these rescue programs. It seems cruel to reinstate a large steelhead population in an environment that has proven to be less than hospitable for it. Hatcheries have astounding success in revitalizing the steelhead, making it far more abundant and hopefully no longer threatened, per my understanding. Nevertheless, as stated, it seems environmentally heartless to insist on putting this revived

species reinjected into a habitat that is not ideally suitable for it, even hostile when tributary beds dry up. The steelhead is faring much better in the Carmel River, especially given the highly successful safety and rescue programs. By contrast, the Salinas River is shallow above ground with much fuller “rivers” as aquifers flowing under ground.

This request, if approved, to remove or suspend the steelhead restriction for the Salinas River, either temporarily or permanently, means our communities would be able to meet the SGMA mandate placed on us. The Marina Coast Water District, which holds the requisite water rights to the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin (SVGB), is now having to service its customers from the Deep Aquifer, where water volume and quality are uncertain, in order to recharge seawater intruded aquifers, namely the 180/400 Acre-Foot and the Monterey Subbasin Aquifers. The only viable solution is exporting Salinas River water to aquifer injection sites to effectively raise groundwater levels and restore the natural boundary between sea and land/aquifer, to defeat seawater intrusion as well as prevent sea level rise from lowering groundwater levels even more.

If the California Fish and Game Commission supports this request, our communities will be able to fulfill not only the SGMA mandate, but also boost efforts to eradicate homelessness caused by unaffordable living conditions. The sole seawater intrusion solution identified over the eight year period the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency has been functioning under SGMA not only has a \$billion plus exorbitant price tag, but greatly increases groundwater levels instead of reducing them. Salinas River water is the only feasible means available to reinvigorate the distressed aquifers, the most cost effective, and the most powerful solution to deliver SGMA desired outcomes.

We implore Commissioners to seriously consider this request and explore avenues that permit relief for Salinas River use as the only viable solution to restoring endangered aquifers to SGMA mandated healthy condition as well as guaranteeing community survivability. As stated, this is a critical existential issue. Salinas Valley agriculture provides food world-wide. Commission support would assure and ensure both water and food security. California, and indeed the World, cannot afford to Lose this vast agriculture treasure due to a lack of action to redeem its vital resource -- our aquifers.

Very respectfully submitted,

**s// Margaret-Anne Coppernoll
Margaret-Anne Coppernoll, Ph.D.
Member, SVBGSA Monterey Subbasin Committee
Co-Founder, Citizens for Just Water ("C4W")**

Coppernoll Request Letter - PUblic Comment

From mcopperma

Date Sat 09/05/2026 04:13 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>; Mcopperma

Hello Jessica,

Thank you so much for all the helpful information. I am attaching my Aquifer Seawater Intrusion Solution Project Proposal to be attached to my Letter of Request/Public Comment sent earlier. It is important to attach this proposal to the letter as it explains in detail the rationale behind this letter of request. I have one more attachment to add but I will have to send it in a separate email, so please be on the look out for it.

Again, I have much gratitude for you are an outstanding example of a perfect staff person who genuinely cares about her job and the public she serves. I salute you and wish I could tell the whole commission what a wonderful, genuine staff member they have in you, Jessica. Blessings,
margaret-anne coppernoll

August 31, 2026

**SVBGSA Board of Directors
SVBGSA Advisory Committee
Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

**Subject: Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin (SVGB) Aquifer
Seawater Intrusion Solution Project: Original Concept
Proposal by Margaret-Anne Coppernoll, Ph.D.**

The entirety of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin (SVGB) and the Salinas River and its adjacent water resources, that are named on the California Critically Over-drafted Groundwater Basins List, contain the seawater intrusion solution to the over-draft condition as well as meeting the requirements and mandates of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA).

As a preface to my proposal please allow me to point out areas that need to be examined/modified. The Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency has made a major mistake (by ostensible intentional omission on the part of their consulting engineers) in its proposed “remedy” for seawater intrusion by excluding from its consideration any concept of producing “new water resources” that do not involve the “illegal” taking of groundwater resources from senior, overlying groundwater rights landowners. The consulting engineers for the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater

Sustainability Agency have intentionally ignored recognized alternatives in order to perpetuate their engineering and planning activities that have cost landowners and taxpayers millions of dollars over the past decade. Of note are the following flaws that are painfully obvious:

- 1. The Montgomery Engineering model has not been peer reviewed by any independent, named experts since it was completed. Activities prior to completion of the model are no substitute and have regularly (in past experiences with modeling produced by California American Water Company's paid consultants) led to disclosures of "whitewashed flaws" perpetuated to keep engineers' jobs funded. Hence the SVBGSA has no independent proof that the model produced by Montgomery has even a strong likelihood of success.**
- 2. The SVBGSA and its consulting engineers have never evaluated in detail the alternative (Plan B) of the development of a regional de-salination plant at Moss Landing (using the National Refractories site existing outfall) that was determined in 2002 by the California Public Utilities Commission (pursuant to legislation authored by Assemblyman Fred Keeley and chaptered in 1999) to be the optimal site for a desal plant to address seawater intrusion. This was the site that was being pursued by Poseidon Resources. The allegation that the**

Montgomery Engineering model is simply a “warmed over” re-work of the California American slant wells project (that is being litigated in Judge Wills’ court and which was identified by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Water Rights review as wrongfully taking percolated groundwater from the on-shore aquifers without any legal entitlement (see pages 117-120 of the SWRCB Referee’s Final Report) is given credibility because of the failure to fully evaluate the project that was legislatively identified as the optimal location for a facility that would produce NEW water resources to cure seawater intrusion.

- 3. The SVBGSA consultants and staff have failed for the inception of the Agency to prepare a full and complete legal analysis of the correlative senior overlying groundwater rights in the basin, and worse, failed to specifically identify the actual holders of those senior overlying percolated groundwater rights PRIOR to proposing to reduce agriculture pumping (by senior rights holders) while advocating for more urban sprawl and more groundwater extraction by regulated utilities (which are junior appropriators) that hold no more existing water rights for new service connections since the basin was legislatively identified as being in severe overdraft since 2014.**

4. The SVBGSA has failed to evaluate and quantify available surplus flows in the Salinas River that can be used for near coast recharge to impede seawater intrusion. The Montgomery Engineers extraction wells (which as proposed will lower groundwater levels in the massive cones of depression that will result) have no groundwater rights upon which they can rely, particularly in light of the legal protections of overlying landowners and the statutory mandates without exception in California Water Code 1010 (which the SVBGSA appears to be unaware of). Surplus water from the river should have been evaluated as a way of mitigating the massive illegal effects of the prohibited extraction from areas paying for reclaimed water.

Aquifer Seawater Intrusion Solution Project:

By exporting Salinas River water (for which the Monterey County Water Resources Agency actually has appropriative rights) directly to the seawater intrusion impacted aquifers, groundwater levels can be raised to a height higher than sea level as well as to a degree that not only prevents continuing seawater intrusion, but also counters anticipated sea level rise that would compromise groundwater level desirable thresholds.

This seawater intruded aquifer solution has one major player – the Salinas River. The Salinas River is the dominant riparian corridor along California’s Central Coast. Benefiting from this essential water resource makes sense because the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin aquifers receive their fresh water directly from this vital river. The river’s fresh water can supply and refurbish seawater intruded aquifers not only to desirable groundwater levels, but also to levels that would counter sea level rise that lowers groundwater levels, a threat to achieving SGMA’s primary mission. The natural filtering process from river to aquifers requires accelerated remediation due to adverse advancing seawater intrusion coupled with declining groundwater levels lowering even more due to sea level rise conditions and urban/agriculture water use, despite genuine efforts to conserve water and eliminate invasive plant species. Direct river water transfer to seawater intruded aquifers provides as close as possible immediate resolution of the increasing seawater intrusion/sea level rise harmful effects without the risky, time consuming and high cost of a brackish water extraction process. Existing Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) wells may be strategically located for potential project use, lowering construction costs.

The transportation of the river water to an injection well(s) placed at the appropriate geologically precise location(s) where the injected river water can most effectively flow into

affected distressed aquifers, thus countering seawater inflow, preventing seawater intrusion, and restoring the natural boundary between ocean and land/aquifers, is the optimum solution. The shoreline boundary between ocean and aquifer must be restored for seawater intrusion to be stopped and prevented in the future. To accomplish this objective, the proposed solution recommends deploying this Salinas River water-to-aquifer exportation/injection process as the least expensive and most effective methodology. Most importantly, MCWD and senior, overlying water rights owners in the SVGB will have their water rights preserved and reinvigorated. MCWD, relying on the Deep Aquifer while the 180/400 Foot and Monterey Subbasin Aquifers undergo remedial restoration efforts, cannot count on the Deep Aquifer as its volume and condition are not certain.

This aquifer seawater intrusion solution project avoids problematic issues that the currently proposed brackish water extraction option has to overcome:

1. Recycled water to be injected into aquifers will have a significant volume difference from the extracted brackish water, thus greatly increasing seawater intrusion risk rather than reducing it. (two gallons of brackish water produce approximately one gallon of recycled potable water).

- 2. The time required to process the extracted brackish water could allow even more seawater intrusion to occur in the meantime.**
- 3. Chemical composition between ocean water and groundwater could be a factor among others accounting for volume discrepancy.**
- 4. Extracting brackish water would necessarily lower already undesirable groundwater levels, which in turn could produce more seawater intrusion.**
- 5. Greater environmental impact concerns.**
- 6. Wells constructed as barriers to seawater inflow risk ocean water seepage around them, thus defeating their ultimate purpose.**
- 7. More complexity in operational demands.**
- 8. Continuing economic water use stress on agriculture, residents, businesses**
- 9. Prohibitive cost limits project viability while A COMPLETE LACK OF GROUNDWATER RIGHTS and any legal authority render the project a non-starter. As the SGMA deadline approaches, the current consultant's project is being "force-fed" to landowners and, as proposed, violates 100 years of California groundwater rights law in favor of wrongfully taking groundwater for the benefit of junior appropriators. (see City of Barstow v. Mojave Water Agency 23 Cal. 4TH1224)**

This aquifer seawater intrusion solution project would be superior to a brackish groundwater extraction proposal as well

as less expensive and more reliable in its desirable outcome, which includes the critical upholding of senior, overlying groundwater rights landowners. There would be no need to extract brackish groundwater (that immediately lowers groundwater levels), no need to use a RO plant to process brackish groundwater for recycling and aquifer injection, no time lapse or chemical consistency concern, or volume difference to hinder success. The brackish groundwater extraction project's prohibitive cost would create an unaffordable grocery bill due to elevated produce expense, while many residents could become homeless due to much higher, unsustainable water bills affecting housing affordability.

In final analysis, this proposed aquifer seawater intrusion solution project is simple and sustainable in concept and operation yet powerful in positive desirable outcome delivery. The SGMA mission can be, must be, accomplished to meet the 2040 mandated timeline. This aquifer seawater intrusion solution is the common-sense approach to SGMA and SVBGSA success while assuring and insuring both water and food security.

Very respectfully submitted,

s// Margaret-Anne Coppernoll

Margaret-Anne Coppernoll, Ph.D.

Member, SVBGSA Monterey Subbasin Committee
Co-founder, Citizens for Just Water (“C4JW”)

Immediate Action Required – Unlawful Take of Sturgeon and Waste of Gamefish at Irvine Lake

From Wendy Tochiara

Date Thu 09/24/2026 12:51 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to request immediate intervention by the California Fish & Game Commission regarding the planned dewatering of Irvine Lake as part of the Santiago Creek Dam Improvement Project. As currently proposed, the project will drain the reservoir to its lowest possible level on October 26, 2026, resulting in the death of all fish inhabiting the lake. This includes white sturgeon, trophy-class gamefish, and multiple warmwater species that are managed under California sport-fishing regulations.

No fish-salvage or relocation plan has been publicly disclosed. Proceeding without such measures would violate multiple provisions of California Fish & Game Code and, potentially, federal law.

Unlawful Take of Sturgeon

White sturgeon are currently under statewide catch-and-release only regulations due to population concerns. Under Fish & Game Code §2000, it is unlawful to “take” fish except as permitted by regulation. “Take” includes kill, harm, or destroy.

Draining Irvine Lake without salvage would constitute an unlawful take of white sturgeon.

If green sturgeon are present, the situation is even more serious. Green sturgeon are protected under the Endangered Species Act, and any action resulting in mortality requires federal consultation with NOAA Fisheries. Allowing the lake to be dewatered without protections would violate federal law.

Waste of Gamefish – Fish & Game Code §2002

Irvine Lake contains a well-documented warmwater fishery, including:

- M1 largemouth bass
- Crappie
- Bluegill
- Wipers
- Trophy-class blue catfish
- Sturgeon

These species are recognized gamefish under California law.

Fish & Game Code §2002 prohibits the waste of fish that are normally pursued for sport or recreation.

Allowing thousands of gamefish to die due to intentional dewatering is a clear violation of §2002.

The Code does not distinguish between wild and stocked fish. If the fish are present and legally catchable, they are protected from waste.

CEQA and Public Trust Obligations

Under CEQA, agencies must avoid or mitigate significant biological impacts. Mass fish mortality is a significant impact requiring:

- Salvage
- Relocation
- Mitigation
- Monitoring

No such measures have been disclosed.

Additionally, Irvine Lake is managed for public recreation through OC Parks. The fishery is a public trust resource, and its destruction would violate the public trust obligations of OC Parks, IRWD, and OCWD.

Requested Commission Action

I respectfully request that the Fish & Game Commission:

1. Direct CDFW to immediately investigate the presence of sturgeon in Irvine Lake.
2. Require IRWD and OCWD to prepare a full fish-salvage and relocation plan before any drawdown occurs.
3. Ensure compliance with Fish & Game Code §§2000 and 2002, including protections against unlawful take and waste of gamefish.
4. Require species-specific protections for sturgeon, including federal consultation if green sturgeon are present.
5. Mandate mitigation and post-construction restocking to preserve the fishery for future public use.

The destruction of an entire fishery — including protected sturgeon — is not permissible under California law. The Commission's intervention is urgently needed to prevent unlawful take, waste of gamefish, and irreversible harm to a public trust resource.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued stewardship of California's fisheries.

Sincerely,

Wendy Tochihara

[Redacted signature line]

[Redacted signature line]

Sent from my iPhone

FORMAL COMPLAINT: Administrative Fraud, Deceptive Trap Labeling, and False Statements to the Public trap WLM1

From Cynthia Sisemore

Date Fri 08/07/2026 05:27 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>; Wildlife R2 Information <R2Info@wildlife.ca.gov>

Dear California Fish and Game Commission and CDFW Regional Management,

I am writing to file a formal administrative complaint regarding a severe transparency violation, breach of public trust, and a pattern of active deception occurring on public land in El Dorado County.

Department personnel have deployed an active wildlife trap bearing the department control number **WLM 1** within the Heavenly neighborhood of South Lake Tahoe. While this is an active lethal depredation or public safety management operation, the trap has been deliberately and explicitly labeled with "**Research**" signage.

Furthermore, agency personnel have engaged in a calculated pattern of active misinformation regarding this operation:

1. **False Assurances to the Public:** When I contacted the department regarding the trap, agency representatives specifically told me that if the local mother bear and her cubs—who are known to be active in the immediate area—were caught, they would be "released immediately." Given that this is an active depredation or safety tracking setup and not a benign academic study, this statement was a deliberate fabrication meant to pacify public concern and conceal the true, lethal intent of the trap.

2. **Admitted Deception:** CDFW personnel have explicitly admitted to local wildlife advocates (The Bear League) that this misleading "Research" labeling was done intentionally to "avoid scaring people."

This deliberate mislabeling and misinformation constitute administrative fraud and a direct violation of the **California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14:**

- **Falsification of Regulatory Authority (Title 14, CCR § 650 vs. § 401):** Displaying "Research" signage invokes the distinct legal framework of a Scientific Collecting Permit (§ 650), which is restricted to non-lethal, academic, or conservation purposes. Utilizing this framework to mask an active lethal depredation order (§ 401)—while giving false verbal reassurances that animals will be safely released—is completely unlawful.
- **Violation of Trap Identification Laws (Title 14, CCR § 465.5(f)(1)):** Wildlife regulations require clear, accurate, and department-registered identification on all traps. Fabricating a generic or deceptive "Research" label to obscure the true nature of a lethal operation violates trap registration compliance.
- **Breach of Public Trust and Safety:** Public safety management on public land requires absolute transparency. Masking a lethal trap as an academic study—and lying to citizens about the safety of a mother bear and her cubs—denies the public its right to know about active wildlife safety hazards and destroys agency accountability.

An agency tasked with enforcing wildlife law cannot choose to lie to the public and bypass its own regulatory frameworks for public relations management.

I request an immediate administrative review into why state personnel are deploying deceptive signage and misinforming citizens about the fate of the targeted wildlife. I demand that the fraudulent "Research" labels be removed and replaced with legally accurate public safety notices immediately.

I look forward to your prompt response regarding the corrective actions taken.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sisemore



Sent from my iPhone

Changes in the deer rutting season

From Eric and Cynthia Neel Grant

Date Sun 08/09/2026 04:57 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Gentlepeople,

My husband and I have lived in the mountains southeast of Hopland, California, Mendocino County, Zone A, for 41 years. There is a large deer population here.

In the past, the rutting season began AFTER hunting season was over. This year, unfortunately, the deer began rutting a couple of weeks ago, and hunting season began this weekend, and runs until September 20th.

For a couple of years, we've noticed that trees and flowers on the mountain bloom in the spring about a month earlier than they once did. That was particularly pronounced this year.

When bucks are pursuing does, they are atypically unafraid, sometimes even oblivious, of the presence of humans, including the ones who want to kill them. Killing the bucks before they've impregnated the females does not bode well for the future of deer on this mountain, or any other.

We sincerely hope you will consider adjusting the start and duration of the hunting season to reflect these changes.

With our thanks for your attention, and our best wishes,

CD Grant and Eric Neel

[Redacted signature block]



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Re: Automatic reply: Changes in the deer rutting season

From Eric and Cynthia Neel Grant

Date Tue 08/11/2026 08:48 AM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Fols:

An addendum to my email re: the deer rutting season:

Over the past several years, we have observed that acorns are falling sooner and sooner. This year, that started in July.

With my thanks and best wishes,

CD Grant

On Sun, Aug 9, 2026 at 4:57 PM FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov> wrote:

Thank you for contacting the California Fish and Game Commission.

This message confirms that the commission has received your email, and commission staff will take appropriate action as soon as possible. Due to the high volume of questions and requests we receive, we are not able to answer every message personally; however, we will take your thoughtful and constructive comments into consideration.

In the event that the California Fish and Game Commission is not the best agency to address your concerns, we will forward your email to the appropriate agency, and alert you via return email. Please note that the commission can't commit another agency to taking action.

For more information about the commission, including currently proposed regulations and how to receive electronic notices of meetings, agendas and items of interest, please visit our website at www.fgc.ca.gov.

For information regarding regulation publications, enforcement, wildlife management, licenses or permits, please visit www.wildlife.ca.gov.

Thank you.

Request for a Humane, Non-Lethal Approach to Managing Catalina Island's Mule Deer

From Katherine Chavez

Date Sun 08/09/2026 04:16 AM

To Wildlife Ask R5 <AskR5@wildlife.ca.gov>; FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Dear Catalina Island Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Fish and Game Commission,

I am writing as a concerned member of the public regarding the management of the mule deer population on Santa Catalina Island.

I understand and respect the responsibility to protect Catalina Island's native plants, wildlife, water resources, and overall ecosystem. I also understand that mule deer are not native to the island and that their population has created legitimate ecological challenges.

I am not asking that Catalina's native ecosystem be sacrificed for the sake of preserving the deer population. I am asking for something different: that we make every reasonable effort to find a humane, sustainable, and scientifically responsible solution that protects both Catalina's ecosystem and the animals affected by our decisions.

The mule deer did not make the decision to be on Catalina Island.

People made that decision.

People introduced these animals to the island, and they have now lived there for generations. They did not choose to be placed in an ecosystem where they did not originally belong, nor did they choose the circumstances that have now made their population a conservation concern.

We cannot undo that decision. But we can decide what we do next.

I believe that gives us a special responsibility to approach this situation with compassion, scientific rigor, and humility. If our actions created this problem, then I believe we should use our knowledge, resources, and ingenuity to find the most humane solution available rather than treating the lives of these animals as expendable.

Please pursue every reasonable non-lethal alternative

I respectfully ask the Catalina Island Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Fish and Game Commission to commit to pursuing and independently evaluating non-lethal approaches to deer management.

In particular, I ask that the following possibilities be seriously considered:

1. Humane relocation and translocation

Please continue investigating whether some or all of the deer could be safely captured, health-screened, transported, and relocated to suitable mainland habitat or other appropriate receiving locations.

I understand that relocation is not simple. There are legitimate concerns involving capture stress, transportation, disease transmission, availability of suitable habitat, and the long-term welfare and survival of relocated animals. I am not asking anyone to disregard those concerns.

Instead, I am asking for a rigorous, independent scientific evaluation of whether those challenges can be safely addressed.

If relocating the entire population is not feasible, could a carefully designed pilot program be considered for a portion of the deer? A pilot could provide real-world information about capture methods, transportation, survival, adaptation, and long-term welfare rather than relying solely on projections.

If relocation is ultimately determined to be infeasible, I believe the public deserves to understand the scientific evidence and specific studies supporting that conclusion.

2. Fertility control and sterilization

I respectfully ask that fertility control and sterilization continue to be seriously evaluated as tools for gradually reducing the deer population.

Catalina Island already has an important example of non-lethal population management through its bison herd. Fertility-control methods were used to reduce reproduction, allowing the population to decline naturally over time.

I recognize that mule deer and bison are different species and that a method successful with one species may not necessarily work in the same way with another. However, the bison program demonstrates that Catalina has successfully pursued an innovative, non-lethal approach to population management.

That precedent deserves consideration.

Even if fertility control cannot solve the entire deer-management problem by itself, could it be combined with other approaches to reduce the population gradually and humanely?

3. Protect the most sensitive native vegetation

Where particularly vulnerable native plant communities or restoration areas are being damaged by deer, targeted fencing or other exclusion measures could be used to protect those areas while longer-term population management takes place.

If the objective is ecological restoration, perhaps we do not need to manage every deer in exactly the same way. Protecting the most sensitive areas could allow important vegetation to recover while other humane population-management measures are implemented.

4. Consider a combination of approaches

I respectfully ask that the question not be framed as whether one alternative—relocation, fertility control, fencing, or another method—can solve the entire problem by itself.

Perhaps the answer is a combination:

fertility control + habitat protection + carefully evaluated relocation + long-term population monitoring.

If one method is insufficient on its own, that does not necessarily mean that every non-lethal approach must be abandoned.

A combination of measures may provide a way to reduce the population gradually while simultaneously allowing Catalina's native vegetation to recover.

The goal should be ecological restoration

I also ask that the scientific objective be clearly defined.

If the ecological concern is that the current deer population is too large to allow Catalina's native vegetation and ecosystem to recover, then what population level would allow the restoration objectives to be achieved?

Could a scientifically determined, sustainable population level be established and monitored rather than assuming that the only successful outcome is the absence of deer?

I understand that experts may ultimately determine that even a small deer population presents unacceptable ecological impacts in particular areas. But I believe that conclusion should be based on transparent scientific analysis and consideration of all reasonable alternatives.

Independent review and transparency

Because this decision involves consequences that are irreversible for individual animals, I respectfully request an independent review of the available management options by qualified wildlife biologists and animal-welfare experts who are independent of the organizations carrying out the management program.

That review should consider:

- ecological benefits and consequences;
- animal welfare;
- capture and transportation risks;
- disease transmission;
- relocation survival rates;
- fertility-control effectiveness;
- habitat-protection strategies;
- costs
- long-term feasibility; and
- whether combinations of non-lethal approaches could achieve the restoration objectives.

I would also respectfully ask that the public be given a clear explanation of which non-lethal alternatives have been evaluated, what evidence was used to evaluate them, why particular alternatives

were rejected, and whether additional studies or pilot programs could provide meaningful information.

We have an opportunity to do better

I recognize that wildlife conservation is complicated. I recognize that good intentions alone cannot restore an ecosystem, and I do not want to minimize the ecological challenges Catalina faces.

But I also believe that doing what is difficult is not necessarily the same as doing what is right.

When a decision involves the lives of thousands of animals, and when that decision cannot be undone, I believe we should be willing to invest the time and scientific effort necessary to determine whether a less harmful solution exists.

The deer did not choose to be introduced to Catalina.

People did.

We cannot change what happened decades ago, but we can take responsibility for what happens now.

We have the ability to study wildlife behavior, develop fertility-control methods, improve animal transportation, monitor ecosystems, protect vulnerable habitats, and test innovative conservation strategies. I believe we should use those capabilities to their fullest extent before deciding that killing these animals is the only acceptable solution.

Catalina Island has already demonstrated that innovative, non-lethal wildlife management is possible through its bison program. Even if mule deer require a different strategy, that example gives us reason to continue looking for creative solutions.

I am asking you to choose the path that protects Catalina's ecosystem while showing the greatest possible respect for the lives of the animals affected by decisions people made in the past.

If a non-lethal approach ultimately proves unsuccessful after rigorous, independent evaluation, that conclusion can be reached based on evidence. But once these animals are killed, the opportunity to discover that another solution might have worked is gone forever.

I respectfully ask the Catalina Island Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Fish and Game Commission to pursue every reasonable non-lethal alternative, consider combinations of management strategies, support independent scientific review, and provide the public with transparency regarding the evidence behind these decisions.

Catalina Island is a remarkable and irreplaceable place. Its conservation should reflect not only our responsibility to protect its native ecosystem, but also our responsibility for the consequences of choices people have made.

I hope Catalina can become an example of conservation that demonstrates that protecting an ecosystem and showing compassion toward animals do not have to be opposing goals.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns and for your work to protect Catalina Island.

Respectfully,

Katherine Chavez

URGENT: Public Demand to Stay Catalina Island Deer Permit RMP 2025-0017-R5

From Briana Thomas

Date Wed 09/02/2026 08:15 AM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Dear Honorable Members of the California Fish and Game Commission,

I am writing to urgently request that the Commission exercise its regulatory authority over the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to issue an immediate stay and formal review of the Catalina Island deer restoration management permit (Permit RMP 2025-0017-R5).

Wiping out the entire mule deer herd completely disregards the vehement opposition of local residents, visitors, and elected officials, including Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn and the Avalon City Council.

Furthermore, the decision to bypass standard California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reviews means the severe public safety impacts of this project have not been legally evaluated.

Removing these animals poses an immediate threat to human life and infrastructure. Local fire safety advocates have warned that eliminating the herd will cause an unmanaged surge in dry, invasive grasses—essentially creating massive fuel loads for catastrophic wildfires on an island with limited evacuation routes.

Allowing a private entity to execute a 100% eradication plan without transparent, state-level environmental oversight sets a dangerous regulatory precedent.

I urge the Commission to mandate a halt to the current culling project and force a public, transparent transition toward humane, non-lethal management alternatives, such as targeted fertility control or maintaining a smaller, strictly managed herd.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this public safety and wildlife crisis.

Sincerely,
Briana Thomas
Los Angeles, CA

Public comment: Catalina Island mule deer removal

From Freda

Date Mon 09/21/2026 11:41 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a California resident and longtime animal-welfare advocate to ask for immediate scrutiny of the Catalina Island mule deer removal now underway.

The Catalina Island Conservancy has confirmed that the current September–October phase is expected to affect roughly 200 deer, as part of a longer-term plan to eliminate the island population. Los Angeles County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone has publicly warned that complete deer removal could increase chaparral fuel loads and wildfire risk near developed areas, while the Conservancy and scientists supporting the project dispute that conclusion and argue deer contribute to a more fire-prone invasive-grass cycle.

That unresolved disagreement matters because the action is irreversible. I am also concerned about the project's CEQA review and the use of the state's restoration permitting framework rather than a conventional full Environmental Impact Report.

I am asking for an immediate, independent review of the wildfire evidence, the environmental-review basis, and feasible non-eradication alternatives, and for further killing to be paused while that review occurs.

I would appreciate a substantive response explaining what review has been conducted, what authority exists to modify or suspend the permit, and how the public can submit additional evidence.

Sincerely,
Judith

Please include this message in the Commission's public correspondence concerning Catalina Island mule deer management.

RE: Request for Commission consideration of wolf recolonization impacts on California mountain lion populations

From Sunni Leavell

Date Mon 08/10/2026 11:01 AM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

August 10, 2026

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
Submitted via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov

RE: Request for Commission consideration of wolf recolonization impacts on California mountain lion populations

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Sunni Leavell, I am an eighth generation California cattle rancher, my family has run cattle in the Tahoe-Sierra National Forest on the Leavell Allotment since 1931, and I write books on predator management and the history of California.

I am writing to you to express my concern over how the wolf management is going, and to present a way forward that may help protect California ranchers, their livestock and livelihood, and present a plan to offset the cost and damage the reintroduction of wolves to California has created.

California's Wolf Plan is already behind its own timeline. California's Gray Wolf Conservation Plan was built around a simple idea: protections would ease as the population grew and proved itself established, with a milestone defined precisely, eight breeding pairs in a single region for two consecutive years. The plan assumed conflict would track population growth in a predictable, gradual way. That assumption has not held.

The numbers moved faster than the plan. In 2025, California's wolf population grew a real but modest 10 percent, to a minimum of 55 wolves. In that same year, CDFW opened 267 wolf-livestock depredation investigations, up from 74 the year before, and confirmed or classified as probable 198 of them as wolf-caused losses. That is roughly a 260 percent jump in one year, on a population that grew by a tenth. Nearly half of 2025's confirmed losses came from a single pack, Beyem Seyo, whose chronic conflict forced the state's first lethal wolf removal in modern California history. Successful breeding pairs, the plan's own core metric, actually declined in 2025, from five packs meeting the benchmark in 2024 to three in 2025, even as overall wolf numbers and conflict both rose.

That is the plan's blind spot laid bare: it measures readiness for more active management by population success, not by conflict. A framework built to wait for population milestones has no answer for a state where conflict is already outrunning population growth by a wide margin, and where the state has already had to act outside its own normal phase structure once, for exactly that reason.

This is not only a livestock problem. The same underlying dynamic, more wolves establishing in occupied habitat faster than the surrounding ecosystem and economy can absorb, shows up beyond the ranch fence. Wolves are documented, in study after study outside California, to steal kills from mountain lions and occasionally kill them outright during those encounters, an asymmetric pattern researchers call "enemies without benefits." California's own black bear research already shows the state's mountain lions operate on a taxed energetic budget before wolves are even added to the landscape. Wolves also measurably displace mule deer away from otherwise favorable feeding terrain, and a documented "human shield effect" means deer, and the mountain lions that follow them, could be pushed toward the wildland-urban interface where human-wildlife conflict is already best documented to occur.

None of that is a reason to protect mountain lions or deer with new listings of their own; doing so would only compound the state's existing management bottleneck. It is evidence that the current wolf population and its rate of growth already exceed what the landscape can absorb without cascading costs, to livestock producers, to other wildlife, and eventually to public safety. Livestock losses are simply the cost that gets counted first, because there is already a program built to count it.

What California should do: California does not need to wait for a population milestone that conflict has already outpaced. The Commission and Department should:

1. Formally reassess whether the Gray Wolf Conservation Plan's population-only trigger for Phase 3 is fit for purpose, given that conflict grew far faster than population in the plan's own most recent reporting year.
2. Petition for a status review of the wolf's classification under the California Endangered Species Act, using the 2025 depredation data as the basis for showing current protections no longer match the population's demonstrated impact.
3. Expand non-lethal and lethal conflict-response tools statewide now, rather than waiting for the Phase 3 population trigger to be met in a specific region, since the state has already had to act once outside that structure.

The plan was written for a slower, more predictable recovery than the one actually underway. California should update its response to match the wolf population it actually has, not the one the plan assumed it would take longer to get.

Sources Used

California Department of Fish and Wildlife,
Conservation Plan for Gray Wolves in California*, 2016

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, *California Gray Wolf Conservation and Management
Annual Report 2025*

Center for Biological Diversity, "California's 2025 Wolf Population Rises 10%, Successful Breeding Pairs
Decline," 2026

Western Livestock Journal, "CA wolf population grew by 10% in 2025," 2026

Binder, Ruprecht, Rabe, et al., "Diets, dominance hierarchies, and kleptoparasitism drive asymmetrical
interactions between wolves and cougars," *PNAS* 123(6), 2026

Elbroch, Lendrum, Allen & Wittmer, "Nowhere to Hide: Pumas, Black Bears, and Competition Refuges,"
Behavioral Ecology, 2014

Dellinger et al., "Habitat use of sympatric prey suggests divergent anti-predator responses to
recolonizing gray wolves," *Oecologia*, 2019

Prugh et al., Washington Predator-Prey Project findings on wolf, cougar, coyote, and bobcat responses
to human development, *Science*, 2026

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to provide additional
documentation, including a fuller written analysis of the supporting research, at the Commission's
request.

Respectfully,
Sunni Leavell



Restrictions on LA River fishing

From Mike Radis

Date Mon 08/10/2026 01:02 PM

To Mayor <mayor@longbeach.gov>

Cc Jeff Williams <jeff.williams@longbeach.gov>; City Manager <citymanager@longbeach.gov>; FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>; LBPDCCommander-ChiefOfStaff@longbeach.gov <LBPDCCommander-ChiefOfStaff@longbeach.gov>

Good afternoon City of Long Beach,

The restrictions on fishing the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers from the sea to the Northern city limits seem to not be legal and may violate the state constitution in my humble opinion.

It is also really too bad the Long Beach City Council laughed callously at us as it took away our rights in an empty chamber.

https://longbeach.granicus.com/player/clip/4385?view_id=83&meta_id=334327&redirect=true

Am I understanding this correctly? The city of Long Beach took away all rights to using our state tidelands and rivers for the purpose of angling, a protected right instead of enforcing existing laws against littering? This is backwards. Do we ban driving because inconsiderate people throw trash out the windows as they drive down the road in certain locations?

"DISCUSSION

The City of Long Beach provides and maintains five fishing piers along the channel between the downtown shore area and the Port of Long Beach property for the purpose of free public recreational fishing (attachment). The piers are provided to afford a fishing area so that the perimeter rocks on the riverbanks will not be used for this purpose. Fishing from the perimeter rocks is hazardous, and trash and bait that is left behind attracts rodents. Additionally, the City has been receiving complaints from the hotel operators on the west shore of the river concerning the trash and debris that has been left on site. The City's Municipal Code does not currently prohibit fishing from the perimeter rocks, and this action will rectify that oversight."

<https://longbeach.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=783428&GUID=406631FD-614B-4FCB-A083-85F15324C7B6>

Why does City of Long Beach think a few measly platforms are an acceptable replacement for 2 rivers in town and a bay with ample shorefront for fishing a state constitution protected right? It seems at times Long Beach really does not like recreational anglers and wishes to exert control over access to an extent other places do not all the while calling itself the "Aquatic Capital" Can these restrictions be looked at for consistency with the state constitution?

Thank you,
Mike Radis

Saving the fishes

From Robert Cerny

Date Wed 08/12/2026 06:15 PM

To minister.watt@dcceew.gov.au <minister.watt@dcceew.gov.au>; senator.watt@aph.gov.au <senator.watt@aph.gov.au>; s.stead@aims.gov.au <s.stead@aims.gov.au>; rrap.info@aims.gov.au <rrap.info@aims.gov.au>; reception@aims.gov.au <reception@aims.gov.au>; roger.young@myfwc.com <roger.young@myfwc.com>; marine@myfwc.com <marine@myfwc.com>; Tip@myfwc.com <Tip@myfwc.com>; TagReturn@myfwc.com <TagReturn@myfwc.com>; env-info@ec.europa.eu <env-info@ec.europa.eu>; info@medpan.org <info@medpan.org>; info@gfcm.org <info@gfcm.org>; commission@ijc.org <commission@ijc.org>; info@glfc.org <info@glfc.org>; greatlakes@epa.gov <greatlakes@epa.gov>; info@blacksea-commission.org <info@blacksea-commission.org>; caspian@unep.org <caspian@unep.org>; FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>; info@wildlife.ca.gov <info@wildlife.ca.gov>; odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov <odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: Global Technical Proposal: Universal Implementation of Automated Hydro-Jet Sorting Networks to Resolve Marine Invasive Species Crises

Dear Global Environmental Ministers, Marine Resource Commissions, and Fisheries Management Directorates,

I am writing to submit a unified engineering framework designed to resolve critical marine invasive species crises across international aquatic ecosystems. While these geographic challenges span different oceans and lakes, their solutions are restricted by an identical biological bottleneck: the inability to scale mass predator stocking due to intensive post-larval cannibalism.

By implementing an automated, high-speed optical hydro-jet sorting template, our organizations can work together to bypass these nursery population ceilings, drastically lower restoration costs, and restore native ecological diversity.

1. The Core Problem: The Aquaculture Cannibalism Bottleneck

Attempts to handle marine invasions through manual culling fail due to depth, labor, and safety constraints. The most scalable, permanent method is mass-breeding native apex predators to naturally hunt down and regulate invaders. However, land-based breeding efforts across all major predatory species face a critical operational ceiling: intensive post-larval cannibalism. Sibling size variations cause dominant fry to violently consume smaller cohorts, collapsing hatchery survival rates and restricting stock enhancement volumes.

We can scale up predator biomass by routing nursery tanks through an automated hydro-jet sorting loop:

- **Hydraulic Singulation:** Fry enter a high-speed, translucent fluidic V-chute where a smooth laminar water flow aligns them into a single-file line, isolating them for scanning while preventing handling trauma or swim bladder rupture.
- **Optical Grading:** Real-time line-scan cameras capture multi-angle dimension profiles, and automated software instantly calculates individual biomass based on precise pixel length and width.

- **Hydro-Jet Separation:** Target water-solenoid valves deliver millisecond-long, low-pressure water pulses to gently deflect larger "bullies" into an isolation stream without disrupting the baseline cohort.
- **Continuous Sorting Loop:** Running tanks through this automated loop every 48 to 72 hours maintains perfect size uniformity, eradicating the territorial size hierarchy and skyrocketing survival rates.

2. Global Habitat Solutions via Predator Escalation

This automated mechanical system solves four critical global invasive crises:

- **The Caribbean and Western Atlantic (The Lionfish Crisis):** Bypasses cannibalism in threatened Nassau Grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) and Goliath Grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) hatcheries. Once sorted into uniform cohorts, juveniles are diet-conditioned on disabled invasive lionfish, training them to swallow the invaders head-first to collapse the venomous spines backward before open-water reef deployment.
- **The Mediterranean Basin:** Resolves cannibalism in endangered Dusky Grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*) hatcheries. Mass-reared juveniles are pre-conditioned to hunt toxic, invasive Silver-Cheeked Toadfish and venomous Lionfish to reclaim the European seabed.
- **The North American Great Lakes:** Maximizes hatchery output of native shell-crushing Freshwater Drum and Lake Sturgeon to naturally strip away bio-fouling Zebra and Quagga Mussel carpets that are currently choking municipal water-intake infrastructure.
- **The Black Sea and Caspian Sea:** Utilizes an ultra-gentle microfluidic water shifter variation to sort fragile, transparent predatory *Beroe ovata* jellyfish by volumetric displacement. Mass-seeding *Beroe* systematically eliminates the invasive Sea Walnut comb jelly swarms that have starved regional fisheries.
- **Coastal Kelp Forests (US West Coast):** Stabilizes the hatchery production of the highly territorial California Sheephead (*Balanops pulcher*). Mass-releasing these uniform, shell-cracking fish into active urchin barrens halts the widespread deforestation caused by overpopulated Purple Sea Urchins.

3. Operational Framework for Global Collaboration

To rapidly construct, calibrate, and implement these automated hardware systems, a cross-disciplinary partnership must be established among the recipients of this communication:

- **Central Framework & Grant Funding:** Global administrative and regulatory bodies (The European Commission, International Joint Commission, EPA, and the Australian DCCEE) can provide the foundational policy frameworks, biosecurity clearances, and technology integration grants to fund physical fabrication.
- **Biological Profiling & Algorithmic Calibration:** Regional marine research institutes and state hatcheries (AIMS, FWC, MedPAN, CDFW, and ODFW) can supply the precise biological parameters. They will program the pixel-sorting software algorithms to calculate biomass and adjust fluid-deflection pressures tailored to each specific fish or jellyfish species.

- **Industrial Fabrication & Deployment:** Commercial aquaculture equipment suppliers and automation engineering firms can handle the mechanical manufacturing, hydraulic plumbing installation, and deployment cage logistics. This ensures the physical sorting chassis can be mass-produced as heavy-duty, commercial-grade fixtures across the global hatchery network.

By integrating high-speed automated grading with clean biological conditioning, we can achieve an unprecedented cross-section of industrial aquaculture efficiency and ecosystem restoration. I request an evaluation of these mechanical and biological metrics by your respective engineering and marine science teams to initiate a collaborative framework.

Sincerely,

Robert Cerny

United States

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Nowak

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 5:50 AM

To: Wildlife DIRECTOR <DIRECTOR@wildlife.ca.gov>

Cc: Bonham, Chuck [REDACTED] Gonzalez, Stephen [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Please enforce the California fur ban

To the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife!

As a concerned global citizen, I urge the CDFW to enforce the California fur ban. California was the first state in the United States to ban the sale and manufacture of new fur products.

Last Chance for Animals (LCA) just released an undercover investigation showing several Los Angeles retailers selling new fur illegally. Animal activists worked hard to pass this historic legislation, and it shouldn't be the job of animal activists to also enforce it.

Every year, around the globe, hundreds of millions of animals are killed for their fur. Animals who are raised on factory fur farms endure a nightmare life, confined to tiny wire cages. They are often killed by gassing or electrocution. Wild-caught fur is equally cruel, with animals suffering for days in inhumane traps, only to be beaten to death or shot.

Not only is fur cruel to animals, fur farms also pollute the environment and damage natural water sources.

Again, I urge the CDFW to start enforcing the fur ban!!

Thank you!

Sincerely

Robert Nowak
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

USA

cc: Director Charlton Chuck Bonham

cc: Mr. Steve Gonzalez

Laguna Bluebelt's photo contest displays local ocean beauty

From Mike Beanan

Date Mon 08/17/2026 09:57 AM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>; Miller-Henson, Meliss [REDACTED] Ashcraft, Susan [REDACTED]

Commissioners and Staff,

Celebrating Laguna Beach's MPAs, the 15th Annual Laguna Bluebelt Photo Contest continues to educate and inspire protection of Laguna Beach's sea life and essential fish habitat as a critical feature of California's MPA Network to restore regional fisheries. Although not all of Laguna's reefs, specifically those in South Laguna, reflect this recovery.

With major kelp reef losses statewide, the Laguna Bluebelt Coalition will continue to advocate for the precautionary principle and more protection beyond the present SMR/SMCA no-take areas to include all of the city's marine life and kelp habitat,

The success of Laguna Beach's sea life recovery serves as a remarkable example of the Commission's dedication to protecting California's marine life heritage when we work together.

Mike Beanan
Laguna Bluebelt Coalition

Laguna Bluebelt's photo contest displays local ocean beauty



First place Professional Category: Jordan Manning with The Quiet Connection. (Photo courtesy of Laguna Bluebelt Photo Contest)



By [Erika I. Ritchie](#) | eritchie@scng.com | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED:

August 11, 2026 at 7:27 AM PDT

| UPDATED:

August 11, 2026 at 10:59 AM PDT

Stunning images that celebrate the diversity of wildlife and ocean habitat found along [Laguna Beach's protected shoreline](#) are on display for a limited time.

The Laguna Bluebelt Coalition recently recognized amateur and professional photographers in its 15th annual Bluebelt Photo Contest. The event held at the LCAD Gallery along Ocean Avenue awarded prizes to photographers in several categories. Their photos are on display through Aug. 16.

See more at:

[Laguna Bluebelt's photo contest displays local ocean beauty – Orange County Register](#)

This is a copy of a shared ChatGPT chat. It won't be added to memory.

[Report conversation](#)

I searched for it, including the name **Frank Luna** and the California Fish and Wildlife point-system topic, but I **couldn't locate the August 10 letter itself** online or in the personal context available to me.

I also checked my available conversation history, and the exact letter isn't present there. I don't want to pretend the recreated version I gave you earlier was the original.

If the August 10 letter was saved as a **file or document in your ChatGPT Library**, I can search for it directly and bring back the actual letter.



Was not saved in ChatGPT library



Understood. In that case, I can't retrieve the exact August 10 letter if it wasn't saved and its text isn't in the available conversation history.

But I **can reconstruct the letter to Frank Luna** based on what you remember. I'll keep it focused on the **California Fish and Wildlife point system**, rather than using the generic version I gave you earlier.

If you remember even **one sentence, the number of points, or what you were asking Frank Luna to do**, send it to me and I'll rebuild it as closely as possible to the original.



To CDFW need to revise the point system, because there are people like frank Luna that has over 20 point for hunting deer and the same for hunting elk and have got drawn yet some people get drawn with considerably less points. Over 20 tears is to long to wait, hunters will be to old to hunt



That gives me enough to recreate the **substance of the August 10 letter** much more accurately. I also checked CDFW's current information: the preference-point system has

been in place since 2002, and the maximum going into the 2025 drawing was 23 points. CDFW also confirms that portions of deer and elk tags are awarded through a separate random draw, which is why someone with fewer points can sometimes be selected.

 California Fish and Wildlife +1

Here is the reconstructed letter:

Writing



August 10, 2026

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Big Game Hunting Program

**Subject: Request to Review and Revise
the California Big Game Preference Point
System**

Dear California Department of Fish and
Wildlife,

I am writing to respectfully ask CDFW to reconsider and revise the current preference point system for big game hunting in California, particularly for deer and elk.

The current system can require hunters to wait an unreasonable amount of time before having a realistic opportunity to draw a tag. There are hunters, including hunters such as **Frank Luna**, who have accumulated more than 20 preference

points for deer and more than 20 points for elk and still have not been drawn.

At the same time, other hunters with considerably fewer preference points can be drawn through the current drawing system. I understand that the Department has a random component to the drawing, but I believe the system should be reviewed when hunters can accumulate more than two decades of points without receiving the opportunity they have been patiently waiting for.

Twenty or more years is simply too long for a hunter to wait.

Hunters are not getting younger. Someone who begins building preference points at a relatively young age could spend 20 or more years waiting for a coveted deer or elk hunt. By the time that hunter finally has a realistic opportunity, they may be at an age when they are no longer physically able to participate in the hunt they spent decades waiting for.

The purpose of a preference point system should be to give hunters who have demonstrated years of commitment a meaningful opportunity to eventually draw a tag. When a hunter can accumulate more than 20 points and still have no reasonable assurance of ever receiving that opportunity, I believe the system needs to

be examined.

I respectfully ask CDFW to consider changes that would give long-term applicants a fairer and more predictable opportunity. For example, CDFW could consider establishing a maximum number of years or points after which a hunter receives a guaranteed or substantially increased opportunity to draw, or developing another system that prevents hunters from waiting decades without success.

I am not asking CDFW to eliminate the random drawing altogether. I am asking the Department to consider whether the current balance between preference points and random selection is fair to hunters who have remained in the system for decades.

California hunters invest considerable time and money into licenses, applications, equipment, conservation and the management of our state's wildlife resources. Long-term hunters deserve to know that their continued participation will eventually provide them with a meaningful opportunity to hunt the species they have been waiting for.

I respectfully request that CDFW review the current preference point system for deer and elk and consider whether changes are necessary to prevent hunters from waiting

20, 25, or even more years for an opportunity that may never come.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this concern. I hope CDFW will take a serious look at the experiences of long-term hunters and consider a system that gives them a fair opportunity while still maintaining a reasonable chance for newer hunters.

Respectfully,

Frank Luna

California Hunter

I made the **20+ year waiting period** the central argument, because that is the strongest point in what you remembered. CDFW's own published rules confirm that its current system can award some tags through a random draw without regard to accumulated points.  California Fish an...



Sources

ChatGPT is AI and can make mistakes.

Hi, Brooklyn here again.
I took your advice and joined
the August 12th zoom meeting.
I hope you take my speech to
consiteration. Have a nice day!

-Brooklyn

A group of fennets
is a.....

BUISNESS!



Help me save
the FERRETS!

SF Bay Area Open Space Exposed

From Greg Fontana

Date Tue 09/01/2026 08:45 PM

To Lila Hear <supervisor2@sierracounty.ca.gov>; cob@co.monterey.ca.us <cob@co.monterey.ca.us>; Lian Gogan <lgogan@trinitycounty.org>; Mary Bier <mbier@pacifica.gov>; PRC@edcgov.us <PRC@edcgov.us>; Mary Andersen <mary@slvpost.com>; Sophia Brink <sbrink@smcgov.org>; Nancy Ogren <nogren@co.siskiyou.ca.us>; Lizet Cortes <CortesL@cabrillo.k12.ca.us>; Bekker <Senator.Becker@outreach.senate.ca.gov>; Rafeal Mandelman <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; Rosemary Kamel <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Tom Walker <twalker@tehama.gov>;

I would like to thank Assembly Member Berman for inviting me along on the Cloverdale ranch hike on Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District property to get to know each other, be friends, and talk about political issues in the spring of 2025. We had a great friendly hike so I did not address the issues surfacing with Mid Pen. Although more issues have currently surfaced with Open Space on their own, due to Open Space retaliating against local ranchers for speaking up about multiple issues Open Space has created.

I am sorry our Assembly Member informed us about pulling 8 million dollars out of the CA state budget so Mid Pen could purchase the Cloverdale Ranch area after Mid Pen has been proving themselves more and more to be an organization who truly does not care about the local ranch communities, the voters, wildlife, agriculture, or public safety. Mid Pen even admitted during their speech just before the walk that a lot of people in the Coastside communities do not like them.

People have written in opposition of Mid Pen's evaluation process because it violated freedom of speech. The SM Daily Journal addressed the problem with Mid Pen in the June 2025 Weekend issue, "After 55 years of land stewardship, local rancher loses lease."

A few people mentioned the major mountain lion problem to the Assembly member. Overall he is a good, friendly, sensible guy. One person was concerned about ranchers overgrazing the properties. The Mid Pen staff rightfully responded that they have rules about overgrazing, but wrongfully responded to the fact that Mid Pen does not follow their own policies. 2 Mid Pen ranches in the San Gregorio/La Honda area were so over grazed that they had to sit abandoned for a while, and both ranchers still were allowed to renew their grazing leases. While another rancher who grazed everything right got removed as explained in The SMC Daily Journal newspaper article.

Mid Pen has addressed at local meetings about how much they care about wildlife, but got rid of a rancher who refused to chop brush because he was concerned for the time of year when wildlife had babies. Mid Pen was only concerned about chopping brush within the time period for the grant money to cover it, and not concerned for the wildlife. Mid Pen wrote on their own grazing leases that any suspected mountain lion kills must be reported immediately, then complained to the rancher who cooperated the most because Mid Pen claimed he was causing too much trouble with California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Now CDFW claims they will no longer work with Mid Pen anymore on the lion issues which proves Mid Pen to be a big problem.

The truth about Open Space needs to be exposed. Because of Mid Pen and CDFW, local residents are writing into the federal government about the predator problem driving up consumer costs.



September 2, 2026

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region
Attn: Dylan Stompe
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Submitted via Email to:

MarineCESA@wildlife.ca.gov

fgc@fgc.ca.gov

RE: SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALE

To the California Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Fish and Game Commission,

Thank you for accepting these comments from the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, or KS Wild. We are a conservation nonprofit organization based in Ashland, Oregon and committed to protecting the wildlands, wildlife, and biodiversity of the Klamath-Siskiyou mountain ranges and southern Cascadian foothills of southwestern Oregon and northwestern California. While our efforts rarely focus directly on marine species, we regularly engage in the protection of salmon populations in northwestern California as it pertains to logging and roadbuilding threats. Thus, our organization recognizes the ecological connection between the persistence of the southern resident killer whales and the survival and recovery of California's native salmon populations.

Safeguarding the southern resident orcas necessarily strengthens the case for restoring salmon abundance, improving aquatic and riparian ecosystems and habitat, and reducing the cumulative stressors that harm both species. Even though our work is typically rooted in forest and freshwater ecosystem defense, we recognize that protecting this iconic marine species is fundamentally part of the same mission: ensuring that California's native species and interconnected ecosystems thrive.

Extensive logging and roadbuilding within northern California's National Forests continue to undermine the viability of diminished salmon populations, thereby exacerbating prey limitations for the whale. With the proposed rollback of the federal 2001 Roadless Rule by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Forest Service, these risks are heightened. Roadless areas have been shown to provide some of the last remaining watersheds with intact riparian ecosystems and cold-water refugia, conditions essential for salmon recovery.

Removing such protections would open these landscapes to new road construction and timber harvest, increasing sediment inputs, reducing canopy cover, and further destabilizing salmon populations. Because the killer whale's survival is inseparable from the abundance and accessibility of healthy salmon populations, these regulatory changes pose foreseeable threats to the whale and prey availability.

KS Wild therefore urges the California Fish and Game Commission to grant the southern resident killer whale permanent protections under the California Endangered Species Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely and for California's native wildlife,

/s/ Sydney Wilkins
Conservation Attorney
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
562 A Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520
sydney@kswild.org

Protect California's Gray Wolves — Maintain CESA Protections

From [REDACTED]

Date Sat 09/05/2026 02:20 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

I am a California resident writing to urge the California Fish and Game Commission to maintain strong state protections for gray wolves under the California Endangered Species Act.

I strongly oppose any effort to weaken or remove California's protections in response to changes or proposed changes at the federal level. I understand the concerns surrounding livestock losses, but I support addressing these conflicts through nonlethal prevention strategies and fair compensation for ranchers rather than reducing protections for California's recovering wolf population.

Please continue protecting California's gray wolves and ensure their recovery can continue in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sent from my iPhone

Request to Review California's Restrictions on Axolotl Ownership

From Sven

Date Mon 09/07/2026 12:24 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Dear California Fish and Game Commission,

My name is Sven, and I am a 12-year-old California resident writing to respectfully ask the California Fish and Game Commission to consider reviewing California's restrictions on the possession of axolotls (*Ambystoma mexicanum*).

I understand why California has regulations protecting native wildlife and ecosystems, and I recognize that axolotls are non-native amphibians and that introducing non-native species into California's environment could potentially create ecological risks. I am not arguing that those risks should simply be ignored.

Instead, I would like to ask whether those risks could be managed through strict regulation rather than through a broad prohibition on private ownership.

For example, California could consider allowing axolotl ownership under requirements such as:

- Requiring axolotls to come from legal captive-bred sources.
- Requiring secure enclosures that prevent escape.
- Prohibiting the release of axolotls into California's environment.
- Requiring permits or licenses for breeders and, if appropriate, private owners.
- Keeping records of legally acquired animals.
- Establishing rules for the legal sale and transfer of axolotls.
- Establishing meaningful penalties for intentional release or other violations.

I believe it is important to distinguish between the potential ecological risk of an animal being introduced into the environment and the risk of keeping that animal responsibly in captivity. A properly contained axolotl in a home aquarium is in a very different situation from an animal that has been intentionally or accidentally released into a California waterway.

I also recognize that axolotls could potentially pose ecological risks if they were introduced into an environment where they could survive and reproduce. I am not claiming that this possibility does not exist. Rather, I believe California should consider whether strict containment, permitting, and enforcement requirements could effectively reduce that risk enough to allow responsible ownership. Axolotls are also a species of significant conservation concern. Wild axolotls are classified as Critically Endangered, and their natural populations in Mexico have declined dramatically. Maintaining healthy captive populations can have value for conservation, education, and scientific research. Any future attempt to use captive-bred axolotls for conservation or reintroduction in Mexico, however, should only occur under the direction and approval of qualified conservation authorities. I am not suggesting that private owners should release axolotls into the wild.

PRDEIR for the CO Country Club & Resort Project - concerned citizen response

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 09/07/2026 10:45 PM
To SSawa@CityofSanteeCa.gov <SSawa@CityofSanteeCa.gov>

Greetings, Ms. Sawa,

Thank you for confirming receipt of my first email. This request will focus on the developer addressing my concerns about the destruction and loss of the wildlife habitat behind my property, specifically as it relates to two wildlife species: the local mountain lion and the red-tailed hawk. There are many other species – raccoons, squirrels, rabbits, foxes, coyotes, weasels, possums, deer, red racers, rattlesnakes, and gopher snakes – not all of which are referenced in the EIR but also exist in this area. I will constrain my concerns to just these two, very significantly missing ones.

As a Santee resident of more than 30 years, I can personally attest to having seen a **mountain lion** in the scrub brush located directly behind our property. Through the years, I have read documentation about a female mountain lion that regularly migrates down to the golf course property and along the river bed all the way from the Cuyamaca Mountains. The proposed housing project will most definitely cause habitat fragmentation and disruption to these animals which are needed to preserve and maintain a healthy ecosystem.

Thus, I respectfully request documentation (written letters, emails) showing that the developer has:

1. complied with all applicable environmental laws with regard to protecting natural wildlife habitats and migration routes, specifically, the mountain lion which is not referenced (*see, below, the recent ruling by the California Fish and Game Commission [February 2026] listing mountain lions as a threatened species under CESA*)
2. notified the City of Santee, the City of San Diego, and all other applicable State and Federal agencies with a proposal for TRUE mitigation due to this complete destruction of the existing wildlife habitat

and,

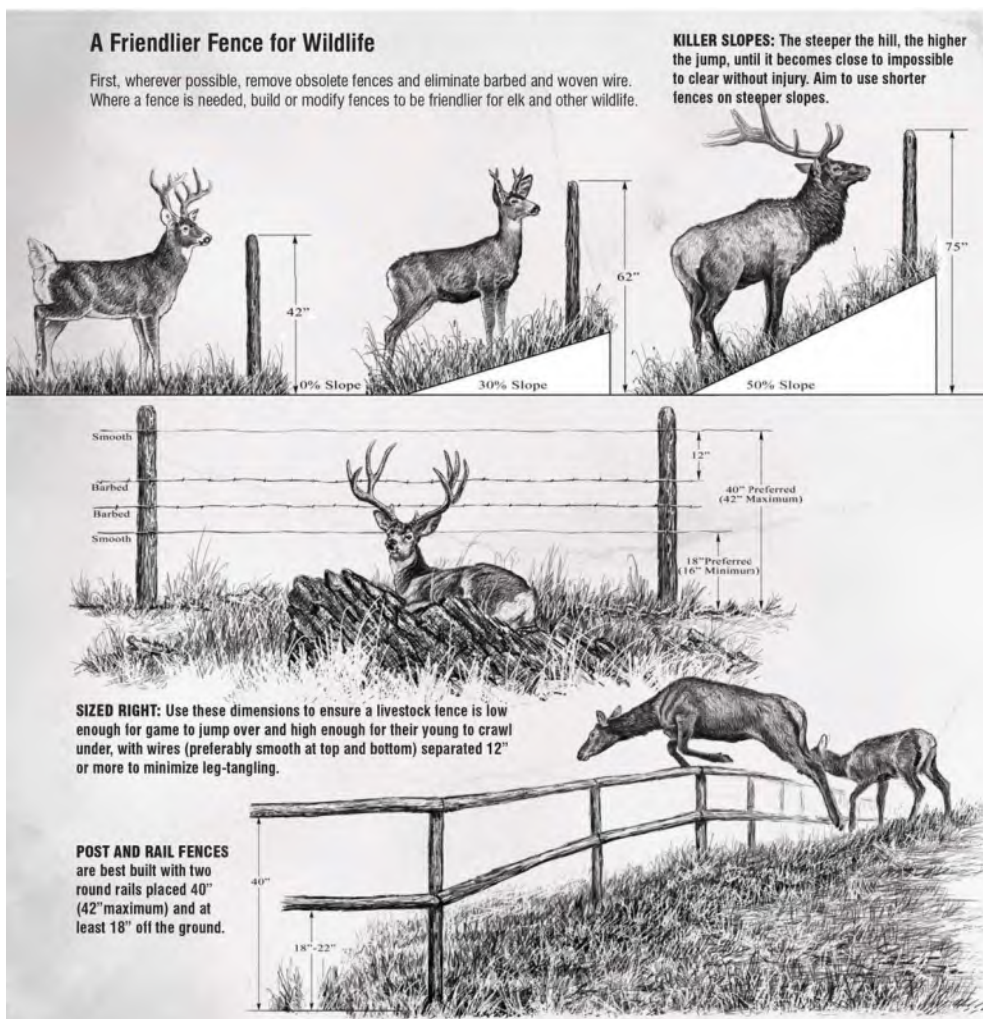
3. corrected and revised the PRDEIR to reference mountain lions as an endangered species in the included Figures and text, as appropriate

To paraphrase Section 3.3. – Biological Resources – Wildlife Movement and Nursery Sites (Permanent Indirect Impacts) (pg 3.3-144, pg 364)

The proposed “resort bridge” (see Figure 3.3-8, pg 349) over the San Diego River (north channel) will be large enough to accommodate mountain lions going under it (pg 364) and, although it will be inundated during 100-year floods, it will still provide for ample wildlife movement.

This “accommodation” is contrary to all commonly found documentation and gold standard level research about the territories, habitat, and behaviors of local mountain lions (see my references, below). Common sense would tell most anyone that a (wild) mountain lion is NOT going to cross over or under any manmade bridge. Likewise, a fully-antlered mature deer is most likely NOT going to crawl under any bridge or fence (unless it’s being hauled off by said mountain lion) because its rack would get entangled in the barbed wire.

Additionally, the EIR is proposing that wildlife movement is going to be adequately accommodated by a “wildlife friendly fence” design (measure MM-BIO-21, pg 290) described on 3.3-96 (pg 316) – a chain link fence with “a 42-inch gap at the bottom that includes a bottom twisted wire strand at 20 inches above the ground within the gap” plus/minus three (3) additional strands at 23”, 26”, and 38” (Appendix E, Chapter 5.1.4 – Wildlife Movement, 5-27, pg 627). Has this actually been tested using real mountain lions, deer, and hikers in real-life scenarios (i.e., a gated community like this development is proposing)? How tall is the chain link and how would a deer or mountain lion be able to jump over it if can’t or won’t go under it because of the barbed wire strands? Again, these statements do not pass the sniff test. Please kindly validate these assertions by citing any and all research studies which support them and provide a picture of the proposed fencing to be used for this project.



The following references reflect a very limited representation of documentation about our local mountain lion population, their behavior, their territory, and the negative results of continued habitat fragmentation.

Mission Trails Regional Park NRMP (dated February 8, 2019).

https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/nrmp_mtrp_020819.pdf

Page 2-28 references:

the MSCP (Multiple Species Conservation Program)

Appendix A-C, Table C-1 states: that the “size of [the mountain lion’s] home range makes preserve level management difficult”

Page AC-19 states: “The mountain lion breeding season is year-round”; and, “... has shown a dramatic decline in southern California due to habitat fragmentation, restriction of movement, and increased encounters with humans (Zeiner et al. 1990).”

Page AC-20 states: “Evidence of mountain lion presence within the Fortuna Mountain, Mission Gorge, and Cowles Mountain areas of MTRP was largely restricted to the San Diego River corridor...”

“The presence of mountain lion within MTRP indicates an overall healthy ecosystem within MTRP, as large carnivores are typically the most vulnerable to ecological disturbances and fragmentation, and are often the first to become extirpated (SDSU 2006).”

Google - A simple search on “mountain lion tagged in Santee migrating from Cuyamaca” and “mountain lion California Department of Fish and Game” yielded the following results:

The Cuyamaca-to-Santee Wildlife Corridor

Biologists from the **UC Davis Southern California Mountain Lion Project** have tracked collared mountain lions across San Diego County for decades. Their data shows that the rugged terrain of **Cuyamaca Rancho State Park** and the **Cleveland National Forest** acts as a primary core habitat and breeding ground for local pumas.

As adolescent males mature (around 2 years old), they experience “adolescent upheaval” and travel up to **100 miles** to establish their own territories. They follow natural waterways and food sources—primarily mule deer—down from the mountains. The **San Diego River corridor** serves as a natural highway that connects the eastern backcountry directly to the open spaces surrounding **Santee Lakes, West Sycamore Canyon, and Mission Trails Regional Park**.

<https://ohi.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/karen-c-draye-wildlife-health-center/mountain-lion-project>

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2026/07/31/mountain-lion-spotted-at-least-twice-in-mission-trails-regional-park-sparking-warnings/> (Sep 5, 2026)

https://conservationcorridor.org/cpb/Vickers_et_al_2017.pdf (Mar 9, 2017)

The Study’s most important findings with respect to the study’s GPS-collared mountain lions: “mountain lions avoided areas of human development”; “preferred coastal oak woodland and riparian areas”; “avoided human development, agricultural areas, chaparral, grassland, and open areas”; “habitat patch sizes that were at least 50km², the minimum home range size for a female in the study area”

“Because mountain lion territory sizes (mean of 375 km² for males and 193 km² for females) are larger than most protected areas in San Diego County, mountain lions must routinely move across large unprotected areas and busy highways in order to survive, increasing their risk of mortality. Thus, as currently constructed, the protected area network and protected corridors in the NCMSCP and adjacent NCCPs do not appear to be adequate to promote long-term persistence of the current mountain lion population and its ecological functions without additional conservation action, including in the eastern part of San Diego County.”

“Habitat fragmentation and barriers are exerting negative effects on the population...”

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Mountain-Lion>

“2020: The [Fish and Game Commission\(external link\)](#) listed mountain lions as a candidate species under the [California Endangered Species Act](#) within a proposed evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) in the central coast and southern California.”

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/CESA>

As of July 2026, the mountain lion is still listed as a threatened species (<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=109405&inline>)

This does not even include all the other local social media platforms, for example: Facebook (Santee Happenings, KUSI News).

“The California Fish and Game Commission voted to give mountain lions extra protections in parts of the state, from the Santa Cruz Mountains stretching down into Southern California” (CBS LA - Feb 2026) <https://www.facebook.com/CBSLA/videos/the-california-fish-and-game-commission-voted-to-give-mountain-lions-extra-prote/1327159216114107/>

[California Fish and Game Commission Finds CESA Protections Warranted for Southern California and Central Coast Mountain Lion](#) (February 20, 2026)

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/News/Archive/california-fish-and-game-commissionfinds-cesa-protections-warranted-forsouthern-californiaandcentral-coastmountain-lion>

“The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) at its Feb. 11-12 meeting voted to list mountain lion populations in parts of southern California and the central coast as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA)”

“... is warranted due to threats such as habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and isolation of small populations as a result of expanding human infrastructure, among others. The Commission considered presentations from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on its species status review and from the listing petitioner the Center for Biological Diversity, as well as public comment.”

With regard to the **red-tailed hawk**, an aerie (approximately 250-300 feet east of the West Hills Parkway/Carlton Oaks Drive intersection) is located about 150-feet up under the canopy of a group of eucalyptus trees (on a neighbor's property); however, I can't find this mentioned or referenced anywhere in the PRDEIR.

Section 4.2.3.2 “Other Special Status Animal Species”, 4-23 (pg 567) clearly states that, “Impacts to potentially suitable breeding habitat for these species would be a potentially significant impact on special-status species.”

4-24 (pg 568) also states that, “Any project related activities that result in the death of nesting birds could be a violation of state and federal laws and would be a significant impact under CEQA.”

I don't see any reference as to when the project surveys within the biological study area (BSA) were done, but this nest has been in existence for as long as I've lived here. My fellow residents have frequently observed the hawks flying up to their nest during mating season, and we have had at least two fledgling hawks and one sick adult hawk land on our property and on our back slope (I have pictures). Others can frequently be seen soaring around the section of the golf course's property adjacent to ours, daily. This is their nesting and hunting ground, and their flight paths from that aerie, their hunting area, and their first flights into the world below will be completely destroyed by this housing development.

The fledgling hawks head west into the wind when first learning to fly out of their nest. The proposed houses will be approximately 70-feet higher in elevation than the existing river valley open space area. This cuts the available elevation of the hawks' existing flight path in half and,

thus, could potentially cause their death as they will have no way to relaunch themselves from the concrete areas. Additionally, the houses will block and change the air streams on which the hawks rely to keep them airborne... hawks don't respect manmade property lines.

My requests and concerns regarding the red-tailed hawk (and their aerie) are as follows:

1. this species is not but should be listed with the other sensitive species in the PRDEIR
2. what accommodations will be made to protect this species?
3. please send me confirmation that all relevant entities (the City of Santee, the City of San Diego, and all other applicable State and Federal agencies) have been appropriately notified about this omission
4. correct the EIR to include this overlooked information once all appropriate studies have been completed

and,

5. provide confirmation that this new information is part of all EIR versions moving forward

Courteously,

Alexandria Lowry

SBCKF lease application

From bernard@sbmariculture.com

Date Wed 09/09/2026 03:53 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>; Newell, Caroline [REDACTED] Ashcraft, Susan [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc Kevin Gaines <kevin@kelpark.org>; Sergey Nuzhdin <sergey@kelpark.org>; Wayne Hall <whall@altasea.org>;
Lovell, Randy [REDACTED]

Hello FGC,

The Santa Barbara Community Kelp Farm is pleased to inform you of it's submission of an application for a 15-year state water bottom lease. Please see the attached and two hard copies are in the process of being submitted to your address. Also being submitted is the aquaculture interagency meeting notes from meetings that were held in April and May of this year in accordance with CFG's application process.

Please let me know when you have recieved the application and next steps to take.

Regards, Bernard Friedman

P.S. Ocean rainforest just recieved it's consistency certification today with the California Coastal Commission with lots of letters of support for kelp farming in the community, and support from staff and commissioners for farming of kelp off the coast of California.

Santa Barbara Mariculture Co.
Bernard Friedman
939 N. Patterson Ave.
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
805 886-1283

State Of California Fish and Game Commission Application for Lease of State Water Bottoms for Aquaculture

Applicant Name:

Santa Barbara Community Kelp Farm (SBCKF) a partnership consisting of: Bernard Friedman of Santa Barbara Mariculture; and Kevin Gaines and Sergey Nuhzdin of Kelp Ark

Phone No:

Santa Barbara Mariculture 805 886-1283
Kelp Ark 424 382-7644

Address:

Santa Barbara Mariculture: 939 N. Patterson Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93111
Kelp Ark: 2451 Signal St., San Pedro, CA, 90731

Aquaculture Registration No:

Santa Barbara Mariculture #969
Kelp Ark #2026

Broodstock Collection Permit: MAB-113

Kelp Ark

Kelp Harvesting License Number: K1038

Expiration Dates:

December 31, 2026

Species of plant or animals to be cultured:

Species and Purpose/Markets

- Three main kelp species were highlighted that SBCKF would like to grow initially: Golden kombu (*Laminaria farlowii*), Giant Kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*), and Southern Sea Palm (*Eisenia arborea*). They would be planted in winter and harvested late spring or early summer. Anticipated production would be approx. 45,000 lbs/yr.
- Seeded lines would come from KelpArk, using its genetically biodiverse stocks collected under Broodstock Collection Permits, and sampled locally, i.e. at least 50 male and female gametophytes, sampled within 50km of the farm (this regulation is now adopted in AK, WA, and OR).
- Voluntary growth of additional seaweed species that naturally settle on the growlines is to be anticipated, and approvals to harvest them is requested; as many as a dozen local species of seaweed may appear on the lines.
- End harvested product could go to various markets, including human consumable food, or non-consumable products.

A. Purpose of operation - research and development or production

The aquaculture farm will serve all three aspects of production, development, and research as this site intends to pioneer offshore seaweed development for Southern California. The site may also be a destination for recreational diving or fishing, workshops and trainings for other aspiring seaweed farmers and interest members of the public (i.e: tourism), and for experimental research.

B. Plan of development and proposed production schedule – 5 year plan

The catenary longline system will be installed in the fall and planted in the winter as soon as permitting is completed. Perimeter longlines will be installed as needed as development progresses.

C. Type of cultural method(s) to be employed: bottom, long line, buoyed habitats, etc.

The longlines will be installed over a sand bottom in 70 feet of water. The longlines will run horizontally 15 to 20 feet below the water surface. The longlines will be held in place with steel plow-type anchors, one inch co-polymer rope, and floated with plastic buoys.

D. Department of Health Services growing water classification: approved, conditionally approved, prohibited, restricted or unclassified

The site is prohibited for growing shellfish but is unclassified for the growing of edible seaweed.

EXHIBIT A-Legal Description of Santa Barbara Community Kelp Farm

The Santa Barbara Community Kelp Farm is seeking a 15-year state water bottom lease with the State of California to grow three species of native kelp using submerged longlines. Natural settlement of kelp is also proposed to be harvested from the submerged longlines.

Site Location:

The proposed lease would be a 20-acre site (800 ft x 1089 ft), approx. one mile off the coast of Santa Barbara and 1.5 miles from the opening of the SB Harbor Channel, which is outside of the City's permitted mooring area, over sand bottom.

Methods / System / Operations

- Main culture method structure is a catenary submerged longline design, employing multiple 200-lb plow-style anchors to secure the underlying structure spanning approx. 20 acres (800 ft x 1089 ft).
- Attached to this catenary structure will be two modules of 400-ft longlines (ten longlines per module) resulting in 8000 ft of growline capacity, utilizing approx. 2 acres of the total 20-acre lease for this configuration.
- Additionally, as many as five ancillary single longlines on either side of the growline modules are planned to accommodate research, experimentation (e.g: with large kelp species), and educational access independent of the main commercial growline modules, and will increase lease utilization of the 20-acre footprint.
- Surface buoys will help position the structure and longlines vertically, holding growlines at about 15-ft of depth during normal operation, and to mark lease and structure boundaries; lines will be brought to the surface during harvest and seeding operations.
- It was noted that Giant Kelp (*Macrocystis* sp.) would need additional weight added to the growlines over time, to counterbalance the buoyancy created by the additional kelp biomass, while Golden Kombu grows well at depth – perhaps necessitating separate growline use (e.g: catenary vs ancillary lines) with strategies to be refined with time and experience.
- Vessels to tend the farm would be small work boats 20 to 40 feet in length and may transit between the harbor and the kelp farm as often as twice daily.
- Anticipated costs to install farm initially: \$60,000; annual operating costs may be in the range of \$50,000/yr.

EXHIBIT B Maps and coordinates of Santa Barbara Community Kelp Farm



Pin	Lat	Long
1	34°24'8.08"N	119°39'44.00"W
2	34°24'8.91"N	119°39'31.22"W
3	34°24'0.17"N	119°39'42.63"W
4	34°24'0.99"N	119°39'29.69"W

20 acres

Application is hereby made to the Fish and Game Commission of the State of California for a lease of State water bottoms in the area described in the attached exhibit entitled "Exhibit A-Legal Description", and as shown on the map attached hereto marked "Exhibit B". Each exhibit bears the name of this applicant. Such lease will be for the purpose of aquaculture involving the species designated above. In support of this application, the applicant hereby submits the following explanation of the type of operation and cultural practices to be employed:

A. Purpose of operation - research and development or production

B. Plan of development and proposed production schedule – 5 year plan

C. Type of cultural method(s) to be employed: bottom, long line, buoyed habitats, etc.

D. Department of Health Services growing water classification: approved, conditionally approved, prohibited, restricted or unclassified
(Attach additional sheets for detailed explanation)

Date: 8/31/2026

Print Name: Bernard Friedman
President Sant Barbara Mariculture

Sergey Nuhzdin
President Kelp Ark

Signature



Instructions:

1. Prepare application form in duplicate and send to Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814.
2. Attach a legal description marked "Exhibit A" and a map in duplicate marked "Exhibit B" to the application. The name of the applicant should be clearly shown on both the legal description and the map. The map must reflect the legal description of the lease area in the application, must show the acreage (or square footage if less than one acre) and be in a form acceptable for recording in the county(ies) in which the requested lease is located. Ties to monuments of record, the scale of the drawing, and where available, high and low tide lines should be shown. The nearest public access should be shown or the route of proposed access to the lease area from the nearest public access to the lease area described.
3. The application must show the name of the applicant and indicate whether a single ownership, a partnership, or a corporation.
4. The application must be dated and signed below the name indicated. The title of the person(s) signing the application should be shown. If a single ownership, the title "Owner" should be shown. If a partnership, all the partners' names should be shown, and the application should be signed by at least one "general partner". If a corporation, the duly authorized "Corporation Officer(s)"

must sign their title(s) shown.

5. Appropriate fee must accompany the application. The present law requires that \$500.00 be remitted with the application. Payment may be made by check or money order. Do not send cash in mailing the application to the State.

6. Assistance in completing and filing this application may be obtained from the Department of Fish and Game's Marine Region Marine Aquaculture Coordinator, 619 Second Street, Eureka, California 95501, or from Marine Resources region offices at 20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100, Monterey, California 93940, or 4665 Lampson Avenue, Suite C, Los Alamitos, California 90720.

EXAMPLE "1"

EXHIBIT A

Legal description of the proposed water bottom lease for cultivation of bay mussel (*Mytilus* sp.) and Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) by Bounding Main Sea Farms, Inc.

LOCATION

In Tomales Bay, Marin County, State of California, starting from Bench Mark 9, located at approximately 38°08'45" North latitude, 122°42'45" West longitude on the Tomales Bay Quadrangle, Marin County, California, U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey 7.5 minute series topographic map; thence South 49° East 1,200 feet to the true point of beginning; thence South 45° East 500 feet; thence North 49° West 500 feet; thence South 49° West 440 feet to the beginning point.

Area: 5 acres, more or less.

Aquaculture Interagency Coordination Meeting
Proposed Project: Santa Barbara Community Kelp Farm
Pre-Application

Meeting Notes and Materials

April 27, 2026 | 1:00 PM

Materials:

- Project proponent materials, including Slide Deck Presentation (PDF)
- Agency representatives and contact information ([Table 1](#))

In Attendance:

Applicants

Santa Barbara Community Kelp Farm (SBCKF) partners, consisting of:

Bernard Fredman (Santa Barbara Mariculture), Kevin Gaines and Sergey Nuzhdin (KelpArk), and Wayne Hall (AltaSea)

Agencies

- CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife (Jessica Girardot, Randy Lovell)
- CA Fish and Game Commission (Melissa Miller-Henson, Caroline Newell)
- CA Coastal Commission (Heather McNair)
- US Army Corps of Engineers (Austin Williams)
- NOAA Protected Resources Div (Andrea Dell'Apa, Aileen San)
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (April Woods)
- CA Dept of Public Health (Eric Trevena; Christina Grant, June Nakagawa, Ali Hossain: Food & Drug Branch; Vanessa Zubkousky-White, Matt Scanlon: Pre-harvest & Biotxin Monitoring)
- US Coast Guard (Mike Salsman, Chief Kevin Kinsella)

Other guests

- Mike Wiltshire (Santa Barbara Waterfront Director)
- Simona Augyte (CA Sea Grant)

Notes

1. Quick Introductions and Goals

Early coordination interagency meeting with Applicant and Agencies to discuss newly proposed Santa Barbara Community Kelp Farm (SBCKF) project prior to formal submission of applications for lease and other permits. Allows for introduction of all parties and provide an idea of what could be expected or asked along the state water bottom leasing and permitting processes.

2. Project Description

Site Location:

The proposed lease would be a 20-acre site (800 ft x 1089 ft), approx. one mile off the coast of Santa Barbara and 1.5 miles from the opening of the SB Harbor Channel, which is outside of the City's permitted mooring area, over sand bottom.

Methods / System / Operations

- Main culture method structure is a catenary submerged longline design, employing multiple 200-lb plow-style anchors to secure the underlying structure spanning approx. 20 acres (800 ft x 1089 ft).
- Attached to this catenary structure will be two modules of 400-ft longlines (ten longlines per module) resulting in 8000 ft of growline capacity, utilizing approx. 2 acres of the total 20-acre lease for this configuration.
- Additionally, as many as five ancillary single longlines on either side of the growline modules are planned to accommodate research, experimentation (e.g: with large kelp species), and educational access, independent of the main commercial growline modules, increasing lease utilization footprint by additional acreage that is unspecified at this time.
- Surface buoys will help position the structure and longlines vertically, holding growlines at about 20-ft depth during normal operation, and to mark lease and structure boundaries; lines will be brought to the surface during harvest and seeding operations.
- It was noted that Giant Kelp (*Macrocystis* sp.) would need additional weight added to the growlines over time, to counterbalance the buoyancy created by the additional kelp biomass, while Golden Kombu grows well at depth – perhaps necessitating separate growline use (e.g: catenary vs ancillary lines) with strategies to be refined with time and experience.
- Vessel to tend the farm would be the same boat that Freidman uses for operating SB Mariculture Co's mussel farm, and may transit between the harbor and the kelp farm as often as twice daily (to be confirmed).
- Anticipated costs to install farm initially: \$60,000; annual operating costs may be in the range of \$50,000/yr; uncertain if market prices and sales/demand will sustain these costs for profitability.

Species and Purpose/Markets

- Three main kelp species were highlighted that SBCKF would like to grow initially: Golden kombu, Giant Kelp, Southern Sea Palm. They would be planted in winter and harvested late spring or early summer. Anticipated production would be approx. 45,000 lbs/yr.
- Seeded lines would come from KelpArk, using its various genetic stocks.
- Voluntary growth of additional seaweed species that naturally settle on the growlines is to be anticipated, and approvals to harvest them is requested; as many as a dozen local species of seaweed may appear on the lines.
- End harvested product could go to various markets, including human consumable food, or non-consumable products;
- The site itself may have additional revenue-generating and training / educational outreach values, including as a destination for recreational diving or fishing, workshops and trainings for other aspiring seaweed farmers and interest members of the public (i.e: tourism), and for experimental research.

3. Effects of Project – Open Discussion (agencies and applicants) – providing below an emphasis on the *questions* raised for future reference and application responses or environmental impact analyses, with less emphasis on trying to capture the proponents' answers during the meeting.

- *Why two types of lines and where would the ancillary lines be located relative to the main catenary structure?* - Project includes catenary design and separate single longlines to allow trials with the

different types of kelp species and growth. (Locations of ancillary lines not indicated on preliminary drawings in slide deck, and may be determined later.)

- *Will a Navigational Safety Risk Assessment (document) be required from project proponents? That is at the discretion or authority of the Waterways Mgt. Div. Chief, and may likely be required. (Contact LA/Long Beach District 11 points of contact for guidance, ([Table 1.](#))*
It was also noted that, due to the project's location proximate to high boater traffic volumes (both recreational and commercial, as well as long-term and temporary event-oriented) that significant aggressive outreach, educational, marking, and notification efforts will be needed to safeguard against conflict with the kelp farm installation. (e.g: local notices to mariners, articles, harbor safety committees, signage, yacht clubs, etc.)
- *In light of competing uses for this location, be prepared to expand on and explain the process that you went through to eliminate other alternative locations, and defend how this became the best choice location for the project;*
- *Also include full range of future activities the project may like to include or pursue when describing project upfront (e.g: species, methods, operations, etc.) in order to avoid need for amendments later.*
- *Also, describe any shoreside development that may go along with the project, including waterfront infrastructure that may be relied upon (e.g: reference was made to the Navy Pier hoist, launch ramp facilities, staging areas utilized, processing facilities or capacity needs, etc.)*
- *What about whale entanglement and gear loss risks? Can you describe installation and operational details, monitoring plans, and other specifics to avoid or minimize problems? (May need to go beyond the strategies described, that included frequent farm visits for monitoring, and slow vessel speeds to avoid strikes with marine mammals.)*
- *Regarding food safety (if they sell product as a human-consumable): consider [HACCP training](#) and [Seaweed Food Safety Guidance](#) that's available and other reference materials posted online; documentation and labelling for non-human consumable product (including invoicing, bills of lading, etc) should clearly say "Not For Human Consumption";*
Also, who you sell to (direct to retail consumers, other farmers, wholesalers or distributors, etc) may have a bearing on the applicable rules and constraints/requirements.
CDPH's Food & Drug Branch staff can also help with guidance for minimum testing requirements for Iodine, Arsenic, heavy metals, and other constituents of concern.
- *A NationWide Permit ([NW55, which is specific to seaweed mariculture](#)) may likely apply in this case for USACE permitting; contact LA District staff for guidance;*
Also, see additional helpful interpretation notes on NW55 [here](#).
Note that the State Water Resources Control Board did not adopt the NW55 permit for use in CA, so a question arose, tied to the Regional Water Board's responsibilities to ensure compliance with Clean Water Act (Sec. 404/401) and which certification or permit may apply for this project. This was unresolved at the time of this meeting, and needs additional discussion and guidance.
- *The Corps' permit process includes formal consultation with NOAA Protected Resources Division, including review for project compliance under various federal protections including: the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery & Conservation Mgt Act (MSA) – the latter of which includes concerns related to "Essential Fish Habitat" (or EFH). EFH is protected, for example, where fish utilize habitat for spawning. The question was raised whether a seaweed farm, by virtue of its gear and the farmed seaweed biomass itself, might become spawning substrate for certain fish at certain times, and therefore might constitute EFH? This confounding question was not resolved during the meeting, and is an issue needing resolution to better understand any potential permitting constraints on operations or gear configurations.*
- *Questions raised as to local waters' nutrient availability to seaweed, and conversely, whether the proximity to a wastewater treatment plant's outfall might be a concern?*

- *Attention was raised about state requirements to return the site to original condition after farm activity ceases, including how anchoring devices that may get buried over time are dealt with? Applicant should be prepared to provide financial surety to ensure after-project cleanup is pre-funded.*

4. Effects of Project – Agency Discussion – highlighting any additional concerns the applicant should address in planning their project, how they might alter the Project Description, and influence the content of application materials.

- *The most significant concern raised in agency discussion was tied to siting, and the project's proximity to large volumes of recreational boating activities, whether localized or transitory (in addition to local activity, the site lies in a highly popular boatway connecting Los Angeles and Santa Barbara). Measures needed to ensure the new seaweed farm site is avoided by boaters, who may not stay tuned to recent notifications or navigational updates, and will require effective planning and execution between the project's proponents, permitting agencies, and other appropriate authorities and partners.*
- *State water bottom leases issued by the CA Fish and Game Commission are for commercial aquaculture use, with accompanying minimum production requirements that have been founded primarily on bivalve shellfish planting and harvesting quantities. How such thresholds will be set for combined research, education, and commercial seaweed production, is currently unresolved.*

Aquaculture Interagency Coordination Meeting
Proposed Project: Santa Barbara Community Kelp Farm
Pre-Application

Meeting Notes and Materials

May 20, 2026 | 1:00 PM

Materials:

- Project proponent materials, including PowerPoint Presentation (PPT) – revised from 4/27 PDF slidedeck.
- Agency representatives and contact information ([Table 1](#))

In Attendance:

Applicants

Santa Barbara Community Kelp Farm (SBCKF) partners, consisting of:

Bernard Fredman (Santa Barbara Mariculture), Kevin Gaines and Sergey Nuzhdin (KelpArk), and Wayne Hall (AltaSea)

Agencies

- CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife (Jessica Girardot, Randy Lovell, Sara Briley, Kirsten Ramey)
- CA Fish and Game Commission (Caroline Newell)
- CA State Lands Commission (Maren Farnum)
- CA Coastal Commission (Heather McNair)
- CA Dept of Public Health (Matt Scanlon)
- NOAA Protected Resources Div (Aileen San)
- NOAA Federal Aquaculture Coordinator (Celia Barroso)
- CA Sea Grant (Kevin Marquez Johnson)

Notes

1. Quick Introductions and Goals

Early coordination interagency meeting with Applicant and Agencies to discuss newly proposed Santa Barbara Community Kelp Farm (SBCKF) project prior to formal submission of applications for lease and other permits. Allows for introduction of all parties and provide an idea of what could be expected or asked along the state water bottom leasing and permitting processes. This May 20th meeting was convened to include some agency participants unavailable for the April 27th meeting. Material presented was essentially the same, but discussions evolved differently due to different group makeup. Applicants should utilize outcomes from both meetings in combination.

2. Project Description

Site Location:

The proposed lease would be a 20-acre site (800 ft x 1089 ft), approx. one mile off the coast of Santa Barbara and 1.5 miles from opening of the SB Harbor Channel, which is outside of the City's permitted mooring area, over sand bottom. Sampling stations for municipal wastewater outfalls have been noted by the Applicant and avoided in their siting analysis (to be confirmed). ***It was noted during this meeting (and not the first) that the proposed site slightly overlaps the CA halibut trawling area, which is a concern*.***

**Note that the Applicant has revised the coordinates of the proposed lease location since this meeting to avoid the CA halibut trawl grounds.*

Methods / System / Operations

- See notes from 4/27/2026 – same methods / system / operations described.

Species and Purpose/Markets

- See notes from 4/27/2026 – same species / purpose / markets described.
- Applicant asked whether *Postelsia sp.* (northern sea palm) could be cultivated? Native populations struggling, so collection of broodstock from the wild could be challenging.

3. Effects of Project – Open Discussion (agencies and applicants) – providing below an emphasis on the *questions or possible concerns* raised during this meeting for future reference and application responses or environmental impact analyses, with less emphasis on trying to capture the proponents' answers during the meeting.

- *Further issues that may arise - upon additional coordination with agencies, other considerations may be revealed that could affect the proposed project or the site location. This includes the required formal inquiry by the CA Fish and Game Commission to State Lands Commission regarding prior encumbrance of the proposed lease site, the extent of nearby pipelines, undersea cables, shipwrecks, and other cultural resources. Tribal consultations may also reveal siting considerations that could potentially affect the project.*
- *Outreach before submitting final applications and throughout the permitting process should consider at least the following groups:*
 - Sportfishing Association of California
 - Coastal Conservation Association California for the recreation fishing industry
 - CA Lobster Fisherman and Trap Association
 - recreational boating groups and yacht clubs
 - dive groups
 - tribal coordination is part of the CEQA lead agency's role (CA Fish & Game Commission in this case); coordinate with CFGC for guidance.

4. Effects of Project – Agency Discussion – highlighting any additional concerns the applicant should address in planning their project, how they might alter the Project Description, and influence the content of application materials.

- *Topics discussed afterward mirrored what was noted from 4/27/2026 meeting, particularly regarding vessel traffic, warnings, marking, and outreach needs.*
- *The CA halibut trawl grounds issue was raised, but ultimately was resolved by the applicant after the meeting by modifying the proposed lease location, avoiding the trawl grounds boundary.*
- *Is there a foreseeable future that expands this site larger, if successful?*
- *Essential Fish Habitat question noted previously (4/27/2026) was unresolved by this meeting.*

Table 1. Participating agency representatives, contact information, and agencies' roles in aquaculture leasing and permitting. [Note: this table contains agency contacts for *Santa Barbara*]

Agency	Contact	Agency Role
California Fish and Game Commission	Caroline Newell: [REDACTED] Susan Ashcraft: [REDACTED]	California Fish and Game Commission leases public trust submerged tidelands for aquaculture use. A proposed lease area must be found to be in the public's interest. Serves as the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Randy Lovell: [REDACTED] Sara Briley: [REDACTED] Jessica Girardot: [REDACTED]	Registers aquaculture operations, reviews and administers importation permits, wild broodstock collection permits, and serves an administrative role for aquaculture leases.
California Coastal Commission (CCC)	Heather McNair heather.mcnaair@coastal.ca.gov	Regulates development in the coastal zone, which it does through issuing coastal development permits.
United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Los Angeles District	Austin Williams: Austin.L.Williams@usace.army.mil	Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act requires USACE's authorization prior to any work in, under, or over navigable waters of the United States, or which affects the course, location, condition or capacity of such waters. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires USACE's authorization prior to discharging dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries - Protected Resources Division	Andrea Dell'Apa: Andrea.dellapa@noaa.gov Aileen San: Aileen.San@noaa.gov	The federal action agency requests consultation with NOAA Fisheries when potential impacts from the project are determined in accordance with federal statutes including the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Magnuson Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act, and others.
Central Coast Reg Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) – San Luis Obispo office	April Woods: April.Woods@waterboards.ca.gov	Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires the State Water Boards and Regional Water Quality Control Boards to regulate discharges of dredged or fill material to waters of the state.
California Department of Public Health (CDPH)	Christina Grant (Food & Drug Branch) christina.grant@cdph.ca.gov Vanessa Zubkousky: vanessa.zubkousky@cdph.ca.gov	Regulates the growing, harvesting, and marketing of bivalve shellfish intended for sale for human consumption. FDB regulates post-harvest handling of seafood, including seaweed.
US Coast Guard District 11	Mike Salsman: Michael.J.Salsman@uscg.mil	Issues Private Aids to Navigation (PATON) permits;
NOAA Fisheries – Office of Aquaculture	Celia Barroso: celia.barroso@noaa.gov	NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region California Aquaculture Coordinator.

Petition 2025-003 - Request for Written Notice Required by Government Code §11340.7(b)

From pat

Date Sun 09/13/2026 08:45 AM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

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

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson and Commissioners:

I have reviewed my records and can locate no written notification to me pursuant to Government Code §11340.7(b) concerning the Commission's June 11, 2025 action on Petition 2025-003.

If the Commission contends that written notification required by §11340.7(b) was provided, please identify and provide the communication, including its date and manner of transmission.

If no such written notification was provided, please confirm that fact.

Please distribute this correspondence to the Executive Director and all members of the Commission and retain it as correspondence concerning Petition 2025-003.

Pat Wright


Request for Joint Review of Laguna Beach Sand Replenishment Impacts to MPA

From Wendy Tochiara

Date Wed 09/16/2026 11:34 AM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>; SouthCoast@Coastal <SouthCoast@coastal.ca.gov>; web@coastal.ca.gov
<web@coastal.ca.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Wendy Tochiara, and I am requesting joint review and oversight regarding ongoing sand replenishment activities occurring along the shoreline of Laguna Beach. These actions are directly affecting the integrity of the Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve and appear to fall under the shared jurisdiction of both the California Coastal Commission and the California Fish and Game Commission.

Laguna's MPA only extends to the mean high tide line. Sand dumped above that line washes directly into protected tidepools and reef habitat. This is an indirect violation of the MPA's purpose and should be reviewed by both the California Coastal Commission and the Fish and Game Commission.

The City of Laguna Beach issued an emergency proclamation authorizing "shoreline protection, sand placement, debris removal, assessments and repairs" in response to severe erosion. Local reporting confirms the city is using emergency powers to "expedite shoreline protection and sand placement" at multiple Laguna Beach locations, including Ocean Way, Lagunita Drive, Aliso Beach, Pearl Street Beach, and Christmas Cove.

These locations are within or immediately adjacent to the Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve boundary. Because the MPA boundary stops at the mean high tide line, sand placed on the upper beach is outside the MPA at the moment of placement but is not stable. Coastal engineering guidance from the California Coastal Commission's Sand Compatibility and Opportunistic Use Program (SCOUP) shows that sand placed on the upper beach or near the mean high tide line migrates downslope into the intertidal zone due to wave action. This intertidal zone is inside the MPA.

Laguna Beach erosion reports confirm that reef and rock are currently exposed, increasing the likelihood that sand placed upslope will settle directly onto protected habitat. News coverage notes that "erosion has exposed rocks at beaches like Shaw Cove, leaving very little sand behind" and that "significant erosion can be seen behind homes on Lagunita Drive."

Because these activities directly affect an MPA and involve shoreline alteration, I respectfully request that both Commissions evaluate whether Laguna Beach's sand replenishment practices are consistent with the intent and protections established under the Marine Life Protection Act and the California Coastal Act. I also ask that future shoreline-altering proposals adjacent to MPAs be brought before both agencies for full review.

Evidence Packet

1. Laguna Beach is actively placing sand

- Emergency proclamation authorizes "shoreline protection, sand placement, debris removal, assessments and repairs."
- Local reporting confirms emergency powers are being used to "expedite shoreline protection and sand placement."

2. Specific Laguna locations

Sand placement and erosion impacts are documented at:

- Ocean Way
- Lagunita Drive
- Aliso Beach
- Pearl Street Beach
- Christmas Cove

All are within or adjacent to the Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve.

3. MPA boundary

- The Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve extends only to the mean high tide line.
- Anything below that line is protected habitat.

4. Sand migration into the MPA

Coastal Commission engineering guidance (SCOUP) confirms:

- Sand placed on the upper beach or near the mean high tide line will migrate downslope due to wave action.
- The intertidal zone is inside the MPA.

5. Exposed intertidal zone

Laguna erosion reports confirm:

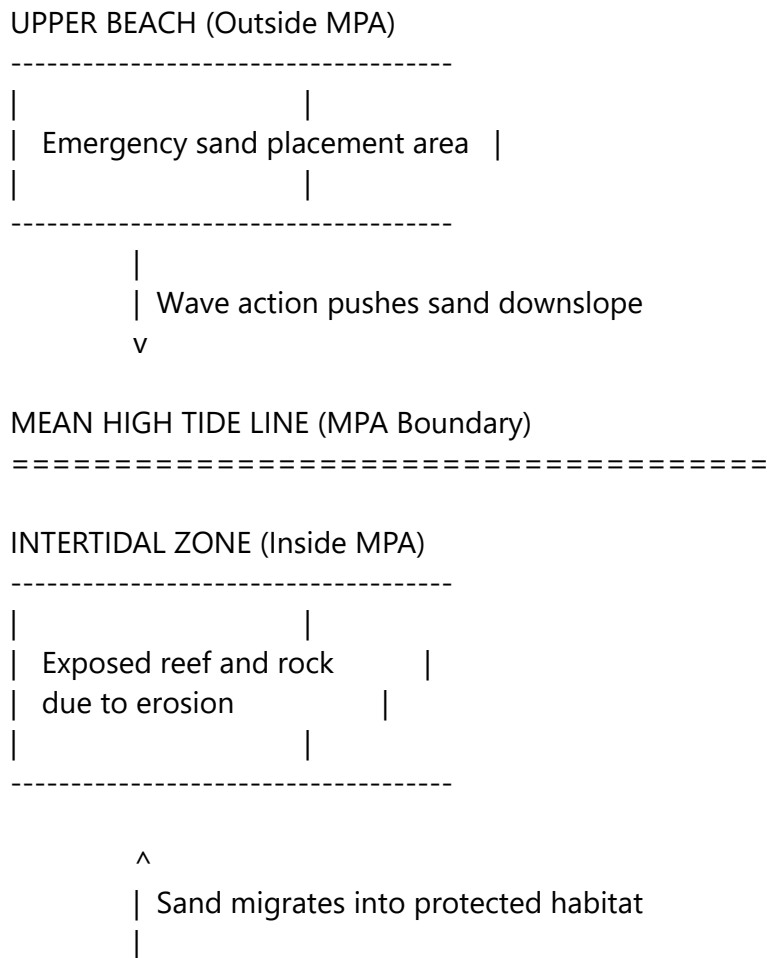
- "Erosion has exposed rocks at beaches like Shaw Cove."
- "Significant erosion can be seen behind homes on Lagunita Drive."

This means sand placed upslope will settle directly onto exposed intertidal habitat.

Key Evidence Summary

- Laguna Beach is actively placing sand under emergency authority.
- Sand placement is occurring at Ocean Way, Lagunita Drive, Aliso Beach, Pearl Street, and Christmas Cove.
- The Laguna Beach MPA boundary stops at the mean high tide line.
- Sand placed above that line migrates downslope into the MPA.
- Coastal Commission engineering guidance confirms this migration.
- Laguna's intertidal zone is currently exposed due to erosion.
- Sand placement therefore indirectly impacts protected habitat.
- Joint review by both agencies is warranted.

Sand Movement Into the MPA



RESULT:
Sand placed above the MHTL enters the MPA,
altering protected intertidal and reef areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Wendy Tochiara



Live imports

From Jane Cartmill

Date Thu 09/17/2026 04:43 PM

To Office of the Secretary CNRA <secretary@resources.ca.gov>

Cc FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Gentlemen:

I am writing to urge that imports of live frogs and turtles be stopped through legislation that is long overdue. The significant risks to public health and the environment resulting from these imports are well known. The conditions endured by these unfortunate creatures may be less obvious but are equally disturbing for the cruelty involved in the procurement, handling and transport as well as neglect of dietary and habitat needs. Although the sale of non-native frogs and turtles is illegal, import permits continue to be granted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, bringing an assortment of pathogens and parasites to an unsuspecting public and into our local waters, putting native species at high risk. There is no need for this to continue. It is time for authorities and officials to advance legislation to end these live imports. Protect public health and our ecosystems.

Sincerely yours,

Jane Cartmill






September 17, 2026

California Fish and Game Commission

fgc@fgc.ca.gov

RE: Comments on the Petition to Delist Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsona*) from CESA Threatened List

CA Fish and Game Commission,

We are writing to strongly oppose the petition to delist Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsona*) from the California Endangered Species Act threatened list (submitted June 10, 2026 by Dan Dunmoyer of the California Building Industry Association (CBIA)).

Golden Gate Bird Alliance is a non-profit organization with 7,000 members and supporters, whose mission is to inspire people to protect Bay Area birds and our shared natural environment. For 110 years we have been a leader in bird conservation and habitat protection across our region and California.

The Swainson's Hawk population information presented by CBIA to support delisting is almost entirely based on a single paper: "Rapid growth of the Swainson's Hawk population in California since 2005" by Furnas et al. and published in Ornithological Applications in 2022. Furnas et al. surveyed the hawks in only four specific years: 2005, 2006, 2016, and 2018. Their research showed a population of over 18,000 pairs in 2018. There is no other peer reviewed literature on the species to back up this number, and critically, there is no published census information after 2018. A single paper, surveying just four years in the last several decades is insufficient evidence to show a stable population worthy of delisting.

Furthermore, Furnas et al. explicitly state in their paper that the cause of the increase remains unknown. They call for more frequent and improved surveys to understand whether this trend is, in fact, stable and what the increase can be attributed to. It is a misinterpretation of their results to rely on it for delisting, when it should act as a call to further study of the species.

The rate of increase of the California population in the Furnas et al. was 14% between 2005 and 2018, however this is inconsistent with eBird data looking at a more recent time period. eBird shows a median regional trend of 4.2% increase between 2012 and 2022 in California, with a confidence interval between -0.9% (slight population decline) and 21.7%.

Beyond the Furnas paper, the CBIA petition claims that Swainson's Hawks in California have recovered to their "pre-historic" levels. This claim is based on an estimated California population of 4,284–17,136 breeding pairs before European settlement from "The status of the Swainson's

Hawk in California” by Bloom in 1980, prepared by The Bureau of Land Management, and Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration. Furnas et al. warn in their discussion: “we caution that Bloom’s analysis was not statistically quantitative and the true historical population could have been much higher.” Once again, relying on a single source to assert population recovery is problematic and is insufficient evidence to delist.

Finally, the petition claims that threats to the Swainson’s Hawk, including loss of habitat, are no longer present. This claim is absurd. While the area of agricultural land use in California has remained stable, the crops have changed dramatically. Specifically, alfalfa and pasture (preferred foraging grounds for Swainson’s Hawk) is being converted rapidly into orchards and vineyards according to a [2024 fact sheet](#) produced by the independent Public Policy Institute of California. This refutes the claims in the petition that alfalfa coverage is stable.

Water availability, climate change, and changes in the agriculture industry will surely have impacts on Swainson’s Hawk habitat. Until we understand why we are seeing sudden, and potentially temporary, increases in Swainson’s populations, we cannot say how these external factors will impact their survival and reproductive success. The findings of the Furnas et al. paper are encouraging but insufficient to delist this species. We again bring up the major point outlined by Furnas et al. that more research is needed to draw any conclusions about the long term stability and success of Swainson’s Hawks in California.

The CBIA petition pits the housing crisis in California against the Swainson’s Hawk. This is a false choice. Protection of our most vulnerable wildlife is core to our values as Californians. The California Endangered Species Act and specifically the threatened status of Swainson’s Hawks are not the cause of our housing issues. Delisting a species requires good science-based evidence which we simply do not have at this time to support the delisting of these hawks. They still need our protections.

Thank you for your consideration,



Glenn Phillips
Executive Director

GOLDEN GATE BIRD ALLIANCE

2150 Allston Way, Suite 210 Berkeley, California 94704

phone 510.843.2222 fax 510.361.0140 web www.goldengatebirdalliance.org

Restorative Justice

From Lisa Sherman

Date Thu 09/17/2026 11:39 AM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Dear California Fish and Game Commission,

Ha'awka. My name is **Lisa Sherman**, founder of **Tribal Sacred Waters, Inc.**, and an enrolled member of the **ipay Nation of Santa Ysabel**. For nearly a year, I have been building Tribal Sacred Waters, Inc attending Commission meetings, listening, learning, and speaking up for greater Tribal access, representation, and stewardship of California's ocean and fisheries.

Through Tribal Sacred Waters, we fish, hold a multi-function commercial fishing license, educate our Native youth and families, and work to reconnect California Tribal communities to the ocean. We are trying to rebuild relationships that were disrupted for generations—not only access to fishing, but access to our shorelines, traditional foods, stewardship responsibilities, and the ability to participate meaningfully in decisions about waters that our ancestors have known since time immemorial.

I am also a **California Department of Fish and Wildlife license agent**. To my knowledge, I am the first Native American Tribal member or Tribal nonprofit organization to provide these licensing services within Tribal communities and Indian Country. This role allows me to help Tribal members obtain the licenses and permits they need to fish, hunt, and participate lawfully in outdoor activities.

However, my ability to provide these services is currently limited because I must remain stationary at one location. Tribal communities are spread across California, and many Tribal members must travel significant distances to access licensing services. To make these services truly useful and accessible, I would like to be able to travel to Tribal reservations and communities and provide licensing assistance directly where our people live.

I respectfully ask the Commission and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to explore whether it would be possible to expand or modify the licensing-agent program so that I can provide services at multiple Tribal Nations, reservations, and Tribal community events throughout California. Ideally, I would like to obtain the necessary authorization or licensing arrangements to serve all interested federally recognized Tribes, in coordination with each Tribe and consistent with applicable state requirements.

This would help Tribal members access fishing licenses, permits, and related services without having to leave their communities or travel long distances. It would also support Tribal participation in fisheries, outdoor recreation, cultural practices, and economic opportunities. Bringing these services directly to reservations would be a practical and meaningful step toward improving access and strengthening relationships between the Department, the Commission, and California Tribal Nations.

I appreciate California's efforts to acknowledge the historical harms committed against Native peoples. However, acknowledgment and apology alone cannot repair what was lost. The question I keep coming back to is: **What are we going to do to repair it?**

I believe **restorative justice** should be part of that answer.

For me, restorative justice means moving beyond acknowledging historical injustice and creating tangible opportunities that restore relationships, access, participation, and responsibility. I respectfully ask the Commission to consider meaningful discussions with California's federally recognized Tribal Nations about actions such as:

- Revisiting **Marine Protected Areas and coastal access** through meaningful government-to-government Tribal participation.
- Examining **subsistence, traditional, and commercial fishing access and opportunities** for California Tribal communities.
- Expanding funding opportunities for federally recognized Tribes **and Tribal-led nonprofit organizations whose leadership and work directly serve federally recognized Tribal communities.**
- Creating stronger pathways for **Tribal stewardship, co-management, and, where legally appropriate, co-governance** of marine resources.
- Supporting Tribal-led fisheries, seafood sovereignty, youth education, cultural restoration, and the return of Native people to California's waters.
- Improving access to licensing and permitting services by supporting Tribal-based and mobile licensing opportunities at reservations and Tribal community events.
- Developing a process that would allow qualified Tribal licensing agents to serve multiple Tribal Nations throughout California while coordinating with each Tribe and complying with state law.
- Ensuring that consultation and representation clearly recognize the distinct political and legal status of federally recognized Tribal Nations while respectfully addressing other communities according to applicable law and policy.

This distinction matters to me personally. My identity is not something I simply claim. I am an enrolled Tribal member. My family and ancestors are documented within our Tribal history, and my Tribe has endured the consequences of generations of policies that separated Native people from lands, waters, foods, and traditional ways of life.

I do not want our communities to spend another generation simply repeating the history of what happened to us. **I want us to work together on what comes next.**

That means creating opportunities for Tribes to be stewards again. It means building genuine partnerships. It means moving beyond consultation when possible and developing durable structures for shared decision-making, co-management, and co-governance that respect Tribal sovereignty and California law.

It also means recognizing that access is not meaningful if the services needed to exercise that access are unavailable or difficult to reach. A Tribal member should not have to travel hours away from their reservation simply to obtain a fishing license or other required permit. Bringing licensing services directly into Tribal communities would help remove barriers and support lawful, safe, and culturally meaningful participation.

I believe the Commission and California Tribal Nations can work together to build something better. There is an opportunity to turn acknowledgment into action and historical recognition into restoration.

I respectfully ask the Commission to consider **restorative justice as part of its future Tribal, marine, fisheries, MPA, access, licensing, and stewardship policies** and to create a meaningful forum where federally recognized California Tribal Nations and Tribal-led organizations can help develop what that framework should look like.

I also respectfully request assistance in identifying the appropriate process, agency contacts, and legal or administrative requirements for expanding my role as a CDFW license agent so that I may provide licensing services at Tribal reservations and communities throughout California. I would welcome the opportunity to work with the Commission, CDFW, and Tribal governments to develop a practical model that could serve multiple Tribes while respecting each Tribe's sovereignty and community needs.

We are tired of only talking about what was taken. **We are ready to talk about what can be restored.**

Thank you for taking the time to read my perspective and for considering these ideas. I would welcome the opportunity to speak further with Commissioners, staff, CDFW representatives, or Tribal representatives about how we can move these conversations forward.

Uuhayi, thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Lisa Sherman

Founder, Tribal Sacred Waters, Inc.

Enrolled Member, Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel

CDFW License Agent

Phone: 760-420-9158

Email: Lisa@tswaters.com

[Lisa Sherman](#)

[Enrolled Tribal Member Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel \(Kumeyaay/Diegueño\)](#)

[Founder of](#)

[Tribal Sacred Waters, Inc.](#)

[Executive Director](#)

[21977 HWY 79 #192](#)

[Santa Ysabel, Ca 92070](#)

[\(760\)420-9158](#)

lisa@tswaters.com

[Tribal Sacred Waters, Inc](#)



I don't know why this is not sending

From [REDACTED]

Date Tue 09/22/2026 09:57 AM

To monterey@wildlife.ca.gov <monterey@wildlife.ca.gov>; californiaenviro@wildlife.ca.gov <californiaenviro@wildlife.ca.gov>; Wildlife Civil Rights <CivilRights@wildlife.ca.gov>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Wildlife SB & DVBE Advocate <SBDVBEAdvocate@wildlife.ca.gov>; John Gerbrandt <john.gerbrandt@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Jean Nguyen <jean.nguyen@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Julie Ruhlin <julie.ruhlin@oirgroup.com>; FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>; KSBW Action News 8 <emailnews@email.ksbw.com>; communications@naacpnet.org <communications@naacpnet.org>; NAACP <info@naacpnet.org>; ca43mwima-113@mail.house.gov <ca43mwima-113@mail.house.gov>; U.S. Representative Jimmy Panetta <ca19jp.outreach@mail.house.gov>; senator.laird@senate.ca.gov <senator.laird@senate.ca.gov>; senator_padilla@padilla.senate.gov <senator_padilla@padilla.senate.gov>

Santa Cruz County received \$100,000 at the same time DOJ records were altered

They don't want further investigation

Environmental Health Hazard Report – Logan Creek Watershed
Boulder Creek, California
Attention: Environmental Health Services

To Whom It May Concern,

I am submitting this report to request immediate Environmental Health investigation into hazardous waste contamination affecting the soil, groundwater, and watershed along Logan Creek in Boulder Creek, California. I reside at [REDACTED] directly downstream from two properties—[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]—that are producing visible, documented, and ongoing environmental health hazards.

1. Chemical Contamination at [REDACTED]

A chemical herbicide container is present at [REDACTED] Photographs are attached. The vegetation pattern shows 20–30 ferns dead in a single circular area above the creek, while surrounding vegetation remains unaffected. This is consistent with localized chemical intrusion into the soil and waterway pathway.

I have lived here for 27 years and have never seen this pattern of vegetation death until the herbicide container appeared and my ferns began dying.

An additional container has been placed directly on the waterline at [REDACTED] increasing the likelihood of chemical discharge entering the watershed.

Under Civil Code §§3479–3480 and CCP §731, this constitutes a public nuisance and a direct threat to public health due to contamination of a shared watershed.

2. Sewage, Waste, and Structural Hazards at [REDACTED]

The structure at [REDACTED] is red-tagged, condemned, and under a court order ([REDACTED]) requiring immediate teardown and vacancy. Despite this, the occupant continues to reside on the property.

A shipping container with an active fan is operating on the property despite no electrical service. This raises concerns about chemical processing and hazardous waste discharge.

Fish and Game has documented feces on an outhouse suspended directly over Logan Creek, confirming raw sewage discharge into the watershed. I also have photographs showing:

- The outhouse hanging over Logan Creek with visible feces
- A cardboard “900” address sign placed at [REDACTED] to conceal the true location

The property has no sewage system. The occupant continues to alter soil, block the road, and violate all environmental and structural orders, including the requirement to restore Logan Creek Road to its original condition.

These actions violate Civil Code §3479 (public nuisance), CCP §526(a) (injunction violations), and Water Code §13050 (waste discharge into state waters).

3. County Non-Compliance, Evidence Concerns, and Judicial Errors Affecting Enforcement

County personnel, including Heather Reynolds, have attempted to deny, distract, and deflect from the County’s environmental liability. She instructed recipients to “contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message,” raising concerns about destruction of environmental evidence.

Destruction or attempted destruction of environmental evidence violates:

- CCP §2023.010 – misuse of discovery
- CCP §128(a)(4) – abuse of judicial process
- Evidence Code §413 – adverse inference for suppression of evidence

This case also involves 15 judicial errors, altered DOJ records, and perjury related to billing for legal documents, including declarations that depositions were paid for when no transcripts were ever produced. These acts do not negate or supersede the valid court order in [REDACTED] which remains enforceable and in continuing contempt. The altered DOJ records are separate from the County Counsel victory and do not change the fact that the occupant is still required to tear down the condemned structure, vacate, and restore Logan Creek Road.

4. Additional Environmental Hazards at [REDACTED]

The property at [REDACTED] contains approximately 20 feral cats, a yard of garbage, and cat feces entering the creek. This is a separate environmental hazard contributing to watershed contamination.

This falls under Civil Code §3479 (public nuisance) and Water Code §13260 (discharge requiring reporting).

5. Public Health Impact and Required Environmental Health Action

Logan Creek is a direct watershed. Any chemical discharge, herbicide runoff, raw sewage leakage, or hazardous waste entering the soil poses a significant public health risk to downstream residents, wildlife, and the broader ecosystem.

Because the County has been negligent in multiple ways, attempts are now being made to cover up the consequences. However:

Bacteria do not lie, and hazardous materials do not disappear.
The soil and creek will show exactly what has been discharged.

I request immediate Environmental Health action, including:

- Soil sampling at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
- Waterline contamination testing
- Herbicide residue analysis
- Hazardous waste screening
- Sewage discharge investigation
- Hydrological flow impact assessment
- Enforcement of existing court orders affecting watershed safety

Your prompt attention is critical to protecting public health and the integrity of the Logan Creek watershed.

Sincerely,
Michelle Wahl

[REDACTED]
Boulder Creek, CA













INYO COUNTY

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS
DOUGLAS BROWN
STEVE IVEY
WARREN ALLSUP
GAYE MUELLER
JARED SMITH

ALTERNATE MEMBER
NICK LARA

REPLY TO:
Pat Gunsolley, Secretary
4801 Alison Lane
Bishop, CA 93514
pgunsolley@gmail.com

BISHOP, CA 93514

September 12, 2026

Ms. Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission
P. O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Dear Director Miller-Henson:

The Inyo County Fish and Wildlife Commission continues to be extremely concerned about the impact of the mountain lions on the local deer and the federally endangered Sierra Nevada Big Horn sheep populations. As a result of these concerns the Commission is asking that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDF&W) remove the 2020 CDF&W adopted "three-strikes" memorandum which requires multiple department contacts with a lion before issuing a lethal permit.

Proposition 117 adopted in 1990 put mountain lion protection into California Law. The law allows for lethal permits to be issued by CDF&W, upon specific requirements being met. The "three-strikes rule" was adopted by the department in 2020 and has sharply reduced the numbers of permits being issued.

As mule deer numbers in California drop, with 1990 numbers being 850,000 statewide and the 2026 estimate numbers being between 450,000-550,000; and mountain lion numbers trending differently with 1990 populations being 6,000 and 2026 numbers being estimated at a high of 4,500; the correlation of these figures equates to a 50% decrease in the deer population compared to a 25% reduction in the mountain lion population.

While mortality for populations in both deer and the mountain lion have included, urban expansion, reduction of habitat, and vehicle collisions, with more mountain lions hunting and less deer prey available, the "three-strikes rule" is responsible for a greater number of mountain lions interacting with humans and domesticated animals, resulting in a much less safe environment. The added protection of lethal permits is a necessity and the removal of hinderances to the issuance of these permits is vital.

The Commission believes that protecting humans, pets and livestock from mountain lions will become even more important as these groups continue to encroach into wildlife habitat culminating in more dangerous interactions with mountain lions. It is important that lethal permits be issued as originally intended at the request of land and livestock owners with the approval of CDF&W without restrictions requiring three departmental interactions with a menacing mountain lion prior to a lethal permit. The delay this restriction causes is costly, time-consuming, and dangerous to not only the public but CDF&W staff. This is a prudent and responsible action to ensure public safety.

The Commission thanks you for your consideration of the request to end the permit requirement for "three-strikes" before lethal action. This action will see that mountain lion lethal permit requirements return to the original requirements of the bill as approved by the voters in Prop 117.

Sincerely,

Doug Brown

Doug Brown, Chairperson

Fwd: FGC lease renewal for State Water Bottom lease M-430-12

From Gary Fleener

Date Fri 09/25/2026 02:04 PM

To Newell, Caroline [REDACTED]

Cc Wildlife Aquaculture Coordinator <AquacultureCoord@wildlife.ca.gov>; Brad Fletcher <brad@hogislandoysters.com>; John Finger <john@hogislandoysters.com>

Hi Caroline,

Per Randy's guidance (below) and the attached letter, I am writing on behalf of Hog Island Oyster Company to request renewal of State Water Bottom lease M-430-12, which expires on June 30, 2027.

Please advise on next steps and let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Acknowledgment of receipt requested.

All best,

Gary

Gary B. Fleener, Ph.D.
Senior Director of Science and Policy
HOG ISLAND OYSTER CO.
615 2nd Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

www.hogislandoysters.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lovell, Randy

Subject: RE: FGC lease renewal for 430-12

Date: September 25, 2026 at 11:06:14 AM PDT

To: Gary Fleener <gary@hogislandoysters.com>, "Newell, Caroline [REDACTED]"

Cc: Brad Fletcher <brad@hogislandoysters.com>, John Finger <john@hogislandoysters.com>, "Girardot, Jessica [REDACTED]"

[REDACTED]

Hi Gary -

Send a letter (via email is fine) indicating your intention to renew to: FGC@fgc.ca.gov, as indicated in the attached,

and cc Jessica & me (you can use just this single contact for the two of us: AquacultureCoord@wildlife.ca.gov).

Your point person at the Commission to communicate with directly is Caroline Newell

Looking forward,

Randy.

RANDY LOVELL
STATE AQUACULTURE COORDINATOR
CA DEPT FISH & WILDLIFE
SACRAMENTO CA

WWW.AQUACULTUREMATTERS.CA.GOV

From: Gary Fleener <gary@hogislandoysters.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 10:38 AM
To: Lovell, Randy
Cc: Brad Fletcher <brad@hogislandoysters.com>; John Finger <john@hogislandoysters.com>
Subject: FGC lease renewal for 430-12

Good morning Randy!

Could you guide me to the current right person at FGC to correspond with about renewing our lease at 430-12 (which expires in 2027)?

I need to get that process rolling because it will trigger a CDP amendment as well.

All best,

Gary

Gary B. Fleener, Ph.D.
Senior Director of Science and Policy
HOG ISLAND OYSTER CO.
615 2nd Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

www.hogislandoysters.com

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

September 29, 2026

Re: MPA Network Petitions Review Process and Environmental Justice (Agenda Item 2, General Public Comment)

Dear honorable Commissioners:

We are a group of environmental justice scholars, who either live in California or study California, who wish to provide expertise and input to your current Marine Protected Area (MPA) review process. We are grateful that the California Fish and Game Commission (“the Commission”) and the State of California have made clear their commitment to Environmental Justice (EJ), leading the nation through EJ and JEDI policies¹. **We write to ask the Commission to consider the use of EJ principles in its own governance process, specifically those of recognitional and procedural justice. We recommend engaging with EJ experts to develop an evaluation and reporting mechanism for the Commission.**

EJ is a well-studied, well-documented set of concepts that draws from history, community organizing in Black, Indigenous, people of color, immigrant and working-class communities, and 40+ years of scholarship from multiple disciplines including sociology, geography, public health, ecology, economics, urban planning, anthropology, history, ethics, and environmental science. While it is a growing discourse and is contextual, concepts of EJ have widespread academic and lay agreement and meaning. **In short, the core concepts and notions of EJ are not malleable ideas but are historically rooted with associated and defined meaning** (Mohai et al., 2009). EJ theory also demonstrates that social justice and environmental sustainability are intrinsically tied, thus meeting the conservation goals of the Commission *requires* engaging with concepts of justice and equity (Agyeman et al., 2016).

We write to support not the policy ends of any interest group or individual, but to provide clarity on what EJ is and how it can be engaged.

Procedural, recognitional, and distributive justice form the classic social justice framework from which many EJ applications spring (Bullard and Johnson, 2000; Schlosberg, 2007; Walker, 2009).

¹ California Fish and Game Commission Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy (February 16, 2022); California Coastal Commission Environmental Justice Policy (March 8, 2019); State of California Ocean Protection Council Equity Plan (October, 2022); Outdoors for All (November, 2023); Helping All Californians Thrive Environmental Justice and Equity Policy (2026)

- Procedural justice concerns the fairness and inclusiveness of the process by which a decision is made; who is at the table, whose voices are heard, and how that input shapes the outcome.
- Recognitional justice concerns whether the identities, histories, and knowledge of affected communities are acknowledged and respected in decision making.
- Distributive justice concerns how the benefits and burdens of a decision materialize: access, costs, risks, and resources are shared across communities.

These dimensions are interdependent. A fair process depends on genuine recognition of who is affected, and its success is measured in part by how equitably outcomes are distributed. **We encourage the Commission to use this framework in a transparent and open manner that allows all stakeholders to engage and understand how the Commission is making decisions.**

While the Commission is engaging JEDI concepts as part of their review of MPA proposals (for example, Q14 and Q16, August 2026 meeting), this addresses the *content* of Commission materials, not *how the Commission does its work* as described in its own JEDI policy and Actions to Which we Commit. **We recommend engaging with EJ experts to develop an evaluation and reporting mechanism for the Commission.**

One recurring risk associated with recognitional justice is the invocation of victimhood narratives by groups that do not, in fact, occupy the marginalized position EJ seeks to identify and protect. We encourage the Commission to be thoughtful and reflective about employing EJ concepts in ways that actively guard against the use of inverted narratives of victimhood and vulnerability by the powerful against less powerful or marginalized social groups (McInturff, 2021; Robbins, 2006; O'Neill, 2023). Several specific patterns warrant the Commission's attention:

- Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right enshrined in international law that was developed to protect Indigenous peoples and the ecosystems they steward; invoking it on behalf of non-Indigenous or already-powerful communities misapplies the doctrine and weaponizes United Nations terminology (FAO, 2016) against the very injustices it was created to identify and alleviate.
- Logics of justice and EJ developed for international or developing-nation contexts do not automatically transfer to California, and in some cases the actions they would suggest run counter to what is appropriate here. Context is critical in application of EJ framing and meaning (Holifield, 2001).
- Appropriating a marginalized identity to bolster one's own standing and thereby to negate the claims of the people who actually hold that identity is a further form of this reversal.
- So too is questioning the validity, credentials, experience, or moral authority of minoritized participants or groups to discount their claims.

A related risk is the misuse of EJ theory and terminology, whether through genuine misunderstanding or deliberate framing, to reach a predetermined policy end. Because EJ

and justice vocabulary generally carries moral weight, it can be selectively invoked to lend the appearance of justice to positions its underlying scholarship would not support. Distinguishing good-faith engagement with EJ from its instrumental use is therefore essential to rigorous decision-making. This applies to all actors in a decision-making space, in this case, Commissioners, Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff, and the public.

Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act specifies protected classes of race, color, and national origin. While the EJ framework asks for an expanded view to achieve justice and fairness in society, its origins in environmental racism against Black, people of color and Indigenous people remains important for realizing equity and fairness, especially in the context of distribution of a social good such as access to coastal space or marine species.

How the Commission engages EJ in this review will set a precedent for its own future processes and for other California government bodies. Using the framework correctly here therefore matters beyond the MPA review itself. The Commission, as an important decision-making body situated squarely between environmental and social issues, has an opportunity to lead by example in not just what you do, but how you do it.

Fair and equitable treatment of all stakeholders, rights holders, and the public is a bedrock tenet of public governance. Environmental racism has a deep and living history in California, but that history can be repaired and restored through a commitment from the Commission and the state to engage in good faith and action with all people, and by upholding principles that are part of the EJ framework. It is in that spirit that we offer this letter, to help ensure that the concepts of EJ are understood and applied with the rigor and integrity they deserve and to meet the stated goals of the state and the Commission.

Signed,

Dr. David Pellow
University of California, Santa Barbara

Dr. Javiera Barandiarán
University of California, Santa Barbara

Dr. Alexander Huezo
University of California, Irvine

Dr. Liz Carlistle
University of California, Santa Barbara

Dr. Brian O'Neill
University of Washington

Dr. Anna Zivian
Ocean Nexus

Dr. Jayajit Chakraborty
University of California, Santa Barbara

Dr. Yoshi Ota
University of Rhode Island

Corey Ridings, MPH, PhD candidate
University of Washington

All affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not represent the views or opinions of those organizations and institutions.

CC:

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director, California Fish and Game Commission
Jaimie Huynh, Deputy Director, Strategic Engagement, Equity, and Partnerships, CDFW
Meghan Hertel, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources

References:

Agyeman, J., Schlosberg, D., Craven, L., & Matthews, C. (2016). Trends and Directions in Environmental Justice: From Inequity to Everyday Life, Community, and Just Sustainabilities. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 41: 321-40.

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Walker, G. (2009). Beyond Distribution and Proximity: Exploring the Multiple Spatialities of Environmental Justice. *Antipode*. 41(4), 614-636.



Outlook

Re: Inappropriate Comments

From: Fred Broad <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2026 03:05 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: Inappropriate Comments

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

Hi David

Thank you for the response and I have attached the information you requested

It might be easier to have a conversation if you want to as I can explain more of the data to you.

California Waterfowl Association Regulations & Traditions Committee Meeting Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 10:00 – 12:00 pm. LOCATION: 1346 Blue Oaks Blvd., Roseville, CA 95678
Steve Marvier, Chair / George Kammerer, Vice Chair The meeting was August 5th starting at 9:30 AM

The meeting was in person and online. Unfortunately I was unable to attend in person but presented my data online via mtgs

Brian Olson/Luke Matthews

Other members who contacted me were not members of any group just attendees

I attached the data I presented sorry the one was handwritten but includes numbers for both days

I just think that one person should not be deciding what "they think is a good or a bad idea" since CWA actually surveyed two thousand people and 79.9 percent responded with a YES so that tells me that it is a desirable idea and if you look at the numbers I presented the numbers do not lie.

From: Fred Broad <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2026 04:52 PM

To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Subject: Inappropriate Comments

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

Mr Sklar

Recently I was able to present an item during the latest commission meeting and although the presentation was full of detailed information it was not welcomed with any type of positive reception.

The real reason for this email is to inform you that the lack of professionalism by state employee Melanie Weaver was very apparent not only to myself but other members who contacted me after my presentation.

It felt like she was demeaning the request by stating numerous times "Well I want a Maserati " but that doesn't mean I will get one because it is what I want

The general overall attitude and negative comments are inappropriate for someone in this position.

A year or so ago the idea was presented to her and the response was "I don't think that is a good idea" well since when does one person decide if an idea is a good or bad idea.

The misconception here is that she thinks because she is in a position of power she can make decisions based on whether or not she thinks it is a good or bad idea.

Ms Weaver needs to understand that she is not the one who should decide what is a good or a bad idea. The Commission overall is not willing to support ideas that have no impact on any additional days or limits and was supported in a survey at almost 80 percent

Overall my impression of the Commission is that when they wanted a three pintail limit they were all for it and lobbied hard and long to secure it. In this case "not a good idea" so therefore thanks but no thanks.

It is sad that people like this make decisions for the majority without even really listening to the facts

I appreciate your time and look forward to a response from you

Thank you

Fredrick Broad Jr

Waterfo...



g.ca.gov

AREA NAME	DATE	# OF HUNTERS
ASH CREEK	1/17	1
ASH CREEK	1/18	1
CHINA ISLAND (NO.GL)	1/31	0
CHINA ISLAND (NO.GL)	2/1	0
COLUSA	1/31	30
COLUSA	2/1	16
DELEVAN	1/31	30
DELEVAN	2/1	25
FREITAS SOUTH	1/31	0
FREITAS SOUTH	2/1	0
GADWALL (NO.GL)	1/31	1
GADWALL (NO.GL)	2/1	1
GOODYEAR SLOUGH	1/31	0
GOODYEAR SLOUGH	2/1	0
GRAY LODGE	1/31	33
GRAY LODGE	2/1	27
GRIZZLY ISLAND	1/31	10
GRIZZLY ISLAND	2/1	9
HONEY LAKE-DAKIN	1/17	0
HONEY LAKE-DAKIN	1/18	0
HONEY LAKE-FLEMING	1/17	1
HONEY LAKE-FLEMING	1/18	1
ISLAND SLOUGH	1/31	1
ISLAND SLOUGH	2/1	1
KERN	1/31	14
KESTERSON	1/31	8
KESTERSON	2/1	8
LITTLE DRY CK. (UBB)	1/31	37
LITTLE DRY CK. (UBB)	2/1	23
LOS BANOS	1/31	15
LOS BANOS	2/1	10
MENDOTA	1/31	37
MENDOTA	2/1	19
MERCED	1/31	5





spots by the total available
spots and multiply by 100: 

- **Used spots:** 350
- **Available spots:** 2,050
- **Formula:** $(350 \div 2,050) \times 100$
- **Result:** 17.0731%  Wall Stre...

This means that
approximately **82.93%** of
your available spots remain
completely vacant or unused.

Ask anything...



Ho...

Sea... Ima... Not... Acti...



Little Dry Creek		96 ✓
San Luis		90 ✓
Wister		100 ✓
Sacramento		54 ✓
Neulohia	(600)	300 ✓
Volta		150 ✓
Kertusson		75 ✓
Los Banos		150 ✓
Colusa	34-14-48	96 ✓
Gary Lodge	(350)	250 ✓
Gmpt Island		350 ✓
West Bear Creek		36
Willow Creek	no Limit	—
San Jacinto		50
Sutton Sea	noting listed	
Ash Creek	no daily quota	
China Island		32
Kenn	160	136
GADWAF		24
McCreel		37/15
		L. True

2041 / Available Spots

2041 / Spots

373 Hunters/Helpers 131

310 Hunters/Helpers 211

36 hrs / Avg 350 Hunter 11.67% usage