Tracking Number: (2026-11)

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

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

SECTION I: Required Information.

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

1. **Person or organization requesting the change (Required)**
   Name of primary contact person: Evelyn Fehling
   Address: [redacted]
   [redacted]
   United States
   Telephone number: [redacted]
   Email address: [redacted]

2. **Rulemaking Authority (Required) -** Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: The Commission has the statutory authority under California Fish and Game Code Sections 200, 703, and 1002. These sections grant the Commission the power to regulate the protection, conservation, and possession of wildlife for scientific and educational purposes.

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

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

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

SECTION II: Optional Information

5. Date of Petition:

6. Category of Proposed Change

☐ Sport Fishing
☐ Commercial Fishing
☐ Hunting
☐ Other, please specify:

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

☐ Amend Title 14 Section(s):Click here to enter text.
☐ Add New Title 14 Section(s): Click here to enter text.
☐ Repeal Title 14 Section(s): Click here to enter text.

8. If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition Click here to enter text.
Or ☐ Not applicable.

9. Effective date: If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation.
If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: Click here to enter text.

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

11. Economic or Fiscal Impacts: Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: Click here to enter text.

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

Click here to enter text.

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: 6/1/2026

FGC staff action:

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

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

Meeting date for FGC consideration: _____

FGC action:

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