

Department of Fish and Game

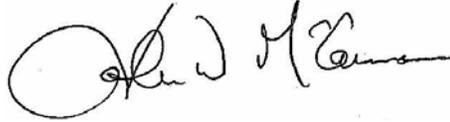
DIRECTOR'S BULLETIN

No. 2007/09

To: All Department Staff

Date: October 24, 2007

From: **JOHN McCAMMAN**
Acting Director



Subject: Climate Change

Scientists throughout the world have concluded that rapid global climate change occurred in the 20th century and is continuing to take place. Evidence is accumulating that wildlife and wildlife habitats will be significantly affected by ongoing large-scale climate change. The effects of climate change on California's species and habitats are expected to occur in a variety of ways, many of which are difficult to predict. Reduced snow pack, increasing catastrophic wildfires, and rising sea level are examples of physical changes that are likely to have major effects on California's wildlife.

In response to growing concern over climate change, Governor Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-03-05, creating the Governor's Climate Action Team, to develop solutions to this ongoing threat to our environment and statewide economy. The Governor also signed Assembly Bill 32, known as the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. This law established a process to significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the State of California by establishing mandatory reporting of GHG emissions, and by setting goals to reduce the State's GHG emissions 25% by the year 2020.

So that the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) can effectively respond to the challenges posed by climate change, I have asked Greg Williams, Chief of the Business and Contracts Management Branch (BCMB), and Sandy Morey, Acting Deputy Director of Regional Operations to take the lead in organizing and overseeing DFG's engagement in the issue. This will include both identifying and reducing DFG's own carbon footprint and identifying strategies for addressing the effects of climate change on California's fish and wildlife as we carry out our public trust responsibilities. The decisions we make in this regard will reflect DFG's leadership role for the State in conserving California's diverse wildlife resources.

The following actions will be taken as first steps to address these challenges:

Identify and Reduce our Carbon Footprint

- DFG has joined the California Climate Action Registry, which maintains the standard protocol for organizations to calculate and report GHG emissions. This process will establish a baseline of GHG emissions from our operations, and help us efficiently target and monitor our reduction of GHG emissions. Greg Williams will oversee this process.
- The deadline for reporting DFG's GHG emissions data is June 30, 2008, followed by a certification process by October 31, 2008. Both may require the collection

of information from your programs on energy, utility, fleet usage, and related data.

Incorporate “Green” Practices

- DFG is already at work with a number of green/climate-related Executive Orders and directives, including benchmarking of energy usage at all State owned/occupied buildings, curbing energy usage during critical peak periods, participating in recycling/diversion programs and promoting the use of alternative fuel technology through its fleet purchasing policies. The BCMB will work to integrate directives and requirements that converge with our climate change efforts in order to have a clear, streamlined DFG strategy.

Educate Ourselves

- As we develop materials and identify links we will post them on DFG’s web site so that our employees can use it as a resource. An initial posting will be developed in early November.
- As a starting point, I encourage DFG employees to visit California’s Climate Change Portal at www.climatechange.ca.gov. I also encourage you to read the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II Report "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" Summary for Policy Makers** at www.ipcc.ch/SPM13apr07.pdf.
- As part of an ongoing educational process, we will bring in recognized experts to help us understand climate change as it relates to our programs.
- On an ongoing basis the training office will distribute information on key workshops, training, and symposia on climate change that may be relevant to DFG employees.

Establish a Climate Task Force

- An internal Climate Task Force has been established to initiate a planning process with respect to climate change. Task Force members include:
 - Sonke Mastrup, DD Resource Management and Policy
 - Sandy Morey, Acting DD Regional Operations
 - Greg Williams, Chief, Business and Contracts Management Branch
 - Nancy Foley, Chief, Enforcement
 - Paul Henson, Acting Chief, Habitat Conservation Branch
 - Neil Manji, Chief, Fisheries Branch
 - Eric Loft, Chief, Wildlife Branch
 - Carl Wilcox, Chief, Water Branch
 - Tom Lupo, Chief, Biogeographic Data Branch
 - Ann Malcolm, General Counsel
 - Bernadette Fees, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Communications, Education & Outreach
 - Cindy Kanemoto, Training Officer
 - Marci Yaremko, Marine Region Senior Biologist Specialist
 - John Donnelly, Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation Board

- An initial meeting will be held in November to kick off the Task Force and formalize its function. The Task Force will review DFG regulations, policies, and practices and look at how we can change the ways we conduct business to reduce our carbon footprint and better respond to the effects of climate change on fish and wildlife. For example, the group will be looking at the important link between climate change and habitat protection, and how we as a Department can best guide land acquisition decisions in light of climate change.
- This group will work to ensure that proposed actions can be funded and implemented, and will also track and monitor our progress in addressing climate change over time.
- A facilitated meeting with task force members, active wildlife organizations and other stakeholders will be held early next year to identify opportunities for working together on this issue.

Work with other Departments

- DFG has allied with other Departments in the Resources Agency to develop climate-related strategies and policies for the Governor's Climate Action Team, established by Executive Order S-03-05, and as an ongoing means to collaborate with other agencies on this issue.

Most of what I have discussed above will require us to work within our existing resources. However, this issue is of such importance that we have a responsibility to consider everything we do within an overlay of climate change. I encourage every DFG employee to engage in this issue and embrace this challenge with the commitment and concern you have consistently demonstrated to the Department's mission.