

California Department of Fish and Game
Climate Change Program Update
November 2009

- **CEQ/GAO:** CDFG was requested to participate in a survey on climate change adaptation activities being conducted by the GAO. The final report was recently released recommending that the Federal Agencies begin working on a national climate change strategy. In response the White House Office Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is holding a listening session on November 16th in which CDFG has been asked to participate.
- **DFG Going Green: Reducing our Carbon Footprint:** On October 30 a Director's Bulletin was sent out to all staff regarding the completion of a guidance document to help the Department reduce its carbon footprint and save the Department valuable resources <http://dfg.ca.gov/climatechange/activities.html>. Following the release a steady response from staff indicates that they would like to see more guidance from Headquarters and leadership on how to start tackling some of these efforts.
 - Director McCamman is considering putting together a voluntary team to come up with an implementation strategy and identify and recognize those actions we are already implementing. As an option, the climate change committee in Region 1 is willing to take on this challenge including a pilot project for a paperless office.
- **Stakeholder Meetings:** Well attended (60+) stakeholder meeting held September 3rd that included presentations from DFG staff on climate change related activities and programs/projects specific to implementing adaptation actions (NCCP, ACE, connectivity planning, etc). Round table discussion with partners on opportunities for collaborative efforts resulted in the creation of 3 working groups that will be meeting December 14-15, 2009. These working groups will focus on outreach, workshops & research, and creating a framework for successfully implementing climate change adaptation strategies across the state.
- **SWAP Revision:** Climate change program is working closely with the wildlife program to submit a proposal for SWG funding to revise and update the Wildlife Action Plan to include climate change. In addition, looking into conducting a vulnerability assessment as part of this effort.
- **CA Climate Adaptation Strategy (CAS):** CNRA led the creation and release of the first comprehensive multi sector climate change adaptation strategy across the nation. CDFG and State Park co-lead the Biodiversity and Habitat Sector and relied heavily on input from DFG workshops, public meetings, and stakeholder input. A 45 day public comment period solicited 25 comment letters. All comments were reviewed and suggestions incorporated as appropriate. The Governor's Office plans to release the strategy mid November.
- **DFG Adaptation Strategy:** DFG's internal climate change adaptation strategy "Confronting Climate Change: Adaptation Actions to Conserve California's Natural Resources" is nearing completion. The strategy contains many of the same elements as the CAS but goes even further to identify the steps necessary for

implementing the actions and the staff and funding requirements. The strategy also identifies the existing tools the Department will rely on to deliver actions on the ground and will be an important communication tool as well as a vision for actions needed to help species persist in a changing climate.,

- **BAECCC:** CDFG is involved in a recently formed group “Bay Areas Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium” group of federal, state, and NGO partners looking to create a demonstration project in the Bay Area for large scale climate change adaptation activities.

DFG Director Involvement

- **CA Climate Action Team:** Director McCamman will continue to sit on this team to oversee climate change activities across state agencies.
 - **Request:** The CAT has requested that DFG provide a proposal for how biodiversity issues should be dealt within the CAT structure at the next meeting on December 3rd. A separate proposal for the Director’s consideration is under review.
- **AFWA-FWS National Strategy:** Past Director Don Koch was a participant with AFWA and the USFWS on discussion about the creation of a national strategy for climate change. Director McCamman will continue to fill this role.
- **WAFWA:** This newly formed committee already has several products related to the committee’s activities. A proposal is being put forth to put together a working group to provide guidance to WAFWA members on the required elements of a state adaptation strategy to prepare member states for possible federal climate change legislation.

Federal Legislation

- **Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act:** On November 5, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported out the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act (S. 1733, CEJAPA) CEJAPA will now move to the Senate floor, however, a vote is not expected this year. Importantly, the bill was passed with no amendments so the allocation for natural resources adaptation stayed as presented.
- **Natural Resources Climate Adaptation Act:** Introduced by Senators Bingham (NM), Whitehouse (RI), and Baucus (MT) for the creation of a federal national climate change adaptation strategy and the funding to do it. States that that the federal agencies must work with their State counterparts.