



April 22, 2019



Senator Bob Wieckowski

Chair, Subcommittee #2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation

Senate Committee on Budget

State Capitol Room 5019

Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Member Richard Bloom

Chair, Subcommittee #3 on Natural Resources and Transportation

Assembly Committee on Budget

State Capitol Room 2003

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Funding for Service-Based Budget Review for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Dear Senator Wieckowski and Assemblymember Bloom,

We write to strongly urge your support for one-time \$2 million allocation to complete service-based budgeting for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

CDFW is responsible for managing California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. CDFW's significant responsibilities are compounded by growing challenges including impacts associated with human population growth, urbanization, and climate change.

To date, CDFW has not had a formalized way to prioritize across its many responsibilities, which presents significant challenges in prioritizing across its annual budget needs and communicating with the public, legislators, and partners. The current service-based budgeting initiative, as outlined in SB 854, enables CDFW to evaluate its current programs and spending, create a much-needed framework for meeting its statutory mandates, engage with stakeholders and the public, prioritize actions, and evaluate budgetary and human resources needs.

We have seen the benefits of service-based budgeting, as the California Department of Parks and Recreation went through a similar process in 2015-2017 and created a more transparent, responsive, and efficient budgetary process for California's state parks. CDFW is positioned to complete their service-based budget in the next two years and has already begun departmental evaluations and stakeholder engagement through funding allocated in the 2018-19 budget.

Through this additional one-time allocation, CDFW can complete their service-based budget, institutionalize the tool to address ongoing budgeting needs, train staff to use service-based budgeting, support stakeholder engagement, and present outcomes to the Legislature in January 2021 as mandated under SB 854.

Our organizations represent a diverse set of voices and stakeholders and do not always agree on policy or funding issues. However, we all view successful completion of CDFW's service-based budgeting effort as a critical step towards enhancing California's natural resource management. We urge your support for funding this process through its completion.

Signed,

Michael Lynes
Director of Public Policy
Audubon California

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš
Director/Founder
Azul

Karen Buhr
Executive Director
California Association of Resource Conservation
Districts

Nick Buckler
President
California Fish and Game Wardens Association

Rick Travis
Executive Director
California Rifle & Pistol Association

David Goldenberg
Executive Director
California Sea Urchin Commission

Kim Delfino
California Program Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Morgan Patton
Executive Director
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

Debbie Byrne
Secretary/Treasurer
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Jane Santorum
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Amy Wolfrum
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Lynn Cullens
Executive Director
Mountain Lion Foundation

Jay Ziegler
Director of External Affairs and Policy
The Nature Conservancy

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Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's
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Rich Block
CEO
Santa Barbara Zoo

Corrine Brindley
Vice President, Government Affairs
Seaworld San Diego

Zachary Plopper
Conservation Director
WILDCOAST

cc: Members of the Senate and Assembly Budget committees
Senate President pro tem Toni Atkins
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Governor Gavin Newsom