

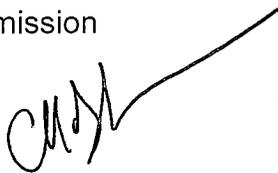
State of California  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Memorandum

Date: November 20, 2014

To: Sonke Mastrup  
Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director



**Subject: Agenda Item for the December 3, 2014 Fish and Game Commission Meeting:  
Request to Authorize Publication of Notice Regarding Prohibition on the Use of  
Lead for the Take of Wildlife with Firearms**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) authorize publication of notice of its intent to amend Division 1, Subdivision 2 and Sections 353 and 475, repeal Section 355, and add Section 250.1, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Re: Prohibition on the Use of Lead for the Take of Wildlife with Firearms.

Assembly Bill 711 (Chapter 742, Statutes of 2013) was signed by the Governor on October 11, 2013, and took effect on January 1, 2014. This legislative action amended Section 3004.5, Fish and Game Code, requiring the Commission to promulgate regulations to ban the use of lead ammunition when taking all wildlife with a firearm by July 1, 2019 and requires the Commission to promulgate regulations by July 1, 2015, that phase in the requirements of Section 3004.5. The new law expands the existing lead ammunition ban within the California condor range and requires the Commission to:

- Promulgate regulations by July 1, 2015, that phase in the requirements of Section 3004.5;
- Require partial or full implementation of the new regulations, if practicable, before July 1, 2019; and
- Maintain existing condor range restrictions and nonlead certification process until the new regulations are fully implemented;

The Department's proposal strives to balance the statutory requirements and deadlines with the complex relationship between ammunition production, retail availability, and consumer demand. The regulatory proposal accounts for the availability of nonlead rifle and shotgun ammunition during the first three years of the transition, and provides ammunition manufacturers more time to meet the increased demand for nonlead ammunition in California after July 1, 2019.

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission  
November 20, 2014  
Page 2 of 2

The Department held a series of 13 public meetings throughout the state between January and October 2014 and sent letters to the major ammunition and bullet manufacturers seeking their input and comments on the preliminary regulations. In addition, the Department provided presentations at the Commission's Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) meetings in January, July, and September 2014 outlining proposals to phase in the required use of nonlead ammunition for the taking of all wildlife with a firearm by July 2019. At the September meeting, the committee chairs endorsed moving the Department's proposal forward for full consideration at the Commission.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Craig Martz, Program Manager, Regulations Unit, at (916) 653-4674, or by email at [Craig.Martz@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Craig.Martz@wildlife.ca.gov).

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