



# Safari Club International

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION • DEDICATED TO CONSERVING WILDLIFE AND PRESERVING HUNTING

November 6, 2014

Mr. Michael Sutton, President,  
California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Mr. Charlton H. Bonham, Director  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Phase-In of AB 711 (Lead Ammunition) and Follow-Up Legislation to Provide Alternatives**

Dear President Sutton and Director Bonham:

Safari Club International Foundation and Safari Club International (SCI) is a worldwide organization with the purpose of promoting Conservation of our Renewable Wildlife Resources, recognizing hunting as one of the many management tools. Currently with over 55,000 members and over 5,000 members in California, Safari Club International also has 30,000 California Affiliates, 950,000 U.S. Affiliates and over 7,000,000 International Affiliates. SCI spends millions annually for Wildlife Conservation, Research and Education.

The Commission is urged to support and the Department is urged to sponsor follow-up legislation to AB 711 that would provide alternatives to an absolute ban on traditional ammunition.

The Governor, in his signing message for AB 711, acknowledged the importance of hunters as conservationists, and asked that the department and the commission work together in implementing AB 711 to find an approach that provides the least amount of disruption to hunters possible. As he said:

*... Hunters and anglers are the original conservationists. Since the 1930s, hunters have done more than any other community to conserve species and their habitats, and that is a lasting conservation legacy.*

*... I am directing the Department to work tirelessly with the Commission and its constituents to consider and act on any and all options for facilitating the least disruptive phase-in, including incentives for hunters to make this transition.*

*The risks to California's incredibly diverse wildlife are many. We must manage our state's wildlife for the use and enjoyment of all Californians. It is time to begin this transition and provide hunters with ammunition that allow them to continue the conservation heritage of California.*

SCI supports an alternative that would require a hunter to bury, cover or otherwise make unavailable to predators or scavengers any entrails, carcasses or other remains of animals taken by the hunter unless the hunter used nonlead ammunition to take such animal.

Such a provision would provide hunters the alternative of using traditional ammunition, subject to the above restrictions and implementing regulations that would be adopted by the commission.

The research presentation by Southwick Associates, Inc., made to the Wildlife Resources Committee on the projected negative impacts of AB 711 on hunters, businesses and the Department of Fish and Wildlife provided a chilling picture of what would likely happen if AB 711 is implemented without alternatives such as the restricted use of traditional ammunition being made available.

There is also the uncertainty of whether nonlead ammunition will actually be available to hunters, or if so, whether there will be adequate supplies in popular hunting cartridges.

The State of Arizona has recognized the potential for unintended consequences of a mandatory ban on the use of traditional ammunition and has made the use of nonlead ammunition voluntary. Arizona reports good cooperation from hunters and has determined that its voluntary approach to method of take has been very successful in preventing access to lead ammunition fragments in animal remains by predators and scavengers.

SCI urges the Commission to take a well thought out and reasoned approach to implementing AB 711 over the entire length of the time period provided for this purpose by the bill rather than an accelerated process. It is also urged that the commission give serious consideration to supporting the above described legislation that would provide a practical alternative to an outright ban on traditional ammunition for hunting.

Supporting/sponsoring the enactment of the above described follow up legislation, which would provide a rational and effective alternative to a complete ban on traditional ammunition, would also fulfill the Governor's request for such an approach to implementation.

Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202 or [lynch@lynchlobby.com](mailto:lynch@lynchlobby.com).

Sincerely yours,



Dennis Anderson  
Safari Club International, California Legislative Coordinator

cc: Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commissioners  
Governor Jerry Brown  
Safari Club International California Chapters  
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate