

January 29, 2015

To: California Fish and Game Commission

Re: Agenda Item #24 for Fish and Game Commission meeting agenda February 11-12, 2015

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petition to list the flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*) as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), Fish and Game Code Section 2050, et seq.

I conduct research on this lizard species, primarily within the Coachella Valley, extending down to the northern Salton Sea. I began that research in 1998, and the following publications are results of that effort so far.

- Barrows, C.W., M.F. Allen and J.T. Rotenberry. 2006. Boundary processes between a desert sand dune community and an encroaching suburban landscape. *Biological Conservation* 131:486-494.
- Barrows, C.W. and M.F. Allen. 2007. Community complexity: stratifying monitoring schemes within a desert sand dune landscape. *Journal of Arid Environments* 69:315-330.
- Barrows C.W., K.L. Preston, J.T. Rotenberry, M.F. Allen. 2008. Using occurrence records to model historic distributions and estimate habitat losses for two psammophilic lizards. *Biological Conservation* 141:1885-1893.
- Barrows, C.W. and M.F. Allen. 2009. Conserving Species in Fragmented Habitats: Population Dynamics of the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard, *Phrynosoma mcallii*. *Southwestern Naturalist* 54: 307-316.
- Barrows, C.W. and M.F. Allen. 2010. Patterns of occurrence of reptiles across a sand dune landscape. *Journal of Arid Environments* 74:186-192.

Despite the excellent conservation efforts now underway in this region, flat-tailed horned lizards have declined in numbers and their distribution since the 1980s; the conservation efforts have come too late and have underestimated the lands needed to ensure that the extent of this species' distribution is maintained. These declines are not unique to the Coachella Valley and reflect conflicts with vehicle trespass of public lands, effects of invasive species, habitat fragmentation, and more throughout their range. Consequently I concur with the findings of the CDFW report and the recommendation that listing may be warranted. I recommend that the Commission accept the findings of the report and render a determination that listing may be warranted.

Sincerely,



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