

Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 1:53 PM

To: FGC

Subject: Please ban live American Bullfrog imports - to save our Native Frogs

State of California Fish and Game Commission

via email fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Please distribute this letter to all Commissioners prior to the Commission's February 12, 2015 meeting.

Re: Ban Importation of Live American Bullfrogs

Dear Commissioners:

This is a request that the Commission completely ban importation of live American Bullfrogs to California.

I write to the Commission today on behalf of California native amphibians and for the health of the ecosystems which they inhabit, as well as for all future human residents, who will benefit from the beauty and sounds of healthy ecosystems.

California's native frogs can not survive the American Bullfrog and the deadly chytrid fungus it carries, a fungus the bullfrog to which the bullfrog is immune.

- Native to the U.S. East coast, the bullfrog has been introduced to areas around the world, where it has proven to be a voracious and successful predator on native amphibians.
- The insatiable and aggressive bullfrog readily eats native amphibians and usurps their habitat. As a result it is in the "top 100" invasive species in the world, as listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) .

In Pacifica, we are very proud to host some populations of California Red-legged Frog, and it's hard to believe they are so very vulnerable to the voracious bullfrog and to the unstoppable, deadly fungus the bullfrog transmits. The California Red-Legged Frogs contribute to their ecosystem in many ways, perhaps most famously by being prey – and predated upon – the endangered San Francisco Garter Snake.

- Yet these small populations are completely dependent on an unsullied habitat, safety from predators and human intervention, and most seriously, no usurpation by the American Bullfrog, which will transmit the deadly chytrid fungus as it invades and destroys CLRF, tree frogs and other species.
- The California Red-legged Frog occupies a much smaller range than it has historically; it can not survive a successful invader like the American Bullfrog with its deadly fungus.
- Equally, California's millions of tree frogs, which chorus so loudly, would similarly negatively impacted by importation of the invasive bullfrog.

The Commission has already voted twice to ban importation of live Bullfrogs and turtles (2010) and hands out literature about how dangerous bullfrogs are to native ecosystems. American Bullfrogs have been banned since 2012 in the City Santa Cruz for the very reasons I mention above.

I urge you, act today to conserve the native frog species in California: Ban importation of all live bullfrogs to California today.

Thank your consideration of this vital matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Keitelman
Linda Mar, Pacifica