

STAFF SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 7-8, 2015

29C. FUTURE MEETINGS – NEW BUSINESS**Today's Item**Information Action

This agenda item is intended to share public requests to consider new business or for Commissioners to bring new items of business to FGC; two such items were identified in advance for this meeting (Commission name and timing of officer elections).

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background*****I. Commission Name/Brand***

Based in part upon a recommendation from the California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision process, in 2013 the legislature changed the name of the California Department of Fish and Game to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to better reflect the scope of the department's jurisdiction and responsibilities in the 21st Century. However, FGC's name did not change, and therefore retains the "fish and game" nomenclature that is used by very few states and territories of the U.S. any longer. A formal name change for the FGC would require a constitutional amendment.

Numerous state agencies have successfully used an informal name for branding purposes, such as Caltrans, Cal Fire, CalPERS, CalRecycle, California State Parks and CalVet. Similar suggestions have been made for FGC to appeal to a broader constituency, simplify its name, and better reflect its work. Potential brands include The Wildlife Commission, CalWildlife, and CalWild. Use of an informal name requires legislative authorization.

II. Timing of Officer Elections

Fish and Game Code, Section 102(a), states, "The commissioners shall annually elect one of their number as president and one as vice president, by a concurrent vote of at least three commissioners." There is no limitation on when that vote is taken or when the president and vice president assume office, However, the use of the word "annually," implies that elections are held only once per year. The code also provides for removal of officers and for filling vacant offices as needed.

Historically officer elections have been held at the beginning of FGC's Feb meeting each year, with the new president and vice president assuming their roles immediately after the vote. This timing owes part of its origin in the terms of the commissioners which expire January 15 of their sixth year. Holding elections at the February meeting allows appointments to be made before elections of officers. The disadvantage of this process is that it gives the officers no time to prepare for the meeting. One way to solve this problem would be to hold the election at the end of the Feb meeting and the new officers would assume their roles after adjournment of the meeting. Another solution that has been proposed is to have the election the second day of the previous meeting (currently Dec) and assume their roles at the next meeting (Feb). One disadvantage of

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this option could be having a different set of commissioners in Feb requiring another election in Feb. In both cases where elections are held at the end of one meeting and the new officers assuming their roles after the meeting allows a leadership transition where the outgoing officers can meet with the new officers to discuss what goals were achieved in the previous year, were there any impediments encountered, and potential goals for the upcoming year. A possible advantage of the Dec vote is that the California Fish and Game Code could be printed with the current president and vice president properly identified (currently the previous year's officers are listed since the code book is printed in mid-December).

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

Staff requests that any discussion and direction on items include expected deliverable(s), timeline, staff workload, and roles/responsibilities.

Exhibits (N/A)**Motion/Direction**

Provide staff direction on whether to pursue an informal name for FGC and whether to schedule officer elections for the Dec 2015 meeting.