

STAFF SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 24-25, 2016

2. PUBLIC FORUM (DAY 1)**Today's Item****Information** **Action**

Receipt of public comments and requests for regulatory and non-regulatory actions.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- **Today's receipt of requests and comments** **Aug 24-25, 2016; Folsom**
- Direction to grant, deny, or refer requests **Oct 19-20, 2016; Eureka**

Background

This agenda item is primarily to provide the public an opportunity to address FGC on topics not on the agenda. Staff also delivers written materials and comments received prior to the meeting for FGC receipt as exhibits in the meeting binder (if received by comment deadline), or as late comments at the meeting (if received by late comment deadline).

Public comments are generally categorized in three types under public forum: 1) Requests for regulatory action; 2) requests for non-regulatory action; and 3) informational-only comments. Under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, FGC cannot discuss any matter not included on the agenda, other than to schedule issues raised by the public for consideration at future meetings. Thus, regulatory and non-regulatory requests generally follow a two-meeting cycle (receipt and direction): FGC will determine the outcome of the regulatory and non-regulatory requests received at this meeting (Aug 2016) at the next FGC meeting (Oct 2016) following staff evaluation.

As required by the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), regulatory requests will be either denied or granted and notice made of that determination. Action on requests received at previous meetings is scheduled under a separate agenda item called "Petitions for regulation change and non-regulatory requests from previous meetings."

Significant Public Comments

1. See summary table of regulatory petitions in Exhibit 1, followed by the individual petitions.
2. See summary table of non-regulatory requests in Exhibit 2, followed by individual requests.
3. Informational-only comments are provided in exhibits.

Recommendation

Consider whether any new future agenda items are needed to address issues that are raised and within the FGC's authority.

Exhibits

1. [Table containing a summary of new petitions for regulation change received by Aug 11 at 5:00 p.m., the comment deadline for meeting binder \(individual petitions listed below\)](#)
2. [Table containing a summary of new non-regulatory requests received by Aug 11 at 5:00 p.m., the comment deadline for the meeting binder \(individual requests included below\)](#)
3. [Petition #2016-014 \(Falcons\) \(summarized in Exhibit 1 table\)](#)
4. [Petition #2016-017 \(Hedgehogs\) \(summarized in Exhibit 1 table\)](#)
- 5-7 [Individual non-regulatory requests for action that are summarized in Exhibit 2 table](#)
- 8-9 [Informational items; staff will not take further action unless otherwise directed by FGC.](#)

Motion/Direction (N/A)

CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
RECEIPT LIST FOR REGULATORY REQUESTS: RECEIVED BY 5 PM ON AUG 11, 2016
 Revised 08-12-2016

FGC - California Fish and Game Commission DFW - California Department of Fish and Wildlife WRC - Wildlife Resources Committee MRC - Marine Resources Committee

Tracking No.	Date Received	Response Due (10 work days)	Response Letter to Petitioner	Accept or Reject	Name of Petitioner	Subject of Request	Code or Title 14 Section Number	Short Description	FGC Decision
2016-014	6/29/2016	7/14/2016	7/7/2016	A	Douglas Alton	Falcon and raptor rehabilitation	679(f)(4)	Add falconers and raptor breeders to list of legal recipients for non-releasable birds from rehabilitation facilities.	Receipt scheduled 8/24-25/2016 Action scheduled 10/19-20/2016
2016-015	7/11/2016	7/25/2016	8/12/2016	R	Ted Souza	Use of roe; fishing on Smith River		Ban the use of roe for fishing salmon and steelhead. Close Smith River to all fishing.	Rejected under staff review for failure to identify authority.
2016-016	6/27/2016	7/11/2016	7/14/2016	R	Kerry Kriger	American bullfrog	671	Prohibition on importation, transportaion, ales and possession of live American bullfrogs.	Rejected under staff review for failure to identify authority.
2016-017	7/20/2016	8/3/2016	7/25/2016	A	Megan Clenney	Hedgehogs	671	Legalize hedgehogs.	Receipt scheduled 8/24-25/2016 Action scheduled 10/19-20/2016

CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
RECEIPT LIST FOR NON-REGULATORY REQUESTS: RECEIVED BY 5 PM ON AUGUST 11, 2016
Revised 08-15-2016

FGC - California Fish and Game Commission **DFW** - California Department of Fish and Wildlife **WRC** - Wildlife Resources Committee **MRC** - Marine Resources Committee

Date Received	Name of Petitioner	Subject of Request	Short Description	FGC Decision
7/1/2016	Eric Mills Action for Animals	Live animal food markets	Request to place ban on importation of frogs and turtles for the live animal food market on the FGC agenda for discussion and action.	Receipt scheduled 8/24-25/2016 Action scheduled 10/19-20/2016
7/19/2016	Thomas O'Rourke Yurok Tribal Chairman	Commissioner Hostler-Carmesin conflict	Requests FGC address concerns regarding Commissioner Hostler-Carmesin's compliance with the FGC Code of Conduct policy.	Receipt scheduled 8/24-25/2016 Action scheduled 10/19-20/2016
7/21/2016	Inyo County Board of Supervisors	Fish planting in Eastern Sierra	Urges DFW to increase the number and size of fish planted in the Eastern Sierra.	Receipt scheduled 8/24-25/2016 Action scheduled 10/19-20/2016



Tracking Number: (2016-014)

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission's authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

SECTION I: Required Information.

Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages

1. **Person or organization requesting the change (Required)**
Name of primary contact person: Douglas R Alton

2. **Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested:** Fish and Game Code Section 200
3. **Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations:** Add Falconers and raptor breeders to the list of legal recipients for non-releasable birds from rehab facilities.
4. **Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change:** presently not allowed to the detriment of the birds and the falconers, breeders.

SECTION II: Optional Information

5. **Date of Petition:** June 28, 2016
6. **Category of Proposed Change**
 - Sport Fishing
 - Commercial Fishing
 - Hunting
 - Other, please specify: Falconry / Rehab.



7. **The proposal is to:** *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*
 - Amend Title 14 Section(s):679.(f) (4) Possession of Wildlife and Wildlife Rehabilitation
 - Add New Title 14 Section(s): Click here to enter text.
 - Repeal Title 14 Section(s): Click here to enter text.
8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** Click here to enter text.
 Or Not applicable.
9. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation.
 If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: Within reason
10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: Click here to enter text.
11. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: None
12. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:
 Click here to enter text.

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: July 5, 2016

FGC staff action:

- Accept - complete
- Reject - incomplete
- Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: July 6, 2016

Meeting date for FGC consideration: August 24-25, 2016

FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
- Denied - same as petition _____
Tracking Number
- Granted for consideration of regulation change

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2016-017

Tracking Number: (~~Click here to enter text.~~)

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

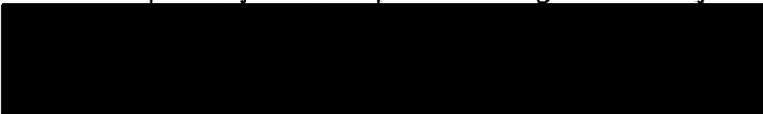
Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission's authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

SECTION I: Required Information.

Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages

1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)

Name of primary contact person: Megan Clenney



2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: Section 2118 of Fish and Game Code included all species of the order insectivora (shrews, moles, hedgehogs, etc.) illegal to import, transport, possess, or release alive into this state, except under a revocable, nontransferable, permit. The problem is The Department of Fish and Wildlife is authorized to issue permits only to qualified individuals or institutions for limited purposes such as research, public exhibition, or shelter. So there is no way you are legally allowed to own a hedgehog in California as a pet.

3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: Make it legal to have a hedgehog as a California citizen for pet purposes.

4. Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: The problem is that the current rules make it impossible to own a hedgehog as a pet in California because hedgehogs are not legal to own or possess and permits are not issued for pet purposes. I'd like to change this and make hedgehogs legal so that I and other responsible pet owners will be able to own a hedgehog as a household pet. I understand you are worried about them escaping and becoming pests and breeding, but rats, mice, hamsters, and chinchillas are all allowed and have been considered "pests" by many before. Even if a hedgehog did find a way to escape it would never survive long enough to find a opposite gender hedgehog, breed, and make it through the gestation period of 35 days with California's natural hot climate and predators such as cats, dogs, owls, mountain lions, hawks, ect. They also wouldn't stand a chance against our man-made machines that we use everyday like cars, trucks, motorcycles, buses, etc. They wouldn't even survive long enough to pass on any diseases. Unlike what some people say hedgehogs are not mean and even if they wanted to hurt you they couldn't considering



that unlike the porcupine- which they aren't related to- they have soft flexible quills. They do have teeth but if they did bit they would only cause as much damage as a rat or hamster. If you're still worried about hedgehogs escaping or giving away diseases, then make qualified individuals who want a hedgehog have to get a permit before they are allowed to own one.

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SECTION II: Optional Information

5. **Date of Petition:** 7/14/16
6. **Category of Proposed Change**
 - Sport Fishing
 - Commercial Fishing
 - Hunting
 - Other, please specify: Hedgehogs
7. **The proposal is to:** *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*
 - Amend Title 14 Section(s): 671
 - Add New Title 14 Section(s): *Click here to enter text.*
 - Repeal Title 14 Section(s): *Click here to enter text.*
8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** *Click here to enter text.*
 Or Not applicable.
9. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation. If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: *Click here to enter text.*
10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: *Click here to enter text.*
11. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: If the hedgehog became legal to own and breed in California, legal professional breeders would recognize the consequences that accidentally releasing hedgehogs into the wild would start up. They would start breeding businesses by giving the hedgehogs a safe environment to be raised and sold in, making sure that each hedgehog is getting an educated owner, and decreasing their rate of escape. They would also bring money to the state with this new, legitimate source of revenue.
12. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:
Click here to enter text.

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only



Date received: [Click here to enter text.](#)

FGC staff action:

- Accept - complete
- Reject - incomplete
- Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: July 25, 2016
Tracking Number

Meeting date for FGC consideration: August 24-25, 2016

FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
- Denied - same as petition _____
Tracking Number
- Granted for consideration of regulation change

From: afa@mcn.org
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [CNRA Office of the Secretary; Wildlife DIRECTOR](#)
Subject: LIVE ANIMAL FOOD MARKETS
Date: Friday, July 01, 2016 3:16:41 PM
Attachments: [STATEMENT OF ERIC MILLS.docx](#)

July 1, 2016

Greetings -

LIVE ANIMAL FOOD MARKETS (see attached)

While organizing some materials today, I ran across the attached from 2010.

Since the new commissioners and the Exec. Director are, I presume, relatively unfamiliar with the live animal food markets issue, would you please forward this attachment to them?

And I DO hope that the matter will soon be re-agendized. As you may recall, former Resources Secretary Huey Johnson wrote twice in support of a ban on the importation of non-native frogs and turtles for human consumption, as did more than 3,000 other organizations, legislators and members of a concerned public. Surely the Department has the authority to stop these harmful imports. (That's why they're called "permits," right?)

Cheers,

Eric Mills, coordinator
ACTION FOR ANIMALS

STATEMENT OF ERIC MILLS, COORDINATOR, ACTION FOR ANIMALS TO THE STATE FISH & GAME COMMISSION RE THE PROPOSED BAN ON THE IMPORTATION AND/OR SALE OF LIVE FROGS AND TURTLES FOR THE LIVE ANIMAL FOOD MARKETS - FEBRUARY 3, 2010

Good morning, Commissioners.

Thank you for this opportunity to again address the Commission on the pressing need for a ban on the importation of live frogs and turtles for human consumption, an issue which has been before this body for nearly 15 years now. Indeed, the Commission in 2006 instructed the Department to go to notice, but the Department failed to act. It's way past time for action.

As has been well documented, these non-native animals are often bought and released into California waters, where they pose major problems for our native wildlife. On a personal note, on New Year's Day I was walking around Oakland's Lake Merritt, the nation's first in-city wildlife refuge, when I spotted a dead red-eared slider floating in the water. It was very likely the result of a religious "animal liberation" ceremony, an ongoing problem there and elsewhere, as described to in a January 12, 2010 letter sent to the Commission by Dr. Richard Bailey, Director of the Lake Merritt Institute. Dr. Bailey also favors the proposed ban.

Some 25 necropsies on turtles and frogs purchased from markets in Sacramento, Oakland, San Francisco and Los Angeles have shown these animals to be seriously diseased and/or parasitized. It is **illegal** to sell such products for human consumption, yet the practice continues unabated. DFG and health codes require that diseased or parasitized animals be destroyed at the border, or returned to the point of origin, yet are seldom if ever enforced.

Back in 1996, the Department's Steve Taylor (now retired), who issued the market permits for many years, told me that he administratively selected the red-eared sliders and the spiny soft-shells as the two turtle species for which the Department would issue permits. (Was this even legal?) It should be just as easy to administratively ban the importation, no?

Adding a sense of urgency to the matter is a scientific study which appeared in the January 2009 journal, BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, entitled, "Magnitude of the US trade in amphibians and presence of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and ranavirus infection in imported North American bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*). (Abstract attached. I have submitted this study to the Commission previously.) The five researchers involved (one from USFWS here in Sacramento, another from UC Santa Cruz) documented that some TWO MILLION American bullfrogs are imported annually into California for the live markets. **OF THE FROGS NECROPSIED, 62% TESTED POSITIVE FOR THE DREADED CHYTRID FUNGUS, A PRIME SUSPECT IN THE**

EXTINCTIONS OF DOZENS OF AMPHIBIAN SPECIES AROUND THE WORLD IN THE PAST 15 YEARS. That fact alone should be enough reason to stop this commercial trade.

As is well known, the non-natives displace and prey upon our native wildlife. Threatened species such as the red-legged frog and the western pond turtle are put at great risk by the exotics. Bullfrogs are known to eat baby ducks and the fry of gamefish, which should concern all sporting organizations, as well as the environmental community. Both Oregon and Washington have either banned or severely restricted these species, and Florida only last year stopped the commercial trade in softshell turtles, in light of local depletions. California should follow suit.

I've seen the January 13, 2010 letter which the Commission sent to the Governor regarding the untenable furloughs thrust upon our beleaguered game wardens, and I share your concerns. That said, I hope you will not use the state budget as an excuse NOT to adopt the needed regulations to ban the turtle/frog importation and sales. According to the Governor's office, the furloughs are scheduled to end in June. It's critical that the regulatory ban be put in place as soon as possible. If we delay until all the human problems are resolved, all the animals will be extinct, the environment uninhabitable. I'm convinced that a total ban will not only resolve the problem, but will actually EASE the wardens' workload, not add to. The recent letter sent to the Commission by the California Fish and Game Wardens' Association seems to concur.

In sum, the mandate of the Commission and the Department of Fish and Game is to protect the state's natural resources, irreplaceable treasures belonging to all Californians. Please, no further delay--the issue is urgent. There's consensus that only a ban on the importation and sale of these non-native species will resolve the problem.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Mills, coordinator

attachments



YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548



Sent via electronic mail

July 19, 2016

President Eric Sklar
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Tribal Committee Chair Jacque Hostler-Carmesin

Aiy-ye-kwee' President Sklar and Commissioners,

The purpose of this letter is to continue the conversation regarding the Yurok Tribe's concerns about the California Fish and Game Commission's ("Commission") Tribal Committee Chair, Commissioner Jacque Hostler-Carmesin.

On June 22, 2016, I presented to you a summary of the Yurok Tribe's concerns regarding the Tribal Committee Chair. Although the Commission made a point to clarify that they are not able to ask questions for items presented during the public forum, members of the commission did provide limited response to our genuine concerns. You, President Sklar, said that you thought our concerns were "inappropriate."

To be clear, the Yurok Tribe raised concerns Commissioner Hostler-Carmesin's work on the Commission with respect to the Commission's Code of Conduct – which is separate and distinct from the Commission's Conflict of Interest Code. As you know, the Commission adopted a Code of Conduct Policy in March of 2013 which states, in part, that "a Commissioner shall conduct his or her affairs in an open, objective, and impartial manner, free of undue influence and the abuse of power and authority." Once again, the Yurok Tribe respectfully requests that the Commission address our concerns pursuant to relevant Code of Conduct grievance and investigation processes. Yurok Tribal Council, unfortunately, has continuing concerns about the current Committee Chair's ability to practice unbiased leadership. The Yurok Tribe recognizes the value of having someone with tribal experience fill the Tribal Committee Chair position. However, there have been actions taken by Commissioner Hostler-Carmesin when the Yurok Tribe has felt excluded from the Commission's business related to matters that impact the Tribe.

We appreciate your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Tribal Attorney at 707-482-1350.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T.P. O'Rourke, Sr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas P. O'Rourke, Sr.
Chairman

Cc: Valerie Termini, Executive Director California Fish and Game Commission



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2016 JUL 21 AM 7:51
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF INYO

P. O. DRAWER N • INDEPENDENCE, CALIFORNIA 93526
TELEPHONE (760) 878-0373
e-mail: kcarunchio@inyocounty.us

MCS



July 13, 2016

Charlton Bonham, Director
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1416 9th Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
director@wildlife.ca.gov

California Fish and Game Commission
P. O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 95814
fgc@fgc.ca.gov

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Gentlemen:

The Inyo County Board of Supervisors strongly urges the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to increase the number and size of fish planted in the Eastern Sierra. Over the past several years the region has seen a decrease in the numbers and size of fish planted which has directly impacted the fishing opportunities available to our visiting anglers.

As a tourist-based economy, Inyo County depends heavily on our fishing resources for our economic wellbeing. Department statistic show that in the past 10 years sales of resident fishing licenses have declined from 1,245,007 to 985,986, which correlates to a significant reduction in State revenues. In addition to the diminishing numbers of fish, the size of the fish planted have also continued to be smaller. The competition with other States for California fresh water anglers' tourist dollars is becoming more and more diverse as other States look to the millions of California residents to improve their economies. It is important to ensure that our fresh water angling opportunities maintain the necessary ingredients to keep our fishing opportunities viable and competitive. The only way to do this is to improve the numbers and size of fish available. Inyo County is a tourist destination for millions of southern California residents, as well as visitors from around the globe. As a primary fishing destination for many of our visitors, it is imperative that those who pay for a State fishing license see a compensatory result for their purchase.

While the County recognizes the challenges of running an efficient department within the constraints of diminishing revenues, it is imperative for the Department to protect its fresh water fishing industry which has had a proven positive fiscal impact for our State. Without immediate action to protect this industry, we believe that this vital economic industry for our State and most especially for our small rural county will become non-existent in the future.

Your recognition of the importance of Inyo County's fishing resources to our economic well-being is greatly appreciated and we look forward to improved local hatchery operations and in the size and numbers of fish planted in the Eastern Sierra in the very in the near future.

Sincerely,

Jeff Griffiths, Chairperson
Inyo County Board of Supervisors

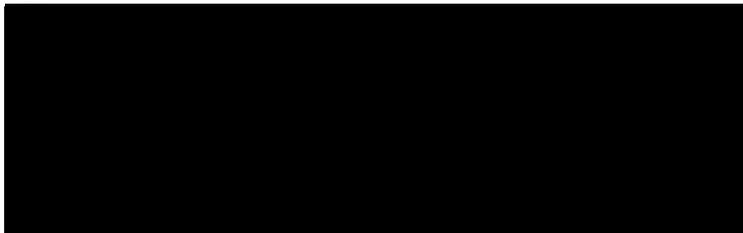
Cassidy Hurabiell Trader

3-19-16

Fish and Game Commission,

We understand that you are reluctant to allow hedgehogs as legal pets in the state of California because past events show that hedgehogs can be involved in the destruction of native species. However, with certain restrictions and regulations, hedgehogs can be responsibly managed, if in the right care and environment. Hedgehogs are only harmful to protected or native animals when exposed to the outside world, and hedgehogs are pets meant to be kept away from the outdoors. If hedgehogs are never outside they can't be harming natural species. Having the owner sign a paper, agreeing to keep their hedgehog inside to the fullest of their abilities, can ensure strict rules. If the hedgehog does get out, then the owner has to pay a certain amount of money to the government of California, or Fish and Game Commission. If Fish and Game Commission is not entirely involved with the legality of hedgehogs, then please contact me, and let me know if there are any other organizations that we should talk to.

Sincerely, Cassidy



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2016 JUN 29 PM 2:43

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July 6, 2016

Eric Sklar, President
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

President Sklar and Commissioners:

The Sportfishing Conservancy (TSC) is deeply concerned about the status of California's natural resources. In most instances the deciding factor in the health of these resources can be traced back to how they are managed. Accordingly, TSC makes it a point to stay informed and closely monitors not only the California Fish and Game Commission meetings, but its Marine Resource Committee, Wildlife Resource Committee and the newly formed Tribal Committee meetings as well.

At this past Commission meeting in Bakersfield, during testimony at the public forum, one person pointedly suggested that Commissioner Hostler-Carmesin showed a conflict of interest while serving in her capacity on the Commission. I want to be quite specific in saying that in all of our extensive experience both at Commission meetings and at Committee meetings, nothing could be further from the truth. Commissioner Hostler-Carmesin has gone to great lengths at being prepared and in hearing all sides of each issue before her. Importantly, in all of our experience at no time have we witnessed any action that might unduly influence the outcome of proceedings in front of her. At all times she has conducted herself above board and has presented a model of fairness and objectivity. Commissioner Hostler-Carmesin has done a stellar job and on behalf of The Sportfishing Conservancy, I am happy to point that out.

Sincerely,

President

119 N. Milpas Street, Suite C
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

200 Nieto Avenue, Suite 207
Long Beach, CA 90803
(805) 895-3000 or (714) 686-6548

1365 Glen Haven Drive
Merritt Island, FL 32952