



CALIFORNIA FISH & WILDLIFE Strategic Vision

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California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Executive Committee Adopts Interim Strategic Vision

SACRAMENTO — The California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision (CFWSV) Executive Committee today unanimously adopted an interim strategic vision for California’s fish and wildlife agencies. The strategic vision aims to guide the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the California Fish and Game Commission (F&GC). In accordance with AB 2376 (Huffman, 2010) the interim strategic vision aims to help set the stage for these agencies to successfully take on the challenges of the 21st Century. The document will be made available at www.vision.ca.gov on or before Feb. 24.

“I would like to thank everyone involved in the process to date for all their hard work,” said Secretary for Natural Resources and Chair of the Executive Committee John Laird. “Their efforts will help us improve and enhance these organizations’ capacity and effectiveness for protecting and managing the state’s fish and wildlife.”

Since the release of the draft interim strategic vision in November 2011, the CFWSV Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), and the CFWSV Blue Ribbon Citizen Commission (BRCC) have held numerous meetings to prepare their recommendations made to the executive committee today. The 49-member stakeholder group represents 17 different interest areas including fishing and hunting groups, landowners, marine interests, and non-profit conservation organizations, among others. The BRCC members provide policy, management and fiscal expertise, and strategic problem solving skills to assist the executive committee in developing the strategic vision.

DFG employees have been closely involved with the process and provided clarity where needed during the discussions. Department staff made suggestions that the document highlight protecting ecosystems, empowering and supporting DFG employees, and creating greater cooperation and integrity through open and honest communication.

"The shape the vision is beginning to take will help our department become more efficient, effective and innovative," said Department of Fish and Game Director Charlton H. Bonham. "I'm pleased with the discussion and direction as a result of today's meeting."

The public has also been actively engaged in the vision process. Public meetings were held around the state, online resources were made available, stakeholders acted as conduits for their constituencies, and direct email access gave citizens multiple opportunities to weigh-in on the process and ideas being discussed. Over 100 written public comments have been received, which proved helpful in developing the recommendations adopted today. The interim strategic vision adopted today identifies suggested core values, guiding principles, and goals and objectives for DFG and F&GC. The strategic vision focuses on teamwork, communication, efficiencies, innovation and other relevant themes and values.

The document also includes recommendations on how to begin achieving the goals and objectives of the strategic vision. Examples of the recommendations include ensuring the successful recruitment and retention of fish and game wardens, establishing a wildlife crimes prosecutorial task force, increasing formal and informal partnerships, removing some permitting barriers to habitat restoration projects, and showing in a transparent way that DFG and F&GC decisions are informed by credible science.

"The stakeholder group, blue ribbon commission, and DFG staff have done a good job of developing some recommendations that can improve the performance of DFG and the Fish and Game Commission," said Fish and Game Commission Executive Director Sonke Mastrup. "The commission looks forward to the legislature and administration stepping up with the resources to meet the challenges and opportunities the vision project provides."

In the third phase of the project, the three groups will work to create a final report with additional recommendations to address long-term issues that face DFG and F&GC. The three groups involved in this process will continue to look for internal and public input to help with this challenge.

For more information about the Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision please visit www.vision.ca.gov

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