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Strategic Vision Overview
Based upon AB 2376 (Huffman, 2010), the California Natural Resources Agency convened a cabinet-level executive committee to develop a strategic vision for the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the California Fish and Game Commission (F&GC). To assist in developing the strategic vision, a blue ribbon citizen commission (BRCC) and a stakeholder advisory group (SAG) advised and supported the executive committee.

For additional information, click here.

Message from the Project Director
This final issue of the CFWSV Project Update marks the end of the fish and wildlife strategic visioning process mandated by AB 2376. Producing a strategic vision and accompanying recommendations, as well as an assessment of the barriers that have prevented recommendations from being implemented in the past, would not have been possible without the dedication of many people. Our blue ribbon citizen commission, stakeholder advisory group, members of the public, staff and contractors persevered through the challenging schedule to arrive at this moment.

As I reflect back on from where we started, the collective tone of respect and collaboration allowed the incredible progress we made together. This journey has led people of various backgrounds and experiences to unite and establish new bonds, paving the way toward building stronger relationships for fish and wildlife management in California. There is much yet to accomplish to realize the
vision; I trust that your dedication to helping enhance our fish and wildlife agencies will continue in other venues. It has been an honor to be part of the strategic visioning process and to have worked closely with so many of you. I look forward to our paths crossing again in the future.

Warm regards,

California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Released

The adopted California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision (CFWSV) and two accompanying documents were released to the public on April 23. Consistent with AB 2376 the CFWSV aims to improve the ability of the DFG and the F&GC to successfully tackle the challenges of the 21st century.

Some examples of the recommendations in the CFWSV include to:

- ensure successful recruitment and retention of fish and game wardens,
- build capacity within DFG to address the complex role that science plays in resource management,
- establish an inter-agency coordination process to ensure consistency and efficiency in the review of multiple permits,
- remove barriers to small-scale restoration projects,
- increase penalties for wildlife crimes,
- create a permanent stakeholder advisory group to periodically advise DFG and F&GC, and
- require open and transparent accounting practices in order to improve public confidence in how funds are managed.

Recognizing the importance of understanding why past efforts to implement recommendations related to DFG and F&GC were unsuccessful or incomplete, the CFWSV Project also conducted two studies related to what prevents or impedes recommendations from being implemented. The first study was an assessment examining past evaluations of DFG and F&GC and the degree to which recommendations from those evaluations were implemented. The second study was a
literature review designed to determine if barriers encountered in California have been experienced by other, similar organizations. Contained within a single "barriers to implementation" report, the goal of both studies is to contribute to the likelihood of successful implementation of the CFWSV and accompanying recommendations.

In addition, a third document contains background information to help readers understand the reason for the project and to also serve as a reference document with a brief history of the project.

The strategic vision, barriers to implementation, and background information documents are available on the CFWSV website at www.vision.ca.gov.

**Recent Meeting Highlights**

**SAG Meeting - March 28**
The SAG met on March 28 in Sacramento, and via teleconference and WebEx, to review and finalize recommendations for modifications to the text of the interim strategic vision that was adopted by the executive committee in February and new recommendations to forward to the executive committee for consideration and possible inclusion in the final strategic vision.

**BRCC Meeting - March 30**
The BRCC met on March 30 in Sacramento, and via teleconference and WebEx, to discuss outcomes from the March 28 SAG meeting and finalize recommendations for modifications to the text of the interim strategic vision that was adopted by the executive committee in February and new recommendations to forward to the executive committee for consideration and possible inclusion in the final strategic vision.

**Executive Committee Meeting - April 9**
The executive committee met on April 9 in Sacramento, to receive final recommendations from the BRCC and SAG, the barriers to implementation report, a background document that describes why and how the strategic vision was developed, and a legislative update. After presentations from BRCC and SAG members, the executive committee deliberated the various recommendations and ultimately adopted a set of modifications to the interim strategic vision text adopted
in February as well as a series of new recommendations to complete a final version of the strategic vision. Executive committee members reiterated the importance of the strategic vision, the relationships established during the strategic vision process, and an ongoing commitment of all participants to ensure successful implementation of the vision.

**Next Steps**

As part of a transition from the CFWSV Project, DFG has announced its intent to update its strategic plan, during which it will address issues raised during the strategic vision process as well as seek additional input from stakeholders. Topics previously slated for the strategic vision process that will be handled by DFG in its strategic planning effort include, but are not limited to:

- the name and mission statement of DFG,
- enforcement,
- partnerships,
- science, and
- statutes and regulations.

If you would like to remain updated on these efforts, please click [here](#) to sign up for the DFG news list server.

Legislation to enact some of the recommendations made in the strategic vision has already been introduced in both houses of the California State Legislature. A summary of bills related to or resulting from the recommendations in the strategic vision was presented during the April 9 executive committee meeting; to remain updated on the status of those or other emerging bills, visit the [California Legislative Counsel's website](#).

**Get Involved**

- Sign up for the [DFG electronic list server](#)
- Send an email to [FGC@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:FGC@fgc.ca.gov) to receive agendas for upcoming F&GC meetings
- Provide your input or comments via email to [FGC@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:FGC@fgc.ca.gov)
- Follow the progress of fish and wildlife legislation as it moves through the legislature by visiting the [California Legislative Counsel's website](#)