



February 28, 2012

California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project

Attn: Hon. Blue Ribbon Citizen Commission and Stakeholder Advisory Group Members

California Natural Resources Agency

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commission Members and Stakeholders:

At the February 16, 2012 Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Executive Committee meeting, I announced the Department of Fish and Game's (Department) upcoming strategic planning effort. As promised, I'd like to provide you with additional detail on how that process will dovetail with and add to the Strategic Vision efforts of the Stakeholders and Commission members. I'd also like to reiterate the Department's commitment to hearing from our stakeholders and furthering our understanding of the California population we serve during our strategic planning process. Let me start, however, with a heart-felt thank you for all of your hard work and time spent focusing on the Department's future. We appreciate very much that work.

The Executive Committee adopted virtually all of the recommendations the Stakeholders and Commission members jointly proposed, covering a broad array of topics from vision level suggestions for core values to specific ways to coordinate permitting programs. I understand the list of issues on the table for your discussions was much broader than just those recommendations ready for our consideration on February 16th. Consistent with Secretary Laird's comments, those remaining items will not go away, but instead many will become topics for the Department to address in its strategic planning process, which we anticipate launching this spring. Further, those recommendations that are more appropriate for you to consider in a "next phase" of the vision process than for the Department to consider are identified below and will be part of your discussions over the next month.

There are several topics the Department will not address and that we ask be addressed by the Stakeholder Advisory Group and Blue Ribbon Citizen Commission in the coming weeks. These topics include matters related to the role of the Fish and Game Commission, alternative funding sources for the Department and the Fish and Game Commission and decisions on the level of Stakeholder and Commissioner support for improving our fiscal outlook by either removing obsolete and underfunded mandates, or, in the case of underfunded mandates, better matching the cost of services and the fees that support them. You can expect to hear more on this topic from Chief Deputy Director, Kevin Hunting, at your March 1, 2012 meeting. Finally, upcoming discussions regarding legislation would benefit from any additional suggestions you can provide for statutory or regulatory changes.

In many ways, your efforts as part of the Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project have made my job of planning for the Department's future much easier. We have a head start on understanding many of your concerns, suggestions from our own employees and ideas for how to address the challenges we face. Thank you for the many hours you have dedicated to this process and please look forward to hearing more from me about participating in the Department's strategic planning efforts coming later this spring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charlton H. Bonham
Director

cc: Kevin Hunting
Chief Deputy Director

Melissa Miller Henson,
California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project Director