

July 8, 2019

Honorable Cecelia Aguiar-Curry
Assemblywoman, AD 04
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Assemblywoman Aguiar-Curry,

RE: AB 256 – Support

We are pleased to support your recently amended measure, AB 256, which seeks to facilitate implementation of last year's AB 2348 (Aguiar-Curry), your bill to incentivize winter rice flooding in California's Central Valley.

As we understand it, your office has worked with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on some adjustments to facilitate easier implementation, and hopefully greater impact, of the program. These changes include:

- Allowing lessees to enter into agreements for winter flooding, expanding beyond the current requirement that agreements can only be entered into with landowners.
- Requiring that qualified lands be those that have produced a rice crop in the season immediately before winter flooding, rather than 2 of the past 3 years.
- Allowing for qualified third parties to administer the conservation contracts agreed to under this program.
- Allow for field rotation of winter flooding pursuant to agreements as long as the total number of required acres are flooded every year.

We also believe these changes will make improvements to strengthen the program and will hopefully result in even better habitat outcomes for migratory waterfowl in California's Central Valley.

For these reasons we support AB 256, as amended, and look forward to working with you throughout the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Mark Hennelly
California Waterfowl Association

James Stone
Northern California Guides and Sportsmen's Association