



# CENTRAL VALLEY JOINT VENTURE

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## Conserving Bird Habitat in California's Central Valley

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[www.cvjv.org](http://www.cvjv.org)

June 28, 2019

Mr. Scott Gardner  
Environmental Scientist Supervisor  
Upland Game Program  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Wildlife Branch  
1812 9th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: Support for California Waterfowl Association proposal to California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Upland Game Bird Program to benefit breeding waterfowl in the Sacramento Valley.

Dear Mr. Gardner,

On behalf of the Central Valley Joint Venture, I am writing in support of California Waterfowl Association's (CWA) proposal to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Upland Game Bird Program. The proposed trial incentive program encourages farmers to delay harvest of wheat in the Sacramento Valley in order to provide important habitat for breeding waterfowl.

The CVJV is a partnership of 19 public and private entities comprised of government agencies, science and conservation organizations, and one regulated utility provider. Our mission is to work collaboratively to protect, restore, and enhance habitats for birds, in accordance with conservation actions identified in the CVJV Implementation Plan (Plan). The Plan provides a cohesive vision for bird conservation in the Central Valley within the context of the entire Pacific Flyway and sets quantitative habitat objectives based on best available science to ensure sustainable populations of migrant and resident birds in California, a critical area which has lost over 90 percent of its wetlands. This project will directly benefit breeding mallards, and it aligns with the

goals of Central Valley Joint Venture Implementation Plan's Breeding Waterfowl Chapter.

Fall-seeded cereal crops are used by breeding waterfowl as improvised nesting habitats in lieu of actual native vegetation, and a wildlife-farmer conflict occurs in June, when the harvest of fall-seeded cereal grains takes place simultaneously with peak hatching, resulting in complete destruction of active nests or mortality of hens that do not flush in time. The proposed incentive program to delay harvest of wheat from April to July is a simple, cost-effective solution that can benefit locally breeding wildlife and provide farmers with a monetary incentive for their commodity without losing significant value of their crop. The project will also field test the implementation of practices and research previously completed by CWA and other wildlife conservation groups.

We fully support the CWA in their efforts to expand the improvement of the human-wildlife relationship on working lands, and their pursuit of the support of the CDFW to assist with these goals.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ostroff  
CVJV Coordinator, Acting

cc: Central Valley Joint Venture Board