



The Hon. Jerry Brown, Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 5, 2012

**RE: REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE – SB 1249 (Wolk)**

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Waterfowl Association urges you to sign SB 1249 (Wolk), which would enhance the operation, maintenance and funding of Department of Fish and Game (DFG) managed lands.

SB 1249 would specify that hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, wildlife photography, conservation education and fish and wildlife research are the compatible, priority uses of DFG lands, and that any other public uses must be approved by the California Fish and Game Commission via its regulations. This change would not only keep public use regulations more consistent between DFG and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (which often jointly manage lands for recreational purposes), but would help prevent public uses incompatible with wildlife conservation objectives from occurring on DFG lands.

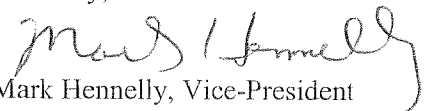
In addition, where DFG lacks funding or personnel to provide land operations or maintenance, SB 1249 would authorize DFG to enter into cooperative agreements with nonprofit conservation groups or resource conservation districts for that purpose.

To provide additional funding for land management, the bill would also require, where feasible, that all non-consumptive users of DFG lands first purchase a permit—similar to what is already mandated for hunting and fishing purposes. The permit would be available on-line via the Automated License Data System (ALDS), making it easily accessible and convenient to the public. However, in order to give DFG sufficient time to implement this requirement, it would not take effect until January 1, 2015.

Please also note that a separate provision of SB 1249 would ensure more accountability and transparency over the expenditure of county fish and wildlife propagation funds by requiring public review of all proposed expenditures, including for purposes of compliance with Section 13103 of the F&G Code (which specifies the allowable uses of the funds).

For these reasons, please sign SB 1249 into law.

Sincerely,

  
Mark Hennelly, Vice-President  
Government Affairs and Public Policy

Cc: The Honorable Lois Wolk, Senator, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Mr. Charlton H. Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Game