

The Honorable Jared Huffman, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Com.
1020 N Street, Suite 160
Sacramento, CA 95814



June 5, 2012

RE: SB 1266 (Corbett) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Huffman:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) urges you to support SB 1266 (Corbett), which would ensure that appraisals for land acquisitions by the Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Parks and Recreation and state conservancies contain information necessary to determine the fair market value.

This bill would provide for the more efficient use of public conservation monies by facilitating a more accurate analysis of the fair market value of the land, as well as providing a more reliable indication of the need to acquire it to prevent development and other incompatible uses. This not only benefits the traditional fee-title acquisition of land for wildlife conservation and public recreational opportunities such as hunting and fishing, but also conservation easements which provide incentive payments to private landowners in a non-regulatory, voluntary manner. Such easements on private land have particularly enhanced the state's ongoing efforts to conserve wetland habitat and migratory bird populations.

As you are aware, due to budget deficits, declining bond monies and related factors there are increasingly limited amounts of state funds available to protect wildlife habitat in California. In addition, threats to our wildlife populations and open spaces continue to grow. Ensuring that land conservation dollars are used as effectively as possible is now more important than ever.

For these reasons, please support SB 1266 when it is considered before your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Hennelly", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Hennelly, Vice President
Legislative Affairs and Public Policy

Cc: Members, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
The Honorable Ellen Corbett, Senator, 10th District