

The Honorable Jared Huffman, Chair
Assembly WP&W Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 160
Sacramento, CA 95814



June 18, 2012

RE: SB 1480 (Corbett) – OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Huffman:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) urges you to oppose SB 1480 (Corbett), which would criminalize certain trapping practices and make various fee and other changes to the trapping license system.

Although well-intended, CWA continues to oppose this measure because it would unnecessarily restrict the ability of wildlife habitat managers to control nuisance populations of beaver and muskrat, including those that damage managed wetland infrastructure, such as levees, and impede necessary water deliveries that benefit waterfowl and other wildlife. Specifically, subdivisions (f) and (i) of Section 1 of the bill place new limitations on trapping methods often utilized by waterfowl habitat managers or include overly subjective language. Subdivision (f) should therefore be amended to revert back to existing law and subdivision (i) deleted from the bill; or, both of those subdivisions should be further amended to provide waterfowl habitat managers greater flexibility.

We also have concerns with the creation of a Trapping Enforcement Account from trapping license fees. Similar to hunting and fishing license fees, trapping license revenues are currently deposited in the F&G Preservation fund, and can be used for a variety of conservation purposes including enforcement. SB 1480 would limit the use of trapping license fees for enforcement purposes only, which may indirectly reduce funding for other conservation activities that rely on the Preservation Fund.

Please note that the passage of Proposition 4 in 1998 significantly limited trapping practices, leaving both Department of Fish and Game and private landowners with few management tools to control nuisance wildlife. SB 1480, as currently drafted, would only exacerbate this situation and cause additional harm to managed wetland habitats and the species which depend upon them.

For these reasons, please oppose this measure when it is considered before your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Hennelly", is written over a large, stylized bracket that spans across the signature and extends down to the typed name below.

Mark Hennelly, Vice President
Legislative Affairs and Public Policy

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