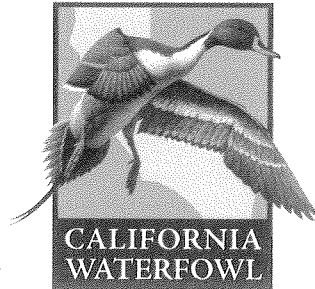


September 12, 2013



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

RE: SB 749 (Wolk) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) urges you to sign into law SB 749 (Wolk), which would promote increased wildlife conservation efforts on both public and private lands.

Specifically, SB 749 would do the following:

- Encourage private landowners to voluntarily establish upland nesting cover on lands fallowed as a result of a bona fide water transfer. This would particularly benefit local waterfowl and upland gamebirds which nest adjacent to rice fields and other agricultural areas. It is also consistent with the habitat goals and objectives of the Implementation Plan for the Central Valley Joint Venture—a public/private partnership (which includes the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)) dedicated to implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan within our Central Valley.
- Extend the sunset for the “accidental take” provisions under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). This provision would remove the disincentives for farmers and ranchers creating habitat for threatened and endangered species by protecting them from liability created if they inadvertently take a species. The bill also further clarifies the definition of accident.
- Provide statutory authorization for DFW to use agricultural lease monies for the operations and maintenance of its State Wildlife Areas. Because a significant portion of these state lands are managed as habitat for waterfowl, pheasants and other gamebirds, the bill would help ensure a more reliable funding source for the conservation of these species.
- Improve the administrative process for listing species under CESA, including requiring peer review of DFW’s status review of species proposed for listing under CESA.

For these reasons, please sign SB 749 into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Hennelly".

Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Legislative Affairs and Public Policy
California Waterfowl Association

Cc: Mr. John Laird, Secretary, Natural Resources Agency
Mr. Charlton Bonham, Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
The Honorable Lois Wolk, Senator, 3rd District