



August 11, 2016

Anthony Williams, Co-Chair

Russ Burns, Co-Chair

Wildlife Resources Committee

California Fish and Game Commission

1416 9th St., 13th Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners Williams and Burns:

We are writing to express concern regarding the solvency of the Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Fund which is overseen by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). According to the Department of Finance (DOF), this fund is operating at an annual loss and is perilously close to insolvency. This would dangerously impact California freshwater anglers.

When presented with DOF's analysis, in the attached letter of opposition to AB 1844 (Gallagher), of the Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Fund, DFW was unable to provide concrete data that the fund will continue to remain solvent in the future. In the letter, DOF reported, "Expenditures in the Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Fund also exceed revenues resulting in an annual imbalance of \$2.2 million; the fund is anticipated to become insolvent in fiscal year 2018-2019." DFW's response was simply that the fund is not currently insolvent and provided no data regarding the alleged operating loss. Considering the importance of the Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Fund, we believe that DFW should be required to provide a detailed analysis of the fund.

The undersigned members of the California Legislature Outdoor Sporting Caucus (OSC) support a detailed analysis of revenues and expenditures for the Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Fund for the fiscal years 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. It is our understanding that the Fish and Game Commission staff will make a recommendation to the full Commission at the August 24 meeting as to whether or not this analysis should be presented by DFW at a public meeting. We strongly urge the Commission to have DFW present the aforementioned analysis to the Wildlife Resources Committee at its September 21, 2016 meeting in order to identify the necessary steps to prevent insolvency.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

[PLEASE SEE SIGNATURES BELOW]