

ADDENDUM  
TO THE  
2004 FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT  
REGARDING PRONGHORN ANTELOPE HUNTING  
prepared by the  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
on behalf of  
CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION  
as  
LEAD AGENCY UNDER THE  
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)  
for the  
REGULARY NOTICED RULEMAKING ACTION TO AMEND  
SECTIONS 363 PRONGHORN ANTELOPE HUNTS  
TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS  
2024 HUNTING SEASON  
(OAL Notice File No. **2024-0123-07**)

## INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has prepared this addendum pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., to inform consideration by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) of proposed amendments to existing regulations governing pronghorn antelope hunting in California (California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Section 363). F&G Code, Section 3950 designates pronghorn antelope as a game mammal in California. F&G Code Sections 203 and 331 authorize the Commission to fix the area or areas, seasons and hours, bag and possession limit, sex, and total number of pronghorn antelope that may be taken pursuant to its regulations. F&G Code Section 203.1 requires the Commission to consider populations, habitat, food supplies, the welfare of individual animals, and other pertinent facts when establishing hunting regulations for pronghorn antelope. The Commission establishes pronghorn antelope hunting tag quotas through regulations amended annually, as needed, based on current population estimates derived from annual surveys by CDFW.

The Commission serves as the CEQA lead agency when it promulgates and amends the pronghorn antelope hunting regulations. (Public Resources Code Section 21067; CEQA Guidelines Section 15367.)<sup>1</sup> The Commission established maximum tag quotas for all pronghorn antelope hunting zones in California in 2004 with, among other things, the certification of a Final Environmental Document under CEQA (2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED)(SCH No. 2003112078). The 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED provides relevant and important informational value as the Commission as CEQA lead agency considers proposed amendments to the existing regulations for the 2024 pronghorn antelope hunting season in California. This addendum documents the Commission's consideration of related environmental effects.

Periodic adjustments of tag quotas in response to dynamic environmental and biological conditions are necessary to maintain sustainable populations of pronghorn antelope and hunt opportunities, as well as keeping with mandates and management recommendations. Analysis of these conditions was completed in March of 2024. Based on the analysis, the proposed tag quota for 2024 falls within the conservative harvest range identified in the 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED.

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<sup>1</sup> The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

## EARLIER PROJECT APPROVAL

CEQA review of the proposed project was conducted in accordance with the Commission's certified regulatory program approved by the Secretary for the California Natural Resources Agency pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.5 (See generally Title 14, CCR, Sections 781.5 and 15251(b)). CEQA requires all public agencies in the State to evaluate the environmental impacts of discretionary projects they propose to carry out or approve, including promulgating regulations, which may have a potential to significantly affect the environment.

In 2004, the Commission certified a Final Environmental Document Regarding Pronghorn Antelope Hunting (2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED) (SCH No. 2003112078) as the lead agency under CEQA as part of the Commission's review and adoption of the Pronghorn antelope Hunting regulations.

### PROPOSED 2024 TAG ALLOCATIONS FOR THE MOUNT DOME HUNT ZONE

The pronghorn antelope tag quotas described in the 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED are the basis for the number of tags currently allocated to all zones in regulation. Amendments of tag quotas for the 2024 pronghorn antelope hunting season by the Commission are based on survey data collected by the Department in its annual survey efforts. For 2024, the proposed tag allocation for the Mount Dome General Season Period 1 Buck is 2. Currently, the public tag quota (general draw) for the Mount Dome General Season Period 1 Buck is 2 tags.

The 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED found no significant impacts for a range of pronghorn antelope tags for Mount Dome General Season Period 1 Buck not to exceed a maximum of 60 tags. Therefore, there are no new significant or substantially more severe impacts caused by keeping the buck tags in the Mount Dome Hunt Zone at 2 tags.

### PROPOSED 2024 TAG ALLOCATIONS FOR THE CLEAR LAKE HUNT ZONE

The pronghorn antelope tag quotas described in the 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED are the basis for the number of tags currently allocated to all zones in regulation. Amendments of tag quotas for the 2024 pronghorn antelope hunting season by the Commission are based on survey data collected by the Department in its annual survey efforts. For 2024, the proposed tag allocation for the Clear Lake General Season Period 1 Buck is 12. Currently, the public tag quota (general draw) for the Clear Lake General Season Period 1 Buck is 15 tags.

The 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED found no significant impacts for a range of pronghorn antelope tags for the Clear Lake General Season Period 1 Buck not to exceed a maximum of 80 tags. Therefore, there are no new significant or substantially more severe impacts from amending the pronghorn antelope hunt regulations to modify buck tags in the Clear Lake General Season Period 1 Buck to 12 tags.

### PROPOSED 2024 TAG ALLOCATIONS FOR THE LIKELY TABLES HUNT ZONE

The pronghorn antelope tag quotas described in the 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED are the basis for the number of tags currently allocated to all zones in regulation. Amendments of tag quotas for the 2024 pronghorn antelope hunting season by the Commission are based on survey data collected by the Department in its annual survey efforts. For 2024, the proposed tag allocation for the Likely Tables General Season Period 1 and Period 2 Buck is 5. Currently, the public tag quota (general draw) for the Likely Tables General Season Periods 1 and 2 Buck is 25 tags each.

The 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED found no significant impacts for a range of pronghorn antelope tags for the Likely Tables General Season Period 1 Buck not to exceed a maximum of 150 tags and for the Likely Tables General Season Period 2 Buck not to exceed a maximum of 130 tags. Therefore, there are no new significant or substantially more severe impacts from amending the pronghorn antelope hunt regulations to modify buck tags in the Likely Tables General Season Periods 1 and 2 Buck to 5 tags and 5 tags, respectively.

### PROPOSED 2024 TAG ALLOCATIONS FOR THE LASSEN HUNT ZONE

The pronghorn antelope tag quotas described in the 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED are the basis for the number of tags currently allocated to all zones in regulation. Amendments of tag quotas for the 2024 pronghorn antelope hunting season by the Commission are based on survey data collected by the Department in its annual survey efforts. For 2024, the proposed tag allocation for the Lassen General Season Period 1 and Period 2 Buck is 35. Currently, the public tag quota (general draw) for the Likely Tables General Season Periods 1 and 2 Buck is 35 tags each.

The 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED found no significant impacts for a range of pronghorn antelope tags for the Lassen General Season Periods 1 and 2 Buck not to exceed a maximum of 150 tags each. Therefore, there are no new significant or substantially more severe impacts from amending the pronghorn antelope hunt regulations caused by keeping buck tags in the Lassen General Season Periods 1 and 2 Buck at 35 tags each.

## PROPOSED 2024 TAG ALLOCATIONS FOR THE BIG VALLEY HUNT ZONE

The pronghorn antelope tag quotas described in the 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED are the basis for the number of tags currently allocated to all zones in regulation. Amendments of tag quotas for the 2024 pronghorn antelope hunting season by the Commission are based on survey data collected by the Department in its annual survey efforts. For 2024, the proposed tag allocation for the Big Valley General Season Period 1 Buck is 5. Currently, the public tag quota (general draw) for the Big Valley General Season Period 1 Buck is 20 tags.

The previous Archery tag quota was 15 bucks during the 2023-2024 season. The new proposed tag quota is 5. This reduction is proposed because the March 2024 survey showed a smaller population of Pronghorn than anticipated, likely connected to a severe winter that increased winter mortality.

The 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED found no significant impacts for a range of pronghorn antelope tags for the Big Valley General Season Period 1 Buck not to exceed a maximum of 150 tags. Therefore, there are no new significant or substantially more severe impacts from amending the pronghorn antelope hunt regulations to modify buck tags in the Big Valley General Season Period 1 Buck to 5 tags and reducing the Archery tags from 15 to 5.

## PROPOSED 2024 TAG ALLOCATIONS FOR THE SURPRISE VALLEY HUNT ZONE

The pronghorn antelope tag quotas described in the 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED are the basis for the number of tags currently allocated to all zones in regulation. Amendments of tag quotas for the 2024 pronghorn antelope hunting season by the Commission are based on survey data collected by the Department in its annual survey efforts. For 2024, the proposed tag allocation for the Surprise Valley General Season Period 1 Buck is 10-15. Currently, the public tag quota (general draw) for the Big Valley General Season Period 1 Buck is 10 tags.

The 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED found no significant impacts for a range of pronghorn antelope tags for the Surprise Valley General Season Period 1 Buck not to exceed a maximum of 25 tags. Therefore, there are no new significant or substantially more severe impacts caused by keeping the pronghorn antelope hunt regulations to modify buck tags in the Surprise Valley General Season Period 1 Buck at 10 tags.

## NO SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT IS REQUIRED

In general, CEQA applies whenever a public agency proposes to carry out or approve a discretionary project. (Public Resources Code Section 21080(a)). CEQA provides that, where a public agency proposes to modify a previously approved project for which a Final Environmental Document was prepared and certified:

“The lead agency or a responsible agency shall prepare an **addendum** to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.” (Title 14, CCR, Section 15164)

- A Subsequent Environment Document (Section 15162) when there is substantial evidence that:
  - Substantial changes are proposed in the project, which will require major revisions to the previous environmental impact report (EIR) or environmental document (ED).
  - Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is being undertaken, which will require major revisions to the previous EIR or environmental documentation.
  - New information, which was not known and could not have been known at the time the previous EIR or ED was certified as complete, becomes available.
- A Supplement to an Environment Document (Section 15163) when:
  - A subsequent ED is not required.
  - Only minor changes to the project are described.
  - Only that information to make the ED adequate is provided.
- An Addendum to the Certified ED (Section 15164) is proper when:
  - The changes or additions presented in this project are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent ED have occurred.
  - The Commission may properly prepare and may rely on an addendum in accordance with Section 15164 to fulfill its obligations under CEQA.

## NO ADDITIONAL IMPACTS UNDER CEQA

The Commission has determined that amending the current pronghorn antelope hunting regulations based on annual survey results will not result in any new or significant or substantially more severe environmental impacts than previously analyzed and disclosed in the 2004 Pronghorn antelope ED for this project.

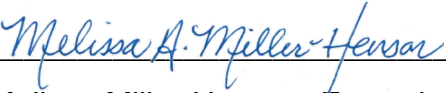
This project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal

community, reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. There are no impacts to the habitat of fish and wildlife species.

This approval action adjusts the previous year tag quotas based on more current population information, modifies existing hunt zone boundaries, and establishes three new hunt zones. No other aspect of the project is changed. No new significant or substantially more severe impacts under CEQA will occur due to this change.

## AMENDMENT OF THE PRONGHORN ANTELOPE HUNT REGULATIONS

In conclusion, the Commission finds that amending the pronghorn antelope hunt regulations in Title 14, CCR Section 363, will not result in any new significant or substantially more severe environmental effects than previously analyzed and disclosed in the 2004 Pronghorn Antelope ED. The Commission also finds that subsequent or supplemental review beyond this Addendum is not warranted pursuant to Title 14, CCR Section 15164, in connection with this proposed action.

  
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Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director  
California Fish and Game Commission

April 12, 2024  
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Date