

Notice of Availability/Notice of Public Comment Period for the Draft EIR/EIS for the California Wildlife Damage Management

Date: January 12, 2024

To: California State Clearinghouse
California Trustee Agencies
Other Interested Agencies
Interested Parties and Organizations

From: California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Wildlife Services-California (SW-California)

Lead Agencies: California Department of Food
and Agriculture
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Subject:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and Wildlife Services (WS-California), a state office within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Notice of Availability (NOA) and Public Comment Period for a joint CEQA/NEPA Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) evaluating alternatives for both agencies' involvement in managing wildlife damage and conflict in California.

Proposed Project:

The Proposed Project is WS-California and CDFA jointly administering integrated wildlife damage management to respond to requests for assistance throughout the state. The Proposed Project/Proposed Action incorporates the establishment of a statewide CDFA wildlife damage management program and WS-California continuing to provide non-lethal and lethal operational and technical strategies to respond to requests for assistance on federal, state, tribal, municipal, and private land within the state of California. The CDFA and WS-California have evaluated the environmental impacts of managing wildlife damage and threats to agricultural resources, property, natural resources, and human health and safety. The Draft EIR/EIS is available for review and comment prior to issuing a decision.

Public Review and Comment Period:

The Lead Agencies invite public comment on the Draft EIR/EIS and alternatives in response to this NOA. A 60-day comment period will begin on January 12, 2024, and end on March 12, 2024. In your response, include your name, the name of your organization (if applicable), and contact information.

Project information and the Draft EIR/EIS can be referenced electronically at www.CaliforniaWDM.org.

You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/APHIS-2020-0081>
- California Wildlife Damage Management EIR/EIS Webpage: Go to www.CaliforniaWDM.org
- Electronic Mail: Send electronic mail (email) to comments@CaliforniaWDM.org.
- At a virtual public comment meeting to be held on February 8th from 4-7pm, 2024. Details for participation can be found at www.CaliforniaWDM.org.
- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Send your comment to California Wildlife Damage Management EIR/EIS, ATTN: Scoping Comments, 2121 Broadway, P.O. Box 188797, Sacramento, CA 95818.