



Mr. Eric Sklar, President
CA Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2099

April 10, 2017

RE: 2017/18 Waterfowl Regulations

Dear President Sklar:

California Waterfowl Association (CWA) would like to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed waterfowl seasons and bag limits for the 2017/18 season. CWA is a 20,000 member nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of California's waterfowl, wetlands and hunting heritage.

After considerable input from affected hunters and discussions with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), CWA's Board of Directors recently voted to support the waterfowl regulatory package proposed by DFW, but with one significant exception: **In the Northeast (NE) Zone, we respectfully ask that the Commission not approve for this season shifting up to 28 hunt days for white-fronted geese from the regular season (when public hunting is allowed) to the late season (when hunting is mostly limited to private lands). Rather, this regulatory proposal should be delayed one year to give the Department time to create a special management area for the Klamath Basin and perform necessary outreach to landowners to facilitate greater public hunting access during the late season.**

We believe that by delaying the implementation of this regulatory proposal and allowing the Department time to first take these actions, impacts on public hunting opportunities would be minimized. The creation of a special management area would ensure that existing public hunting opportunities on the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake Refuges are not impacted. SHARE Program outreach by the Department may also help to mitigate for the loss of public hunting opportunity outside the Klamath Basin by encouraging private landowners through voluntary incentives to open their lands to public hunting.

Please note that the goose depredation issues in the NE Zone are significant, and that CWA strongly supports providing landowners with appropriate tools to address them. We also recognize the critical role that farmers and other landowners play in providing waterfowl habitat and food resources throughout California, and urge that the Commission and Department's policies and regulations continue to support these important efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Hennelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Legislative Affairs and Public Policy

Cc: Members, California Fish and Game Commission