

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2376

Introduced by Assembly Member Huffman

February 19, 2010

An act to add Section 12805.3 to the Government Code, relating to fish and wildlife.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2376, as amended, Huffman. Fish and wildlife: strategic vision.

The California Constitution establishes the Fish and Game Commission and provides for the delegation to the commission of powers relating to the protection and propagation of fish and game. Existing statutory law delegates to the commission the power to regulate the taking or possession of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles in accordance with prescribed laws. Existing law establishes the Department of Fish and Game in the Natural Resources Agency, and generally charges the department with the administration and enforcement of the Fish and Game Code.

This bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to convene a committee, with membership as prescribed, to develop and submit to the Governor and Legislature, before ~~January~~ *July* 1, 2012, a strategic vision for the department and the commission that addresses specified matters relating to state fish and wildlife resource management.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 12805.3 is added to the Government
 2 Code, to read:
 3 12805.3. (a) The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency
 4 shall convene a committee to develop and submit to the Governor
 5 and the Legislature, before ~~January~~ July 1, 2012, a strategic vision
 6 for the Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game
 7 Commission.
 8 (b) The committee members shall include all of the following:
 9 (1) The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency.
 10 (2) The Director of Fish and Game.
 11 (3) The president of the Fish and Game Commission.
 12 (4) The chair of the State Energy Resources Conservation and
 13 Development Commission.
 14 (5) A representative of the University of California.
 15 (6) Representatives of the United States Fish and Wildlife
 16 Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, *if they choose*
 17 *to participate*.
 18 (c) The strategic vision shall address all of the following matters:
 19 (1) *Improving and enhancing the department’s capacity to fulfill*
 20 *its public trust responsibilities to protect and manage the state’s*
 21 *fish and wildlife for their ecological values and for the benefit of*
 22 *the people of the state.*
 23 ~~(1)~~
 24 (2) Comprehensive biodiversity management, including
 25 conservation planning and monitoring.
 26 ~~(2)~~
 27 (3) Sustainable ecosystem functions, including terrestrial,
 28 freshwater, and marine habitat.
 29 (4) *Recreational and commercial harvest of fish and wildlife.*
 30 ~~(3) Permitting and regulatory functions.~~
 31 (5) *Permitting, regulatory, and enforcement functions.*
 32 ~~(4)~~
 33 (6) Science capacity and academic relationships, *including*
 34 *strategies to protect and enhance the independence and integrity*
 35 *of the science that forms the basis for department and commission*
 36 *policies and decisions.*
 37 (7) *Education, communication, and relations with the public,*
 38 *landowners, nonprofit entities, and land management agencies.*

- 1 ~~(5)~~
2 (8) Reforms necessary to take on the challenges of the 21st
3 century, including, but not *necessarily* limited to:
4 (A) Climate change and adaptation.
5 (B) ~~The future of energy~~ *Meeting California's future renewable*
6 *energy needs while protecting sensitive habitat.*
7 (C) The restoration of the state's native fish species.
8 (D) Implementing and updating the state's Wildlife Action Plan.
9 ~~(6)~~
10 (9) The development and deployment of technology to meet the
11 department's mission, *including data modeling, collection, and*
12 *online reporting.*
13 ~~(7)~~
14 (10) Budget and fiscal development, accounting, and
15 management.
16 ~~(8)~~
17 (11) Coordination among state agencies.
18 ~~(9)~~
19 (12) Recommendations for institutional or governance changes,
20 *including clarification of the roles of the commission and the*
21 *department.*
22 ~~(10)~~
23 (13) Strategies for identifying stable funding options to fulfill
24 the mission of the department while reducing dependency on the
25 General Fund.
26 ~~(11)~~
27 (14) Other recommendations deemed desirable by the
28 committee.
29 (d) The committee shall seek input from elected officials,
30 governmental agencies, and interested parties, *and shall review*
31 *existing reports and studies on the functioning of the department*
32 *and other state models for fish and wildlife governance.*
33 (e) For the purposes of carrying out this section, the committee
34 may also seek input from other policy and resource leaders.
35 (f) (1) The committee, its members, and state agencies
36 represented on the committee may contract for consultants to assist
37 in the preparation of the strategic vision.
38 (2) Contracts entered into pursuant to paragraph (1) shall
39 terminate no later than December 31, 2011.

1 (3) Contracts entered into pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be
2 exempt from Part 2 (commencing with Section 10100) of Division
3 2 of the Public Contract Code.

4 (g) The Governor or the committee may appoint a “blue ribbon”
5 or citizen commission, advisory committee, task force, or any other
6 group or groups that the Governor or the committee deems
7 necessary or desirable to assist in carrying out this section.

8 (h) For the purposes of carrying out this section, the committee
9 shall seek funding from nonstate entities to minimize the use of
10 General Fund moneys.

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