

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**Budget Change Proposal - Cover Sheet**  
 DF-46 (REV 10/20)

<b>Fiscal Year</b> 2022-23	<b>Business Unit</b> 3600	<b>Department</b> Department of Fish and Wildlife	<b>Priority No.</b>
<b>Budget Request Name</b> 3600-071-BCP-2022-MR		<b>Program</b> 2590	<b>Subprogram</b>

**Budget Request Description**  
 Beaver Restoration

**Budget Request Summary**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests 5.0 permanent positions and \$1.67 million California Environmental License Plate Fund in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23, and \$1.44 million in FY 2023-24 and ongoing to fund and support the implementation of a beaver restoration program within the Department.

<b>Requires Legislation</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Code Section(s) to be Added/Amended/Repealed</b>	
<b>Does this BCP contain information technology (IT) components?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, departmental Chief Information Officer must sign.</i>	<b>Department CIO</b>	<b>Date</b>

**For IT requests, specify the project number, the most recent project approval document (FSR, SPR, S1BA, S2AA, S3SD, S4PRA), and the approval date.**

**Project No.**

**Project Approval Document:**

**Approval Date:**

**If proposal affects another department, does other department concur with proposal?**  Yes  No  
*Attach comments of affected department, signed and dated by the department director or designee.*

<b>Prepared By</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	
<b>Department Director</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Agency Secretary</b>	<b>Date</b>

**Department of Finance Use Only**

**Additional Review:**  Capital Outlay  ITCU  FSCU  OSAE  Dept. of Technology

<b>PPBA</b> Krystal Acierito	<b>Date submitted to the Legislature</b> 5/13/2022
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## Analysis of Problem

### A. Budget Request Summary

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests 5.0 permanent positions and \$1.67 million California Environmental License Plate Fund in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23, and \$1.44 million in FY 2023-24 and ongoing to fund and support the implementation of a beaver restoration program within the Department.

### B. Background/History

The North American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) is considered a "keystone species". Beavers used to live in almost every stream in North America (except in the deserts) with an estimated population of 100-200 million. Human exploitation and nuisance eradication efforts dwindled those populations to approximately 10-15 million beavers today. Beavers are known for their ability to build dams and change waterways – but the ecosystem benefits provided to other native species in the process may be less recognized. It might be odd, but beavers are an untapped, creative climate solving hero that helps prevent the loss of biodiversity facing California. In the intermountain West, wetlands, though they are present on just 2 percent of total land area, support 80 percent of biodiversity. Further, beaver dams improve water quality and control water downstream, repair eroded channels, reconnect streams to their floodplains, and the ponds and flooded areas create habitat for many plants and animals. Beavers create habitat complexity, significantly increase biodiversity, and can provide perennial flow to streams that would otherwise run dry. Through this process of ecosystem engineering, beavers can expand wetland, riparian, and wet meadow habitats and increase wildfire resiliency in areas with known beaver activity.

California native tribes, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, and state and federal agencies have been working to partner and successfully implement beaver restoration projects throughout California. The Department is actively involved in activities that are responsive to beaver management and reported human-beaver conflict, such as property damage. This proposal supports the Department's need for additional staffing to truly support and manage this native keystone species through the implementation of nature-based solutions. To be successful in our efforts to protect biodiversity, the Department must take a proactive leap towards bringing beavers back onto the landscape through a concerted effort to combine prioritized restoration projects, partnerships with local, federal, and state agencies and tribes, and updated policies and practices that support beaver management and conservation throughout the State.

The gap in needed Department staffing to support Species and Habitat Conservation has been documented through the Department's Service Based Budgeting (SBB) process indicating a 73% mission level gap, which is the Department highest need. These additional resources to support beaver restoration in California will help close this service level gap.

### C. State Level Consideration

This proposal will directly support ongoing and new funding dedicated to supporting habitat restoration and climate change resiliency. In addition, this proposal supports the Governor's Cutting the Green Tape initiative by utilizing tools and practices developed in that program to expedite review and approval of restoration projects that support beavers. Lastly, this proposal supports the Governor's commitment to conserve 30 percent of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030 (30x30) by protecting biodiversity and sensitive habitats and building resilience to the impacts of climate change through increasing beaver restoration efforts in California.

Senate Bill 854 (2018) directed the Department to conduct a SBB review to identify strategic goals reflecting its core programs. The Department's SBB review studied, and is continuing to

evaluate and report on, the service standards designed to meet its mission, cost estimates and staffing requirements to meet its mission, and a comparison of the mission level needs against existing staffing. SBB findings have identified that current staffing is sufficient to accomplish approximately 35% across mission level needs. Species and Habitat Conservation show the greatest need with a 73% gap in meeting the Department's mission level.

#### **D. Justification**

Beavers are remarkable at creating more resilient ecosystems – and therefore thinking through approaches to maximize their unique skills throughout California will benefit our landscapes and help drive more cost-efficient restoration. The Department is actively involved in activities that are responsive to beaver management and reported human-beaver conflict, such as property damage. However, the Department is not well staffed or structured to truly support and manage this species as a successful contributor to our efforts to protect biodiversity and increase wildfire resiliency through implementing nature-based solutions. This proposal will develop dedicated staffing resources to revise beaver policies and guidelines, coordinate restoration efforts, proactively mitigate human-beaver conflict, and work towards relocating beavers into watersheds through consultation with local partners, state and federal agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations. Specifically, this program will support and help maintain:

- A comprehensive approach to beaver management in California
- Native California tribes in their efforts to restore culturally significant beavers to their ancestral homelands and other lands they manage
- Demonstrate the importance of beaver relocation and climate smart restoration
- Beneficial habitat as refugia to drought, wildfire, and climate change
- Increased abundance of ecologically and significant plants and wildlife species
- Improve water quality and prolong flow during dry seasons
- An integrated “toolkit” of resources and proven effective exclusion methods for deployment to mitigate human-beaver conflict, prevent damage due to beaver activity, and foster co-existence
- Create a pathway to utilize beaver relocation in watersheds where beavers have been extirpated or co-existence strategies have been exhausted
- Beaver habitat suitability models to reduce the risk of human conflict and to sustain long-term beaver occupancy
- Public awareness for beaver conservation and management

#### **E. Outcomes and Accountability**

This proposal will allow the Department to revise beaver policies and guidelines in development of a comprehensive beaver management plan. The team will develop an integrated and proactive approach to mitigate human-beaver conflict specific to reported damage due to known beaver activity. The team will coordinate with other agencies and departments to prioritize beaver restoration projects.

### Projected Outcomes

Workload Measure	CY	BY	BY+1	BY+2	BY+3	BY+4
Updated beaver policies, guidelines, plans		1	1	1	1	1
Beaver Management Plan and amendments			1	1	1	1
Prioritized beaver restoration project list		1	1	1	1	1
Beaver relocation projects		1	2	2	2	2
Workshops, conferences, meetings		2	10	10	10	10

#### F. Analysis of All Feasible Alternatives

Alternative 1: Approve 5.0 permanent positions and \$1.67 million California Environmental License Plate Fund in FY 2022-23, and \$1.44 million in FY 2023-24 and ongoing to fund and support the implementation a beaver restoration program within the Department.

Advantages: The Department would have the resources to support beaver activities in California being coordinated, prioritized, and supportive of the Administration's goals to accelerate restoration across the landscape, protect biodiversity, and build resilience to climate change. This proposal will also help close the existing SBB gap across Species and Habitat Conservation by 8,000 staff hours per year.

Disadvantages: Requires additional funding to the Department.

Alternative 2: Approve the 5.0 new permanent positions, and \$9.44 million one-time California Environmental License Plate Fund to support staffing, field equipment, vehicles, and funding for the implementation of a five-year beaver restoration program within the Department.

Advantages: The Department would have the resources to support beaver activities in California being coordinated, prioritized, and supportive of the Administration's goals to accelerate restoration across the landscape, protect biodiversity, and build resilience to climate change. While limited in time, this proposal will also help close the existing SBB gap across Species and Habitat Conservation by 8,000 staff hours, per year, over the next five years.

Disadvantages: The proposal would require a significant one-time, investment. The benefits to shrinking the existing SBB gap in Species and Habitat Conservation would be short-term.

Alternative 3: Deny the proposal.

Advantages: Would not require additional resources.

Disadvantages: The Department would not have the additional resources needed to improve coordination on beaver management, shrink the existing SBB gap in Species and Habitat Conservation, and support the Administrations goals to implement nature-based solutions and improve climate resiliency.

#### G. Implementation Plan

Implementation of this proposal would begin on July 1, 2022, or upon approval of the FY 2022-23 Budget. Initiation of a pilot beaver relocation project would occur in year one.

## **H. Supplemental Information**

The Department will utilize the requested funding as follows:

- Purchase equipment to trap, tag, and haul beavers.
- Funding for beaver health analysis in support of relocation efforts.

The Department will purchase five 4x4 pickup trucks, distributed as follows:

- One (1) 4x4 pickup for the proposed Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor).
- Two (2) 4x4 pickup for the proposed Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist).
- Two (2) 4x4 pickup for the proposed Environmental Scientist.

## **I. Recommendation**

The Department recommends approval of Alternative 1: Approve 5.0 permanent positions and \$1.67 million California Environmental License Plate Fund in FY 2022-23, and \$1.44 million in FY 2023-24 and ongoing to fund and support the implementation a beaver restoration program within the Department.

# BCP Fiscal Detail Sheet

BCP Title: Beaver Restoration

BR Name: 3600-071-BCP-2022-MR

Budget Request Summary

## Personal Services

Personal Services	FY22 Current Year	FY22 Budget Year	FY22 BY+1	FY22 BY+2	FY22 BY+3	FY22 BY+4
Positions - Permanent	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Earnings - Permanent	0	502	502	502	502	502
Salaries and Wages	0	200	200	200	200	200
Earnings - Temporary Help						
<b>Total Salaries and Wages</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$702</b>	<b>\$702</b>	<b>\$702</b>	<b>\$702</b>	<b>\$702</b>
Total Staff Benefits	0	282	282	282	282	282
<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$984</b>	<b>\$984</b>	<b>\$984</b>	<b>\$984</b>	<b>\$984</b>

## Operating Expenses and Equipment

Operating Expenses and Equipment	FY22 Current Year	FY22 Budget Year	FY22 BY+1	FY22 BY+2	FY22 BY+3	FY22 BY+4
5301 - General Expense	0	25	25	25	25	25
5302 - Printing	0	5	5	5	5	5
5304 - Communications	0	5	5	5	5	5
5306 - Postage	0	5	5	5	5	5
5308 - Insurance	0	5	5	5	5	5
5320 - Travel: In-State	0	25	25	25	25	25
5322 - Training	0	25	25	25	25	25
5324 - Facilities Operation	0	55	55	55	55	55
5326 - Utilities	0	10	10	10	10	10
5342 - Departmental Services	0	193	195	195	195	195
5346 - Information Technology	0	30	10	10	10	10
5368 - Non-Capital Asset Purchases - Equipment	0	30	0	0	0	0
539X - Other	0	40	40	40	40	40
54XX - Special Items of Expense	0	230	55	55	55	55
<b>Total Operating Expenses and Equipment</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$683</b>	<b>\$460</b>	<b>\$460</b>	<b>\$460</b>	<b>\$460</b>

## Total Budget Request

Total Budget Request	FY22 Current Year	FY22 Budget Year	FY22 BY+1	FY22 BY+2	FY22 BY+3	FY22 BY+4
<b>Total Budget Request</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,667</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>

## Fund Summary

### Fund Source

Fund Source	FY22 Current Year	FY22 Budget Year	FY22 BY+1	FY22 BY+2	FY22 BY+3	FY22 BY+4
State Operations - 0140 - California Environmental License Plate Fund	0	1,667	1,444	1,444	1,444	1,444
<b>Total State Operations Expenditures</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,667</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,667</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>

## Program Summary

### Program Funding

Program Funding	FY22 Current Year	FY22 Budget Year	FY22 BY+1	FY22 BY+2	FY22 BY+3	FY22 BY+4
2590 - Biodiversity Conservation Program	0	1,667	1,444	1,444	1,444	1,444
<b>Total All Programs</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,667</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>