STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Budget Change Proposal - Cover Sheet
DF-46 (REV 03/25)

Fiscal Year	Business Unit Number	Department
2026-27	3600	Fish and Wildlife

Hyperion Budget Request Name	Relevant Program or Subprogram
3600-003-BCP-2026-GB	2590

Budget Request Title
Reimbursement Position Authority

Budget Request Summary
The California Department of Fish and Wildlife requests 21.5 positions (permanent position authority only) in fiscal year 2026-27 and ongoing, to replace temporary positions used to complete work historically funded by long-term reimbursement agreements.

Requires Legislation (submit required legislation with the BCP)	Code Section(s) to be Added/Amended/Repealed
☐ Trailer Bill Language ☐ Budget Bill Language ☒ N/A	N/A

Does this BCP contain information technology (IT) components? ☐ Yes ☒ No *If yes, departmental Chief Information Officer must sign.*	Department CIO	Date
	N/A	N/A

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

Project No. Click or tap here to enter text.

Approval Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Project Approval Document: Click or tap here to enter text.

Total Project Cost: Click or tap here to enter text.

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.

Prepared By	Date	Reviewed By	Date
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap to enter a date.	Nicole Nelson	1/9/2026
Department Director	**Date**	**Agency Secretary**	**Date**
Valerie Termini	1/9/2026	Bryan Cash	1/9/2026

Department of Finance Use Only

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

Principal Program Budget Analyst	Date submitted to the Legislature
Andrew Hull	1/9/2026

A. Problem Statement

The department has long-term agreements with several state entities and utility companies that fund department staff that perform work on behalf of the contracted entity. These agreements are with entities such as the California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Transportation, and Southern California Edison Company. These agreements fund dedicated permitting staff to help expedite permitting review and allow the department to complete activities and objectives of reimbursement agreements more effectively and efficiently.

B. Justification

For the department to continue to meet the objectives in the agreements and the associated permitting, the department requires reimbursement position authority. The department continues to provide ongoing support to several state, local, and private entities to perform a variety of work such as environmental permitting and review for California WaterFix, various state transportation projects, operation and maintenance of various utility projects. These reimbursement agreements allow the department to further its mission and help ensure the protection of California's ecosystems and wildlife.

C. Departmentwide and Statewide Considerations

The requested permanent position authority will enable the department to continue the work funded by the reimbursement agreements to ensure California's ecosystems and wildlife are protected and managed for the enjoyment of future generations. Without additional position authority, the department could continue to lose knowledgeable field expertise every two years and must retrain and familiarize staff with the ongoing project. This loss of expertise and perpetual cycle of training will reduce the department's effectiveness and efficiency, increasing the overall costs, and possible delays in completing all objectives for reimbursement agreements. .

D. Outcomes and Accountability

The department anticipates the 21.5 permanent positions to be advertised and filled within approximately six months of approval of the 2026-27 Budget. The agreements will continue operating at the current capacity using the limited term positions until the new positions are filled. Though the positions will be advertised objectively and interviewed competitively, the department anticipates most of its current field staff will be considered for the permanent positions based on experience and training. As a result, the department expects the transition to permanent positions will cause little to no interruption in ongoing operations. Over the long term, the department expects a reduction in turnover and time/effort devoted to training, which will result in increased productivity.

E. Implementation Plan

Implementation of this proposal would begin on July 1, 2026, or upon approval of the 2026-27 Budget Act.

F. Supplemental Information (If Applicable)

None.

BCP Fiscal Detail Sheet

(Dollars in Thousands)

BCP Title: Reimbursement Fund Permanent Position Authority

BR Name: 3600-010-BCP-2026-GB

Budget Request Summary

Personal Services

Personal Services	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Positions - Permanent	0.0	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5
Total Positions	**0.0**	**21.5**	**21.5**	**21.5**	**21.5**	**21.5**

Fund Summary

Fund Source

Fund Source	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Total State Operations Expenditures	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Program Summary

Program Funding

Program Funding	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Total All Programs	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Personal Services Details

Positions

Positions	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
0756 - Environmental Program Mgr I (Supvry) (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
0762 - Environmental Scientist (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
0764 - Sr Envirnal Scientist (Supvry) (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
0765 - Sr Envirnal Scientist (Spec) (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0.0	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5
0916 - Fish & Wildlife Techn (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
4962 - Sr Right of Way Agent (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
6986 - Mate - Fish & Game Vessel (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
7878 - Sr Lab Asst (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Total Positions	**0.0**	**21.5**	**21.5**	**21.5**	**21.5**	**21.5**