

From: [Defenders of Wildlife](#) on behalf of [Don Lipmanson](#)
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Our state's wetlands need more protection
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 12:28:07 PM



Aug 17, 2017

Chair Felicia Marcus

Dear Chair Marcus,

As a former Mendocino County planning commissioner (2000-2006) I often was called upon to make decisions about mitigating developments that threatened local wetlands. Those years of experience, followed by so much evidence that our state is warming that is threatening many species of birds, reptiles and amphibians whose existence depends on such habitats leads me to urge you to quickly adopt a statewide wetlands policy that better protects existing wetlands.

You surely are aware that CA already has allowed farming, ranching and residential or commercial development that has destroyed over 90 percent of its historic wetlands, with more such acreage being bulldozed every year.

Once Trump's EPA weakens or flat out repeals the federal Clean Water Rule, much of our state's wetlands, including vernal pools, will lose Clean Water Act protections.

Finalizing a comprehensive wetlands policy should go far towards preserving CA's wetlands and the wildlife that required them for survival. But first, in addition to preserving existing wetlands to the maximum extent feasible (even if that blocks many development applications), the Board also needs to beef up compensatory mitigation requirements so there is zero net loss of current wetland acreage. This includes eliminating agricultural exemptions from wetland preservation.

Let's continue to keep our state at the epicenter of habitat and wildlife protection plus the most earth-friendly farming techniques.

Sincerely,

Mr. Don Lipmanson
1413, Deer Lane
Sebastopol, CA 95472
(707) 391-7624
dlipman@mcn.org