



# Assemblymember Damon Connolly, 12<sup>th</sup> District

## AB 2196 – BEAVER RESTORATION

### FACT SHEET

#### BACKGROUND

There is collaborative momentum in California to restore beavers back into traditional and historic wildlife habitats. According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the North American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) is “...both an ecosystem engineer, helping to create and maintain diverse habitat throughout the State, and a keystone species, filling a critically important role in maintaining the ecosystem for the other species that depend on it.” In 2023, CDFW established a Beaver Restoration Program, which includes the goals of working with tribes, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, and other state, federal, and local agencies to implement beaver-assisted restoration projects that support ecosystem conservation, habitat restoration, species conservation, and improve climate change, drought, and wildfire resiliency throughout California.

Part of this important program, which was created through an Administration funding proposal in the FY2022-23 budget, includes CDFW issuing new policies to reduce lethal depredation of beavers and promote coexistence. Through the FY2023-24 budget, there has been a request issued for [proposals](#) seeking partners to support non-lethal beaver damage management. CDFW conducted the [first beaver relocation in nearly eight decades last fall](#), partnering with the Maidu people who have long supported the translocation of beaver back to their ancestral lands. The next relocation pilot will take place on lands belonging to the Tule River Tribe in spring 2024.

#### ISSUE

Because the state’s Beaver Restoration Program was created through a budget proposal, the objectives of the CDFW program are not codified to ensure this important work remains a priority in the future, particularly beyond the current Administration, which has prioritized such projects and wildlife goals.

#### EXISTING LAW

Specifies that CDFW has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (Fish and Game Code (FGC) §1802). Authorizes any owner or tenant of land or property that is being damaged or destroyed or is in danger of being damaged or destroyed by certain animals, including, among others, the beaver, to apply to CDFW for a depredation permit to kill the animals (FGC §4181). Makes it unlawful for any person to trap any fur-bearing mammal for purposes of recreation or commerce in fur (FGC

§4001). By regulation, except as provided for rehabilitation, it is unlawful for any person to possess any live game mammal or bird, nongame mammal or bird, furbearer, reptile or amphibian. (CCR Title 14, §679).

#### THIS BILL

Assembly Bill (AB) 2196 establishes important findings that document beaver’s history and native status in the state and the strong evidence of the benefits associated with restoring the keystone species and codifies the work of the Beaver Restoration Program, using language that was included in the [FY2022-23 budget change proposal](#) that created the program.

#### SUPPORT

- 350 Humboldt
- 350 Sacramento
- Active San Gabriel Valley
- California Coastkeeper Alliance
- California Trout
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Clean Water Action
- CleanEarth4Kids.org
- Climate Action California
- Climate Reality Project, LA - Chapter
- Climate Reality Project, San Fernando Valley Chapter
- Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC)
- Environmental Protection Information Center
- Freshwater Life
- Friends of the River
- Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
- National Wildlife Federation
- Natural Heritage Institute
- Occidental Arts & Ecology Center
- Ohlone Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
- Planning and Conservation League
- Project Coyote
- San Diego Humane Society
- Scott River Watershed Council
- Sierra Wildlife Rescue
- Swift Water Design
- The Climate Center
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Pacific Forest Trust
- The Rewilding Institute
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- Trout Unlimited
- Tuolumne River Trust
- Wildlands Network
- Occidental Arts & Ecology Center



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Sierra Wildlife Rescue  
Swift Water Design  
The Climate Center  
The Pacific Forest Trust  
Wildlands Network

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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