

**From:** [Defenders of Wildlife](#) on behalf of [Kris Ohlenkamp](#)  
**To:** [commentletters](#)  
**Subject:** Save California's Wetlands  
**Date:** Thursday, August 17, 2017 11:28:04 AM

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Aug 17, 2017

Chair Felicia Marcus

Dear Chair Marcus,

I completely appreciate the value of California's wetlands and strongly urge you to act quickly to adopt a statewide wetlands policy that will protect these valuable resources.

Current state and federal protections for wetlands have proven to be inadequate. If the board fails to act now, we could lose these resources forever. Once the Trump administration repeals and weakens the federal Clean Water Rule, many important California wetlands, including vernal pools, will be stripped of Clean Water Act protections. Strong and effective state regulation are essential.

I urge you to make the strongest possible proposal with compensatory mitigation requirements that ensure every lost wetland acre is replaced before (if possible) the existing wetland is destroyed. Also, the requirements for analysis of alternatives should be improved so that every project can properly avoid and minimize impacts. Loopholes that could allow for the destruction of wetlands on agricultural lands need to be closed. With these changes, you can ensure that California complies with its no-net-loss obligations.

Please act fast to save California's wetlands. The board's leadership on this issues is more important than ever before. I hope that you will rise to the occasion.

Sincerely,

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