

COUNTY OF NEVADA

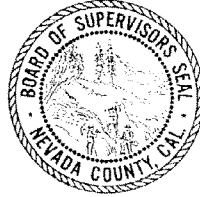
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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June 12, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Additional Funding for California's Game Wardens

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

The Nevada County Board of Supervisors, with the backing of the Nevada County Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Nevada County Department of Agriculture, respectfully requests your support and urges budget consideration needed in 2007 to increase compensation for Game Wardens.

Game Wardens are highly skilled law enforcement officers. They patrol vast areas of California, often alone, performing duties such as protecting our marine environment, investigating illegal fishing activities, working to stop wildlife poaching, and thwarting illegal drug trafficking. They are also biologists, water quality experts, and skilled resource managers. Yet, they are only paid a starting salary of approximately \$40,000, while an entry level California Highway Patrol officer is paid approximately \$57,000.

In the open labor market, there is little said of prospective applicants to become a Game Warden in California. With the stringent entry requirements, rigorous training, high level of responsibility, and potential risk of injury, coupled with low salaries, there is very little incentive to become a Game Warden. As a result in California there are only 215 Game Wardens to cover approximately 159,000 square miles of land and 220,000 square miles of coastal ocean.

The current shortage of Wardens will worsen as a large number of them will retire in the near future, with a small number of recruits going through the academy to replace them.

Letter to Governor Schwarzenegger
Re: Support for Additional Funding for California's Game Wardens
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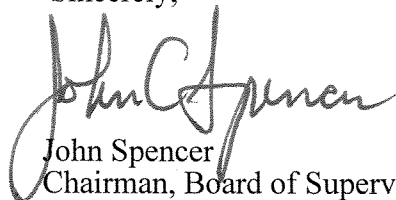
By over fishing, over hunting and poaching, people break the law and reduce the habitat of wildlife. Once a certain species of wildlife is gone, it remains gone forever. In order to support and maintain the population of wildlife, and in order for their ecology to perpetuate, precise conditions of habitat need to be maintained. Game Wardens play an important role in maintaining fish and wildlife habitat and managing the population of wildlife, including threatened wildlife species.

The short level of staffing of Wardens in Nevada County creates actual problems in regards to the protection of game as well and endangered species. For example, right now, there is a vacant position in the Truckee region, and the County is down to one Warden who is also shared by portions of three surrounding counties. This has diminished the response time and has left large areas of the County unmonitored. Additionally, this affects the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, who now cover calls more appropriately covered by Game Wardens.

To stop ongoing losses of Fish and Game Warden staff critical to public safety, wildlife, and environmental protection, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors urges your direct action to make compensation competitive of Game Wardens in 2007. Please support efforts to increase the number of Game Wardens statewide.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John Spencer
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

cc: Assembly Member Ira Ruskin
Senator Sam Aanestad
Senator Dave Cox
Assembly Member Rick Keene
Steve Keil, California State Association of Counties
Greg Norton, Regional Council of Rural Counties