From: Cornman, Ari@FGC
To: Miller-Henson, Melissa@FGC
Subject: Fw: Ferret CEQA/EIR
Date: Friday, June 23, 2023 5:56:34 PM
Attachments: Final_Report_unlocked.pdf
Peer Reviewd Graening Report.pdf
Proponent CEQA Checklist.doc
Staff-Summary-for-October-19-20-2016(6).pdf

Would you like me to draft a response?
Ari

From: FGC
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2023 2:34 PM
To: Miller-Henson, Melissa@FGC
Cc: Cornman, Ari@FGC
Subject: Fw: Ferret CEQA/EIR
Hi Melissa and Ari!

CEQA inquiry below from Pat Wright on Ferrets.

- David H

From: Pat Wright
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2023 12:13 PM
To: FGC
Subject: Ferret CEQA/EIR

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Melissa Miller-Henson California Fish and Game Commission P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 fgc@fgc.ca.gov | (916) 653-4899 or (916) 653-7229
Dear Ms. Miller-Henson,
I am writing to address a matter discussed during the May 20th Fish and Game Commission meeting regarding the issue of ferrets in California. President Eric Sklar mentioned that ferret proponents should be prepared to cover the costs of the CEQA/EIR if we continue to bring up the ferret issue in the state. He explained that in order to change the law, a CEQA study must be conducted, and the responsibility for this study lies with the proponents.
We have previously inquired about the role of the Fish and Game Commission as the lead agency in this process and were informed that it would not assume that position. However, I would like to inquire if there has been a change in this policy.
During the April 20th meeting, when I asked if the Fish and Game Commission would be the lead agency, it was mentioned that neither the Commission nor the Department had the necessary resources to prepare the required document. However, it was indicated that if we were to prepare the document ourselves, the Commission would assume the role of lead agency "if you accepted that document."
In the past, the Commission did not accept the document we submitted. Therefore, I would like to clarify who initiates the CEQA environmental review process.

According to CEQA guidelines, where a project requires approvals from multiple public agencies, one of these agencies must serve as the lead agency. The lead agency has certain responsibilities, including determining if the proposed activity qualifies as a "project" subject to CEQA. If subject to CEQA, the lead agency then determines if the project falls under any exemptions. If the project is subject to CEQA and not exempt, the lead agency conducts an Initial Study to determine if it has the potential for significant environmental impacts.
Based on the Initial Study, the lead agency decides whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Negative Declaration (Neg Dec). A Negative Declaration is issued if the project is deemed to have no potential for significant impacts. If potentially significant effects are identified but can be mitigated through project alterations or conditions agreed upon by the applicant, a Mitigated Negative Declaration may be issued.
If the Initial Study finds substantial evidence of significant environmental effects, then an EIR must be prepared. The EIR provides comprehensive information on the project's potential impacts, feasible alternatives, and mitigation measures to be considered by decision makers.
Considering this information, we would like to resubmit the document, which includes the original version as well as the peer-reviewed version from https://journal.wildlife.ca.gov/2022/06/30/impacts-of-domesticated-ferrets-upon-wildlife-agriculture-and-human-health-in-the-usa-compiled-from-state-agency-surveys-and-literature-review-with-special-emphasis-upon-california/. Additionally, I have attached the Fish and Game rejection of our permit request dated October 11, 2016.
I would also like to emphasize that this issue pertains specifically to ferrets, and it is unfair to involve other species such as hedgehogs and sugar gliders in the discussion. We do not possess information regarding these species, nor are we advocating for their legalization. While the African Hedgehog is considered a domestic animal, the sugar glider is not. Nonetheless, I kindly request that these species be excluded from the ongoing conversation.
Lastly, I have attached the CEQA Checklist, which indicates that most criteria are not applicable. In my humble opinion, this suggests that any CEQA or EIR process should be relatively straightforward. If it were not for political factors and resistance, I believe a negative declaration would be warranted.
Could we please receive a cost estimate for proceeding with the CEQA process? Furthermore, we would greatly appreciate a guarantee that if we invest the necessary funds, the process will not be disregarded as it was previously.
Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Sincerely,
Pat Wright

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Pat Wright
LegalizeFerrets.org
619-303-0645 or cell 619-757-7426