

# California Fish and Game Commission

## Draft Tribal Consultation Policy

*September 2014*

### The Policy

On September 19, 2011, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. issued Executive Order b-10-11, which provides, among other things, that it is the policy of the administration that every state agency and department subject to executive control to implement effective government-to-government consultation with California Indian Tribes.

### Purpose of the Policy

The mission of the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) is, on the behalf of California citizens, to ensure the long term sustainability of California's fish and wildlife resources by setting policies, establishing appropriate rules and regulations, guiding scientific evaluation and assessments, and building partnerships to implement this mission. California Native American Tribes, whether federally recognized or not, have distinct cultural, spiritual, environmental, economic and public health interests and unique traditional knowledge about the natural resources of California.

The purpose of this policy is to create a means by which tribes and FGC can effectively work together to realize sustainably managed natural resources of mutual interest.

### Policy Implementation

1. **Communication.** Both FGC and the tribes are faced with innumerable demands on their limited time and resources. In the interest of efficiency, FGC will annually host a tribal planning meeting to coordinate the upcoming regulatory and policy activities before FGC. The meeting will provide a venue for education about process, identification of regulatory and policy needs, and to develop collaborative interests. This will include inviting sister agencies to participate.
2. **Collaboration.** In areas or subjects of mutual interest, FGC will pursue partnerships with tribes to collaborate on solutions tailored to each tribe's unique needs and capacity. The structure of these collaborative efforts can range from informal information sharing, to MOUs with more specific agreements regarding working relationships and desired outcomes, to co-management agreements with specific responsibilities and authorities.
3. **Recordkeeping.** FGC will maintain a record of all comments provided by tribes and will include them in administrative records where appropriate.
4. **Training.** FGC will provide training to interested tribes on its processes for regulation and policy development.