



The Protect Our Communities Foundation
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January 28, 2015

California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via email: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Subject: Support for List Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Listing

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of The Protect Our Communities Foundation (POC), in support of California Department of Fish and Wildlife's finding that listing of the flat-tailed horned lizard as an endangered species may be warranted. POC is a conservation group that protects natural resources in San Diego County, Imperial County, and northern Baja Mexico.

We are concerned that unless flat-tailed horned lizards receive endangered species protection under California law – and soon – they may become extinct. Our concerns include

- The 2003 rangewide management strategy has not adequately stabilized the lizard's population or eliminated reductions in its range;
- The lizard is threatened by ever-increasing habitat degradation, fragmentation, and loss, such as from agricultural development, urban development, off-road vehicles, renewable energy projects, and transmission lines;
- The construction of new access roads for various development projects increases the lizard's risk of predation and vehicle collisions;
- The ongoing proliferation of off-road vehicle routes increases the lizard's risk of predation and vehicle collisions; and
- Threats to the lizard are immediate and will only increase as California's population grows and creates more development pressure on the state's deserts.

There are reasonable measures that can be taken to protect the lizard while still allowing well-planned, orderly development to take place. These include improving lizard population monitoring, limiting off-road vehicle use in lizard management areas, focusing the siting of renewable energy projects and transmission lines in areas that are not important lizard habitat, establishing new lizard management areas, and expanding existing lizard management areas.

In closing, flat-tailed horned lizards face many threats, are an important part of California's natural heritage, and help keep California's desert ecosystems functioning. They need protection, both for their own sake and to benefit the people of California. POC urges the Commission to find listing the Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard as endangered is warranted.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kelly Fuller'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly Fuller | Executive Director
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