

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 22-23, 2016

**12B. WILDLIFE PROSECUTOR 2016 RECIPIENT****Today's Item**Information Action 

Award the 2016 Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- **Today's meeting** **Select an award recipient**

**Background**

The Commission has selected one or more California prosecutors over the years and awarded those prosecutors an annual Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year Award. Awards are formally presented at the Summer Meeting of The District Attorneys Association (DAA) each year. The selection process is based upon recommendations from DFW's Law Enforcement Division (LED) staff who regularly work with the various District Attorneys' offices.

The policy proposed under Item 12A (today) was not completed in time to allow it to be utilized this year and still allow an award to be presented at the DAA's summer meeting this year. So, DFW has nominated a prosecutor for this year's award in parallel to assisting with development of the policy. That prosecutor is identified in Exhibit 1.

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation**

**FGC staff:** Select LED's nomination for 2016 Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year.

**Exhibits**

1. [2016 Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year Nomination](#)

**Motion/Direction**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission selects the Law Enforcement Division's nomination of Deputy District Attorney Matt Beauchamp as the 2016 Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year.

## **2016 Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year Nomination**

Department of Fish and Wildlife, Law Enforcement Division has nominated the following prosecutor for the 2016 Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year.

### **DDA MATT BEAUCHAMP COLUSA COUNTY**

In the last few years Matt Beauchamp, Deputy District Attorney, Colusa County, has been instrumental in handling fish and game prosecutions for Colusa County. Beauchamp is always available and approachable for questions and advice in case handling. He readily assists with and reviews search warrants for CDFW Officers.

As a prosecutor, Beauchamp goes above and beyond to assure thorough case filings which he handles with seriousness and diligence. Beauchamp pays special attention and gives focused interest in CDFW cases involving blatant and intentional poaching and steadfastly prosecutes those cases as felonies where applicable.

Beauchamp prosecuted two cases over the last few years involving Sacramento area poachers who travelled to Colusa County to poach deer and wild pigs along with a CDFW case dubbed "Operation High Hog" involving four subjects taking Deer, Elk, and Wild Pigs to sell for personal profit. Beauchamp fought for unprecedented convictions and sentences, which resulted in multiple felony charges and prison sentences. The higher sentences for one of the two suspects resulted from a three day felony jury trial that took extensive time and resources on behalf of Beauchamp and the DA's office, but was done so without hesitation.

Beauchamp is an outdoorsman, hunter, fisherman, and passionate advocate for conservation. He understands the importance of wildlife and resource protection and supports the efforts of CDFW Officers and staff. Beauchamp always has a positive and encouraging attitude toward CDFW and the cases filed. He is never dissuaded by challenging cases and never backs down to the threat by defendants to request a jury trial.