



Date: June 7, 2013

To: Members, Budget Conference Committee

From: Kathy Mannion, RCRC Legislative Advocate
Karen Keene, CSAC Legislative Representative

**Re: Department of Fish and Wildlife – Payment In Lieu of Taxes
Payment of Past Due Monies Owed/Resumption of Annual Payments
Requested**

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), we are writing to you regarding the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) non-payment of Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to counties. RCRC and CSAC have previously communicated verbally and in writing with Senate Budget Subcommittee #2 and Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3 on this topic.

Fish and Game Code Section 1504 specifies that when income is derived directly from real property acquired and operated by the State as wildlife management areas, the Department of Fish and Wildlife shall pay annually to the county in which the property is located an amount equal to the county taxes levied upon the property at the time title was transferred to the State. These PILT payments are intended to offset adverse impacts to county property tax revenues that result when the State acquires private property for wildlife management areas.

At a meeting earlier this week with the DFW we were provided an updated chart detailing the estimated amount of monies owed to counties. The amount due is subject to change as the DFW does not have all of the data it needs at the present time. RCRC and CSAC will work with DFW to secure the additional data needed. As you can see, the updated chart shows that PILT owed to 36 counties totals \$17,130,473 up to and including the current budget year.

RCRC and CSAC urges the Legislature and the Administration to include payment of these past due monies owed to counties in the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget. Specifically, RCRC and CSAC request provisional budget language in the Department's budget in the amount of \$15,585,743 to address the past due monies

owed to counties. Additionally, RCRC and CSAC requests budget language in the Department's budget in the amount of \$1,544,530 for the current 2013-2014 Fiscal Year. Our organizations urge the Legislature to fund the PILT payment to counties as part of the DFW baseline budget on an ongoing basis to help ensure future payments are made in a timely manner.

RCRC and CSAC appreciate your attention to this important matter. Please contact us if you have any questions: Kathy Mannion (RCRC) (916) 447-4806 or Karen Keene (CSAC) (916) 327-7500.

cc: Governor Jerry Brown
Director Charlton Bonham, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conference Committee Consultant
Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee #2
 Senator Jim Beall
 Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
 Senator Jim Nielsen
 Catherine Freeman, Committee Consultant
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3
 Assembly Member Richard Bloom
 Assembly Member Nora Campos
 Assembly Member Richard Gordon
 Assembly Member Dan Logue
 Assembly Member Jim Patterson
 Gabrielle Meindl, Committee Consultant

Attachment: Unpaid In-Lieu Fees (Department Estimates, June 4, 2013)