

## Joint Legislative Budget Committee

# CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

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June 14, 2022

Ms. Keely Martin Bosler, Director  
Department of Finance  
1021 O Street, Suite 3110  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Bosler:

In a letter dated May 31, 2022, you notified the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, pursuant to Provision 3 of Item 9840-001-0001 of the *2021-22 Budget Act*, of a request from the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) for unanticipated cost funding. Specifically, DFW is requesting \$1,018,000 to pay for the costs associated with the emergency operation of the Wildlife Waystation. In 2019, after nearly 43 years of operation, the private facility abruptly closed and surrendered its permit, leaving the state responsible for the cost of caring for approximately 500 exotic animals. Most of the animals have been rehoused, but the department continues to incur the expenses for 20 remaining animals while efforts to find appropriate homes for them continue. To the maximum degree possible, I urge DFW to vigorously pursue cost recovery for expenses incurred by the state.

I have reviewed the request and concur with the unanticipated cost funding, with the understanding that the department will use every legal remedy to seek reimbursement for the state's costs. In addition, I waive the remainder of the 30-day review period, in order to allow DFW to pay for the emergency operations at the Waystation.

Sincerely,



Nancy Skinner  
Chair

cc: Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee