September 3, 2021

Mr. Dan Stapleton
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
1416 Ninth Street
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE MEMBERSHIP ON THE EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING COMMITTEE

Dear Mr. Stapleton:

The purpose of this letter is to nominate a new California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) representative to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC). This letter requests that the Board appoint Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), Ben Waitman, as the voting CDFW member of the EMC with the current voting member.

Dr. Waitman is a staff member of CDFW's Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program, representing CDFW at Board meetings, in statewide policy efforts, and monitoring projects. Per the rules of the EMC charter regarding membership, Dr. Waitman has a scientific background in biology, is knowledgeable of the California Forest Practice Rules, routinely collaborates with others through his current job duties, and he is interested in serving as a voting member of the EMC. Dr. Waitman has worked collaboratively to implement projects and scientific research within state and federal government, academia, and the private sector for more than 15 years as a biologist. Please see the attached curriculum vitae for more information.

Thank you for your time and attention regarding this request. If you have questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please contact Elliot Chasin at (916) 206-0384, or elliot.chasin@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeff Drongesen
Branch Chief
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch

Conserving California’s Wildlife Since 1870
Mr. Dan Stapleton  
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
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Attachment  

cc:  J. Keith Gilless, Ph.D, Chair  
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
1416 Ninth Street  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460  

Susan Husari, Co-Chair of the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee  
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
1416 Ninth Street  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460  

ec:  California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
publiccomments@bof.ca.gov  

Loretta Moreno, Co-Chair of the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee  
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)  
Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program  
California Natural Resources Agency  
loretta.moreno@resources.ca.gov  

Edith Hannigan, Land Use Planning Program Manager  
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
edith.hannigan@bof.ca.gov  

Isabel Baer, Environmental Program Manager  
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife:  
isabel.baer@wildlife.ca.gov
Ben Waitman CV, 2021

Ben Waitman, Ph.D.
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency
1010 Riverside Parkway, West Sacramento, CA 95605
Benjamin.Waitman@wildlife.ca.gov

**Education**

**Ph.D. – Ecology** - University of California, Davis, Sept. 2019
Advisor: Dr. Valerie Eviner

**M.S. - Biology** - University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, May 2009
Thesis: “Rodent Mediated Seed Dispersal of Joshua Trees (Yucca b. brevifolia)”
Advisor: Dr. Stephen Vander Wall

**B.S. – Biology** - College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia May 2004
Senior Thesis: “An ordination and classification of bottomland forests in the lower Mississippi alluvial plain”
Advisor: Dr. Stewart Ware

**Research And Professional Experience**

**Sr. Environmental Scientist** (2021-Present) – CA. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, West Sacramento, CA
- Responsibilities include: legislative analysis, policy implementation, technical consultation, and monitoring for CDFW’s Timber Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program. Areas of focus include timber harvest plan review activities, implementation of CA Forest Practice Rules, and monitoring of the effects of Timber Harvest on sensitive species and natural resources.

**Environmental Scientist** (2020-2021) – CA. Dept. of Water Resources, Sacramento, CA
- I served as the state’s environmental lead for several large joint projects between the US Army Corps of Engineers, local sponsors, and the Dept. of Water Resources. Responsibilities included working with agencies and local partners to ensure compliance with state, federal, and local environmental laws protecting natural resources. Part of this effort involved implementing surveys for sensitive species (special status plants, protected bird species, and bats) and other protected resources such as wetlands.

**Staff Biologist** (2017-2020) – ECORP Consulting, Inc., Rocklin, CA
- Responsibilities included environmental permitting pursuant to state, federal, and local laws such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and CA State environmental regulations. I designed and performed field surveys for rare plants, plant community mapping, wetland delineation, arboricultural surveys, endangered species habitat surveys, and others. Other duties included project management and permitting for a variety of public and private clients.

**Graduate Researcher** (2017) – University of California, Davis, Dept. of Plant Sciences
Ben Waitman CV, 2021

- I evaluated the putative role of tree roots in the Oroville Dam Spillway disaster of 2016. With a team of UC Davis researchers, I conducted literature reviews, rapidly collected available data during reconstruction, and evaluated available records to determine whether the proximity of tree roots contributed to spillway failure.

**Doctoral Research** (2010-2017)
University of California, Davis
- I designed, funded, and implemented a series of studies evaluating the effects of atmospheric nitrogen pollution on the root symbionts of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and soil legacy effects in California grasslands.

**Ecologist** (June 2010-Sep 2010) – USGS, Western Ecological Research Station, Bishop, California
- I examined the role of rodent populations on the process of meadow infill by conifers in the high altitude meadows of the Sierra Nevada.

**Laboratory Technician** (2009) – USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Reno, Nevada
- I implemented experiments in the field and vegetation and soil samples for several projects on Great Basin plant restoration and long term woodland monitoring.

**Masters Research** (2006-2009)
University of Nevada, Reno
- I designed, funded, and implemented a series of studies examining the seed dispersal mechanism and seed fate implications for Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) in the Mojave Desert of Nevada and California. Additional projects included designing and implementing research on rodent seed caching behavior in mixed conifer forests in the Sierra Nevada.

**Biologist** (2004-2009) – US Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center, Las Vegas Field Station, Henderson, Nevada (Some concurrent with MS research)
- I worked on many research and monitoring projects involving desert plant restoration, Mojave desert rodent populations, desert tortoise habitat assessments, Joshua tree habitat mapping, post-fire effects in montane woodlands. Duties included data collection, data processing and analysis, study design, and preparation of reports and manuscripts.

**Field Assistant** (2004) – Highlands, North Carolina
- I assisted a PhD student with dissertation research. Duties included field data collection for a project on the mating systems of a common flowering plant.

**Forestry research technician** (2003) – University of Maine, Orono, Maine
- I was part of a field crew evaluating canopy and stem thinning treatments in spruce-fir managed forests. Responsibilities included collection of tree demography and silvicultural data on private land holdings across the state of Maine.

**Teaching Experience**

*Teaching Assistant* –, “Ecological Restoration” (ENH 160)
Plant Sciences Department, University of California, Davis, 2012-2016

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Teaching Assistant – “Woody Plants in the Landscape” (ENH 133) Department of Plant Sciences, University of California, Davis (2013-2015)

Teaching Assistant – “Plant-Animal Interactions” Department of Ecology and Evolution, University of California, Davis (2012) Winter quarter

Instructor – “Experimental Field Ecology” (BIOL 322) Biology Department, University of Nevada, Reno (2009) Summer Session


Publications

Peer Reviewed


Other Publications (non-peer reviewed)


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Professional Society Memberships
Society for Conservation Biology (2010-2015)
Mycological Society of America (2010-2016)
International Society of Arboriculture (2017-2021)

Certifications and Training
ISA Certified Arborist – Jan 2018 – Present
Association of Environmental Professionals – CEQA Essentials Training (October 3rd, 2017)
California Native Plant Society – Preparing CEQA Recommendations (November 5-6th, 2017)
Jepson Herbarium – Wetland Delineation Training (May 13th-17th, 2018)
American Red Cross – First Aid and CPR Training (February 19th, 2020)