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David W. Slayton,
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court,
By L. Grim, Deputy Clerk

6 Attorneys for Petitioners Safari Club International;
California Rifle & Pistol Association, Incorporated;
7 California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association;
HOWL for Wildlife, Inc.; California Deer Association;
8 and Coalition to Save Catalina Island Deer

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10 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
11 **FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

12 SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL;
13 CALIFORNIA RIFLE & PISTOL
ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED;
14 CALIFORNIA BOWMEN
HUNTERS/STATE ARCHERY
ASSOCIATION; HOWL FOR WILDLIFE,
15 INC.; CALIFORNIA DEER
ASSOCIATION; and COALITION TO
SAVE CATALINA ISLAND DEER,

16 Plaintiffs-Petitioners,

17 v.

18 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH
19 AND WILDLIFE, et al.,

20 Defendants-Respondents.
21

Case No.: 26STCP00987

**PLAINTIFFS-PETITIONERS' STATUS
CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

Status Conf. Date: June 11, 2026
Status Conf. Time: 1:30 PM
Department: 86
Judge: Hon. Curtis A. Kin

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24 Plaintiffs-Petitioners Safari Club International, California Rifle & Pistol Association,
25 Incorporated, California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association, HOWL for Wildlife, Inc.,
26 California Deer Association, and Coalition to Save Catalina Island Deer (collectively, "Petitioners")
27 hereby submit this Status Conference Report in advance of the Case Status Conference set for June 11,
28 2026.

1 **I. FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AND PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE FILING**

2 On May 27, 2026, Petitioners filed a First Amended Complaint and Petition for Writ of Mandate
3 (“Amended Petition”) as a matter of right under Code of Civil Procedure section 472. Petitioners then
4 filed a Notice of Filing of First Amended Complaint and Petition for Writ of Mandate on May 29, 2026.
5 The Amended Petition was filed before Petitioners’ opposition to Respondents’ demurrers was due, and it
6 includes new allegations concerning, among other matters, statutory authority, compliance with Public
7 Resources Code section 21080.56, the applicability of the SERP, public trust obligations under the Fish
8 and Game Code, public nuisance claims, claims about ultra vires agency action and the treatment of
9 wildlife as invasive species, and related procedural and substantive violations.

10 As of the filing of this Status Report, Petitioners have not received conformed copies of the
11 Amended Petition. Petitioners’ counsel contacted the court clerk about the status of the filing and was
12 advised that further information would be forthcoming. Although the Amended Petition reflects a
13 “Received” stamp, it has not yet been processed as “Filed.” Petitioners respectfully ask the Court to
14 recognize the Amended Petition as the operative pleading and order any administrative action necessary
15 to complete processing of the filing.

16 **II. THE JUNE 11, 2026 DEMURRER HEARING SHOULD BE TAKEN OFF CALENDAR**

17 The Amended Petition is now the operative pleading in this matter. As noted in Petitioners’
18 Notice of Filing First Amended Complaint and Petition for Writ of Mandate, any pending demurrers
19 addressing the original petitioner are now moot.

20 Petitioners thus ask that the Court remove from the calendar the demurrers presently scheduled
21 for hearing on June 11, 2026, since it is unclear whether Respondent and Real Party in Interest have
22 made this request of the Court. This will allow the Court to address case management and procedural
23 matters with the parties at the June 11 hearing.

24 **III. PETITIONERS INTEND TO OPPOSE ANY DEMURRER DIRECTED TO THE AMENDED PETITION**

25 Petitioners believe that the weight of protecting the natural resources of the people of California
26 falls on them in this matter, and they intend to take every opportunity afforded to address any opposition
27 from Respondents or Real Party in Interest. Should Respondent or Real Party in Interest elect to
28 demurrer to Amended Petition, Petitioners intend to oppose any such demurrer and ultimately seek

1 adjudication of the claims asserted in the Amended Petition. Petitioners provide this clarification to help
2 the Court evaluate the procedural posture of the case and to avoid any misunderstanding that resolution
3 of the pending limitations issues would dispose of the entire action.

4 **IV. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS CONCERNS**

5 The Amended Petition raises several claims that are independent of CEQA and thus are not
6 subject to CEQA's shortened limitations periods. Petitioners contend that those claims are governed by
7 the applicable statutes of limitation generally governing civil actions.

8 In addition, Petitioners contend that the 35-day limitations period applicable to CEQA claims was
9 not triggered because neither the First Notice of Exemption ("NOE") nor the later filed Second NOE
10 complied with the statutory requirements necessary to invoke the shortened limitations period under
11 CEQA (and the First NOE does not trigger the 35-day limit at all). This is a critical issue that Petitioners
12 expanded on in their Reply in Support of Motion to Conform, filed on June 4, 2026.

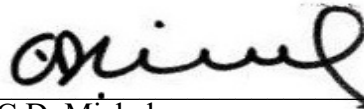
13 Because the validity of the NOEs bears on the timeliness of certain claims and defenses in this
14 action, Petitioners believe the issue may have significant implications for case management and
15 respectfully bring it to the Court's attention before the June 11, 2026, hearing.

16 **V. ERADICATION OF MULE DEER TIMELINE**

17 The eradication of the Mule Deer on Catalina Island under the approved CEQA exemption is
18 currently scheduled for September 2026. But based on the information currently available to Petitioners,
19 implementation of the challenged program involves many other activities that are already occurring or
20 will occur before the take of deer that endanger the delicate ecosystem of the Island. In light of the
21 anticipated implementation schedule and the nature of the alleged impacts, Petitioners anticipate seeking
22 injunctive relief and wish to apprise the Court of the time-sensitive nature of the dispute.

23 Dated: June 5, 2026

MICHEL & ASSOCIATES, P.C.



C.D. Michel

Attorneys for Petitioners Safari Club International;
California Rifle & Pistol Association, Incorporated;
California Bowmen Hunters and State Archery
Association; HOWL for Wildlife, Inc.; California
Deer Association; and Coalition to Save Catalina
Island Deer

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I, Laura Fera, am employed in the City of Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California. I am over the age eighteen (18) years and am not a party to the within action. My business address is 180 East Ocean Boulevard, Suite 200, Long Beach, California 90802.

On June 5, 2026, I served the foregoing document(s) described as

PLAINTIFFS-PETITIONERS' STATUS CONFERENCE STATEMENT

on the interested parties in this action by placing

[] the original

[X] a true and correct copy

thereof by the following means, addressed as follows:

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(**BY MAIL**) As follows: I am “readily familiar” with the firm’s practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under the practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Long Beach, California, in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing an affidavit.

(**BY ELECTRONIC MAIL**) As follows: I served a true and correct copy by electronic transmission pursuant to CCP 1010.6. Said transmission was reported and completed without error.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed June 5, 2026, at Long Beach, California.



Laura Fera