



September 1, 2026

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1987: *Department-managed lands: wildlife areas: hunting*

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing to you today on behalf of Delta Waterfowl members, both in the state of California and across the Pacific Flyway, to urge you to please **SUPPORT** Assembly Bill 1987 - legislation that would have longstanding positive benefits for the environmental health of California refuges. This bill has bipartisan support, and we were excited to see it pass out of the Assembly and through the Senate unanimously.

For some background, Delta Waterfowl is a leading conservation group founded at the famed Delta Marsh in Manitoba, with its United States Headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota. We work to produce ducks through intensive management programs and conservation of breeding duck habitats. Delta conducts vital waterfowl research and promotes and protects the continuing tradition of waterfowl hunting in North America.

Delta Waterfowl, along with several of our partners, have been advocating for Assembly Bill 1987. This legislation will create the Waterfowl Management Areas Operations and Maintenance Account within the Fish and Game Preservation Fund. All revenues generated from the sale of waterfowl hunting reservation applications and entry passes for Type A and Type B Wildlife Areas will be deposited into this account.

These funds are continuously appropriated for the operation, maintenance, and reasonable administrative costs directly related to public hunting programs in these areas. In short, this bill will lead to more funding for state wildlife areas by ensuring that money generated from these wildlife areas is properly used for their support.

An easy example of this in the Capitol's backyard would be Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area between Sacramento and Davis. Yolo leases 2,051 acres for rice production every year with an annual rent that is approximately \$615,000. This is a significant amount of money that could be used by the refuge manager to better support habitat if they were able to fully access it.



Currently, many state refuges in California participate in a wide array of projects that generate revenue for the wildlife areas. Unfortunately, a lot of this money ends up being misappropriated and does not end up going back to support the refuge it was generated on. This legislation would ensure that this money would be used to directly benefit the refuge it was generated on.

Our policy team testified in support of this bill throughout the legislative process in the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, as well as the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. We know that you have a longstanding history of supporting California's natural resources, and we hope that you will see fit to sign this bill into law, supporting critical refuge habitat that will be a benefit to all Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CH" with a horizontal line through it.

Christopher L. Hoon
Senior Manager of Government Affairs – Pacific Flyway
Delta Waterfowl Foundation

CC: Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Assemblymember Heather Hadwick