

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

As a California citizen, I am very concerned about serious neglect of our natural resource protection and law enforcement.

The California Fish and Game Wardens have been the thin green line of natural resource protection for more than 130 years. But in the last decade, they have suffered significant staffing cuts, and repeated injustice in their pay and compensation.

At this time, the staffing level for Game Wardens is equal to that of the 1950s. California is the third largest state with one of the lowest staffing rates for Game Wardens in the nation. When considering the number of wardens per capita, we fall to the bottom.

You speak of restoring California. Start with our Game Wardens. They need only two things: Parity in pay and return and full funding of their lost positions.

With the cost of living in California, pay and benefits are a factor in any job. With Game Wardens, the pay has fallen so far behind all other law enforcement, like California Highway Patrol and local agencies, that finding qualified recruits and keeping officers is extremely difficult. Game Wardens have state law enforcement authority, federal law enforcement authority, and they patrol the 159,000 square miles of the state along with the 220,000 miles of ocean considered state jurisdiction. They have a tremendous responsibility, deal with some of the most armed and dangerous individuals in our society, and patrol alone at night – they deserve parity in pay.

Want to really help California? Invest in public safety, invest in the public good, invest in our Game Wardens. The service and protection they offer our state and our people is priceless. California has never needed them as much as they do now. I urge you to endorse the efforts to give our Game Wardens the compensation they deserve.

Sincerely,

*Sign your name*