

**California Bat Working Group Meeting – Pomona**  
**Thursday February 25, 2016; 10:00 – 12:00**

**Location:** Sheraton Fairplex Hotel and Conference Center  
Boardroom  
601 W McKinley Ave, Pomona, CA 91768  
(909) 622-2220  
<http://www.sheratonfairplex.com/>

**Phone line:** A toll-free telephone conference line will be available for remote participants.

**Web Sharing:** AT&T Connect will be used to share projected images with remote participants.

If all goes according to plan, both the phone line and the AT&T Connect meeting should be up and running by about 15 minutes before the meeting starts.

**Notes**

1. Introductions – Approximately 43 persons attended the meeting, including about 5 persons by telephone.
2. Review/Revise agenda – Dan Taylor suggested adding a discussion topic regarding identification of the most important conservation threats to bats in California.
3. State bat – Dave Johnston has been working with a state legislator and member of the public to introduce and support a bill to designate a bat as the State Bat of California. There was some discussion highlighting the public education and outreach importance of having a state bat. After discussion about the relative merits of designating California myotis, the pacificus subspecies of the Pallid Bat, and the entire Pallid Bat species, Dave and others concluded that the Pallid Bat (at the species level) should be designated.
4. CDFW Bat Data Submission (Scott Osborn)
  - a. Standard data – How would it be used? Scott briefly outlined uses of the data on bat captures and observations that are required to be reported under Scientific Collecting Permits and bat research permits. Although many of the future uses of such data are unknown, we know that the information will be useful for tracking distribution and abundance of bat species in space and time, comparing the variation in timing of annual cycle events (reproduction, hibernation, migration) as climate changes, among other uses.
  - b. Revisions needed? Scott briefly described the various reporting requirements, emphasizing that bat data may be submitted primarily through the use of the CDFW Bat Data Submission spreadsheet developed several years ago and a brief written report of annual activities authorized by the CDFW permit. In response to comments and questions about the multiple requirements for reporting (CNDDDB, Report of Specimens Captured or Salvaged, the bat data spreadsheet), Scott replied that the bat data

spreadsheet can be used as the primary reporting form and that CNDDDB staff can extract the necessary information for their database.

- c. Compliance with permit requirements – Scott indicated that some permittees have not had a good track record of compliance with the CDFW permit reporting requirements. At some point, it may be necessary to revoke CDFW authorizations for bat work until reports are submitted.
5. Climate change modeling for bats (Dan Taylor) -- Dan reporting on work funded by BLM on modeling of projected climate change-induced shifts in geographic range of southwestern bat species. See attached PowerPoint.
6. Greatest Threats discussion – Dan introduced this topic by generally asking the group whether some of the traditional threats to bat populations (such as AML closures) that have been identified in the past are still problems and whether new threats are becoming more important. Scott mentioned that the draft California Bat Conservation Plan has a comprehensive review of management issues (including conservation threats). During the ensuing discussion, the following threats were discussed by the working group members (no effort was made to rank the identified threats):
  - a. Mine closures
  - b. Wind energy development
  - c. Habitat loss (urbanization, agricultural development)
  - d. Lack of regulatory protection (no listed bat species, inadequate consideration in CEQA review process)
  - e. General lack of awareness of importance of bats (general public, resource agencies, lead agencies)
  - f. Lack of proper techniques employed by some pest control operators

Some members suggested a variety ways to address some of these threats, including...

7. Winter/Early spring Pd sampling (Scott Osborn and others) – Scott briefly mentioned that two WNS-related projects to collect swab samples from hibernating and spring emergence bats are being lead by researchers from the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, WI. California bat researchers working in bat hibernacula this winter, or capturing bats soon after the end of hibernation should contact Scott to see whether samples may be collected for these studies.
  - a. Anne Ballmann Pd surveillance project
  - b. Jeff Lorch fungal community research project
8. BatAMP and NABat in California (Bronwyn Hogan, Scott Osborn)
  - a. Bronwyn described BatAMP, an online data repository for bat acoustic data developed by Ted Weller and Conservation Biology Institute’s Data Basin group. Ted is interested in having more data submitted to the repository to make it a more useful resource. Bronwyn intends to schedule a webinar about BatAMP in the near future.
  - b. Scott briefly mentioned that CDFW is implementing the NABat framework for bat acoustic monitoring on CDFW lands last year, this year, and (he hopes) into the future. CDFW is looking for collaborators to help deploy and retrieve acoustic detectors for some sites. More information to follow in the near future.

9. Report on WBWG dues situation (Bronwyn) – Bronwyn reported that the Western Bat Working Group (the incorporated non-profit organization that serves as an umbrella for the state working groups) has identified the need for membership dues to help support website maintenance, student scholarships, and to formalize membership in the WBWG and its benefits and responsibilities. No action has been taken by the WBWG Board of Directors yet, but it is expected that some form of dues structure will be implemented. Bronwyn welcomes additional comment on this issue.
10. Elections for California Representatives. Scott reminded members that state working groups are supposed to elect representatives to the Western Bat Working Group board every 2 years. California has not had an election for at least 3 years, so we need to do that. Anyone who would like to help run the election should contact Bronwyn Hogan (bronwyn\_hogan@ fws.gov) or Scott Osborn (scott.osborn@ wildlife.ca.gov). Once it is formed, the members of the election committee will solicit nominations and describe the process for voting.
11. Future events, meetings? What does the membership want to do with CBWG? – The group members expressed interest in the following activities:
  - a. More meetings each year, perhaps twice or four times. Some meetings may be web/phone-based
  - b. A science session for presentations (Scott: possibly CBWG could sponsor or organize a concurrent session at the TWS-Western Section annual conference each year).
  - c. Share more information about bats between California and other states. This would likely be facilitated by greater involvement of California with the Western Bat Working Group.
  - d. Identify regional points of contact for bat issues throughout the state. POCs would serve the members as well as be available for public outreach.
  - e. Develop our own website (or make use of WBWG website) to promote networking and information sharing.

**Listserv Information:** To join the CBWG listserv, you may contact Joe Szewczak or follow the instructions on the attached page to sign up directly.