March 31, 2017

The Hon. Eduardo Garcia, Chair
Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife
1020 N Street, Room 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 18: SUPPORT if Article 9 provisions for wildlife are retained for the Wildlife Conservation Board

Dear Chairperson Garcia:

The Wildlife and Habitat Conservation (WHCC) strongly supports AB 18, especially Article 9, Climate Preparedness, Habitat Resiliency, Resource Enhancement, and Innovation. WHCC is a coalition of 16 conservation groups representing over 25,000 members in Southern California. We strongly support collaborative regional habitat planning programs which, when managed effectively, have been able to reconcile tradition land use conflicts.

In a final Park Bond, it is vitally important to retain the language of Article 9 which provides $400 million to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for purposes central achieving climate resiliency. WCB has the requisite experience and knowledge, with a long track record of merit-based disbursements. In this context, we also support the line item of $55 million for State of California Natural Community Conservation Plans, which are off-the-shelf vehicles for climate resiliency and to which the State has substantial existing funding commitments.

Thank you very much for championing parks and wildlife, and for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Laura Hunter, Coordinator
Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Coalition

cc.
Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez
Assemblymember Todd Gloria
Assemblymember Brian Mainschein