



# MARIE WALDRON

CA STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER | 75TH DISTRICT



## **AB 1828: NATIVE CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE REHABILITATION & RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PRESERVATION VOLUNTARY TAX CONTRIBUTION FUNDS EXTENSION**

### **ISSUE:**

AB 1828 will extend the opportunity for Californians to contribute to the Native California Wildlife Rehabilitation Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund and the Rare and Endangered Species Preservation Voluntary Tax Contribution Program until January 1, 2032. These funds, which actively support the rehabilitation of sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife through permitted wildlife rehabilitation services, are set to sunset next January 1, 2025.

### **EXISTING LAW:**

California's state income tax form allows taxpayers to contribute to various charitable funds aligned with causes they support when filing their taxes. AB 1013 (Waldron, 2017) established the Native California Wildlife Rehabilitation Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund, an extended the Rare and Endangered Species Preservation Fund, giving taxpayers the option to donate a portion of their tax return to the fund that facilitates necessary research, conservation of habitats for endangered species, and life-saving rehabilitation efforts for wildlife in need. However, these funds have a sunset date of January 1, 2025.

### **SUMMARY:**

Nonprofit rehabilitation organizations play a significant role in addressing the needs of California's native wildlife. These organizations tirelessly rescue and attend to injured, sick, or orphaned wildlife. They offer essential medical treatment, care, protection, and nourishment, to release rehabilitated animals into their natural habitat. Donations are crucial as they provide essential resources for the care, recovery, and conservation efforts necessary to protect and sustain our natural ecosystems. Since its inception in 2018, the Native California Wildlife Rehabilitation Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund has received nearly [\\$2,000,000](#) in donations and the Rare and Endangered Species Fund received over [\\$3,000,000](#) from 2018-2023 alone. Taxpayers should continue to have the option to donate to this critical fund.

### **SOLUTION:**

AB 1828 extends the opportunity to contribute to both the Native California Wildlife Rehabilitation Fund and the Rare and Endangered Species Preservation Fund until January 1, 2032. Money contributed to the fund will continue its distribution through a competitive grant program for nonprofit organizations throughout our state to aid in the recovery of injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife. It authorizes advance payments as an option for ensuring grant funds can get out expeditiously, and limit the administrative burden for both the state and these nonprofits, ensuring equitable and timely distributions.

### **SPONSORS/SUPPORT:**

San Diego Humane Society  
Project Wildlife

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