



February 8, 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

An established population of invasive nutria has been discovered in California's San Joaquin Valley. We are requesting your assistance in eradicating this destructive species.

Nutria are a large rodent from South America; they reach up to 25 pounds in size, reproduce and spread rapidly, and are notorious for their extensive feeding damage to wetlands and agricultural crops and burrowing damage to banks, levees, and infrastructure. Nutria establishment in California threatens the State's water supply and conveyance systems, flood protection, wetland habitats and the species that depend on them, agricultural crops, and irrigation networks. Due to their detrimental impacts, nutria are listed as a restricted species by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and an A-rated agricultural pest by the Department of Food and Agriculture. CDFW has initiated a Program to eradicate nutria from the State in order to prevent impacts to California's resources and private properties. To date, our surveys have discovered nutria in over 600 sites, including within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and in ponds and sloughs along the Merced and San Joaquin Rivers. Over 3,300 nutria have been taken, with additional animals confirmed, in Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, Mariposa, and Tuolumne counties. For a map of locations, visit wildlife.ca.gov/nutria.

The full geographic extent of this infestation must be determined in order to eradicate the population. Nutria, which disperse up to 50 miles from their colonies, have been detected in the major watershed(s) near your property, which has been identified as containing or being adjacent to suitable habitat. CDFW is requesting your consideration and permission to access your property(ies), as identified in the attached Temporary Entry Permit (TEP), to conduct surveys for nutria, implement removal efforts where detected, or access adjacent waterways, if applicable. Most often, survey and removal teams will consist of two biologists and their equipment as described in the TEP. Surveillance and data collection is restricted solely to the detection and removal of nutria. As the landowner or designated representative, your signature on the enclosed TEP is required before we can survey for nutria or trap and remove them.

We appreciate your cooperation and are prepared to accommodate any special conditions you wish to add to the terms of the access agreement. At your request, we will arrange to meet with you prior to initiating work on the property. If you grant permission, please sign the enclosed TEP.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jared Barr by phone (916) 373-9019, or email Jared.Barr@wildlife.ca.gov. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Valerie Cook
Nutria Eradication Program Manager
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

TEMPORARY ENTRY PERMIT CONDITIONS

Permission is hereby given to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (hereinafter “the Department”), including its employees and volunteers, to enter, with all equipment deemed necessary by, upon that real property described above (hereinafter “Property”), owned or leased by the undersigned (hereinafter “Owner”), subject to the following provisions:

1. This TEP shall limit the Department to reasonable access to the Property for the purpose of accessing aquatic, wetland, or riparian habitats within or adjacent to the Property, to conduct the following activities:
 - a. Surveying for the presence of invasive nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) and where detected, trapping, removing, and/or dispatching nutria to the point of eradication through all legal means of take agreed to by the Owner, as described in Paragraphs 1(b) and 8 below.
 - b. Unless otherwise indicated by the Owner, the following methods will be used to trap nutria, remove nutria from the property, and/or dispatch nutria:
 - Body-gripping traps (aquatic set)
 - Nutria scat detection dogs
 - Cage and suitcase traps
 - Shooting
 - Snares
 - Detection platforms
 - Game cameras

Note: The nutria eradication project does NOT use poisons or pesticides to control nutria populations.
 - c. Surveying and trapping will be performed by one to six person crews walking, wading, and/or boating, and may include the use of nutria-scat-detection dogs.
 - d. Data collected during these surveys is restricted to that which is necessary for detecting the presence of nutria and determining the population status of nutria.
2. The Department shall act reasonably to avoid damage to persons or property, and shall repair or pay for reasonable damages proximately caused by its actions.
3. To the extent provided by law, including but not limited to the California Tort Claims Act (Government Code §810 *et seq.*), the Department shall be liable for any injury to persons or property arising from any negligent acts or omissions of its

employees, agents or representatives. This provision does not affect any potential Department liability based on contract or the right of the Owner to obtain relief other than money or damages.

4. To the extent provided by law, including but not limited to Government Code §14662.5, the Department agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Owner and agrees to repair or pay for any damage proximately caused by reason of the uses authorized by this right of entry agreement.
5. This TEP does not create an easement or right-of-way for the Department over the Property, nor does this TEP affect any existing riparian or appropriated water rights of the Owner.
6. The term of this TEP shall commence on the date below. Unless otherwise stated in the special conditions, the TEP is valid through December 31, 2027, and may be canceled by either party immediately upon receipt of a written notice of cancellation by the other party.
7. Upon request, the Department will provide the Owner with data collected and/or reports written from data collected on the property.
8. **SPECIAL CONDITIONS** (Note any seasonal access restrictions, communication requests, gate codes, etc.)

ACCEPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023.

By: _____
Owner or designated Owner representative

By: _____
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Submit signed access agreements or written notices of cancellation to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Attn: Nutria Eradication Program
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
nutria@wildlife.ca.gov
Fax: 559-243-4022