

Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
Phone: 916/414-6600  
Fax: 916/414-6713  
<http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/>

# News Release



January 23, 2013 - For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Robert Moler, [robert\\_moler@fws.gov](mailto:robert_moler@fws.gov), (916) 414-6606

## Public Comment Period Reopened for a Proposal to Remove the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle from the Endangered Species List

*Sacramento* - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife (Service) is reopening the comment period on a proposal to remove the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB) from its current status as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

On October 2, 2012, the Service published a 12-month petition finding and proposed rule to remove the VELB from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and opened a 60-day comment period that ended on December 3, 2012. This notice announces a 30-day reopening of the comment period to allow all interested parties an additional opportunity to comment on the proposed rule and to submit information on the status of the species. The Service expects that a peer review report of the proposed rule will be submitted near the beginning of the comment period and available for the public.

“We encourage the public, government agencies, tribes, private industry and non-profit organizations to provide us with information on the status of the VELB,” said Jan Knight, Acting Field Supervisor for the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office. “We want our decisions to be informed by the best available information.”

The Service will accept comments until February 22, 2013. Comments can be submitted online at the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, (Docket Number FWS-R8-ES-2011-0063) or by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to:

Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R8-ES-2011-0063  
Division of Policy and Directives Management  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM  
Arlington, VA 22203

The Service requests comments concerning any location-specific information about the VELB or its habitat. Comments previously submitted need not be resubmitted, as they will be fully considered in preparation of the final rule. All submitted comments, including the peer review report, will be posted online at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The VELB is a medium-sized, red and dark green insect that is one-half to one-inch long with arching long antennae. The VELB is found only in California's Central Valley and depends solely on elderberry shrubs for food and shelter. The VELB was listed as a threatened species under the ESA in 1980.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov/cno](http://www.fws.gov/cno). Connect with our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/usfwspacificsouthwest>, follow our tweets at <http://twitter.com/USFWSPacSWest>, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at [http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfws\\_pacificsw/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfws_pacificsw/)

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**From:** "Bigalbal, Rustico" <rustico\_bigalbal@fws.gov>  
**To:**  
**Date:** 1/23/2013 1:31 PM  
**Subject:** USFWS NEWS: Public Comment Period Reopened for a Proposal to Remove the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle from the Endangered Species List  
**Attachments:** NR-VELB-\_pDelist-reopen-2013jan23.docx

> Dear Project Partners,  
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> The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today published to the Federal Register  
> a notice to reopen the public comment period for a proposed rule to remove  
> the valley elderberry longhorn beetle from the Federal List of Endangered  
> and Threatened Wildlife.  
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> We expect that a peer review report of the proposed rule will be submitted  
> near the beginning of the re-opened comment period and available for the  
> public.  
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>  
> Attached is a news release with more information. Please contact us if you  
> have any questions about this announcement.  
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> Thank you for your ongoing cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
> Service.  
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