

DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
CALIFORNIA



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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

November 26, 2013

The Honorable Dan Ashe  
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Ashe:

I am writing to request that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service extend the public comment period for its proposed threatened listing status for the western distinct population segment of the yellow-billed cuckoo.

As you know, the Service proposed a rule to list the yellow-billed cuckoo on October 3, 2013 and provided for a sixty day comment period which ends on December 2, 2013. Unfortunately, because the rule was proposed during the federal government shutdown, many stakeholders and Congressional offices have only just now become aware of the potential listing.

Given the vast areas of California and nine other states where critical habitat designations might be considered under the proposed rule and the potential impact such a decision could have on water project operations and long proposed water storage projects, it is important that local and state agencies, academia and other stakeholders have sufficient time to research the issue and submit relevant scientific data before the Service considers further action.

I therefore respectfully request that the Service extend the public comment period for no less than 90 days. Thank you for considering my request and for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein".

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

DF:jp