**MONARCH BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS**

**Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is more actively informing those that have been handling monarchs in California (rearing monarchs indoors, tagging monarchs, etc.) that these practices are against state law unless they have a scientific permit. However, this is not a new law--it's just being more widely recognized lately!  
  
To learn more about the CDFW rule against handling monarchs in California you can read the information at the following link.   
CDFW Information:  
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invertebrates/Monarch-Butterfly>

Conservation organizations, researchers, and state and federal agencies all agree that ad hoc backyard rearing of monarch butterflies is not a conservation strategy. There are many concerns with captive rearing monarch butterflies, all of which are outlined in the following resources:  
  
MJV Handout:  
<https://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/Monarch_Rearing_Instructions.pdf>  
  
Xerces Blog:   
<https://xerces.org/blog/keep-monarchs-wild#:~:text=The%20Xerces%20Society%20and%20several,monarchs%20when%20they%20are%20released>.  
  
Joint Statement Regarding Captive Breeding and Releasing of Monarchs:  
<https://www.xerces.org/monarchs/joint-statement-regarding-captive-breeding-and-releasing-monarchs>  
  
I encourage folks to reach out to CDFW directly if they have more questions.

Best,

**Emma Pelton**   
Senior Conservation Biologist

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Protecting the Life That Sustains Us

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Watch us on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAiPLPJuySOgn6CbjkOxqLQ).

Support our work: [Donate](https://xerces.org/donate)!

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