



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

1312 Fairlane, Suite 1
Yreka, California 96097
www.co.siskiyou.ca.us

(530) 842-8005
FAX (530) 842-8013
Toll Free: 1-888-854-2000, ext. 8005

February 10, 2025

President Samantha Murray
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA

Subject: Committee and Department Reports: Wildlife Resources Committee (Agenda Item 17(B))

Dear President Murray and Commissioners:

We are writing to express our strong concern regarding the motion passed by a single member of the Commission's Wildlife Resources Committee on January 15, recommending that the Commission approve a future rulemaking to amend Section 472 by removing coyotes, in conjunction with a future rulemaking to maintain hunting opportunities. We understand that during its February 12 meeting, the Commission will "potentially act on the recommendations" and "discuss referred topics" from the Wildlife Resources Committee and "consider revisions to topics and timing" of matters referred to the Commission by the Committee.¹ In light of the potential consequences of this motion, we ask that the Commission *re-refer* this issue to the Wildlife Resources Committee for a full and proper review.

Siskiyou County, a rural agricultural community in Northern California, is home to many livestock producers whose livelihoods depend on healthy and productive herds. Coyotes, if left unmanaged, pose a grave threat to these operations, causing stress to livestock, disrupting their reproductive patterns, and directly killing animals. Livestock producers are compelled to manage coyote populations to safeguard their businesses. The motion put forth by the Wildlife Resources Committee creates immediate and unacceptable risks to our local agricultural economy. To date, there has been no indication that the County, livestock producers, nor the general public received adequate notice or outreach before the January 15 meeting regarding the Committee's consideration of limiting coyote take under 14 C.C.R. 472.

As highlighted in the California Cattlemen's Association's January 30 letter, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act mandates that state bodies provide proper notice of meetings and agendas. While the Committee's agenda mentioned a "Discussion and potential recommendations for change to the take of nongame mammals regulations," it did not clearly specify that the Committee would consider a proposal to restrict livestock producers' ability to manage coyote

¹ Video recording: Wildlife Resources Committee Meeting - January 15, 2025 - Sacramento | Webinar/ Teleconference, at 6:36:31 (Jan. 15, 2025) (motion of Wildlife Resources Committee Co-Chair Erika Zavaleta), available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_tz6KlOpF8M [hereinafter January 15, 2025 WRC Meeting].

populations. The agenda was insufficiently detailed, leaving out critical information that could have signaled the potential harm to our rural communities and agricultural producers.

Given the severity of the proposed changes and their far-reaching consequences, we insist that this matter be referred back to the Wildlife Resources Committee with explicit instructions to provide *clear and comprehensive notice* before any future discussions or hearings on this issue. This re-referral will ensure more transparency, foster greater public participation, and facilitate a more thoughtful and informed decision-making process.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this matter, and your consideration of our concerns. We look forward to a productive dialogue on this important and consequential topic.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Nancy Ogren

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc:

Rural County Representative of California (RCRC)
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Assemblymember Heather Hadwick
Senator Megan Dahle
California Cattlemen's Association
Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Association
Siskiyou County Farm Bureau