

CARMEL J. ANGELO
Chief Executive Officer
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**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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June 21, 2016

The Honorable Marc Levine
Chair, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
State Capitol, Room 2141
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 1396 (Wolk) – OPPOSE (As Amended May 31, 2016)

Dear Assembly Member Levine:

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to regretfully express our opposition to Senate Bill 1396, authored by Senator Lois Wolk, relating to the Inner Coast Range Program (Program).

The Inner Coast Range region for the proposed Program as defined in Senate Bill 1396 includes all or part of the following 13 counties: Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Tehama, Trinity and Yolo. This proposed geographic region includes 12 Rural County Representatives of California member counties.

State conservancies are departments within the Natural Resources Agency that all encompass a unique though often similar mission of the protection and restoration of their defined regions physical, cultural, recreational, educational and other attributes through the acquisition of land and other programs that fulfill the objectives of the conservancy.

SB 1396 as amended would create a new Program within the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), an independent board consisting of the Director of Department of Fish and Wildlife, President of Fish and Game Commission and the Director of Finance, with many of the responsibilities of a state conservancy, but without the oversight and accountability of the ten existing state conservancies. Additionally, the mission of the WCB is not inclusive of many of the features of conservancies such as Sierra Nevada's Conservancy statutory provisions to assist the regional economy and aid in the preservation of working landscapes. While SB 1396 provides for an advisory board that allows for representation by local government, virtually all the authority and decision-making rests with the WCB.

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The proposed boundaries of the Inner Coast Range Program raise a number of concerns as well. Unfortunately, as with the entire proposal none of the impacted counties including Mendocino County were approached or had any opportunity for input regarding the proposed boundaries. This raises a host of issues including the land use decision-making process and jurisdiction of local government, impact to property tax rolls and that the proposed boundaries exceed the Inner Coast Region in a number of areas.

For the reasons stated, Mendocino County respectfully requests your 'No' vote on SB 1396, when it is heard before your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Gjerde".

Dan Gjerde, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Diane Colborn, Committee Consultant
Robert Spiegel, Republican Consultant
The Honorable Lois Wolk, Member of the California State Senate
The Honorable Mike McGuire, Member of the California State Senate
The Honorable Bill Dodd, Member of the California State Assembly
The Honorable Jim Wood, Member of the California State Assembly
Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties