

Dear Chair Brown and Supervisors:

I am writing to submit comments in support of item 5H , a 5 year cooperative agreement with USDA Wildlife services and the approval of the related 2020-21 work and financials plan.

The proposed project described in the final EIR which consists of the approval of the Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) program which includes the approval of a five year cooperative service agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Service's California (APHIS WS-CA) office for wildlife damage management assistance to the county.

Through this agreement the IWDM program can continue to use both non-lethal and lethal means to assist in resolving wildlife damage issues. Non-lethal technical assistance is needed and often helps to improve wildlife damage situations, but there are times when lethal alternatives are required. Limiting a IWDM program to only non-lethal options will be a disservice to the residents of the county who could face situations with wildlife damage that are unresolvable without a lethal option administered by a trained professional such as APHIS WS-CA staff.

We own Livestock, Dogs, Horses and Children that are absolutely entitled to this protection !
The program has been successful for years!

For these reasons, I encourage you to 1) pass a resolution to certify the final EIR and related CEQA requirements for the proposed project, 2) pass a resolution to adopt the proposed project IWDM program related to the final EIR prepared in accordance with CEQA and 3) through the resolution, authorize the Agricultural Commissioner to bring forward to the Board for approval for a five-year cooperative agreement between the County and APHIS WS-CA, as well as an annual work and financial plan for the operation of the IWDM program.

Sincerely,

Bald Hill Cattle Company

Michael and Yvette McGuire

Fort Bragg, Ca 95437