

Bradford Ranch LLC
Boonville, Mendocino County, CA

March 21, 2021

VIA Email:

bos@mendocinocounty.org

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: Agenda item 6A, Discussion and Possible Action Including Direction to Staff to Author (1)

***a Resolution to Terminate Cooperative Services Agreement (CSA) with USDA Wildlife Services; and 2) a Resolution to Vest Administrative Responsibility for Implementation of the Mendocino County Non-Lethal Wildlife Damage Management Program with the Mendocino County Animal Care Services
(Sponsor: Supervisor Haschak)***

Dear Chair Gjerde and Supervisors:

My family agricultural business has been in operation in Mendocino County for over 81 years. During all this time we have depended on support from the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors for Wildlife Services when help is needed to provide some relief from wildlife damage.

Eighty-one years ago, most of the rural landscape was being used to produce crops, livestock or timber and we could count on the support from our county to help with wildlife damage problems. Today, the number of people in agricultural businesses is just a small fraction of what it used to be, yet the same problems exist today. There are some instances where wildlife become a major factor on if a year is profitable or not.

I have reviewed the presentation prepared for your March 23rd meeting and there is a glaring omission. Not anywhere in the presentation does it give any reasons or background for why the Wildlife Services contract should be cancelled. It seems to only focus on combining Animal Control and Animal Care Services and giving them the added task of some wildlife exclusionary work. To outright cancel the Wildlife Services contract without providing those of us who at times rely on that service adequate reasons why is bad government.

Where is the cost analysis showing how a combined Animal Control and Animal Care program, with all the new added training, vehicles, facilities etc., can deal with animal depredation. What specific predators will the new consolidated unit address?

With the present cooperative agreement between the county and Wildlife Services and the county integrated wildlife damage management program, the county has the ability to utilize both non-lethal and lethal resources to help not just some but everyone, including agencies, in the county. There are sometimes when non-lethal solutions do work to stop animal damage, but there are also times when only lethal methods will end the problem.

Leaving those who at times rely on help from Wildlife Services with only the option of non-lethal assistance is a disservice to them and gives the impression that the Board of Supervisors believe they are of no real value to Mendocino County.

I ask that you vote to NOT consider terminating the contract with Wildlife Services.

Sincerely,

Peter Bradford