



March 22, 2021

Submitted via e-mail: [bos@mendocinocounty.org](mailto: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***

Dear Chair Gjerde and Supervisors:

The California Farm Bureau Federation (Farm Bureau) and California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) are writing to question the direction in this agenda item to terminate the cooperative services agreement with USDA Wildlife Services to administer an Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) Program in Mendocino County. Our organizations represent approximately 1,000 members in Mendocino County. These individuals make their living caring for their land and livestock to produce a reliable supply of food, fiber, and timber for consumers throughout the U.S. and the world. Mendocino County's residents have benefitted from the current IWDM Program and we oppose the termination of the cooperative services agreement with the USDA Wildlife Services in Mendocino County.

An IWDM Program helps agricultural producers who regularly face losses from wildlife appropriately respond to wildlife threatening their crops and livestock. USDA Wildlife Services helps agricultural producers implement practices to help prevent wildlife caused losses and if these efforts fail, they can help address the specific animal causing the problem.

It is important to recognize that non-lethal methods are not always effective, and it is important to maintain the ability to humanely remove wildlife that are undeterred by non-lethal measures. It should also be mentioned that all practices implemented in the current IWDM were thoroughly vetted in the recent EIR for the program that the county completed and voted to certify.

The agenda proposal to transition to a 100% non-lethal program that focuses primarily on exclusionary actions through animal care/control will be more costly to the county (no USDA cost share or department of agriculture funding) and will eliminate services that are currently available to our members.

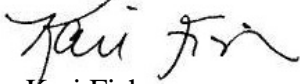
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We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this agenda item and we reiterate our opposition to the suggested direction to terminate the current cooperative services agreement with USDA Wildlife services to administer the IWDM program in Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kari Fisher", written in a cursive style.

Kari Fisher

Senior Counsel

California Farm Bureau Federation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Wilbur", written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirk Wilbur

Vice President of Government Affairs

California Cattlemen's Association