

*Lewis Brown
14000 B Powerhouse Road
Potter Valley, California 95469
707-272-5929*

March 22, 2021

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, California 95482

RE: Agenda Item 6 (a) **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 Supervisors:

According to your Mission Statement as posted on the website each of you are committed to maintain a responsible government that delivers services that meet public safety and health. The USDA Wildlife Services provides a service for this County, and has for many decades, that no other department with this expertise can provide. Historically, the Board of Supervisors **from all Districts** has supported unanimously the continuation of the Cooperative Service Agreement until now. Obviously, at least one Supervisor lacks a clear understanding of how important the service is to our rural County and of the reasons from past incidents it needs to be maintained.

The agenda information noticeably lacks information. No information addresses what types of wildlife species or wildlife interaction issues this newly consolidated Animal Care staffing unit will address. Who will handle a rabies outbreak in our wildlife, Public Health? Nor does the agenda item provide any analysis on the overall costs that will be required as part of Supervisor Haschak's proposal. In my analysis to continue the contract will be far less expensive to our County and actually more viable to protect the safety and health of both residents and wildlife.

Clashes between wildlife with residents and tourists will continue to occur. The thought of not having these professionals to assist when incidents happen is not good.

I urge the total rejection of Supervisor Haschak's agenda item and respectfully ask for support in continuing the USDA Wildlife Service Cooperative Service Agreement.

Sincerely,

Lewis Brown