

Dear Honorable Board members:

I am writing in strong support of the staff recommendation for Agenda Item 6a on the Board's March 23, 2021 meeting agenda. I urge the Board to vote in favor of terminating the existing contract between Mendocino County and the USDA Wildlife Services and to instead implement a non-lethal county wildlife management program. I agree with the facts and reasoning put forth by Project Coyote in support of the staff recommendation, to wit:

- Every year for nearly nine decades, Wildlife Services has killed thousands of wild animals with traps, guns, and other cruel methods, largely at the behest of private ranchers and other agricultural interests.
- Non-target species—including imperiled wildlife and domestic dogs and cats—fall victim to Wildlife Services' lethal approach. Many non-target kills are not reported.
- A previous environmental study under CEQA clearly demonstrates the serious impacts of Wildlife Services' program. Mountain lion populations are particularly vulnerable.
- California residents like me do not want their taxpayer dollars spent on an expensive and ineffective program that cruelly and needlessly kills wild animals.
- Mountain lions, bears, coyotes, bobcats, and other species targeted by Wildlife Services are ecologically vital species. The site-specific and cumulative impacts of their removal on ecosystem health can be profound.
- The best available scientific research shows that killing wildlife to reduce predation on livestock or damage to crops [is rarely necessary and sometimes counterproductive](#).
- This needless killing of ecologically important wildlife is morally and ethically wrong.
- Many cost-effective non-lethal methods of addressing human-wildlife conflicts exist.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Tara Mueller