

RESOLUTION NO. 19-

RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTING AN INTEGRATED WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, FOR WHICH AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT WAS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

WHEREAS, wildlife in California includes a range of species that prey on livestock and wildlife, including particularly cattle and sheep, cause property and other resource damage, and threaten human health and safety; and

WHEREAS, damage inflicted by wildlife upon agricultural operations is not limited to damage to traditional livestock production, but also include damage caused by animals to fields, crops and pastures, and to small enterprise operations with rabbits and chickens; and

WHEREAS, zoonotic diseases (diseases transmissible from wildlife to humans) are one of the leading causes of illness and death to humans, and wildlife damage management includes playing an active role in surveillance and monitoring of wildlife diseases, such as rabies, plague, Lyme disease and West Nile Virus; and

WHEREAS, wildlife in California can cause property damage, including damage to roofing, building wiring, attacks on pets, consumption or destruction of landscaping, turf or nursery plants, and damage to irrigation systems; and

WHEREAS, wildlife in California can cause damage to natural resources, including burrowing that undermines the integrity of stream banks, causing erosion and sedimentation, and damage caused by invasive species like feral swine, which cause soil disturbance to wetlands, watersheds and native habitats; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Wildlife Services ("Wildlife Services") operates an integrated wildlife damage management ("IWDM") program for the purpose of protecting livestock, crops, property, human health and safety and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, conflicts between humans and wildlife are common in Mendocino County and the purpose of the IWDM Program is to resolve conflicts with selected species that have caused damage to resources owners in the County; and

WHEREAS, Wildlife Services previously implemented an IWDM Program in Mendocino County from at least 1980 until 2015, through five-year cooperative service agreements and annual work and financial plans; and

WHEREAS, between 2007 and 2017 in the County, total agricultural losses suffered as a result of wildlife damage have fluctuated from \$87,010 in 2007, to a high of \$654,330.00 in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County has prepared and, by separate resolution, certified an environmental impact report studying the IWDM Program as well as a non-lethal alternative to the IWDM Program; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County needs a comprehensive program that will assist in protecting residents, property, livestock, crops and natural resources from damage caused by predators and other nuisance wildlife.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

2. The IWDM Program, as operated by Wildlife Services, is adopted as the program that will provide wildlife damage management services for Mendocino County.

3. The Agricultural Commissioner is hereby authorized to bring to the Board of Supervisors for approval at a later date a five-year cooperative agreement between the County and Wildlife Services for the IWDM Program, as well as an annual work and financial plan for the operation of the IWDM Program.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, and carried this 17th day of December, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.

ATTEST: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board

CARRE BROWN, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Deputy

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CHRISTIAN M. CURTIS
Acting County Counsel

BY: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board

Deputy