

RESOLUTION NO. 20-11

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA
PROCLAIMING SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS MOUNTAIN LIONS IN NEED OF
EXPANDED PROTECTIONS**

WHEREAS, Southern California mountain lions are specially protected, including California Department Fish and Wildlife bulletin 2017-07 that established a Santa Monica Mountains Area of Sensitive Mountain Lion Population that requires a “three strikes” criteria for wildlife depredation permits; and

WHEREAS, new research published in 2019 in the journal *Ecological Society of America* warns that due to inbreeding, the critically endangered Santa Monica Mountains population of mountain lions could become extinct within 15 years; and

WHEREAS, toxic rodenticides, vehicle strikes, depredations, wildfires, inbreeding and increasing isolations due to freeways and development are all contributing to the untimely deaths, genetic bottlenecking, and habitat loss of these apex predators; and

WHEREAS, apex predators are essential to balanced population dynamics and functioning of a healthy ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, dispersing male mountain lions have been known to travel up to 300 miles to establish a home range or die in conflicts over territory; and

WHEREAS, Ventura County citizens value natural resources and their protection, in particularly endangered and threatened species including mountain lions of the Santa Monica Mountains; and

WHEREAS, Ventura County through adoption of its habitat connectivity and wildlife corridor ordinance, its reduction in use of anticoagulant rodenticides, and its unanimous support for the wildlife bridge at Liberty Canyon and other initiatives, has prioritized protection of mountain lions and other native flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, P-56, one of only two male lions collared by the National Park Service in the Santa Monica Mountains, was killed under a depredation permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in January 2020 outside the boundary of CDFW Bulletin 2017-07 Santa Monica Mountains Area of Sensitive Mountain Lion Population; and

WHEREAS, expanded protections are now necessary as mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains have become even more threatened;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors hereby includes in its 2020 State Legislative Agenda and Platform support or sponsorship of legislation and/or administrative action to end the issuance of depredation permits in Ventura County for mountain lions that attacked livestock and other animals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Ventura supports legislative or executive action to support the listing of the Southern /Central Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) of Mountain Lions as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act as recommended by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Upon motion of Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Bennett, and duly carried, the Board hereby approves and adopts this resolution on the 25th day of February 2020.

Kelly Long

Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura

ATTEST:

Michael Powers,
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura, State of California.

By:

Don Key

Deputy Clerk of the Board

