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Public Comment

Katherine Douglas

From: Castro, Teresa
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 11:45 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Scott Cooper
Subject: Fish and Wildlife Commission Support Letter – Biodiversity Resolution
Attachments: Fish and Wildlife Commission Support Letter – Biodiversity Resolution.pdf

Good morning,

Attached is the Santa Barbara County Fish and Wildlife Commission support letter regarding the proposed Biodiversity Resolution scheduled for consideration by the Board of Supervisors on May 12, 2026.

Please include this letter in the record for the associated Board item.

Thank you,
Teresa Castro
Santa Barbara County Planning and Development
Fish and Wildlife Commission



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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

May 7, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Support for Proposed Biodiversity Resolution

Dear Chair and Members of the Board:

The County of Santa Barbara Fish and Wildlife Commission strongly recommends that the County of Santa Barbara's Board of Supervisors adopt the Biodiversity Resolution introduced by Supervisor Joan Hartman at the Board's May 12, 2026, meeting. The County's Fish and Wildlife Commission is composed of 9 members, including a representative from each district appointed by the Supervisor for that district, as well as four members representing fishing and hunting interests. The scope of the Commission's work includes: (1) reviewing and recommending applications for the County's Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund for approval by the Board of Supervisors; (2) communicating with federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders about issues pertinent to fish and wildlife resources; (3) keeping the Board of Supervisors apprised of various fish and wildlife initiatives, either individually or as a group. The latter function has engendered this letter.

Because the mandate of the Fish and Wildlife Commission is to facilitate the conservation and restoration of fish and wildlife populations in the County for environmental and human health, recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, cultural resilience, and economic and cultural reasons, the Biodiversity Resolution directly addresses and elevates our priorities. The Commission's activities and the Biodiversity Resolution are especially relevant to our County because the County constitutes a biodiversity hotspot containing diverse terrestrial, freshwater, and marine habitats that support many, sensitive, native species, including rare and endangered species. The Resolution also acts as a guidepost for countering human impacts that degrade or destroy native habitats and the species they support.

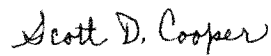
Given our mandates, the Fish and Wildlife Commission strongly supports the Resolution's components: (1) recognition of the importance of fish and wildlife for our County; (2)

environmentally-sensitive stewardship efforts via conservation easements and habitat restoration projects; (3) integration of biodiversity initiatives into County planning, zoning, and development decisions; and (4) increasing collaborative conservation networks, which include tribes, agencies, NGOs, land trusts, educational and research institutions, and resource-user groups. We also support directing County staff to prepare a report that addresses the steps and funding for meeting the County's biodiversity goals. Towards this end, we note that the Fish and Wildlife Commission has recommended applications for Fish and Wildlife Propagation Funds that address research, educational, habitat restoration and enhancement, native fish protection, and wildlife rescue projects that meet many of the goals outlined in the Resolution.

As a consequence, the Fish and Wildlife Commission strongly recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt this Resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Cooper, Chair
Santa Barbara County Fish and Wildlife Commission

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commissioner	Representation
Scott Cooper, Chair	Third District
Frank Abatemarco	First District
Phil Beguhl	Second District
William Collier	Fourth District
David Morgan	Fifth District
Jeff Landers	Santa Maria Sportsman's Association
Jeff Maassen	Commercial Fisherman
Steve Adam	Santa Ynez Valley Pistol and Bow Club
Whitney Uyeda	Santa Barbara Sport Fishing

Approved by the Santa Barbara County Fish and Wildlife Commission on April 23, 2026.