



Agenda Date: 7/31/2007  
Agenda Placement: 9A

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Britt Ferguson for Nancy Watt - County Executive Officer  
County Executive Office  
**REPORT BY:** Molly Rattigan, Management Analyst, 253-4112  
**SUBJECT:** The California Rangeland Resolution

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Discussion and possible adoption of the California Rangeland Resolution. (Unanimous vote of Board members present required.)

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The California Rangeland Resolution has been signed by more than 50 agricultural groups, environmental organizations and federal, state and local agencies that recognize the critical importance of California's privately owned rangelands, particularly those that encircle the Central Valley. The Napa County Board of Supervisors has been invited to become a signatory to the California Rangeland Resolution.

It is expected that the Board will discuss whether or not to become a signatory of the California Rangeland Resolution.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

The California Rangeland Resolution has been signed by more than 50 agricultural groups, environmental organizations and federal, state and local agencies that recognize the critical importance of California's privately owned rangelands, particularly those that encircle the Central Valley. The resolution provides that rangelands are often located in California's fastest growing counties and are at significant risk of conversion to development and other uses. According to the signatories, rangelands are a critical foundation of the economic and social fabric of California's ranching industry and rural communities, and will only continue to provide this important working landscape for California's plants, fish and wildlife if private rangelands remain in ranching. By signing this resolution, the Napa County Board of Supervisors would agree to work collaboratively with the other signatories to protect and enhance the rangeland landscape that encircles California's Central Valley and includes adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands by:

- | Keeping common species common on private working landscapes;
- | Working to recover imperiled species and enhancing habitat on rangelands while seeking to minimize regulations on private lands and streamline processes;
- | Supporting the long-term viability of the ranching industry and its culture by providing economic, social and other incentives by reducing burdens to proactive stewardship on private ranchlands;
- | Increasing private, state and federal funding, technical expertise and other assistance to continue and expand the ranching community's beneficial land stewardship practices that benefit sensitive species and are fully compatible with normal ranching practices;
- | Encouraging voluntary, collaborative and locally-led conservation that has proven to be very effective in maintaining and enhancing working landscapes; and
- | Educating the public about the benefits of grazing and ranching in these rangelands.

The signatories have pledged to work together to preserve and enhance the rangeland landscape for protected species and common species. Signatories of the resolution include: the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Department of Conservation.

The California Cattleman's Association on behalf of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition and Ahmann Ranches in Napa County, has invited the Napa County Board of Supervisors to become a signatory to the California Rangeland Resolution. The California Rangeland Resolution was forwarded to the Legislative Subcommittee by Supervisor Wagenknecht. The Legislative Subcommittee reviewed this resolution and recommends adoption. A Board Member may be appointed as the representative of Napa County to the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition should the Board want representation.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . Resolution

B . Information on the California Rangeland Resolution

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Karen Gratton