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September 15, 2014

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
via email to fgc@fgc.ca.gov

re: **Ban of Wildlife-Killing Contests**

Honorable Members of the California Fish and Game Commission:

The Antelope Valley Conservancy Board of Directors thanks you for this opportunity to submit comments in support of the California Fish and Game Commission's enactment of a statewide ban on wildlife-killing contests.

The Antelope Valley Conservancy preserves natural habitat lands in Kern and Los Angeles Counties, and operates a mitigation program that is authorized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. We strongly support the ban on wildlife-killing contests because:

1. Wildlife-killing contests are ecologically irresponsible, and serve no beneficial wildlife management purpose. Such contests not only harm individual animals, but also alter predator-prey dynamics, disrupt the social dynamics of predator species, and put non-target wildlife at risk.
2. Wildlife-killing contests are ethically indefensible, as they promote gratuitous violence against wildlife, and send the message to children that life has little value. They are conducted for profit, entertainment, and the "fun" of killing. This is not about sport or fair-chase; animals are often baited and lured with distress calls of wounded young, placing wildlife at an even greater and unfair disadvantage.

The killing of wildlife is appropriately regulated by the State of California, due to the precarious survival of thousands of plant and animal species. The Antelope Valley Conservancy supports a statewide prohibition on wildlife-killing contests.

By Resolution of the Board of Directors
Antelope Valley Conservancy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Harsha", is written over a horizontal line.

by B. Harsha, Secretary

cc: Charlton H. Bonham, Director, CDFW at director@wildlife.ca.gov