



California Cattlemen's Association  
2024 - 2025  
Policy Resolutions

California Cattlemen's Association  
3841 North Freeway Boulevard, Suite 130  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
(916) 444-0845  
[www.calcattlemen.org](http://www.calcattlemen.org)

## Table of Contents

<b>AG &amp; FOOD POLICY.....</b>	<b>12</b>
20-01 FLATBED PICKUPS.....	12
20-02 GUN CONTROL.....	12
20-03 SUPPORT FOR ETHICAL AND HUMANE DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC & FERAL HORSES.....	12
20-04 DROUGHT MONITOR COMMITTEE.....	13
21-01 LONG TRUCKS - HAULING LIVESTOCK .....	13
21-02 CATTLE GUARD MAINTENANCE.....	13
21-03 OWNER NOTIFICATION FOLLOWING FENCE DAMAGE .....	13
21-04 LIVESTOCK TRUCK LENGTHS .....	14
21-05 SPLIT SPEED LIMIT .....	14
22-01 DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR PULLING LIVESTOCK TRAILERS WITH TRUCKS .....	14
23-01 LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING .....	15
23-02 TRUCK WEIGHT AND LENGTH STANDARDIZATION.....	15
23-03 SHIPMENT OF CATTLE FROM HAWAII .....	15
23-04 USE OF REGISTERED BRANDS FOR SOURCE IDENTIFICATION.....	16
23-05 SUPPORT OF THE USDA FOR FOOD INSPECTION .....	16
23-06 CALIFORNIA COLLEGES' AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION LANDS AND FACILITIES .....	16
23-07 CCA RANGE CATTLE PRODUCTION INTERNSHIPS.....	16
23-08 SUPPORT REFILLING OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ADVISOR POSITIONS.....	17
24-01 TRANSPORTATION: HAZARDOUS MATERIAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM .....	17
24-02 U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR .....	17
24-03 WINTERIZING BIODIESEL .....	17
24-04 OPPOSITION TO THE REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS .....	18
24-05 ALTERNATIVE PROTEIN PRODUCTS .....	18

<b>CATTLE HEALTH &amp; WELL-BEING.....</b>	<b>19</b>
20-01 SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTERS .....	19
20-02 VETERINARIANS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.....	19
20-03 ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY.....	19
20-04 SUPPORT OF RODEO ACTIVITIES AND PROFESSIONAL RODEO COWBOYS ASSOCIATION HUMANE GUIDELINES .....	20
20-05 USE OF ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES .....	20
21-01 SELENIUM SUPPLEMENTATION NEEDS FOR HEALTHY CATTLE .....	21
21-02 VETERINARY STUDENTS .....	21
21-03 FACE FLY IMPACT ON CATTLE INDUSTRY .....	21
21-04 BVD CONTROL .....	22
21-05 CALIFORNIA SPECIFIC RESEARCH.....	22
21-06 LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT & ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS .....	22
21-07 REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.....	23
21-08 CATTLE HANDLING EQUIPMENT DESIGN .....	23
21-09 RESPONSE TO ANIMAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT .....	23
21-10 REVIEW OF CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS .....	24
22-01 CCA SUPPORT FOR U.C. DAVIS SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.....	24
22-02 PINKEYE VACCINE.....	25
22-03 ADMINISTRATIVE FINES FOR VIOLATING ANIMAL HEALTH REGULATIONS.....	25
22-04 CLONING.....	25
22-05 ALTERNATIVE FEEDSTUFFS.....	25
22-06 CALIFORNIA ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY LABORATORY SYSTEM.....	26
22-07 HANDLING OF CATTLE WITH OCULAR ISSUES.....	26
22-08 MINERAL SUPPLEMENTATION TO PROVIDE FOR CATTLE WELFARE AND ENSURE BEEF QUALITY.....	27

22-09	COMPOSTING ANIMAL CARCASSES.....	27
23-01	BLUETONGUE RESEARCH IN CALIFORNIA CATTLE .....	28
23-02	TRICHOMONOSIS RESEARCH.....	28
23-03	PROTECTION FROM FOREIGN DISEASES .....	28
23-04	REGULATION AND USE OF BIOLOGICALS.....	29
23-05	REGULATION AND CONTROL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS.....	29
23-06	DISEASE CONTROL RESPONSIBILITIES - FARMED EXOTIC ANIMALS.....	29
23-07	CONTROL OF JOHNE’S DISEASE .....	29
23-08	USE OF BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE TO MANAGE AND CONTROL BSE .....	30
23-09	TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION .....	30
23-10	DISABLED (DOWNER, NON-AMBULATORY) CATTLE NOT TO BE USED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.....	30
24-01	SUPPORT FOR BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION AND PREVENTION .....	31
24-02	TUBERCULOSIS RULES ON U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER.....	31
24-03	CALIFORNIA TRICHOMONOSIS REGULATIONS.....	32
24-04	ANTIBIOTIC USE.....	33
24-05	CALIFORNIA BEEF CATTLE INDUSTRY PRODUCTION CODE OF ETHICS.....	33
24-06	ETHICAL LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND RESOURCE USE .....	34
24-07	SUPPORT OF ANIMAL CARE GUIDELINES .....	34
	<i>ASSESSMENT OF TRICHOMONOSIS REGULATIONS – Staff Directive .....</i>	<i>34</i>
	<b>CATTLE MARKETING &amp; INTERNATIONAL TRADE .....</b>	<b>35</b>
20-01	VALUE-BASED MARKETING .....	35
21-01	SOURCE AND AGE VERIFICATION .....	35
22-01	PROMPT PAYMENT TIMING AND ELECTRONIC PAYMENT.....	35
23-01	CARCASS OF MERIT.....	35
24-01	LIVESTOCK SELLERS PROTECTION LEGISLATION.....	36
24-02	CONTINUED SUPPORT OF BEEF SAFETY RESEARCH .....	36

<i>ELECTRONIC LOGGING DEVICE – Staff Directive</i> .....	36
<b>FEDERAL LANDS</b> .....	<b>37</b>
20-01 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT .....	37
20-02 ANTI-GRAZING POLICIES OF STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES .....	37
20-03 SUPPORT FOR THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOL AND COMMUNITIES SELF DETERMINATION ACT (PL 106-393) .....	37
21-01 PUBLIC RANGELANDS LEGISLATION .....	37
21-02 SUPPORT FOR CUTTING CIRCLES .....	38
21-03 PUBLIC LAND WEED CONTROL .....	38
22-01 WILDERNESS DESIGNATION .....	38
22-02 PRESCRIBED BURNING FOR RANGE IMPROVEMENT .....	39
22-03 WILD HORSES .....	39
22-04 LOCAL POLICE POWER CONTROL ON FEDERAL LAND POLICY .....	39
22-05 PROTECTION OF PRIVATE WATER RIGHTS ON FEDERAL LANDS .....	39
22-06 OPEN RANGE FENCING .....	40
22-07 ACCELERATED LAND EXCHANGE POLICY .....	40
22-08 PUBLIC LANDS POLICY .....	40
22-09 USFS/BLM FENCE CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT .....	40
22-10 SAGE STEPPE RESTORATION .....	40
23-01 PERMITTEE INPUT INTO PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT DECISIONS .....	41
23-02 CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL ECONOMY AND LIFESTYLE IN PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS .....	41
23-03 PUBLIC LANDS RANGE MONITORING FUNDING .....	41
23-04 VACANT GRAZING ALLOTMENTS .....	41
23-05 POST-FIRE GRAZING ON PUBLIC LANDS .....	42
24-01 PERMITTEE ALLOTMENT MONITORING .....	42
24-02 PERMIT BUYOUT .....	42

24-03	REGULATORY RELIEF FOR PUBLIC LAND USERS .....	43
24-04	NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA).....	43
24-05	MONITORING POLICY .....	43
24-06	U.S. RECOGNITION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS AND GRAZING PERMITTEES ON PUBLIC LAND .....	43
24-07	WOODY ENCROACHMENT UPON WET MEADOWS AND RIPARIAN SYSTEMS .....	44
24-08	FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT ON FOREST SERVICE LANDS.....	44
24-09	FUNDING POLICY .....	45
24-10	FEDERAL AGENCY MANAGEMENT STAFF .....	45
24-11	NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT BACKLOG .....	45
	<i>AGGRESSIVE FIRE SUPPRESSION ON USFS LANDS IN FIRE SEASON – Staff Directive .....</i>	<i>46</i>
	<b>FEEDER COUNCIL .....</b>	<b>47</b>
23-01	RECLASSIFICATION OF POLYETHER IONOPHORES .....	47
23-02	FEED BASED ETHANOL .....	47
23-03	IMMIGRATION REFORM .....	48
24-01	OPPOSITION TO BIOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES.....	48
	<b>GENERAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>49</b>
20-01	ASSOCIATION PROJECT DEVELOPMENT .....	49
23-01	IRRESPONSIBLE INITIATIVES .....	49
23-02	COOPERATING WITH ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS.....	49
23-03	COORDINATION BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CCA .....	49
24-01	UTILIZATION OF PRODUCER LEADERSHIP.....	50
	APPRECIATION TO CONVENTION HOSTS – Annually .....	50
	COMMENDATIONS – Annually .....	50
	RATIFICATION OF ACTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Annually.....	50
	IN MEMORIAM – Annually.....	50
	<b>PROPERTY RIGHTS &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.</b>	<b>52</b>

20-01	SUPPORT FOR USE OF TRAPS AND BAITS.....	52
20-02	PROPERTY RIGHTS - OUR LANDS' MOST COMPELLING ISSUE .....	52
20-03	GOVERNMENT AND UTILITIES ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDS .....	52
20-04	SUPPORT FOR STRONGER STATE TRESPASS LAWS.....	53
20-05	JUST COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY PROTECTION IN PUBLIC TAKING OF PRIVATE LAND .....	53
20-06	AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ELEMENT AND PLANNING .....	53
20-07	GRAZING LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM .....	54
20-08	WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.....	54
20-09	AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT .....	54
20-10	CALIFORNIA RANGELAND RESOLUTION.....	54
20-11	PERMIT COORDINATION.....	54
20-12	TAKE PROTECTION .....	54
20-13	DISCHARGE FROM GRAZING LANDS.....	55
20-14	INAPPROPRIATE USE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT .....	55
20-15	WOLF MANAGEMENT.....	56
20-16	GRAZING FEDERAL & STATE-OWNED LANDS .....	56
20-17	COMMERCIAL SCALE SOLAR AND WIND FACILITIES .....	56
20-18	STOCK PONDS .....	56
20-19	FOREST/RANGELAND FUELS REDUCTION .....	57
21-01	WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER .....	57
21-02	DEPREDATION PERMITS FOR WILD PIGS .....	57
21-03	WAIVE FEES FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS .....	57
21-04	PUBLIC TRAILS .....	58
21-05	NO NET LOSS OF PRIVATE PROPERTY .....	58
21-06	PRIVATE LAND CONDEMNATION .....	59
21-07	RAILROAD EASEMENT REVERSIONARY RIGHTS .....	59

21-08	UTILITY EASEMENT RENTAL .....	59
21-09	LAND STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.....	59
21-10	SUPPORT OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RANGELANDS .....	60
21-11	DELISTING ENDANGERED SPECIES .....	60
21-12	303(d) REGULATORY LISTINGS .....	60
21-13	LEGISLATIVE UNFUNDED MANDATE.....	61
21-14	STATEWIDE GRAZING REGULATION RESOLUTION.....	61
21-15	WATER DIVERSION CURTAILMENT FOR FISH HABITAT .....	61
21-16	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDIES & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS .....	62
21-17	DIVERSION MEASUREMENT SELF-CERTIFICATION.....	62
21-18	WATER STORAGE.....	62
21-19	CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION AND CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FROM CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT TO PROMOTE WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS IN HIGH-RISK AREAS.....	63
21-20	CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT TO PROMOTE POST-WILDFIRE EROSION CONTROL .....	64
22-01	DEER HERD IMPROVEMENT .....	64
22-02	FIRE MANAGEMENT .....	64
22-03	GOVERNMENT AGENCY LAND ACQUISITIONS - MANAGEMENT PLANS .....	65
22-04	EXEMPTION FOR LANDOWNER LIABILITY .....	66
22-05	PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS.....	66
22-06	CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION.....	66
22-07	SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIED WATER STORAGE, CONVEYANCE, AND CONSERVATION FACILITIES .....	67
22-08	ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REFORM.....	67
22-09	GUIDELINES FOR CCA’S PARTICIPATION WITH CALIFORNIA RANGELAND CONSERVATION COALITION, INC.....	67
22-10	WOLF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY.....	68



22-11	IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM.....	69
22-12	THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD'S ISSUANCE AND ENFORCEMENT OF CURTAILMENT ORDERS FOR THE SHASTA AND SCOTT RIVERS.....	69
23-01	EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT AND REPAIR OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.....	70
23-02	RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON EXISTING STATE LANDS.....	70
23-03	GRAZING AS A PRIMARY TOOL.....	71
23-04	FENCING RIPARIAN AREAS .....	71
23-05	BENEFICIAL ASPECTS OF GRAZING.....	71
23-06	RANGELAND FIREFIGHTING ENHANCEMENT .....	71
23-07	PRESCRIBED BURNING - VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND PRIVATE PERMIT BURNING PROGRAM .....	72
23-08	PROTECTION OF WATER RIGHTS .....	73
23-09	WATER POLICY .....	73
23-10	DELTA WATER FACILITIES/TRANSFERS .....	74
23-11	REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS AND STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD REPRESENTATION.....	74
23-12	CLIMATE CHANGE/GLOBAL WARMING .....	74
23-13	MOUNTAIN LIONS .....	75
23-14	REVENUE ENHANCEMENTS THROUGH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT .....	75
23-15	ELK RELOCATION.....	76
23-16	STATE FUNDING REDUCTION FOR THE WILDLIFE SERVICES PROGRAM.....	76
23-17	RODENTICIDE SURCHARGE SUPPORT .....	77
23-18	SUPPORT FOR RODENT CONTROL.....	77
23-19	ILLEGAL DRUG OPERATIONS ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS.....	77
23-20	WOLF POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE.....	78
23-21	SINGLE SPECIES MANAGEMENT .....	78
23-22	RESPONSIBLE USE OF STOCK POND WATER FOR AERIAL FIREFIGHTING .....	78
23-23	TIMELY ISSUANCE OF LETHAL DEPREDAATION PERMITS.....	79

24-01	PERMITS FOR IRRIGATION DIVERSIONS .....	79
24-02	CATTLE IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY .....	79
24-03	ENDANGERED SPECIES - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT .....	80
24-04	SUPPORT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR ALFALFA WEEVIL.....	80
24-05	WETLANDS MANAGEMENT .....	80
24-06	SUPPORT FOR FUNDING OF VOLUNTARY, LOCALLY-LED CONSERVATION EFFORTS THROUGH RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AND THE USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE .....	81
24-07	HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY LISTED AS A NOXIOUS WEED WITH CDFA .....	81
24-08	PUNCTUREVINE BIOCONTROL .....	81
24-09	JUNIPER REMOVAL .....	82
24-10	LEGALITY OF PUBLIC USES ON EASEMENT RIGHTS-OF-WAY .....	82
24-11	DEFINITION OF RANGELAND .....	82
24-12	PRESERVATION OF LANDS FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.....	82
24-13	RELICENSING OF HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS.....	83
24-14	CONSERVATION EASEMENTS .....	83
24-15	FOSSIL FUEL EXPLORATION .....	84
24-16	AIR QUALITY BURN PERMIT FEES .....	84
	<i>LOCAL CONTACT LIST FOR CAL FIRE – Staff Directive .....</i>	<i>85</i>
	<b>TAX &amp; CREDIT .....</b>	<b>86</b>
20-01	BURDEN OF PROOF FOR ASSESSMENT APPEALS .....	86
20-02	TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIREMENT TO INCREASE TAXES .....	86
20-03	SUBVENTION OF TAX LOSS THROUGH EMINENT DOMAIN AND CONDEMNATION .....	86
20-04	WILLIAMSON ACT SUBVENTION FUNDS .....	86
21-01	WILLIAMSON ACT .....	87
21-02	SPLIT ROLL PROPERTY TAX.....	87
21-03	MINORITY INTEREST IN PROPERTY .....	87

22-01	NOTICE & HEARING ON PROPERTY TAXES & ASSESSMENTS .....	87
22-02	INDEXING THE BASIS OF REAL PROPERTY .....	87
22-03	SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS - ESTATE TAXES .....	87
22-04	WILLIAMSON ACT MONITORING.....	87
22-05	INSURANCE COVERAGE.....	88
22-06	WORKER SAFETY SURVEY PROGRAM.....	88
22-07	OPPOSITION TO RESOURCES AGENCY VETO POWER FOR CANCELLATIONS OF WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACTS.....	88
22-08	DECREASED VALUE OF IRRIGATED LAND IMPACTED BY DROUGHT .....	88
23-01	NON-PROPERTY TAX FUNDING OF PEOPLE RELATED SERVICES.....	88
23-02	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACTED LANDS .....	89
23-03	LOCAL TAX SHIFT OPPOSITION .....	89
23-04	STATE AGENCY TAX TIMING AND TAX RATE .....	89
23-05	AGRICULTURAL UTILITY RATES .....	89
23-06	WILLIAMSON ACT COMPATIBLE USES.....	90
23-07	ESTATE TAX REPEAL.....	90
24-01	INCOME TAX ACCOUNTING POLICIES .....	90
24-02	BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS .....	90
24-03	LAND BASED TAXES AND FARMLAND SECURITY ZONES.....	91
24-04	CALIFORNIA INHERITANCE TAX.....	91

## ***AG & FOOD POLICY***

### **20-01 FLATBED PICKUPS**

WHEREAS, flatbed pickup trucks are essential for the ranching industry, and

WHEREAS, the State of California requires flatbed and utility body pickups with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of less than 11,500 pounds to be registered and classified differently from other pickups with a GVWR of less than 11,500 pounds; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support revising the definition of a "pickup truck" to include flatbed pickups and utility body pickups.

### **20-02 GUN CONTROL**

WHEREAS, within the Constitution, our forefathers made it clear that the citizens of this country have the right to bear arms for the protection of all; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) strongly supports this right, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose any legislation that infringes on the constitutional use of firearms or purchase of ammunition.

### **20-03 SUPPORT FOR ETHICAL AND HUMANE DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC & FERAL HORSES**

WHEREAS, it is important to have ethical and humane means to dispose of domestic and feral horses, and

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) supports every effort to ensure horses are treated with kindness and respect throughout their lifetimes, and

WHEREAS, without a means to dispose of horses, there will ultimately be a detrimental effect to the welfare of horses, and

WHEREAS, horse slaughter is no longer a legal, humane option for the disposal of horses in California or the United States, and

WHEREAS, horse populations on public lands continue to increase; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support ethical and humane disposal of domestic and feral horses, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose legislation that could hinder future efforts to dispose of horses humanely, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with California legislators and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to develop a legal solution that allows horses to be shipped out of California for slaughter and for the development of horse slaughter facilities.

## **20-04 DROUGHT MONITOR COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the current drought monitor program does not accurately reflect conditions on the ground, and

WHEREAS, the grazing values and forage conditions do not always accurately align with the drought monitor system; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to establish a committee of range beef cattle producers to work with the Drought Monitor program to develop a system to refine their determinations.

## **21-01 LONG TRUCKS - HAULING LIVESTOCK**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association seek legislative and regulatory relief that would allow access to loading areas in close proximity to designated Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) route highways by tractor-semi trailers having a kingpin setting in excess of 40 feet.

## **21-02 CATTLE GUARD MAINTENANCE**

WHEREAS, cattle guards are a necessity in rural counties to control livestock and allow free flow of vehicle traffic, and

WHEREAS, road funds or gas tax funds are used to install and maintain cattle guards on state highway systems to enhance the flow of traffic and control livestock, and

WHEREAS, section 985 of the Streets and Highway Code requires the installation or maintenance of cattle guards on or adjacent to county highways to be paid from the county general fund rather than from road funds or gas tax funds; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support legislation to allow road funds or gas tax funds to be used for installing and maintaining cattle guards along county highways.

## **21-03 OWNER NOTIFICATION FOLLOWING FENCE DAMAGE**

WHEREAS, vehicle accidents often result in substantial damage to fences along roads and highways, and

WHEREAS, said damage often results in livestock getting out onto such roads and highways, and

WHEREAS, the owner of said livestock is often unaware that a vehicle accident has damaged the fence; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work to support policies and procedures to require law enforcement to notify the adjacent landowner, or livestock owner, whenever a vehicular accident has damaged a fence, and that this notification be made as soon as possible, and preferably before the vehicle is removed from the scene of the accident.

## **21-04 LIVESTOCK TRUCK LENGTHS**

WHEREAS, the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 never addressed truck and trailer combinations, and

WHEREAS, in contrast tractor/trailer and double combinations were mandated significant transportation efficiency gains through the same Act of 1982, and

WHEREAS, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) froze certain truck lengths, essentially blocking any state's right to adjust truck/trailer overall lengths, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that truck/trailer combinations have their power units replaced with modern cab configurations without sacrificing cubic cargo capacity, and

WHEREAS, the shipment of cattle in the Western United States depends on truck/trailer combinations to move from areas not accessible to doubles or tractor/semi combinations, and

WHEREAS, the success of the California cattle industry depends on an efficient and effective transportation industry; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports changes in both federal and state law that would allow truck/trailer livestock rigs to achieve an overall combination length of at least 70 feet.

## **21-05 SPLIT SPEED LIMIT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts to eliminate the split speed limit for single vehicles and vehicles towing a trailer so that all vehicles, regardless if they are towing a trailer, can travel the speed limit established for a single vehicle.

## **22-01 DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR PULLING LIVESTOCK TRAILERS WITH TRUCKS**

WHEREAS, current California laws governing driver's license requirements require a farmer or rancher operating a truck and trailer combination in excess of 26,000 lbs. Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR) to obtain a commercial Class A license, and

WHEREAS, most truck and stock trailer combinations used on California ranches have a GCWR exceeding 26,000 lbs., and

WHEREAS, U.S. truck manufacturers have increased the gross vehicle weight rating of new three-quarter-ton and one-ton trucks compared to previous models, and

WHEREAS, Congress passed legislation in 2012 that eliminated all federal commercial licensing, permitting, and inspection requirements for farm vehicles and trailers operated within 150 miles of a farmer's farm, and

WHEREAS, trucks have dramatically increased their safe towing capacity and stock trailers have similarly added new safety features; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support

legislation to allow farmers and ranchers to operate trucks and stock trailers greater than 26,000 lbs. GCWR with a non-commercial Class C Driver's license or a restricted/non-commercial Class A Driver's license, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work to exempt trucks and stock trailers used in agriculture from commercial permitting and inspection requirements that are mandated under California law or by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

### **23-01 LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING**

WHEREAS, rural crime, in particular livestock theft, remains a problem for rural communities and livestock theft seminars are useful in helping individuals catch cattle thieves and gain the special knowledge, expertise, and skills necessary for prevention, investigation, and prosecution of these crimes; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) work with the Bureau of Livestock Identification, the California Rural Crime Prevention Task Force, and other law enforcement organizations to assist in the preparation of the livestock theft portions of the rural crime prevention curriculum, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with law enforcement organizations to continue to support theft prevention seminars, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage law enforcement organizations to include information in the curriculum related to the nature of actual thefts in the areas where the seminars are held and encourage the involvement of local law enforcement officials and local association personnel in livestock theft prevention seminars.

### **23-02 TRUCK WEIGHT AND LENGTH STANDARDIZATION**

WHEREAS, there is a variance in state laws regulating the maximum weight and length limits on trucks, causing inconvenience, confusion, and economic loss to truckers and shippers; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts to standardize truck length and weights for vehicles used on federal, state, and county public roads.

### **23-03 SHIPMENT OF CATTLE FROM HAWAII**

WHEREAS, Hawaii cattlemen ship more than 70,000 head of calves to the mainland annually, primarily to California, and

WHEREAS, the most humane and practical method of livestock shipment is the use of livestock carriers and there are no such U.S. carriers, necessitating the use of foreign livestock carriers, and

WHEREAS, the Jones Act prohibits the use of these foreign livestock carriers between Hawaii and the U.S. mainland; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to support reform of the Jones Act to allow the use of foreign livestock carriers to ship cattle between Hawaii and the U.S. mainland.

#### **23-04 USE OF REGISTERED BRANDS FOR SOURCE IDENTIFICATION**

WHEREAS, the beef cattle industries in California and other states have in place an effective livestock ownership identification program based on the registration of a hot iron brand that can be and is used to track cattle ownership from weaning to slaughter; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association continue to support California's registered hot iron brand system and the activities of the Bureau of Livestock Identification.

#### **23-05 SUPPORT OF THE USDA FOR FOOD INSPECTION**

WHEREAS, the federal government has in the past discussed the transfer of meat and poultry inspection responsibilities from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and

WHEREAS, the USDA presently has the field force and responsibility for food inspection, and

WHEREAS, the USDA has the ability to integrate the protection of consumers' food supply from the farm or ranch to the retailer, and

WHEREAS, the USDA has a reputation for working with industry to solve problems on a cooperative basis; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service having sole jurisdiction of the inspection of meat and poultry.

#### **23-06 CALIFORNIA COLLEGES' AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION LANDS AND FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges lands and facilities are being diverted away from agricultural education for other uses; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support agricultural schools and their production lands and facilities used for agricultural education.

#### **23-07 CCA RANGE CATTLE PRODUCTION INTERNSHIPS**

WHEREAS, more agricultural students are coming from urban backgrounds, and

WHEREAS, practical experience is a necessary part of their college education, and

WHEREAS, student interns need financial assistance to defray expenses in order to commit to a full academic quarter internship; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support student internships at educational agricultural facilities in California.



## **23-08 SUPPORT REFILLING OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ADVISOR POSITIONS**

WHEREAS, University of California Cooperative Extension Service provides important science-based information to livestock producers and natural resource managers, and

WHEREAS, these advisors provide the only access to many residents of rural California to the resources of the University of California, and

WHEREAS, these advisors contribute to economic development locally and provide important assistance on agriculture and natural resource sustainability; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that California Cattlemen's Association officers and staff enter into dialogue with UC Cooperative Extension leadership to accelerate the filling of vacant positions.

## **24-01 TRANSPORTATION: HAZARDOUS MATERIAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, regulation of hazardous materials transportation is increasing, and

WHEREAS, hazardous material endorsements for all classes of licenses are unnecessary for agricultural operations, and

WHEREAS, existing law contains authority for an agricultural hazardous materials certification program; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with other agricultural organizations to minimize the impact of hazardous materials endorsements on all classes of licenses.

## **24-02 U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support efforts to improve the accuracy of the U.S. Drought Monitor by taking steps to adjust its criteria used to determine a county's drought classification so as to be consistent with actual on-the-ground conditions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support efforts by the National Drought Mitigation Center to establish a formalized system to more readily accept data submitted from local researchers and federal and state agencies to be used by staff when making drought classifications.

## **24-03 WINTERIZING BIODIESEL**

WHEREAS, current California legislation prevents the use of winterizing additives in biodiesel, and

WHEREAS, northeastern California counties have experienced diesel engine failures during severe cold weather events such as school buses being stranded on rural roads and feed trucks and tractors that will not run to deliver feed to livestock during these critical times; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support legislation to allow effective winterizing products to be reinstated and made available to ensure reliable operation of diesel engines.

#### **24-04 OPPOSITION TO THE REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS**

WHEREAS, firearms are an important tool used by ranchers in the livestock business to protect livestock from predators and for other necessary means, and

WHEREAS, California requires the registration of all firearms sold or transferred by a dealer or private party; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose any further legislation aimed at strengthening the requirements for the registration of firearms.

#### **24-05 ALTERNATIVE PROTEIN PRODUCTS**

WHEREAS, beef is an important food source for human consumption, and

WHEREAS, beef is a meat product and should be differentiated in the marketplace from protein alternatives; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to support federal legislation requiring that plant-based and cell-cultured products have fair and accurate labeling, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Department of Agriculture have the authority to enforce such provisions.

## ***CATTLE HEALTH & WELL-BEING***

### **20-01 SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTERS**

WHEREAS, funding for critical research in food animals has been declining for many years and infectious diseases, metabolic diseases, toxicities, and deficiency diseases have increased in complexity and importance, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other governmental support for programs to address the above issues has been increasingly unavailable to state and regional authorities and regional disease problems such as Epizootic Bovine Abortion, Trichomonosis, and others have been left unfunded, and

WHEREAS, there is an acute need for federal funding of regional veterinary medical centers to address the needs of research, teaching, producer support, diagnostics, and training of food animal veterinarians; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association and National Cattlemen's Beef Association actively support plans for the development of regional veterinary facilities and vigorously request the necessary funding from Congress.

### **20-02 VETERINARIANS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, there is a chronic lack of veterinarians in rural areas of the United States and the economics of viable practice have been inadequate to support rural veterinarians, and

WHEREAS, the interests of rural communities, cattle producers, and local governments would be better served if appropriately trained veterinarians were recruited and encouraged to consider food animal practice, and

WHEREAS, a combination of federal support programs, state and county programs, and strategic training of veterinarians could facilitate location of veterinarians in rural communities; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, other appropriate groups, and Congress to develop, support and aid in funding the acceptance into vet school, education, and placement of veterinarians in rural communities.

### **20-03 ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY**

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) continues to be an industry-leading organization on animal identification issues, and

WHEREAS, intrastate and interstate animal identification plans are being developed for the purpose of establishing a means to ensure animal disease traceability, and

WHEREAS, the cattle industry and state and federal animal health officials should be empowered to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies, and

WHEREAS, the industry is placing renewed emphasis on preventing the introduction of foreign

animal diseases of concern, and

WHEREAS, U.S. beef exports to certain countries have suffered due to the absence of an animal disease traceability program, and

WHEREAS, the proposed U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Animal Disease Traceability Framework does not eliminate the need for continued brand inspection programs; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA be at the forefront of discussions on any animal disease traceability program(s) requiring animal identification and maintain that any such regulations imposed at the state and/or federal level adhere to the following criteria:

1. Additional costs to the beef and dairy industry must be minimized, allowing low cost visual or electronic official tagging devices paid for by federal or state funds, if possible.
2. Any information relative to cattle identification information should be under the control of state animal health officials and kept confidential and strongly protected from disclosure.
3. The system must operate at the speed of commerce.
4. The priority animals for participation in the individual identification framework are sexually intact cattle older than 12 months. Cattle herd movement between adjoining states on pasture-to-pasture permits should be allowed to continue at the discretion of the state animal health officials involved.
5. Producers must be protected from liability for acts of others after cattle have left their control.
6. The purpose of the animal disease traceability system should be solely animal disease surveillance, control, and eradication. The only data required to be collected should be that necessary to accomplish this goal.
7. Encourage producers to apply official identification at the herd of origin if destined for interstate movement.
8. The animal data management system does not replace or impede existing state brand inspection activities.

#### **20-04 SUPPORT OF RODEO ACTIVITIES AND PROFESSIONAL RODEO COWBOYS ASSOCIATION HUMANE GUIDELINES**

WHEREAS, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) has established guidelines on the care and handling of rodeo stock for competition as stated in the PRCA humane guidelines, and

WHEREAS, PRCA has conducted scientific studies and compiled statistics on animal welfare to establish the humane guidelines for the handling and care of rodeo livestock; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association will encourage all rodeo events to follow the PRCA humane guidelines.

#### **20-05 USE OF ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, there are no viable substitutes for animal metabolic and physiological systems in the study of disease, immunology, and physical and reproductive functions, and

WHEREAS, the humane use of animals for research is essential to both animal and human disease control, prophylaxes, and therapy, and

WHEREAS, animal health research has been responsible for maintaining and improving the health and quality of life for humans and animals; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the continued availability of animals for use in human and animal research.

#### **21-01 SELENIUM SUPPLEMENTATION NEEDS FOR HEALTHY CATTLE**

WHEREAS, selenium is a required nutrient for all animals, including cattle and wildlife, and

WHEREAS, selenium deficient cattle die, suffer muscular pain, grow slowly, and reproduce poorly without adequate selenium supplementation, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 25 percent of U.S. cattle are raised in selenium deficient areas, and

WHEREAS, in known deficient areas such as California, blood tests indicate as much as 40 percent of cattle suffer selenium deficiencies, and

WHEREAS, the present U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved selenium supplementation levels of 120 ppm/3 mg/0.3 ppm are barely adequate, and

WHEREAS, there is California research data to show that selenium supplemented cattle do not pose a selenium contamination risk to stream areas; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support any effort to maintain or increase the present levels of permitted selenium supplementation.

#### **21-02 VETERINARY STUDENTS**

WHEREAS, good veterinarians with broad experience in beef cattle production will always be needed, and

WHEREAS, there are insufficient numbers of students entering veterinary school with that beef experience, and

WHEREAS, efforts to attract veterinary students to food animal careers and provide them with experiences within the beef industry are essential to graduating the veterinarians we all need; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis to develop a program of summer fellowships to place veterinary students on cattle operations to gain experience and understanding of industry issues and practices.

#### **21-03 FACE FLY IMPACT ON CATTLE INDUSTRY**

WHEREAS, face flies cause considerable irritation and blindness to cattle, resulting in much stress, and

WHEREAS, the deteriorating health and well-being of cattle resulting from face flies causes considerable economic loss to the livestock industry, and

WHEREAS, the industry has been successful in the past garnering support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the veterinary science community, and pharmaceutical companies to bring about controls and/or eradication of other animal health pests; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and appropriate University of California and USDA staff to support research efforts toward effective control and management of the face fly.

#### **21-04 BVD CONTROL**

WHEREAS, Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) is a contagious viral disease that causes large economic losses to the cattle industry each year, and

WHEREAS, BVD can cause reproductive losses, decreased weight gain, and increased death loss in feedlots, and

WHEREAS, BVD can better be controlled by bio-security, herd screening, and vaccinations, and

WHEREAS, BVD is contracted from a persistently-infected animal that may show no signs of clinical disease but can be identified by testing, and

WHEREAS, other western states are implementing successful voluntary BVD control programs; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association urge veterinarians, producers, and others (UC Davis, Cooperative Extension, etc.) to support a voluntary BVD control program for California producers.

#### **21-05 CALIFORNIA SPECIFIC RESEARCH**

WHEREAS, cattle production systems require specific, science-based information to be competitive, and

WHEREAS, information specific to California must be developed by researchers working with California producers; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association actively encourage individual California beef producers to provide access to their herds and to work with university researchers and other researchers to develop science based information that will be disseminated to all California producers.

#### **21-06 LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT & ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS**

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) believes it is the responsibility of each rancher to manage livestock in a humane manner, and

WHEREAS, CCA also believes in the right of each individual rancher to identify and exercise the

animal care practices that are most appropriate for his or her operation, and

WHEREAS, cattle production practices in use today are necessary to meet identification, beef quality, food safety, and animal welfare purposes for California ranchers; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support additional research to identify and test alternative cattle production practices that maintain the highest standards for animal welfare without resulting in additional costs to producers, losses in production, or mandates of specific animal handling practices, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage other cattle industry groups to also support and help fund such projects to make additional options available to the nation's ranchers.

## **21-07 REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

WHEREAS, it is critical for beef cattle producers to have access to licensed veterinarians who provide quality care to help maintain cattle health, welfare, and productivity, and

WHEREAS, the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act (VMPA) is administered by the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) and governs the practice of veterinary medicine in California, and

WHEREAS, under California law the VMB is responsible for investigating complaints from animal owners against both licensed veterinarians and unqualified individuals, and

WHEREAS, the VMPA allows for broad exemptions for cattle owners and their employees to engage in the treatment and care of their animals; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) oppose any effort to eliminate or modify the owner exemption in the VMPA, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support streamlining the certification of veterinary technicians to aid veterinarians in performing procedures critical for animal health and animal welfare.

## **21-08 CATTLE HANDLING EQUIPMENT DESIGN**

WHEREAS, administration of injectable biologics in the neck area has been shown to be desirable; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association encourages manufacturers to continue to use designs which accommodate ease of administration of injectables in the neck area, to promote worker safety and beef quality.

## **21-09 RESPONSE TO ANIMAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

WHEREAS, there is an expanding interest among consumers regarding humane treatment of all animals, including domestic livestock, and

WHEREAS, this well-intentioned but often misinformed interest on the part of non-ranching public could easily be carried to such lengths as to impede the efficient and economical production of livestock for food, and

WHEREAS, a broad-based, unified educational effort of producers and consumers is most likely to be effective in preserving the opportunity for livestock producers to continue their current efficient and humane production methods; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports the concept of both a statewide and a national program of educating the general public as to the methods of treatment and handling of domestically produced livestock that meet industry Beef Quality Assurance standards.

## **21-10 REVIEW OF CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is interested in promoting responsible, humane treatment of livestock, and

WHEREAS, universities and state colleges are involved in preparing information on animal care practices, and

WHEREAS, CCA supports this activity as it is in the best interest of both groups to work together on this issue; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA cooperate with the universities and state colleges to provide the opportunity for industry review, producer participation and input prior to publication and release to the general public and that the universities and state colleges provide regular updates on research related projects to CCA as they develop.

## **22-01 CCA SUPPORT FOR U.C. DAVIS SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

WHEREAS, the beef cattle industry relies on high-quality veterinary medical expertise to continue maintaining cattle health and welfare at a high level, producing high quality food, and

WHEREAS, the need for well-trained veterinarians for the beef cattle industry continues, and

WHEREAS, the U.C. School of Veterinary Medicine has traditionally produced very highly trained food animal veterinarians, and

WHEREAS, additional support is needed for food animal veterinarian training programs at our land grant universities that specifically address the needs of the beef cattle industry; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) urge the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to achieve and maintain a critical mass of faculty and other supporting resources needed to graduate veterinarians that can aid the beef cattle industry and to conduct appropriate research to address beef cattle industry problems, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA urge the University of California, Davis and other appropriate agencies, including the California Legislature, to increase support for veterinary medical education, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine's efforts to increase their production of high-quality veterinarians for the beef cattle animal industry that are essential to protect public health and ensure a safe food supply.



## **22-02 PINKEYE VACCINE**

WHEREAS, the U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine has worked to develop an effective vaccine for Pinkeye in cattle, and

WHEREAS, Pinkeye is one of the most economically important diseases of beef cattle and on the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) list of highest priority diseases of beef cattle; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA strongly support the University of California continuing to make this vaccine technology available in order to continue to develop and improve the commercial sale of functional vaccines.

## **22-03 ADMINISTRATIVE FINES FOR VIOLATING ANIMAL HEALTH REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) regulations in California are in place for the protection of the cattle industry, and

WHEREAS, violations of those regulations put all of the cattle industry at risk, and

WHEREAS, appropriate means to discourage or penalize violations should be available to CDFA; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the authority of CDFA to directly pursue administrative fines for violations of cattle health regulations currently established by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 per violation.

## **22-04 CLONING**

WHEREAS, the development of cloning technology has the potential to bring rapid and dramatic genetic change to our industry, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, with the backing of over 200 prominent scientists, has developed a risk assessment determining that beef and beef products from cloned animals and their progeny are not any different from any other beef products on the market; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) oppose any attempt to label beef and beef products from cloned animals and their progeny differently than beef and beef products from non-cloned animals, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA continue to support solid research and sound science when making decisions regarding the development of cloning technology as an additional assisted reproductive technology that can be used in the beef industry.

## **22-05 ALTERNATIVE FEEDSTUFFS**

WHEREAS, poultry litter is a by-product occasionally fed to cattle, and

WHEREAS, poultry litter contains feeds that may include ruminant derived feed products; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) urge

industry educators to discourage the practice of feeding poultry litter and acknowledge its more beneficial use as a fertilizer in those regions of the country where the product use is concentrated, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work to discontinue the feeding of poultry litter to cattle.

## **22-06 CALIFORNIA ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY LABORATORY SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory system (CAHFS) headquartered at the University of California, Davis is a critical and necessary entity to detect and respond to animal health diseases that can devastate commercial livestock production, and

WHEREAS, California livestock producers are fortunate to have a state-of-the-art laboratory in California and the closest labs that are capable of providing equivalent services are U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratories located in Ames, Iowa and Plum Island, New York, and

WHEREAS, the ability to quickly detect, respond to, and eradicate harmful animal health diseases or food safety concerns is critical to maintaining international markets and trade for U.S. beef, and

WHEREAS, CAHFS is under contract with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to serve as the state animal health laboratory and thus a large portion of the lab's budget is sustained by state general funds, and

WHEREAS, the loss of the lab system in California would severely weaken California's front line defense to detect, respond to, and eliminate harmful animal health diseases and would threaten the long-term economic health of the California cattle industry and food safety; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) work to maintain the short and long-term economic health of the CAHFS system and corresponding services provided by CDFA's Animal Health Branch to avoid the elimination of lab services, lab closures, or negative impacts to California's general emergency response capabilities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with the lab, CDFA, and other stakeholders to explore new funding pathways for the lab that do not depend solely on state general funds and can provide a consistent funding source for the lab in future years.

## **22-07 HANDLING OF CATTLE WITH OCULAR ISSUES**

WHEREAS, consumer protection is paramount to gaining the trust of the public, and

WHEREAS, the image of the cattle industry is paramount to gaining the trust of the consumer, and

WHEREAS, some cattle producers are still selling cattle with severely ulcerated eyes in the state, and

WHEREAS, the practice of merchandising these cattle with severely ulcerated eyes is not necessary or vital to the economics of this industry nor in line with the California Beef Cattle Production Code of Ethics; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association continue to take the lead role in rigorously supporting a ban on the merchandising of cattle with severely ulcerated eyes and urge producers to either aggressively treat ocular condition upon first identification or cull such cattle in a timely manner.

#### **22-08 MINERAL SUPPLEMENTATION TO PROVIDE FOR CATTLE WELFARE AND ENSURE BEEF QUALITY**

WHEREAS, trace mineral deficiencies are widespread in California and the United States according to scientific surveys such as those published by National Animal Health Monitoring System, and

WHEREAS, trace mineral deficiencies such as selenium and copper decrease cattle health, cattle productivity, cattle immune responses, and increase the need for drug treatments in cattle, and

WHEREAS, the combined effects of trace mineral deficiencies decrease beef quality and increase costs of production; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association urge the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to adopt policies to strongly encourage the Food and Drug Administration and other appropriate federal regulatory agencies to facilitate rapid adoption of new products that are safe and effective for preventing mineral deficiencies in cattle, particularly grazing beef cattle.

#### **22-09 COMPOSTING ANIMAL CARCASSES**

WHEREAS, the ability to dispose of dead cattle carcasses has become more difficult due to a shortage of rendering facilities that serve cattle producers across all regions of the state, and

WHEREAS, removal of livestock carcasses and bone piles is a suggested nonlethal method to reduce predator livestock conflict, and

WHEREAS, the flexibility to dispose of carcasses in manners other than contracting with a rendering facility are limited by state law and regulation, unless a state of emergency is declared, and

WHEREAS, a state of emergency declaration authorizes cattle producers to utilize alternative disposal methods to dispose of carcasses, including the ability to compost mammalian flesh, organs, unprocessed hide, blood, bone, and marrow which otherwise is prohibited under state law, and

WHEREAS, preliminary research has demonstrated that composting carcasses through the use of scientifically developed best management practices may provide for a safe and cost effective disposal practice; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support pilot projects in California to further explore the feasibility and safety of composting carcasses as a common and legal disposal practice, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with interested stakeholders, particularly the Pacific Coast Rendering Association, to ensure that the exploration and development of new common disposal practices, including composting, do not economically harm California's already shrinking rendering industry, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the use of public and private funds to facilitate carcass composting research projects, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, following the completion of the pilot project, CCA seek legislative or regulatory remedies to allow for the onsite composting of animal carcasses where rendering services are not available or such services are not economically feasible.

### **23-01 BLUETONGUE RESEARCH IN CALIFORNIA CATTLE**

WHEREAS, Bluetongue is a disease with the potential to significantly impact the health of livestock in California and the United States, and

WHEREAS, Bluetongue research needs to be completed for the betterment of the United States livestock industry; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) urge the United States Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Research Service (USDA-ARS) to continue research funding for Bluetongue, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA urges USDA-ARS to continue developing adequate protocols for the efficient test for all animals entering the United States, where appropriate, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA continue to urge the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to manage Bluetongue in wild ungulates.

### **23-02 TRICHOMONOSIS RESEARCH**

WHEREAS, trichomonosis is a serious venereal disease in cattle, and

WHEREAS, trichomonosis causes severe economic loss to California cattle producers, and

WHEREAS, Food and Drug Administration approved medical treatments are not available to prevent or cure the disease, and

WHEREAS, the development of a faster, more efficient test for the diagnosis of trichomonosis would benefit California ranchers with better methods for detecting the disease and eliminating infected animals; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts by the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis and the United States Department of Agriculture to research improved testing methods and develop a more effective method for treatment and prevention of bovine trichomonosis.

### **23-03 PROTECTION FROM FOREIGN DISEASES**

WHEREAS, California is extremely vulnerable to the importation of foreign diseases due to its geographic location and type of cattle industry; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association urge the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture to

continue to provide special surveillance and protection to prevent the importation of foreign disease into California and the United States by international visitors.

#### **23-04 REGULATION AND USE OF BIOLOGICALS**

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulates the manufacturing of animal biologicals; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) work to maintain regulatory authority of animal biologicals by the USDA, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose any change in law or regulation which would restrict the present access to or availability of animal biologicals, except when the changes are supported by clear scientific evidence done on relevant species.

#### **23-05 REGULATION AND CONTROL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS**

WHEREAS, there appear to be overlapping jurisdictions and a lack of clear-cut authority among federal agencies as to which agency is responsible for regulation of the emerging biotechnology products (such as sub-unit vaccines, monoclonal antibodies, etc.) to be used in the production of livestock, and

WHEREAS, these new biotechnology products are of vital interest to the animal health services provided to the livestock industry, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) already has prime responsibility for animal health control and regulation, including biologics for use in animals, and

WHEREAS, regulation and control of biotechnology products for animal use by the USDA would avoid establishing new, expensive, duplicative commissions within federal agencies; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that where it is necessary to regulate or control the development or use of biotechnology products, the California Cattlemen's Association supports these functions being assumed by existing animal health divisions within the California Department of Food and Agriculture and USDA.

#### **23-06 DISEASE CONTROL RESPONSIBILITIES - FARMED EXOTIC ANIMALS**

WHEREAS, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is responsible for disease control and prevention in California farmed animals, and

WHEREAS, CDFA is the only state agency equipped and staffed for this work, and

WHEREAS, it is unreasonable to duplicate these capabilities in other state organizations; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support CDFA as the sole state agency responsible for control and prevention of disease in any farmed exotic animals in California.

#### **23-07 CONTROL OF JOHNE'S DISEASE**

WHEREAS, Johne's disease is becoming more widely recognized in California and is a slowly

progressive disease of ruminants, and

WHEREAS, all beef producers need to be concerned about Johne's disease and the devastating economic impact on producers, and

WHEREAS, the diagnosis of Johne's disease in young cattle under two years of age is extremely difficult; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work aggressively with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and United States Department of Agriculture to reduce the incidence of Johne's disease, to promote all educational efforts possible with regard to Johne's disease control and herd certification for California cattle producers, and support the National Cattlemen's Beef Association in all efforts to control Johne's disease.

### **23-08 USE OF BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE TO MANAGE AND CONTROL BSE**

WHEREAS, an outbreak of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in the United States would be economically devastating to beef cattle producers and devastating to beef consumers' confidence, and

WHEREAS, any change in the current standards established by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) could create a greater risk of BSE occurrence in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the WOAH currently sets the international standards for BSE risk assessment; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association urge all agencies and organizations to use the best available science to set BSE control standards that work towards zero tolerance.

### **23-09 TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION**

WHEREAS, Tuberculosis is a zoonotic disease that can affect cattle, humans, and many other species, and

WHEREAS, control of Tuberculosis is dependent upon adequate surveillance of appropriate populations of cattle, humans, and other species, and

WHEREAS, current Tuberculosis outbreaks affect many non-infected producers and herds and cost millions of dollars for testing and quarantine; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other necessary agencies to develop newer epidemiological methods that improve Tuberculosis detection in live cattle and ensure federal and state regulations do not place burdensome requirements on California beef cattle producers seeking to ship cattle interstate.

### **23-10 DISABLED (DOWNER, NON-AMBULATORY) CATTLE NOT TO BE USED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

WHEREAS, with current technology and transportation methods it is not possible to manage and handle disabled (downer, non-ambulatory) cattle in a humane manner, and

WHEREAS, disabled cattle may have current infectious diseases and, because of stress and unsanitary conditions, are susceptible to additional bacterial diseases and bacterial contamination of their hides and carcasses, and

WHEREAS, our current live animal inspection methods are not sensitive enough to differentiate diseased disabled cattle from non-diseased cattle, thus increasing the possibility of introducing pathogens into our meat supply; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association continue to support policies to prohibit the slaughter of disabled (downer, non-ambulatory) cattle for human consumption in California and the United States.

#### **24-01 SUPPORT FOR BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION AND PREVENTION**

WHEREAS, Brucellosis is a costly and devastating disease of cattle, wildlife, and humans, and

WHEREAS, Brucellosis, although isolated, continues to be a problem in the greater Yellowstone area, and

WHEREAS, calf-hood vaccination is an important tool to prevent the spread of Brucellosis; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support surveillance programs to prevent the introduction and reintroduction of Brucellosis into our livestock herds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA strongly encourage all California ranchers to vaccinate beef heifers that will be added to the breeding herd and support voluntary interstate and intrastate calf-hood vaccination programs specifically for intact females of beef breeds to prevent Brucellosis in our livestock herds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support efforts in other states for the complete eradication and prevention of Brucellosis, including eradication in the cattle and wildlife herds in the greater Yellowstone area and elsewhere, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the lawful use of the RB51 vaccine in California for mature vaccination in instances where calf-hood vaccination was not utilized and mature vaccination will not jeopardize California's "Brucellosis Free" status, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the development and implementation of other science-based regulations to aid in control of Brucellosis and to provide economic benefits to producers.

#### **24-02 TUBERCULOSIS RULES ON U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER**

WHEREAS, bovine tuberculosis is a continuing problem on the United States-Mexican Border, and

WHEREAS, the free movement of disease-free cattle is important to the livestock industry, and

WHEREAS, the prevention of the reintroduction of tuberculosis is paramount in the minds of U.S. cattlemen, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. cattle industry is very experienced in the prevention, control, and eradication of tuberculosis and is willing and anxious to share this experience with Mexican producers and government, and

WHEREAS, it is important that uniform rules and regulations for tuberculosis be continued on the Mexican border for the benefit of U.S. and Mexican cattle producers; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop and implement methods to permanently identify, trace, and annually test Mexican origin exhibition steers and bulls for tuberculosis.

#### **24-03 CALIFORNIA TRICHOMONOSIS REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, California livestock producers fully endorse the high standards of animal health and disease traceability, and

WHEREAS, current California Trichomonosis regulations require any bull over 18 months of age sold at a public livestock auction market to be sold only for slaughter unless accompanied by a negative Trichomonosis test, and

WHEREAS, the regulations in place have not only served to control the spread of Trichomonosis but have also educated the cattle industry on economic losses associated with Trichomonosis and the importance of testing bulls regularly to prevent exposure; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support regulations promulgated by the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) that requires all bulls over 18 months of age at change of ownership to be sold solely for slaughter unless accompanied by a negative Trichomonosis test within sixty days prior to sale, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the adoption of a mandatory color-coded identification program for bulls that have been tested and that annual ear tag colors adhere to the ear tag colors prescribed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Nevada Department of Agriculture, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support specific provisions administered and enforced by CDFA that may, only under the following circumstances, exempt bulls from the Trichomonosis test requirements at change of ownership:

- (1) Bulls used solely for exhibition purposes and which remain under confinement at the location of the exhibition without having access to, or being allowed to commingle with, sexually intact female cattle; or
- (2) Used solely for artificial insemination using semen extension and preservation protocols that meet Certified Semen Services standards; or
- (3) Sold only for slaughter to a recognized buyer with a signed bull slaughter channel agreement provided by CDFA or to a feedlot where cattle are fed solely for slaughter, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA also support:

- That upon the identification of a Trichomonosis-positive bull, all herd-mate bulls shall be



required to have one PCR test conducted at the owner's expense and that the same standard shall be applied upon the identification of a Trichomonosis-positive cow;

- That upon the identification of a Trichomonosis-positive bull or cow, CDFA shall conduct an investigation to identify all herds that were potentially exposed to the infected herd and will require an initial test of the bulls, at the owner's expense, in herds determined to have been exposed. CDFA shall also provide information to the owner of those herds that have been potentially exposed of what specific herd caused the exposure; and
- That all Trichomonosis diagnostic tests will be official tests, which must be administered by a certified veterinarian, cultured in a certified laboratory, and be reported to CDFA, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support appropriate research seeking to find an efficient and cost-effective Trichomonosis test for cows.

#### **24-04 ANTIBIOTIC USE**

WHEREAS, antibiotics are important animal health tools for prevention, control, and treatment in all segments of beef production, and

WHEREAS, the issue of antibiotic resistance is universally accepted in the scientific community as a real threat to the health of people and livestock, and

WHEREAS, while the extent to which antibiotic resistance in animal agriculture contributes to human infections is not known, the risk to human health proposed by the agricultural use of antibiotics are appropriately a matter of very serious concern, and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that beef producers maintain the ability to continue to use antibiotics for treatment, prevention and control of disease; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA):

- Urges all beef producers to recognize the serious nature of antibiotic resistance and practice careful and judicious use of antibiotics to preserve antibiotics as an important tool for human and animal health, promote stewardship, and protect animal welfare;
- Recognizes that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration expects veterinary oversight regarding the use of all medically important antibiotics, and that most cattle producers have established veterinary/client relationships;
- Encourage all producers to establish a veterinary/client relationship;
- Support and encourage the development of alternatives to the traditional use of antibiotics in all phases of beef production; and
- Participate, as appropriate, in any development of a national methodology that is practical to track antibiotic use that protects veterinarian/client/patient relationships.

#### **24-05 CALIFORNIA BEEF CATTLE INDUSTRY PRODUCTION CODE OF ETHICS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association urge all members to take and uphold the provisions of the following pledge:

As a cattle producer, I recognize that my livelihood and my way of life are dependent upon the wise stewardship of livestock and natural resources. I pledge to meet the following standards:

- Produce a quality, wholesome, nutritious product.
- Provide a high standard of livestock health.
- Manage livestock purposefully in a humane and ethical manner that prevents suffering and minimizes pain or distress.
- Use and maintain transportation and handling facilities that provide livestock health and safety.
- Provide routine observation of livestock for the animals' health and well-being.
- Provide feed and water to maintain livestock health and productivity.
- Consult with a licensed veterinarian concerning health care practices.
- Provide that harvest of animals for food always be conducted in a humane fashion.
- Use approved livestock health products according to the label directions.
- Sustain and conserve natural resources by proper management of land, air, water, and wildlife.
- Support and maintain rural and family traditions important to our society.

I further pledge to support my profession and those who subscribe to the above principles.

#### **24-06 ETHICAL LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND RESOURCE USE**

WHEREAS, on occasion, beef producers are faced with issues where an individual has not kept with generally recognized business and livestock management practices, and

WHEREAS, all beef producers must bear the brunt of regulatory action and public ill-will over the misguided and inappropriate action of a few; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) call upon and urge cattle producers to follow accepted livestock and business management practices in animal health, animal welfare, grazing practices, co-existence with wildlife, and use of water and waste management, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA shall not be compelled to defend anyone in beef cattle production who has clearly acted to abuse livestock, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA may determine that the best interest of cattle producers is served by supporting action from appropriate local, state, or federal agencies against those who abuse livestock under their control.

#### **24-07 SUPPORT OF ANIMAL CARE GUIDELINES**

WHEREAS, Beef Quality Assurance is an effective educational tool for producers, students, and the public, and

WHEREAS, it is an effective marketing tool for producers; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Animal Care guidelines.

#### ***ASSESSMENT OF TRICHOMONOSIS REGULATIONS – Staff Directive***

*BE IT DIRECTED, that California Cattlemen's Association staff reach out to the California Department of Food and Agriculture to assess the status of current regulations and enforcement of such regulations regarding trichomonosis testing.*

# ***CATTLE MARKETING & INTERNATIONAL TRADE***

## **20-01 VALUE-BASED MARKETING**

WHEREAS, there has been substantial interest in moving towards a value-based marketing system and strategic alliances; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose any regulations, legislation, or policies that limit methods of marketing cattle.

## **21-01 SOURCE AND AGE VERIFICATION**

WHEREAS, source and age verification is required to access export markets, and has proven potential to add value to cow/calf producers, and

WHEREAS, source and age verification is voluntary; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association strongly support, urge, and assist cow/calf producers to source and age verify their calf crop.

## **22-01 PROMPT PAYMENT TIMING AND ELECTRONIC PAYMENT**

WHEREAS, the Packers and Stockyards Act requires that covered entities (packers, market agencies selling on commission, and dealers), by the close of the next business day following a sale, either actually deliver a check or initiate payment through a check in the mail, wire transfer, or other expeditious method determined appropriate by the Secretary, and

WHEREAS, slowing mail service has created issues with checks sent in the mail being received in a timely manner, and

WHEREAS, providing opportunities to initiate electronic payment later than the close of the next business day may lead to payment being received more quickly; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support amending 7 U.S.C. § 228(b) to allow for regulated entities to meet prompt payment requirements by sending a push automated clearing house (ACH) transfer by the close of the second business day or a wire transfer by the close of the third business day following a sale, in addition to the current option of mailing a check by the close of the next business day.

## **23-01 CARCASS OF MERIT**

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) believes that the Carcass of Merit program, sponsored by the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association, is a worthy project that should receive financial assistance, and that all cattle that are entered in the contest should participate in the carcass evaluation; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA continue to assist in sponsoring this program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA request that all animals entering any carcass contest be slaughtered at the same inspected slaughtering facility designated by each contest to enable all carcasses

to be evaluated or use ultrasound technology to determine carcass attributes.

## **24-01 LIVESTOCK SELLERS PROTECTION LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, livestock sellers need protection from non-payment for their livestock by purchasers; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the introduction and passage of legislation that would amend the Packers and Stockyards Act to include a Dealer Trust similar to that which now exists for meat and poultry packers.

## **24-02 CONTINUED SUPPORT OF BEEF SAFETY RESEARCH**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association recommend continued research and development of acceptable beef safety technologies.

### ***ELECTRONIC LOGGING DEVICE – Staff Directive***

*WHEREAS, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration adopted regulations requiring the use of an electronic logging device (ELD) for use on trucks transporting all commodities, including livestock, beginning December 18, 2017, and*

*WHEREAS, livestock haulers must adhere to Hours of Service standards that regulate how long a single individual can operate a truck before taking a mandatory rest period, and*

*WHEREAS, strict enforcement of Hours of Service standards through the use of an ELD is likely to compromise animal welfare by forcing livestock to be transferred between trucks or remain on a trailer for an extended period of time while the driver rests, and*

*WHEREAS, California cattle producers are already operating in a strained cattle market and will become less competitive due to the additional freight costs incurred by the mandatory use of an ELD; now*

*THEREFORE, BE IT DIRECTED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to seek the following changes to federal regulations governing the mandatory use of an ELD or regulations governing the hours a single driver can operate a vehicle to provide additional flexibility including but not limited to:*

- Provide additional flexibility for livestock transporters by discounting time from an ELD that count against Hours of Service for time spent waiting to load and loading or unloading livestock, waiting in traffic, stuck in weather, etc.;*
- Revise the Hours of Service regulations to allow drivers to increase driving time beyond 14-hours of on duty time; and*
- Work to maintain the current congressionally mandated exemption for the use of an ELD by livestock haulers until federal Hours of Service regulations are appropriately amended.*

## ***FEDERAL LANDS***

### **20-01 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work to ensure that the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act at the state and federal level not delay or impede the maintenance of existing range infrastructure facilities nor the approval, construction, or maintenance of new range infrastructure facilities and/or range enhancement projects.

### **20-02 ANTI-GRAZING POLICIES OF STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support regulation and legislation to correct unwarranted anti-grazing policies of state and federal agencies and urge that the benefits of grazing as a land and resource management tool, including reduction of fire hazard, be constructively considered for all units administered by the government, and that state and federal agencies be required to show cause for reduction or elimination of grazing.

### **20-03 SUPPORT FOR THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOL AND COMMUNITIES SELF DETERMINATION ACT (PL 106-393)**

WHEREAS, the inclusion of lands within the National Forest System diminishes rural forest counties' tax bases, and

WHEREAS, rural forest counties' tax bases support essential community infrastructure, including schools and roads, and

WHEREAS, Public Law 106-393 provided relief from the diminishing tax base through the development of forest health improvement projects, stimulating job development and economic stability; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support legislation that continues and extends the operative provisions of PL 106-393.

### **21-01 PUBLIC RANGELANDS LEGISLATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association prioritize the issues addressed in legislative packages in the following manner:

#### Very Important Issues:

Recognition of grazing as a fuels management tool,  
Grazing fee formula,  
National Environmental Policy Act,  
Water rights,  
Public participation (protests, appeal rights, and effect of decisions),  
Standards and guidelines,  
Resource Advisory Councils,  
Resource Advisory Committees,  
Grazing Advisory Councils,  
Monitoring,  
Hunting and fishing access,

Monument and/or Wilderness Designation, and  
Wild horses and burros.

Important Issues:

Terms and conditions,  
Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management standardization, and  
Reports to Congress.

Support:

Cattle to sheep ratio in Animal Unit Months,  
State permits,  
Terms and conditions,  
Multiple use, and  
Public Land Access.

## **21-02 SUPPORT FOR CUTTING CIRCLES**

WHEREAS, the timber industry is an important part of local, rural economics which affect  
ranching families and their communities, and

WHEREAS, timber resources on U.S. Forest Service Land comprise a significant portion of the  
timber available for local sawmills, and

WHEREAS, Congress has authorized Forest Service cutting circles to provide a reliable,  
sustainable supply of timber to local sawmills, and

WHEREAS, lack of timber sales within these cutting circles has been economically damaging to  
local sawmills and communities and has reduced forage production; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports the  
implementation of Forest Service management actions which provide the reliable and sustainable harvest  
of timber within Forest Service cutting circles as authorized by Congress.

## **21-03 PUBLIC LAND WEED CONTROL**

WHEREAS, many private landowners have developed and implemented aggressive weed  
management programs, and

WHEREAS, many counties have developed weed management areas, and

WHEREAS, the effective control and management of weeds requires the cooperation of all  
landowners, including State and Federal agencies; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with  
appropriate lawmakers and public agencies to ensure that State and Federal agencies are actively  
implementing noxious weed programs that incorporate the best tools available (including herbicides) to  
combat noxious weeds.

## **22-01 WILDERNESS DESIGNATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support efforts to:

1. Review all lands classified as wilderness areas and wilderness study areas in California and remove from designation any land not meeting the wilderness classification,
2. Permit livestock grazing on all suitable wilderness land in California,
3. Prevent further designation of land into wilderness classification,
4. Release the 1.7 million acres presently designated for future planning in the 1984 California Wilderness Act, and
5. Oppose further national monument designation that does not consider livestock grazing on lands suited for grazing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Public Lands Council to pursue the same objectives.

## **22-02 PRESCRIBED BURNING FOR RANGE IMPROVEMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support policies that encourage the United States Department of Agriculture, Department of Interior, and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to increase prescribed burning activities on public lands, thus reducing wildfire potential and increasing public safety, water yield, livestock and wildlife habitat, and vegetative diversity, and that CCA encourage public agencies to include a plan for fuel load reduction in management plans.

## **22-03 WILD HORSES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support a Wild Horse and Burro program that provides for:

1. Immediate identification of appropriate management levels and removal of excess numbers of horses and burros, and
2. Authorization for sale (and immediate title transfer) or disposal of un-adopted wild horses and burros with sales receipts to be used in the Wild Horse and Burro Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the inclusion of the Forest Service when policies, legislation, and funding proposals are being developed that affect the management of wild horses.

## **22-04 LOCAL POLICE POWER CONTROL ON FEDERAL LAND POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 provides the Bureau of Land Management with authority similar to that of the U.S. Forest Service to enter into contracts with existing local law enforcement agencies to enforce laws on federal land; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts to ensure that county and local law enforcement agencies make all efforts to accept these contracts or develop other arrangements to retain police powers at the local level.

## **22-05 PROTECTION OF PRIVATE WATER RIGHTS ON FEDERAL LANDS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose the sale or transfer of water rights to the U.S. Forest Service or other federal land management agencies or state agencies.

## **22-06 OPEN RANGE FENCING**

BE IT RESOLVED, that, on private lands within Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management boundaries which were not fenced prior to 1928, the California Cattlemen's Association support regulations requiring the owner of the private land to build and maintain a legal fence around such private land if he or she wishes to exclude cattle from the property.

## **22-07 ACCELERATED LAND EXCHANGE POLICY**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support an accelerated process of exchange or sale of isolated tracts of public lands to adjacent landowners to provide for more efficient management of these land resources and a return to the economic base of the local area.

## **22-08 PUBLIC LANDS POLICY**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the following:

1. Maximizing grazing opportunities on all public lands regardless of agency or ownership,
2. Preventing further withdrawals of Federal multiple use lands so that the natural resources of grazing, timber, and minerals may be utilized under sound management practices,
3. Coordinated resource planning and participation as appropriate at the State and local levels,
4. The continued use of livestock grazing as a tool to manage rangeland vegetation and achieve a desired plant community on our public lands,
5. Publication of the positive impacts of grazing by the University of California Cooperative Extension and other organizations, and
6. Compensation to affected permittees for involuntary reductions in Animal Unit Months or season of use due to environmental restrictions beyond the control of permittees.

## **22-09 USFS/BLM FENCE CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management frequently require fencing to exclude livestock from areas they deem "sensitive," and

WHEREAS, the expense of building and maintaining fences frequently falls to the permittee;  
now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support efforts to shift fence construction and maintenance burdens back to the mandating federal land management agency that creates an exclusion of livestock use, and that CCA seek the support of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Public Lands Council in these efforts.

## **22-10 SAGE STEPPE RESTORATION**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have created a management plan to address the loss of Sage Steppe habitat, and

WHEREAS, restoration efforts would enhance range conditions throughout the management area,  
and

WHEREAS, fire could play a major role in the restoration of the Sage Steppe habitat, along with other viable restoration treatments; now



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the Sage Steppe Ecosystem Restoration Strategy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage both USFS and BLM to allocate money to implement the strategy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with both USFS and the BLM to coordinate with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in establishing "let burn" areas within the plan area.

### **23-01 PERMITTEE INPUT INTO PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT DECISIONS**

WHEREAS, Section 8 of Public Law 95-514 (Public Rangelands Improvement Act) specifically requires federal agency consultation, cooperation, and coordination with lessees, permittees, and landowners; the district grazing advisory boards; and state agencies with lands inside allotment boundaries during the development, revision, or evaluation of allotment management plans; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support formal Section 8 consultation policies with state and federal land management agencies to ensure permittee involvement in allotment management plans.

### **23-02 CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL ECONOMY AND LIFESTYLE IN PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) seek to draw the attention of public land administrators, congressional delegations, environmental organizations, and the general public to the importance of rural local economies, rural lifestyles, and cattle grazing in all future public land management decisions, and that CCA encourage the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Public Lands Council to similarly publicize these important considerations.

### **23-03 PUBLIC LANDS RANGE MONITORING FUNDING**

WHEREAS, all range management decisions on public lands are or will soon be based upon monitoring; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support a Congressional line item to be used solely for funding rangeland monitoring, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support policies requiring that this monitoring of resource conditions and trends on public lands be performed only by qualified persons (i.e. federal, state, and local government personnel, grazing permittees, and university personnel), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support policies requiring that the monitoring protocols be site specific, scientifically valid, and subject to peer review and that monitoring data be periodically verified.

### **23-04 VACANT GRAZING ALLOTMENTS**

WHEREAS, there are many vacant federal grazing allotments, and

WHEREAS, these vacant allotments are sources of increasing fine fuels, and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure to support grazing (fences, water development, etc.) is deteriorating; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that California Cattlemen's Association staff work with public land officials in California to expedite the reopening of vacant grazing allotments and issuance of permits to graze those allotments.

## **23-05 POST-FIRE GRAZING ON PUBLIC LANDS**

WHEREAS, grazing is an important component of post-fire recovery, and

WHEREAS, University of California Cooperative Extension research demonstrates that cattle grazing is a beneficial management tool for post-fire fuels management, and

WHEREAS, federal grazing permittees are unable to access the increase in vegetation after a fire because they are constrained by the language in their term grazing permit related to numbers of livestock, season of use, and duration, and

WHEREAS, these policy constraints are oftentimes in conflict with the reality of the post-fire forage that exists on the allotment, and

WHEREAS, this forage could be harvested without exceeding utilization standards, and

WHEREAS, lack of timely and appropriate grazing levels could result in an increase in invasive species and an unnatural buildup of fuels; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with appropriate legislators and agencies to develop a timely and efficient policy to graze to the agency standards and guidelines, rather than the current policy defined by permitted numbers and season of use, allowing for improved rangeland health and the reduction of hazardous fuel loads.

## **24-01 PERMITTEE ALLOTMENT MONITORING**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are promoting permittees conducting monitoring on their allotments rather than USFS and BLM personnel conducting this monitoring; and

WHEREAS, environmental groups and various state and federal agencies may question the validity of the data collected by permittees on their own allotments; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association strongly urge USFS and BLM to work with these groups and agencies to ensure and document these groups' and agencies' recognition of this monitoring program.

## **24-02 PERMIT BUYOUT**

WHEREAS, several groups whose expressed interest is to eliminate public lands grazing have proposed federal buyouts of public lands permits; and

WHEREAS, the economies of California counties dependent on public lands would suffer a severe negative impact as a result of buyouts; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose the buyout of any public lands grazing permits.

#### **24-03 REGULATORY RELIEF FOR PUBLIC LAND USERS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association actively support efforts to:

1. Grandfather grazing that is historic and ongoing on public lands.
2. Complete in a timely manner the analysis of ecological, archeological, water, and other resources in careful and considered consultation, coordination, and cooperation with permittees, local residents, and local and state governments, with full consideration of the customs and culture of the local region.
3. Streamline the process for transferring an existing grazing permit or acquiring a new grazing permit to reduce impacts on individual permittees and local communities.
4. Ensure that bureaucratic red tape or paperwork does not cause delay in the reauthorization, transfer, or acquisition of grazing permits.

#### **24-04 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support:

1. Local, state, and national alliances with other public land industries and groups to build a broad-based coalition to develop reasonable solutions to NEPA compliance and other public lands issues.
2. Legislation to establish the Forest Plan as the NEPA-sufficient document that authorizes grazing and that additional analysis is necessary only when new projects are planned.
3. The accelerated development and implementation of Allotment Management Plans on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service lands, which would make them consistent with the BLM and Forest Plan direction in compliance with NEPA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Public Lands Council, and their affiliates to pursue the same objectives.

#### **24-05 MONITORING POLICY**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support monitoring of precipitation, forage production, and utilization to be used to establish range trends over time and that this be the basis for narrative standards in federal range management decisions, including forage allocations and determination of stocking rates, and that CCA oppose the use of any range evaluation system using prescriptive standards such as strict percentage of utilization figures.

#### **24-06 U.S. RECOGNITION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS AND GRAZING PERMITTEES ON PUBLIC LAND**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) urge the United States

Congress to strengthen the rights of private property owners and grazing permittees and that CCA work with California's Congressional Delegation to ensure that grazing is managed under the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act, the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act, the Public Rangelands Improvement Act, and other current federal grazing policy.

#### **24-07 WOODY ENCROACHMENT UPON WET MEADOWS AND RIPARIAN SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, there are ongoing concerns about the encroachment of trees and brush species onto wet meadows and riparian systems; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the California Wool Growers Association to encourage federal and state agencies to mitigate or stop encroachment of trees onto wet meadows and riparian systems on public lands and to improve upland range conditions through similar management.

#### **24-08 FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT ON FOREST SERVICE LANDS**

WHEREAS, catastrophic wildfires continue to threaten lives, property, and the natural resources of the state of California; and

WHEREAS, the management of land, particularly regarding fire protection and fuel reduction, on national forest system lands under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service is wholly inadequate, has long-been ignored, and is significantly underfunded, placing the citizens, property, and resources of rural counties in significant peril and at great risk when catastrophic wildfires occur, thereby threatening lives and destroying public resources, private property, businesses, and the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, California has more than 45 million acres of federal land including 20 million managed by the U.S. Forest Service, much of which has not been adequately managed to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire; and

WHEREAS, many of the largest wildfires in California in the past 100 years have been on federal land with the others having had a substantial federal component; and

WHEREAS, there are thousands of acres of dead and decaying trees remaining in the national forests due to lax forestry management practices on federal lands; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Interior have spent over \$1 billion on fire suppression costs every year since 2000 with suppression costs now consuming more than 50% of the total wildland fire budget, as compared to 13% of the total fire budget in 1991, leaving few resources for critically needed preventive maintenance of our national forest lands in the west and throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, approximately eighty percent of the state of California's developed surface water supply originates on watershed lands within our rural counties, California's residents use a portion of this water for domestic, commercial, agricultural, industrial, recreational, and other beneficial uses and these rivers, lakes, and watershed lands also serve as habitat for hundreds of species of fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the detrimental effects on these watersheds affect all of California, not just rural California; and

WHEREAS, there continues to be a widely recognized extremely high risk of catastrophic

wildfires due to unnaturally heavy fuel loads and the early drying of wild land vegetation; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) exert its influence to demand that the U.S. Forest Service take action in California's federal lands to reduce forest fuel loads on a meaningful landscape scale to reduce the heightening risk of catastrophic wildfires; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that when wildfires do occur, CCA supports the expedient, agency-funded replacement of fences and effective rangeland seeding be carried out to minimize impacts to permitted grazing operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in a forested landscape that appropriate merchantable trees be planted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA supports the recognition of livestock grazing as an existing permitted use in the Forest planning process as an appropriate and cost-effective means to reduce fine fuel loads on public lands.

#### **24-09 FUNDING POLICY**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support efforts to ensure and expedite Congressional appropriation of funds authorized by the Rangeland Improvement Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support efforts to ensure that all grazing fees designated for range improvement by the Rangeland Improvement Act and reflected in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act be used by federal land management agencies for designated rangeland improvement purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage federal agencies to consider permittees' input in the planning and decision-making process regarding distribution of rangeland improvement funds.

#### **24-10 FEDERAL AGENCY MANAGEMENT STAFF**

BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support efforts to ensure that U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) funds be made available for rangeland management positions to better support the national policy of multiple resource management and to encourage federal agencies to fill range management positions with personnel trained in those specific areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage USFS and BLM to promote and incentivize the retention of rangeland management personnel at the Forest or Field Area level.

#### **24-11 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT BACKLOG**

WHEREAS, federal land management agencies lack sufficient staff to complete National Environmental Policy Act documentation on a timely basis; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) encourage federal agencies to contract with appropriate organizations and agencies (*e.g.*, local Resource Conservation Districts) to complete NEPA documentation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage federal agencies to develop master

stewardship agreements with contracted local agencies.

***AGGRESSIVE FIRE SUPPRESSION ON USFS LANDS IN FIRE SEASON – Staff Directive***

*BE IT DIRECTED, that California Cattlemen's Association staff reach out to the U.S. Forest Service to encourage the agency to revise its let-burn policy to instead focus on the risk and timeliness of the fire, fuel and climatological conditions before invoking their "let burn" policy.*

## ***FEEDER COUNCIL***

### **23-01 RECLASSIFICATION OF POLYETHER IONOPHORES**

WHEREAS, the feeding of polyether ionophores (monensin, lasalocid, laidlomycin, etc.) to cattle decreases the feed needed for growth and increases feed efficiency, and

WHEREAS, polyether ionophores do not function as therapeutic or sub-therapeutic antibiotics when fed to cattle, are not used as therapeutic agents in human medicine, and are not a concern for antibiotic resistance in cattle or humans, and

WHEREAS, polyether ionophores are categorized as coccidiostats when fed to poultry and function to reduce methane production in cattle; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) Feeder Council strongly urge the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other appropriate agencies to reclassify polyether ionophores to reflect their true function as modifiers of rumen fermentation and as a coccidian prevention compound, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA strongly urge FDA and other appropriate agencies to discontinue classification of polyether ionophores as antibiotics.

### **23-02 FEED BASED ETHANOL**

WHEREAS, the federal government has established a mandate for corn based ethanol under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), and

WHEREAS, grain prices, namely corn prices, have dramatically risen since the promulgation of the federal RFS for corn ethanol, which has placed an extreme economic burden on livestock producers, and

WHEREAS, the lack of available corn for livestock production and other general uses has contributed to an increase in the overall price of food and feed, and

WHEREAS, livestock producers generally support the development of renewable and alternative fuels that are sustainable in the open market and are not backed by government edict; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) Feeder Council oppose the re-adoption of any subsidies or import tariffs for the production of renewable or alternative fuels, namely corn ethanol, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support any legislative or administrative action to completely or partially waive the RFS or repeal it entirely from law, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support ensuring that market forces drive biofuel production and, where necessary, support efforts to divert public resources from ethanol produced from inputs that compete with livestock feed to production of biofuels that do not, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Congress, and the President to craft future energy policies that do not adversely or unfairly impact

livestock producers or interfere with normal market interactions.

### **23-03 IMMIGRATION REFORM**

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers in California depend on an immigrant labor force to produce crops and livestock; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts by the President, Congress, and California to adopt a robust and feasible agricultural worker program providing a legal and timely pathway for immigrant workers to meet the labor needs of California's farmers and ranchers.

### **24-01 OPPOSITION TO BIOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES**

WHEREAS, genetic engineering and biotechnology are carefully regulated at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration, and

WHEREAS, county initiatives to regulate genetically modified organisms may result in unfunded local government mandates, violations of private property rights, and violations of interstate commerce laws; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) oppose any attempt to categorically prohibit the growing or use of genetically modified organisms, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose any proposed laws or regulations that would require the mandatory labeling of beef or beef products fed crops derived from genetically modified organisms.



## ***GENERAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE***

### **20-01 ASSOCIATION PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA), as a grassroots organization, has historically taken a strong stand on private property rights, and

WHEREAS, as an association of individual ranchers, CCA has the absolute responsibility to uphold ranchers' private property rights and the rights of neighbors, and

WHEREAS, CCA recognizes that input from local cattlemen's associations and individual members is critical in the development of resource management programs and other policies that can affect private property rights; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA leadership and staff obtain concurrence from local cattlemen's associations whose members would be affected before engaging in the development of any program that could affect private property rights in a region of the state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, in addition to obtaining concurrence from any local association whose members would be affected, any such proposed program or policy shall go through the proper CCA committee structure by resolution and be approved by the board before commitment by CCA to any proposed action that could bind the association.

### **23-01 IRRESPONSIBLE INITIATIVES**

WHEREAS, the California initiative process has been and may continue to be abused in an effort to enact laws which are prompted by popular ideas without first providing for adequate public analysis and review of the appropriate means for accomplishing those ideas and the consequences of such actions; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association use the most effective approach to oppose enactment or promotion of initiatives to the voters which unreasonably curtail agricultural practices or the use of land and water for agricultural purposes.

### **23-02 COOPERATING WITH ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS**

WHEREAS, there are multiple organizations supporting the interests of livestock producers across California and the United States; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association encourage all organizations to work cooperatively on issues of mutual benefit to their membership, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all organizations should recognize one another's strengths and accomplishments and work in unison to reduce duplication of effort and benefit the entire western livestock industry.

### **23-03 COORDINATION BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CCA**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) officers and staff conduct careful and considered consultation, coordination, and cooperation with affected cattlemen or

cattlemen and local county cattlemen's associations when an adversarial situation exists, due to proposals, policy, or decisions, between cattle producers and a government agency before CCA declares a position.

#### **24-01 UTILIZATION OF PRODUCER LEADERSHIP**

BE IT RESOLVED, that if legislative or regulatory issues arise for which there is not clear policy in the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) policy book, time constraints permitting, CCA staff will contact appropriate committee members or other experts within CCA for clarification and direction.

#### **APPRECIATION TO CONVENTION HOSTS – Annually**

WHEREAS, our 108th annual California Cattlemen's Association Convention in Reno, Nev. has been most enlightening and enjoyable to all, and

WHEREAS, due to the efforts of our Convention hosts, as well as many other persons, agencies, and firms, the success of the Convention was an accomplished fact, and

WHEREAS, the service and hospitality of the staff of the Grand Sierra Resort has truly been outstanding; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the thanks and appreciation of all attending the Convention be extended to those who contributed their time, talents, and efforts to bring about the success of this Convention.

#### **COMMENDATIONS – Annually**

WHEREAS, the beef cattle industry has been encouraged and helped over the past year by many groups and organizations; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that our thanks and commendations be extended to all organizations, groups, and individuals who have cooperated with and encouraged our efforts.

#### **RATIFICATION OF ACTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Annually**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the actions of the Board of Directors of the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA), during the period December 2, 2023, up to and including December 6, 2024, as a Board of the Association are hereby approved and ratified, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the official acts of the Officers and Executive Committee of CCA for the same period are hereby expressly approved in all cases in which said actions are within the scope of their authorized activities.

#### **IN MEMORIAM – Annually**

WHEREAS, during the past year, a number of our valued friends and fellow members have passed away, and

WHEREAS, we miss their presence among us and feel the loss of their helpful counsel; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association express sorrow in our loss and extend our sympathies to their bereaved families.

## ***PROPERTY RIGHTS & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT***

### **20-01 SUPPORT FOR USE OF TRAPS AND BAITS**

WHEREAS, there are animals that are public nuisances, there are predatory animals, and there are rodents that cause severe damage to homes, livestock, property, and game and non-game animals, including endangered species, and

WHEREAS, skunks, rodents, and other predators transmit diseases such as rabies that are threats to livestock and public health, and

WHEREAS, traps and snares are important control methods and sometimes the only methods of controlling such animals, and

WHEREAS, practical, humane improvements are becoming available that help eliminate unnecessary suffering of trapped animals, and

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) supports practical efforts to reduce animal suffering; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA strongly support the use of the most selective, humane, and effective leg hold traps and other devices (such as M-44's) used to protect livestock, public health, endangered plants and animals, property, and other wildlife from destruction by wild and domestic animals, and CCA support research, development, and use of suitable alternatives or improvements to steel-jaw traps such as soft-catch padded traps, snares, humane lethal traps, and/or baits.

### **20-02 PROPERTY RIGHTS - OUR LANDS' MOST COMPELLING ISSUE**

WHEREAS, property rights and the uses of private lands are continually being eroded, and

WHEREAS, the preservation and restrictive use of agricultural land is continually being used as a ploy to limit the agricultural property owner's right to control his or her land, and

WHEREAS, groups have been formed to protect private property rights at the local, state, and regional levels of government, to protect ranching and farming independence, to oppose regulatory takings of rights and easements without just compensation, and to restore fairness in local and state land use decisions; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) strongly support the efforts of private property rights advocacy organizations and planning principles that allow agriculture to remain economically viable, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support and consider participation in strong regional property owner coalitions to oppose shifting of local control to regional control and diminishing private property rights without regard to economics or individual situations.

### **20-03 GOVERNMENT AND UTILITIES ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support efforts to hold utility personnel, government employees, and their agents to the highest standards regarding observation

of local trespass laws and the privacy and property rights of all citizens, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support legislation at the state and national level to prohibit local, state, or federal employees and/or their agents, except law enforcement or public safety employees exercising their traditional duty to preserve life, from entering private property without the express permission of the landowner or a search warrant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA request governmental agencies and utilities to establish clear and specific policies to provide sufficient prior notice to property owners of the date, time, place, method, and purpose of entry and the number of persons entering, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA urge governmental agencies and utilities to adopt a policy prohibiting their employees and agents from entering onto private property without permission of the landowner unless such entry is expressly authorized by law, and that if access is approved by the property owner or authorized by law, these employees be restricted access to the easement only, unless other access is approved by the property owner.

#### **20-04 SUPPORT FOR STRONGER STATE TRESPASS LAWS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support legislation that would strengthen California's trespass laws, including provisions that will cause the person who is upon the property of another without permission to accept the total liability for his or her presence there.

#### **20-05 JUST COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY PROTECTION IN PUBLIC TAKING OF PRIVATE LAND**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) insist upon the return of equity for the taking of private land or any interest in private land by government or the public, including fair compensation and freedom from liability associated with such taking, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA vigorously oppose the use of eminent domain for private use, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that should the public no longer have a use for the condemned property that first right of refusal be offered to the original landowner or their heirs.

#### **20-06 AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ELEMENT AND PLANNING**

WHEREAS, agricultural land's first use is for the production of food and fiber and other commodities for the health and welfare of the community and the world, and

WHEREAS, the uniqueness of agriculture as being both an industry and land use designation creates the basis for an agricultural element, separate from the open space and land use elements; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) encourage counties and certain cities to form an agricultural element, separate from the open space and land use elements, of their general plan for the purposes of enhancing agricultural productivity and the economic viability of agricultural productivity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose any legislation that will give cities veto power over county general plans, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support efforts in areas of land use planning that are designed to maintain the physical and economical capabilities of agricultural land for the production of food and fiber, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA urges that national, state, and regional agencies' policies be general in nature and allow local governments to determine and implement the specific local land use regulations for their areas.

#### **20-07 GRAZING LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the expansion of programs and funding to conserve rangeland agriculture through voluntary agreements.

#### **20-08 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**

WHEREAS, wild and scenic river designations can be potentially detrimental to normal agricultural operations; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose wild and scenic river designations.

#### **20-09 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, air quality regulations are expanding agency control throughout the state with constantly greater limitations on agricultural operations; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support agricultural exemptions for management, cultural practices, and confined animal production, including, but not limited to, use of fuels, roads (dust), and burns, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support agricultural representation on air quality advisory bodies.

#### **20-10 CALIFORNIA RANGELAND RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the California Rangeland Resolution, and continue to work with the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition to reaffirm the language in the Rangeland Resolution that affirms the benefits of grazing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA continue to work cooperatively with resolution co-signatories in future endeavors that promote the goals and policies of CCA.

#### **20-11 PERMIT COORDINATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support legislation and regulations which provide permit and regulation coordination and streamlining.

#### **20-12 TAKE PROTECTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support legislation and

regulations that provide reasonable protections for landowners and livestock operators with respect to accidental and incidental take of listed and candidate species.

## **20-13 DISCHARGE FROM GRAZING LANDS**

WHEREAS, California ranchers depend on the use of irrigated pasture and non-irrigated rangeland to produce livestock, and

WHEREAS, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) are actively implementing the 2004 Non-point Source Pollution Control Program, and

WHEREAS, the RWQCBs throughout California have promulgated or plan to promulgate regulatory programs to regulate discharges from irrigated pasture or non-irrigated rangeland, and

WHEREAS, discharges from irrigated pasture or non-irrigated rangeland resulting from grazing activities have an insignificant impact on water quality, thus California ranchers and the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) do not believe the regulation of discharges resulting from grazing activities are warranted or legal, and

WHEREAS, when discharges from irrigated pasture or non-irrigated rangeland are found to occur, ranchers use best management practices developed based on the best available science to address water quality impacts; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA oppose the presumption that grazing results in the discharge of waste to the waters of the state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with local producers, the SWRCB, the RWQCBs and other stakeholders to ensure that any regulatory programs aimed at addressing discharges from irrigated pasture and non-irrigated rangeland have the least possible impact on ranchers.

## **20-14 INAPPROPRIATE USE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

WHEREAS, gray wolves are not endangered and are thriving in Canada and were introduced into the United States, and

WHEREAS, giving Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection to gray wolves in California and the United States is a blatant misuse of the ESA, and

WHEREAS, wolves are very stressful to livestock and game animals and effective wolf management is not possible due to the constraints of the United States and California ESAs; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the removal of United States and California ESA protection for wolves, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work to change the state and federal ESAs so they can't be misused in the future, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA cooperate with agricultural and other organizations to accomplish this.

## **20-15 WOLF MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, increasing wolf presence in Northwestern states shows an adequate wolf population and California requires a comprehensive wolf management plan that must deal with pending livestock production complications; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA encourage lethal control methods when predators engage in livestock depredation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the right to defend one's self, family, home, and property from predators, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the creation of a review board where appeals and reviews of kill confirmation may be made, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support that confirmation of kills be posted no later than thirty days from the date of occurrence.

## **20-16 GRAZING FEDERAL & STATE-OWNED LANDS**

WHEREAS, federal and state-owned lands in California are overgrown, support diminishing wildlife populations, and are in need of the benefit of managed grazing for the promotion of sustainable wildlife habitat, the reduction of fire fuels, and other ecosystem benefits; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the grazing of federal and state-owned lands to improve wildlife habitat, to restore critical habitat to pre-conservation levels, and to diminish the threat of catastrophic wildfire, among other benefits.

## **20-17 COMMERCIAL SCALE SOLAR AND WIND FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, commercial-scale solar and wind production are increasingly touted as alternative energy solutions in California and are supported by both Federal and State programs, and

WHEREAS, various counties are exploring development of solar overlay maps (along with solar companies) to encourage establishment of commercial-scale solar facilities, and

WHEREAS, the potential sites being explored frequently are zoned for agricultural use, not commercial production, and

WHEREAS, those facilities may negatively impact grazing and other agricultural pursuits; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose the establishment of commercial-scale solar and wind production on lands that are zoned for agriculture.

## **20-18 STOCK PONDS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support legislation and regulation to promote the extensive development of stock water ponds and water catchments on private property, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA specifically support that the following provisions be



included in such legislation and regulation:

1. That development of stock water ponds and water catchments be exempted from the requirements of the California Endangered Species Act, California Environmental Quality Act, and federal Endangered Species Act, where applicable;
2. That stock ponds be eligible for a conservation credit system;
3. That a specific streamlined application system to apply for Proposition 1 matching funds and for other State of California conservation funds be available or become available to promote the development of new stock ponds.

## **20-19 FOREST/RANGELAND FUELS REDUCTION**

WHEREAS, over 100 years of fire suppression has resulted in fuel loading with potential (and realized) catastrophic fire, and

WHEREAS, California has a growing need for energy; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with appropriate state and federal agencies and organizations to promote the reduction of these fuels and subsequent use to generate electrical energy.

## **21-01 WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER**

WHEREAS, wildlife and livestock share habitat in many areas of California, and

WHEREAS, wildlife and livestock suffer from and share some of the same disease organisms, and

WHEREAS, the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine has developed a Wildlife Health Center with the mission of advancing the health of wildlife; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the development of the Wildlife Health Center and increased multi-disciplinary studies of wildlife diseases.

## **21-02 DEPREDATION PERMITS FOR WILD PIGS**

WHEREAS, wild pig numbers are increasing dramatically and wild pigs are extending their range into more areas where property damage occurs; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support depredation permit provisions which permit shooting and trapping of wild pigs and which allow the permittee to dispose of the carcass, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support legislation which would allow the killing of depredating wild pigs without the requirement of a permit.

## **21-03 WAIVE FEES FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) supports landowners' efforts in restoration projects on private property, and

WHEREAS, a completed restoration project adds to the value of the property and promotes a healthy environment; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support landowners who engage in restoration projects that benefit water quality, wildlife, or the public, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support waivers for any and all fees that might otherwise be imposed by relevant government entities for such restoration projects.

#### **21-04 PUBLIC TRAILS**

WHEREAS, efforts are underway to establish an extensive state trails system, and

WHEREAS, public trails through private land are nearly impossible to police, and

WHEREAS, trespassers leaving these trails subject private property owners to liability suits, wildfires, vandalism, litter, and dogs, and

WHEREAS, scenic easements along public trails are becoming a more frequently required encumbrance to private property, and

WHEREAS, various state and local agencies have the power of eminent domain, and

WHEREAS, local regulatory agencies are requiring dedication of trails as a condition of permit approval, and

WHEREAS, the public trails pose a threat to disease transmission, and/or food security; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association resist any efforts to establish public trails through private land.

#### **21-05 NO NET LOSS OF PRIVATE PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, the membership of the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is drawn from men and women dependent upon and committed to the wise stewardship of natural resources, and

WHEREAS, the economy and way of life of local communities, California, and the United States is dependent upon private sector ownership and management of these natural resources; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA supports the concept of "no net loss of privately owned lands or water rights" coupled with the concept that the acquisition of any land and water rights by state or federal government shall be offset by lands or water rights of equal dollar value sold back to the private sector by the government with "no net loss of revenue" to the government to be created by the transactions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as taxpayers and the "buyer" of any such government acquisitions, the members of CCA are committed to opposing any government acquisitions that are not offset by sales to the private sector, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the National Cattlemen's

Beef Association, appropriate producer organizations, and the news media, and that key state and federal legislators and congressmen be approached with the request that legislation to this effect be introduced in the California Legislature and the United States Congress.

#### **21-06 PRIVATE LAND CONDEMNATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose the condemnation of private lands or water rights by a public entity to mitigate adverse environmental impacts.

#### **21-07 RAILROAD EASEMENT REVERSIONARY RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, the Railroad Right of Way Abandonment Act (43 U.S.C. § 912) relating to procedures for the abandonment of railroad easements states that upon abandonment of railroad easements, such easements shall revert to the adjoining property owners if not "embraced in a public highway legally established within one year" of abandonment, and

WHEREAS, the National Trails System Improvements Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. § 1248(c)) subsequently provided that such abandoned railroad easements would instead revert to the United States rather than adjacent landowners; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support legislation that would restore reversionary rights to adjacent property owners along abandoned railroad easements, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Cattlemen's Beef Association be asked to adopt a similar resolution.

#### **21-08 UTILITY EASEMENT RENTAL**

WHEREAS, utility corridors create long-term disruption of agricultural operations and current federal regulations provide a single nominal compensation for condemned land; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports a lease/rent of utility easements as an alternative to a single payment for condemned land.

#### **21-09 LAND STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAMS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the concept of stewardship or resource conservation agreements which provide annual compensation to landowners for their stewardship practices, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support legislation to provide the same tax incentives for stewardship or resource conservation agreements that are available for permanent conservation agreements, such that property owners who encumber their land with these agreements, or entities that fund those easements, would enjoy the same tax benefits as those who enter into or fund permanent easements, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support legislation to enable California to participate in federal programs that fund stewardship or conservation agreements.

## **21-10 SUPPORT OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RANGELANDS**

WHEREAS, the need for education and technical assistance relative to the prevention and/or control of nonpoint source pollution possibly associated with grazing has been increasing, and

WHEREAS, the University of California Rangelands, along with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, has been successful in providing education, technical assistance, and field research benefitting the ranching community; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association encourage the continuing efforts of UC Rangelands and notify the Vice President, UC Division of Agriculture, the State Conservationist, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the importance of this program continuing and expanding throughout the state.

## **21-11 DELISTING ENDANGERED SPECIES**

WHEREAS, some species of plants and animals have, through management and regulation, multiplied to the point of no longer needing the protection of the federal Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act, and

WHEREAS, the mechanisms for delisting of such species are cumbersome; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) encourage state and federal agencies to ensure the delisting process is based on sound scientific data, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work toward delisting species which do not continue to meet the listing criteria.

## **21-12 303(d) REGULATORY LISTINGS**

WHEREAS, the criteria and methods used in determining an impaired watershed under Clean Water Act § 303(d) are seriously flawed, and

WHEREAS, monitoring sites utilized by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) are primarily roadside or under bridges without any attempt to consult or cooperate with the landowners who are impacted, and

WHEREAS, such locations are not indicative of conditions in the entire watershed, and

WHEREAS, good and current science is not being fully utilized before making a decision as to what constitutes an impaired watershed, and

WHEREAS, the significant contributions from “non-controllable sources” such as birds and wildlife are misunderstood and underestimated, and

WHEREAS, the burden of proof should not be on the landowner to prove his or her cattle are not a major cause of the impairment, and

WHEREAS, ephemeral streams should never be classified REC1 (bodily contact recreation) and should thus not be listed as impaired, and

WHEREAS, the SWRCB should avail itself of the tremendous amount of current and ongoing information available from universities and independent scientific studies before enacting regulations based on outdated samplings or those conducted in inadequate locations, and

WHEREAS, the SWRCB's economic analysis is unrealistic and consultation with stakeholders would provide a more accurate picture; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support efforts to revisit and rework the entire California 303(d) list to rectify the concerns noted above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose the inclusion of additional watersheds on California's 303(d) list under the present criteria.

#### **21-13 LEGISLATIVE UNFUNDED MANDATE**

WHEREAS, the California State Legislature established various agencies to manage water quality and air pollution without oversight or accountability, and

WHEREAS, the California State Legislature has now reduced funding for these agencies, and

WHEREAS, these regulatory agencies are significantly increasing their fees (taxes) for various programs, and

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) considers this action as increased taxation as well as an unfunded mandate and a deliberate defunding by the legislature; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA opposes any increase in taxes or fees to support these regulatory agencies.

#### **21-14 STATEWIDE GRAZING REGULATION RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the California State Water Resources Control Board has tried to develop a statewide regulation regarding surface water on grazing lands, and

WHEREAS, it will be impossible to administer a one-size-fits-all approach owing to the tremendous diversity of landscape, climate, rainfall, etc., across the state, and

WHEREAS, well-managed grazing land provides many of the benefits necessary to protect water quality, and

WHEREAS, many ranchers are being proactive in protecting water quality through studying and implementing the California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association continue to oppose regulation on grazing lands.

#### **21-15 WATER DIVERSION CURTAILMENT FOR FISH HABITAT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose any regulatory proposals to curtail diversions of private water rights for fishery purposes.

## **21-16 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDIES & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS**

WHEREAS, The California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Vehicle Division has indicated it is a policy of the Department that a loss of grazing land shall not be considered a significant environmental impact, and

WHEREAS, in the expansion of an Off-Highway Vehicle park in Alameda County the Department has cited this policy to disregard the loss of over 3,000 acres of grazing land to Off-Highway vehicle use; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) oppose any policy of the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Off-Highway Vehicle Division which classifies conversion of grazing land to a non-agricultural use as anything less than a significant impact under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21082), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support efforts to require the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Off-Highway Vehicle Division to consider and treat the use of grazing land for Off-Highway Vehicle Use as a significant environmental impact and mitigate for conversion of rangeland at a rate of no less than 1:1 acres, with mitigated lands including equal or greater livestock carrying capacity and adequate infrastructure for livestock grazing.

## **21-17 DIVERSION MEASUREMENT SELF-CERTIFICATION**

WHEREAS, the passage of SB 88 (2015) resulted in the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issuing water measurement and reporting regulations that imposed a significant burden upon water rights owners, and

WHEREAS, these regulations required diverters to hire a professional engineer, a licensed contractor, or a person supervised by a professional engineer to install measurement devices on diversions of 100 acre-feet or more per year, and

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) successfully sponsored AB 589 (2017) to reduce the financial burden of these regulations by allowing diverters of 100-acre-feet per year or more to self-certify their installation and calibration of a measurement device upon completion of a University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) water measurement educational course; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA continue to support legislation and regulation that allows diverters of 100 acre-feet or more per year to self-certify diversion measurement upon completion of a UCCE water measurement educational course.

## **21-18 WATER STORAGE**

WHEREAS, California is challenged by an increasing population and no additional meaningful water storage construction in the past 50 years, and

WHEREAS, California regularly faces drought and unpredictable weather patterns, and

WHEREAS, voters approved bond funding for increased water storage in 2014 by passing Proposition 1A, and that funding was to be directed to build the Sites Reservoir in Northern California and Temperance Flat in Central California, and

WHEREAS, moving water storage construction projects forward expeditiously is critical to all segments of agriculture, and

WHEREAS, there seems to be little movement or discussion at the State level to complete these voter-approved projects; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that staff of the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) focus on increasing the visibility of this issue, and communicating to all stakeholders including (but not limited to) members of the legislature and regulatory agencies that approved construction of water storage should be of immediate concern and requires timely action, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that staff regularly communicate the status of the construction projects to the membership of CCA and other stakeholders, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA concentrate on increasing surface water storage throughout the state.

**21-19 CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION AND CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FROM CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT TO PROMOTE WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS IN HIGH-RISK AREAS**

WHEREAS, wet-dry cycles, unmanaged landscapes, and environmental regulations restrict proactive wildfire risk management and have resulted in an overabundance of fuels throughout much of California's forests and rangelands, and

WHEREAS, management actions must be taken to reduce key fuel sources by removing dead, dying, or diseased trees or established brush, and

WHEREAS, to develop and implement a management plan to mitigate fire risk, land managers are required to adhere to state (California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA) and federal (National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA) regulations which are cumbersome, slow, and costly to implement and may result in a severe wildfire event occurring before the review process is complete and projects implemented, and

WHEREAS, granting the ability for local agencies to deem categorical exemption will enable land managers to target high-risk areas more efficiently, reduce the likelihood that fires will become severe and uncontrollable, and ultimately protect forest and rangeland ecosystems and surrounding rural communities; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) shall lobby the California Legislature to allow an appropriate local agency to be designated a "lead agency" under CEQA that may grant categorical exemptions when rural communities (*i.e.*, lives and private property) are at high risk of being destroyed by severe, uncontrollable wildfire due to an overabundance of fuels, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to lobby Congress for the same effective measures associated with NEPA.

## **21-20 CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT TO PROMOTE POST-WILDFIRE EROSION CONTROL**

WHEREAS, California has suffered historic devastation due to catastrophic wildfires, and

WHEREAS, the loss of trees and lower canopy forages, coupled with the steep slopes of much of the devastated forests and range, has resulted in uncontrollable and destructive erosion post-fire, and

WHEREAS, ecosystems altered by severe wildfire are more likely to transition to a plant community dominated by brush and invasive grasses, further accelerating the fire regime, and

WHEREAS, these events require time sensitive actions to mitigate the risks of highly probable erosion, which will be compounded by the remaining unburnt fuel loads of fast-moving fires, and

WHEREAS, the required lengthy and costly regulations associated with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) jeopardize the efforts to mitigate damage and protect and restore the environment to pre-fire condition; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association lobby for categorical exemptions from CEQA for dealing with the damages caused by these unprecedented events.

## **22-01 DEER HERD IMPROVEMENT**

WHEREAS, California's deer population continues to fall below historic levels, and

WHEREAS, predators (including coyotes, mountain lions, bears, and wolves) continue to decimate California's deer population; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) attempt to ensure that funds collected for tags by the Department of Fish and Wildlife be spent on improvements that benefit the propagation of big game, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with the appropriate commissions and agencies to determine the cause for the reduction in deer population and encourage the California Fish and Game Commission and boards of supervisors to work with local landowners to propose an acceptable season and take (tag limits).

## **22-02 FIRE MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) manages around 1 million acres in California, most of which was historic grazing land before its acquisition, and

WHEREAS, these lands are no longer grazed, thus creating a fire hazard, decreasing species biodiversity, and degrading wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS, the CDFW has limited staff to manage these lands; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support policies which seek to add trained rangeland specialists to CDFW to improve fire prevention, enhance biodiversity and utilize grazing to further reduce the fire risk of these lands and enhance species



biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

## **22-03 GOVERNMENT AGENCY LAND ACQUISITIONS - MANAGEMENT PLANS**

WHEREAS, land, wildlife, and other resource agencies of state and federal government continue to acquire vast acreages of land for single purpose uses, and

WHEREAS, these acquisitions are often approved without regard to the economic and environmental consequences for the affected community and neighboring landowners, and

WHEREAS, the lack of a management plan, before acquisitions are approved, has resulted in serious problems for affected landowners including predator damage, noxious weeds, trespass, excessive fuel load, lack of beneficial water use, and attempts to eliminate livestock grazing in the affected areas, and

WHEREAS, while the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) recognizes the right of a landowner to sell his or her property to the highest bidder, we are concerned over the ability of government agencies to manage any acquired property; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA oppose categorical exemptions from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for government land acquisitions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose any further acquisitions of property or funding of such acquisitions by these agencies or other actions that may impair property rights, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support sale to private landowners in circumstances where the agencies do not have resources to manage the land, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support a requirement that notification be given to all local government entities of any pending government land acquisitions in their counties, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support efforts which will require all land and other resource management agencies of state and federal government to develop a management plan prior to approval of any future land acquisitions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support efforts to require such management plans developed prior to land acquisition to include local public hearings and mitigation plans for any adverse economic, social, or environmental effects, whether upon an individual, business, or unit of government, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support requirements that any public entity also complete an analysis of the economic impact of land purchases on adjacent landowners, rural community economies, and local governments, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support legislation to require land and wildlife management agencies to have the funding available and allocated to pay the in-lieu fees before they are allowed to take control of property.

## **22-04 EXEMPTION FOR LANDOWNER LIABILITY**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) continue to support policies to exempt innocent landowners from liability, including cleanup costs, for materials dumped on private property without the landowner's consent, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support policies requiring the appropriate local or state agency to provide funding for cleanup of the illegally-dumped materials.

## **22-05 PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, the ownership of private property and the right to be secure in the ownership of private property is the foundation of this free country, and recognized by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and numerous Supreme Court decisions, and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of each sovereign state has the legal responsibility to uphold the Constitution, and, therefore, protect private property rights; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) urge the Attorney General of California in addition to all levels of government to ensure compliance with the mechanisms designed to protect each citizen's right to be secure in their right to own private property, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work to strengthen the processes to ensure due process for private property owners when appropriate through legislation and/or regulation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support proper local authority to institute proceedings to ensure that just compensation is paid to the private property owner in the event of a taking should a Taking Impact Analysis show that private property rights will be diminished by a federal action or regulation, or that a state agency action will result in a taking of private property.

## **22-06 CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, according to Section 30500 of the California Coastal Act of 1976, "each local government lying, in whole or in part, within the coastal zone shall prepare a local coastal program for that portion of the coastal zone within its jurisdiction," and "the precise content of each local coastal program shall be determined by the local government, consistent with Section 30501, in full consultation with the commission and with full public participation," and

WHEREAS, according to Section 30512.2 of the California Coastal Act of 1976, the California Coastal Commission's "review of a land use plan shall be limited to its administrative determination that the land use plan submitted by the local government does, or does not, conform with the requirements of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200)," and that "In making this review, the commission is not authorized...to diminish or abridge the authority of a local government to adopt and establish, by ordinance, the precise content of its land use plan," and

WHEREAS, local governments, with full public participation, have a greater understanding than the State of the challenges facing agriculture and what is required in order for it to be viable, as well as an appreciation for the values and benefits provided by the agricultural lands in their respective communities; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support

rescinding the authority of the California Coastal Commission relative to agriculture and agricultural practices and that CCA support returning that authority to local government.

## **22-07 SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIED WATER STORAGE, CONVEYANCE, AND CONSERVATION FACILITIES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association favor the addition and improvement of water storage and water transportation systems in the state.

## **22-08 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REFORM**

WHEREAS, California has more threatened, endangered, and candidate species and suffers more impacts from the state and federal endangered species acts (ESAs) than any other state; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support reforms to the ESAs for the benefit of production agriculture within California and the nation, and that CCA work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Public Lands Council, and other like-minded organizations to achieve such reforms.

## **22-09 GUIDELINES FOR CCA'S PARTICIPATION WITH CALIFORNIA RANGELAND CONSERVATION COALITION, INC.**

WHEREAS, the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, Inc. (CRCC) is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation and has had a long and defined relationship with the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and its members since 2006 by including CCA representation on the CRCC steering committee, and

WHEREAS, CCA believes that there is benefit in maintaining a relationship with CRCC; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA adopts the following as guidelines for its relationship with CRCC:

1. Three CCA members will be appointed by the CCA President to the CRCC steering committee and ratified by the CCA Board of Directors at the annual meeting. The objective is CCA representation with adherence to CCA bylaws and policy.
2. CCA representatives to the CRCC steering committee will be cognizant of and maintain consistency with CCA bylaws and policy resolutions in all matters.
3. CCA representatives to the CRCC steering committee will not formally or informally be party to any CRCC activity, program, or plan with a third party that could directly or indirectly compromise CCA, its members, bylaws, or policy resolutions.
4. All substantive activities by CRCC will be maintained transparent to the CCA representatives to the steering committee and those representatives will periodically update CCA membership as significant issues may arise and present a summary of activity to CCA at the Annual Meeting.
5. In any case where CCA policy is unclear on a proposed action, the action will be presented by the CCA representatives to appropriate policy committees for direction to the representatives.
6. Any endeavors that may arise within CRCC that could result in violation of one of the above tenets shall be discussed with CRCC steering committee and subsequently with CCA at its Annual Meeting. If, after CCA members hearing of such endeavors vote to not support the activity in question, CCA representatives will confer with the CRCC steering committee for consideration.

7. CCA endorsement of, or participation in, any CRCC policy adoption, or program/project development shall be contingent upon prior approval of the CCA board, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA shall follow policy General Resolution “Coordination between producers and CCA” for all proposals from CRCC, Inc.

## **22-10 WOLF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY**

WHEREAS, cattlemen as a whole recognize a duty to their animals to provide a safe environment, adequate nutrition, water, and health care, and

WHEREAS, cattlemen confronted by wolf-dog predation feel constrained from turning cattle out, knowing they will be tormented or killed by wolves or wolf-dogs with little the cattlemen can do to protect their cattle, and

WHEREAS, for many cattlemen, their ranching operation is their entire economic world, providing employment, housing, and hopefully retirement and an estate to pass on, and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution guarantees every American the right to use their land for any lawful purpose (a property right under the 14th Amendment) and to engage in the common occupations of the community (a protected liberty interest under the 14th Amendment), and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States is supreme over any state or federal law, and

WHEREAS, California government, through statute and administrative decisions, is engaged in conduct which violates the Constitutional rights of cattlemen, especially in the realm of protecting predators and curtailing the ability of cattlemen to engage in ranching, and

WHEREAS, California government is engaged in establishing a wolf population in California, knowing that cattle will be the primary food source, and

WHEREAS, numerous individuals are openly breeding hundreds of wolf-dog hybrids in northern California and the government is taking insufficient steps to control the proliferation of such hybrids, and

WHEREAS, California government has been unable or unwilling to define what a wolf is, state and local laws allow (in most counties) the dispatching of dogs which are worrying cattle, but with no way of distinguishing between a ‘dog,’ ‘wolf,’ or ‘wolf-dog hybrid,’ anyone defending his or her animals’ risks criminal prosecution, and

WHEREAS, California has adopted a wolf conservation plan, but it has no real legal status under California law other than as a policy guide and is constrained by federal law so long as wolves remain federally protected; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) support the protection of cattlemen’s Constitutional rights to operate their ranches and protect their property and animals and to vigorously oppose any government programs that would encroach upon those rights, recognizing that no state action can afford predators rights which override the Constitutional rights of cattlemen, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support a requirement that a full environmental impact study be conducted to examine the impact of establishing a wolf population in California and that the

study should include the health risks posed by a wolf population.

## **22-11 IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the lack of irrigation water has resulted in significant reduction of irrigated pasture in some watersheds, and

WHEREAS, there is very little nitrogen-based fertilizer used on irrigated pastures, and

WHEREAS, in 2022 many areas have seen little or no water delivery and this trend may continue; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to expedite the removal of irrigated pasture from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

## **22-12 THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD'S ISSUANCE AND ENFORCEMENT OF CURTAILMENT ORDERS FOR THE SHASTA AND SCOTT RIVERS**

WHEREAS, water rights curtailments imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) place an additional, and at times insurmountable, burden on agricultural producers who are trying to navigate already difficult drought conditions, and

WHEREAS, over the last several decades agricultural producers have gone to great lengths to address water-related issues, including voluntarily decreasing deliveries, ceasing irrigation, fallowing fields, planting less water intensive crops, and selling breeding livestock and have taken specific action to improve water quality and quantity within the Shasta and Scott River Watersheds, and

WHEREAS, through its curtailment of certain groundwater diversions, the SWRCB has usurped the authority granted by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which was handed down to local entities specifically by the State of California for implementation and management through Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA), and

WHEREAS, in Siskiyou County, the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District serves as the GSA for the Scott and Shasta Groundwater Basins, and

WHEREAS, the Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Association sees an opportunity to work with the SWRCB regarding minimum flow requirements and curtailment orders; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) make it a priority to work with the SWRCB on the following items:

1. Determine how curtailment orders can incorporate the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) for the Shasta and Scott Groundwater Basins and respect the role of the GSA in light of the fact that the GSA, advisory committees, irrigators, and many other stakeholders dedicated three years to the thoughtful development of the GSPs with the intention of ensuring the availability of groundwater supplies for future generations, the environment, and wildlife species;

2. Develop a rapid response procedure, including the lifting of curtailment orders on currently curtailed water rights, to appropriate excess water over the minimum flow requirement during the non-irrigation season for the beneficial use of human health and safety, water storage, groundwater recharge, and livestock watering, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if coordination with the SWRCB produces additional opportunities to work on curtailment-related issues, that CCA capitalize upon any such opportunities to provide drought curtailment relief to cattle producers throughout the state.

### **23-01 EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT AND REPAIR OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, current state and federal permitting processes often do not allow for timely reaction to resource management in emergency situations, resulting in resources and private property being destroyed; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support state and federal legislation and policy that will:

- Allow landowners to take immediate action to replace and repair any land lost by catastrophic events such as floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.
- Provide private property owners the authority to return lands lost to the pre-event topography within nine months of the event.
- Allow the private property owner to use and/or move materials within the area or import clean upland materials to replace the land lost during the event.
- Require that all permitting requirements be waived with regard to replacing land lost due to such events, and that notification to one agency will serve as proper notification to allow the landowner to proceed with the project.
- Require the lead agency to respond within ten calendar days upon notification from the landowner regarding guidelines, if any, for the protection of water quality and endangered species, as long as those guidelines place no additional encumbrance or duty of care on the landowner.
- Eliminate mitigation requirements for action necessary to replace land lost during such catastrophic events.
- Exempt from permitting requirements temporary access roads, culvert crossings, diversion of flow, or other methods to facilitate reconstruction, as needed.
- Allow private property owners to determine the pre-event topography through use of acreage field maps, prior surveys, photos, aerials, and/or existing topography.
- Eliminate the one year or more delays created by the Army Corp on Engineers permitting process, Fish and Wildlife permitting, Water Quality Certificate/Waiver, the California Environmental Quality Act, notification to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, notification to the State Historical Preservation Office, and numerous field visits by the agencies.

### **23-02 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON EXISTING STATE LANDS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the development of recreational facilities for public use on existing California Department of Parks and Recreation or local park lands as opposed to future expansion of the State Parks system or local park systems by acquisition of land by the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Lands

Commission, or other state and local agencies, and that livestock grazing be encouraged as a management tool on state and local parklands.

### **23-03 GRAZING AS A PRIMARY TOOL**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association encourage all local, state, and federal agencies to carefully consider utilizing livestock grazing as a first alternative for fuel load reduction, reducing wildfire potential, increasing water yield, increasing public safety, improving livestock and wildlife habitat, reducing weeds, and increasing vegetative diversity.

### **23-04 FENCING RIPARIAN AREAS**

WHEREAS, there is a conflict of opinion on whether or not the complete exclusion of livestock from riparian areas by fencing is necessary to maintain those areas in a stable-to-improving condition, and

WHEREAS, where fencing is believed to be necessary, the major benefit is to wildlife, sportsmen, and other recreationists, and not to the livestock permittees and private landowners; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose any land agency policy that would require permittees and private landowners to construct and maintain fences built to exclude livestock from riparian areas without the cooperation and consultation of the affected landowners, lessees, and permittees.

### **23-05 BENEFICIAL ASPECTS OF GRAZING**

WHEREAS, grazing of rangelands has many positive aspects, and

WHEREAS, much of the population is not aware of the facts regarding grazing, and

WHEREAS, grazing benefits air quality, water quality, fire control, and wildlife habitat; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support continued study and publication of the benefits of grazing conducted by the University of California Cooperative Extension and other appropriate entities.

### **23-06 RANGELAND FIREFIGHTING ENHANCEMENT**

WHEREAS, wildland fires can be destructive to the economic and physical wellbeing of range livestock operators, and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the lead agency charged with fire prevention and suppression in all unincorporated areas of California; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) provide input on the California Fire Plans, Unit Strategic Fire Plans, and Community Wildfire Protection Plans, include support for landscape-scale fuels management, and support CAL FIRE's efforts on fuel hazard reduction, fire prevention, and fire suppression education and training, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA strongly support the education and training of CAL FIRE's firefighters and promote the training of other forces used by CAL FIRE that emphasizes rapid and aggressive wildfire suppression strategies in order to reduce the devastating effects of wildland fires on

rangeland operators, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage its local affiliate associations to work with CAL FIRE where possible to provide assistance on the ground with equipment and personnel that can assist CAL FIRE in wildland fire suppression, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support training and education for the numerous municipal and mutual aid firefighting agencies that may be under the jurisdiction of CAL FIRE on rangelands.

### **23-07 PRESCRIBED BURNING - VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND PRIVATE PERMIT BURNING PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, prescribed burning is a cost-effective land management tool that benefits range values, the safety of the public, firefighters, the environment, and the economy of the State of California, and

WHEREAS, risk from wildfire to life, property, natural resources, range and forage values, and firefighter safety is increasing, and

WHEREAS, increasing fuel loads have led to more intense and destructive wildfires that will increase the need for emergency funding, and

WHEREAS, the private permit burning programs administered by local, state, and federal agencies has stimulated improved brush land management to the benefit of the general public and the landowner, and

WHEREAS, the Vegetation Management Program (VMP), administered by CAL FIRE, has proven to be of substantial value for fire hazard reduction, wildfire control, protection of soil and water resources, and improved forage for wildlife and livestock, and

WHEREAS, private initiative burning benefits overall values and provides a cost-effective public benefit, and

WHEREAS, there is continued need for both the private permit burning and VMP programs; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) continue to support the private burning program and the VMP and encourage CAL FIRE to aggressively administer and support those programs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support budget increases for VMP and California Fire Plan implementation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with the Air Resources Board to support VMP and private burning and to ease restrictions and solve "no burn" and burn shutdowns on approved permits, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work to promote changes to applicable state laws to provide for liability indemnification for persons conducting burning operations pursuant to and in compliance with the terms of a valid permit to the extent that there exists no violation of the terms of the permit, negligence, or criminal acts, and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA aggressively seek legislation to provide additional appropriations earmarked and invested to pay for cost-sharing and direct support for private initiative burning that is determined to have public benefit and reduce overall emergency fund costs, citizen losses, reduced fuels, and improve rangeland and wildlife habitat in accordance with the California Fire Plan, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA urge CAL FIRE to make crews and equipment available during the low fire risk season to install and maintain fire breaks on high-risk lands, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA assist CAL FIRE in prescribed fire coordination and planning on California's rangelands to increase the size and scale of CAL FIRE's burn program.

## **23-08 PROTECTION OF WATER RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, the people, the Legislature, the courts, and the executive branch of the government of the State of California have long recognized the rights of individuals to beneficially use water lawfully coming into their possession, and

WHEREAS, the riparian, groundwater, appropriative, and adjudicated rights and entitlements to beneficial use of water are essential and precious rights that the cattlemen of California cannot afford to lose through excessive regulation or outright taking, for the public good or otherwise, and

WHEREAS, the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America provides that private property of citizens shall not be taken for the public good without just compensation; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support legislation that will clarify legislative intent that lawfully-existing water rights are to be protected and honored by all agencies of government, and that no such rights shall be directed to public uses or otherwise impaired without prompt, fair, adequate, and just compensation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that staff take action to protect, by whatever means necessary, the water rights and entitlements of the members of CCA.

## **23-09 WATER POLICY**

WHEREAS, the wise development and use of water resources is essential for the future life and development of the state; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support policies which ensure that any water plan contemplate the development and use of all available water resources under the multiple use framework (such as power, irrigation, or recreation) where economically feasible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support uniform application of California water laws relating to the acquisition, control, use, and distribution of water, including as applied to agencies of government, whether local, state, or federal, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support local ownership and operation of projects for the development and distribution of water resources where practical, the control being exercised wherever possible by the users of the facilities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support policies to ensure that first rights for water be reserved for the ultimate reasonable needs of the areas of origin where it can be beneficially and most economically used.

#### **23-10 DELTA WATER FACILITIES/TRANSFERS**

WHEREAS, most of the water availability is in the northern portion of the state and most of the water need is in the southern portion of the state, and

WHEREAS, the state and the federal governments and other interests, operating as CALFED, are working to resolve the problem of water transfers for both agricultural and municipal uses; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) work in concert with state and federal agencies and other interested organizations to achieve the least intrusive movement of water resources within the Delta, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work diligently to ensure that existing water rights and existing water uses in the north, the Delta, and elsewhere are not jeopardized while facilitating such transfers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA not take a position on any proposed and specific Delta conveyance project, and if an official position is necessary, that the CCA President call a special meeting of the Property Rights and Environmental Management Committee which is highly advertised to discuss and recommend a position to the CCA Board of Directors or Executive Committee, as appropriate under CCA's Bylaws.

#### **23-11 REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS AND STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD REPRESENTATION**

WHEREAS, Regional Water Quality Control Boards and the State Water Resource Control Board from time to time have technical advisory committees, and

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) should be represented on such committees; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA be encouraged to nominate qualified, interested persons to such committees.

#### **23-12 CLIMATE CHANGE/GLOBAL WARMING**

WHEREAS, consumer demand for beef is being challenged by animal rights and environmental activists who claim that the production of animal protein significantly contributes to climate change, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) oppose efforts by environmental and animal rights activists to decrease consumer demand of animal protein and agricultural products based on an alleged and unsubstantiated amount of greenhouse gas emissions emitted from the livestock industry, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support sound science and research to develop emissions inventories for agricultural sources and sinks, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA should remain vigilant in working with local, state, and federal government to ensure that any future climate change policy impacts the industry to the least extent possible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose state or national climate change regulations that involuntarily regulate greenhouse gases from biogenic sources and other sources that directly or indirectly impact agriculture, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose the listing of species or habitat under the federal Endangered Species Act or California Endangered Species Act based primarily on climate change.

### **23-13 MOUNTAIN LIONS**

WHEREAS, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has specific authority to manage mountain lions, and

WHEREAS, the number of mountain lions in the State of California is unknown, and

WHEREAS, mountain lions are causing increased livestock and game animal depredation resulting in economic losses to owners of livestock and property, and

WHEREAS, current law restricts mountain lion management, and

WHEREAS, the public and legislators need better knowledge of mountain lion interactions with humans, and

WHEREAS, current information on the status of mountain lions demonstrates the increasing need for a complete mountain lion management program for the State of California, and

WHEREAS, such a program should address all parts of mountain lion management, and

WHEREAS, such a program should include control of depredating mountain lions and the protection of public safety and welfare; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the development of a complete management program for mountain lions at the level allowed by current law, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA ask the Department of Fish and Wildlife to annually inform the California public, the legislature, and CCA of the estimated or relative number of mountain lions, along with the number of threats to human safety by mountain lions, as well as actual attacks and losses of livestock, pets, and valuable natural resources to mountain lions in the State of California.

### **23-14 REVENUE ENHANCEMENTS THROUGH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, California's ranchers believe that ranching and wildlife are beneficial to each other, and

WHEREAS, California's ranchers value and foster stewardship, working landscapes, and wildlife values, and

WHEREAS, ranching is a way of life and the production of livestock can be a challenging way to make a viable living; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support any effort to enhance production and ranch revenue opportunities through voluntary wildlife management.

## **23-15 ELK RELOCATION**

WHEREAS, elk relocation has caused property damage and conflict between landowners and operators; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) oppose any further relocations of elk unless an agreement is reached with landowners on the surrounding property that will be impacted by the elk, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the issuance of depredation permits for elk, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support increasing tag quotas, reimbursement to landowners for damages, additional landowner tags, reduced acreage requirements for landowner tags, and other appropriate means to address elk damage.

## **23-16 STATE FUNDING REDUCTION FOR THE WILDLIFE SERVICES PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, predation on livestock is a serious problem for the agricultural producers of the State of California, and

WHEREAS, protection of agricultural resources from wildlife damage is necessary for the efficient production of agricultural commodities, and

WHEREAS, the survival of the livestock industry in the State of California along with human safety hinge on a professionally-implemented wildlife damage management program, and

WHEREAS, large predatory animals such as mountain lions, black bears, and coyotes significantly damage livestock commodities and pose a serious threat to human safety, and

WHEREAS, agricultural producers significantly contribute to the establishment and maintenance of wildlife habitat without adequate compensation for the benefit to the public and the wildlife of the State of California, and

WHEREAS, large wild predatory animals are having an adverse effect on the livestock industry, certain wildlife species, and human safety, and

WHEREAS, the public, by the passage of statewide initiatives, have severely affected the ability of individual livestock producers to protect their livestock from predation by wild predators; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) oppose any reduction in funding for, or cost-sharing with, the USDA Wildlife Services Program by the federal government, state agencies, or counties, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support restoration of Wildlife Services funding by the

California Department of Food and Agriculture at pre-2003 levels.

### **23-17 RODENTICIDE SURCHARGE SUPPORT**

WHEREAS, the use of larvicides and rodenticides is essential for modern agricultural production, and

WHEREAS, amendments to the federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act establish registration fees and costly data requirements for the continued registration of these materials, and

WHEREAS, the funding assessment of fifty cents per pound on all vertebrate pest baits prepared and sold by county agricultural commissioners has proven to be a valuable tool for funding continued registration; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support legislation to continue the assessment surcharge program.

### **23-18 SUPPORT FOR RODENT CONTROL**

WHEREAS, rodents are devastating pests to agriculture and the environment, creating a large economic loss, and

WHEREAS, rodents transmit diseases that threaten public health; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the University of California, California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Department of Public Health to research and provide environmentally safe and effective alternatives to control rodents, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the continued use of all effective rodenticides.

### **23-19 ILLEGAL DRUG OPERATIONS ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS**

WHEREAS, ranchers, timberland owners, and both private and public property are being severely impacted by the cultivation, harvesting, and distribution of marijuana, and

WHEREAS, such activity threatens and degrades the environment by polluting the water, diverting normal stream flows, killing cattle and wildlife, and polluting the air, and

WHEREAS, such activity threatens the personal safety of ranchers, landowners, farm and ranch workers, and family members along with those using public lands; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) coordinate and collaborate with the affected parties including ranchers, timberland owners, sportsmen's groups, public land use groups, public agencies, county boards of supervisors, legislators, and the Governor to communicate and cooperate with the various environmental enforcement agencies, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Drug Enforcement Agency, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, and local politicians in an effort to allocate and appropriate adequate funding and other resources to effectively aid in enforcing existing laws and ordinances restricting and regulating the cultivation, harvesting, and distribution of marijuana throughout the State of California, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support a multi-tiered approach to resolve these

problems and advocate to:

- Secure funding for sheriff's departments and search for grant funding from state and federal agencies and private entities.
- Improve coordination between the aforesaid agencies to increase the efficiency of these agencies and specifically local law enforcement to implement the enforcement of existing laws and ordinances regulating marijuana.
- Advance legislation that increases fines and penalties for violations of drug laws.
- Increase public awareness of environmental damage being done and the impacts of growers' dogs killing cattle, growers poisoning wildlife, diverting water, polluting water, risks associated with growers being armed and on drugs, and the general increase in crime associated with these elements.

## **23-20 WOLF POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association create a subcommittee appointed by the CCA President to address the presence of wolves in California. The subcommittee shall be comprised of individuals who have been involved with the wolf issue and shall focus on working with appropriate agencies and associations to deal with wolf presence, pursue legal procedures to remove animals that pose a clear and present danger to humans or domestic animals, and to control predation by feral dogs, wolf-dog hybrids, and domestically-raised wolves, which are not protected under Federal or State law. Staff shall keep the subcommittee informed about agency actions and shall consult with the subcommittee relative to interaction with outside organizations related to wolves.

## **23-21 SINGLE SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, water and wildlife are frequently considered public trust resources, and

WHEREAS, single species management oftentimes favors one endangered species over another endangered or threatened species and puts livestock production and private property rights at risk; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support state and federal policies that recognize the complex interrelationships among public trust resources, including water and wildlife, at the local, state, and federal levels.

## **23-22 RESPONSIBLE USE OF STOCK POND WATER FOR AERIAL FIREFIGHTING**

WHEREAS, ranch owners and water right holders recognize the importance of access to water for firefighting, and

WHEREAS, the strategic location of stock ponds relative to fire events makes them an important resource for firefighters, and

WHEREAS, the stored water in these stock ponds is often the only source of water for livestock and essential to the life and safety of that livestock, and

WHEREAS, these stock ponds likely will not be refilled until winter storm run-off occurs, and

WHEREAS, the water right holder must pay yearly water right fees and report yearly water right usage to maintain the water right, and

WHEREAS, firefighting helicopters used in aerial water operations can startle or frighten livestock or cause them to stampede, resulting in loss of performance, injury, or death; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) work with appropriate elected officials and agency personnel to develop an agreement or policy to ensure the water right holders of these stock ponds can have the amount of water taken for firefighting purposes replaced in-kind, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA communicate to appropriate local and state agencies the importance of selecting other water sources when livestock are present.

### **23-23 TIMELY ISSUANCE OF LETHAL DEPREDAATION PERMITS**

WHEREAS, predation continues to be a serious problem for California ranches, and

WHEREAS, depredation permits are often not timely issued by an issuing agency; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with appropriate legislators and agencies to ensure that policies relating to the issuance of depredation permits allowing lethal methods of removal be no more restrictive than authorizing statutes, and that such lethal take permits be issued without undue delay after a depredation is identified.

### **24-01 PERMITS FOR IRRIGATION DIVERSIONS**

WHEREAS, requirements of the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) for permits to put in irrigation diversion dams is another unnecessary, bureaucratic invasion of private property rights, and

WHEREAS, the State of California has already issued water rights, permits, or licenses to divert water from streams, and

WHEREAS, water diversions have been placed in streams year after year for many decades, and

WHEREAS, the securing of permits is costly to the property owners and the state, and

WHEREAS, stream channel work is often essential to protect private land; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) oppose requirements for regulatory permits from a government agency to install irrigation diversions where the State of California has granted an application, permit, or license to appropriate water, or where similar water diversion equipment or structures have been placed repeatedly in streams in the same location for many years, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose requirements for permits to perform stream channel work that is urgently needed to protect private property.

### **24-02 CATTLE IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY**

WHEREAS, there have been unsubstantiated accusations of cattle having degraded water quality and riparian vegetation; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) continue to work with the University of California to develop information on the impact of grazing on water quality, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA continue to work with the State Water Resources Control Board to resolve industry concerns on this matter.

#### **24-03 ENDANGERED SPECIES - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

WHEREAS, federal, state, and local governments own a significant amount of the lands within the state of California, and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Endangered Species Act has far-reaching implications concerning agricultural practices in areas where endangered species exist; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts to ensure that government agencies prepare an economic analysis (including the impacts on local, state, and national economies) and an environmental impact statement before the taking of any land or water for endangered or threatened species, before the designation of critical habitat or similar designation, and before a threatened or endangered species may be moved or relocated.

#### **24-04 SUPPORT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR ALFALFA WEEVIL**

WHEREAS, the alfalfa weevil has spread to rangeland areas impacting burr clover production, and

WHEREAS, there is no registered nor economical pesticide control available, and

WHEREAS, only limited research has been directed to the rangeland aspects of alfalfa pests, and

WHEREAS, the University of California is expanding research and educational efforts in integrated pest management; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts by the University of California to incorporate further investigation of the role of parasite control of alfalfa pests on burr clover and other rangeland plants in the alfalfa component of their Integrated Pest Management Program.

#### **24-05 WETLANDS MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, management of wetlands is increasingly intruding on normal farming and ranching operations; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association:

1. Remain involved in the formulation of definitions and the regulation of wetlands and work to exclude normal ongoing farming and ranching activities from the permit process.
2. Support the limitation of the definition of wetlands to existing natural wetlands (excluding wet areas created by irrigation and artificially created ponds) and wetlands be defined by including all of the following criteria: hydric soils, hydrophytic



- vegetation, and wetland hydrology.
3. Oppose expansion of the definition of wetlands by regulatory agencies.
  4. Support the recognition in the permitting process of benefits created by agricultural and recreational activities that impact wetlands.
  5. Support the consolidation of local, state, and federal permit processes into one comprehensive and affordable permit issued in a prompt manner, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this policy be forwarded to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

**24-06 SUPPORT FOR FUNDING OF VOLUNTARY, LOCALLY-LED CONSERVATION EFFORTS THROUGH RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AND THE USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

WHEREAS, demands on the ranching community to meet stringent water quality and environmental quality regulations on California's rangelands have increased, and

WHEREAS, funding for, and availability of, technical assistance in California to support voluntary, locally-led conservation efforts has seriously declined; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts' (CARCD) effort to increase the State of California's base-level funding for districts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support efforts to increase national annual funding for the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA request the support of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to increase the annual national technical assistance funding to NRCS.

**24-07 HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY LISTED AS A NOXIOUS WEED WITH CDFA**

WHEREAS, the Himalayan Blackberry is an invasive, non-native plant impacting thousands of acres of riparian areas, waterways, pasture, and rangeland, and

WHEREAS, it reduces habitat for wildlife as well as forage for livestock; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to designate the Himalayan Blackberry as a noxious weed of concern and consider designating funding for its management, including weed abatement funding.

**24-08 PUNCTUREVINE BIOCONTROL**

WHEREAS, puncturevine is a significant rangeland pest in California, and

WHEREAS, natural predators for this pest exist, and

WHEREAS, natural predators in California only exist below 2,500 feet elevation; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts to

import appropriate biocontrol organisms from other countries to help control this pest.

#### **24-09 JUNIPER REMOVAL**

WHEREAS, many California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) members currently have juniper trees on their ranches and grazing allotments that require active management that includes removal, and

WHEREAS, these junipers are invasive and impact the ecological health of rangelands; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA work with the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to ensure juniper removal does not require a Timber Harvest Plan.

#### **24-10 LEGALITY OF PUBLIC USES ON EASEMENT RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose public uses other than the specific purpose for which any easement was originally intended.

#### **24-11 DEFINITION OF RANGELAND**

WHEREAS, the use of the term rangeland is variously confused with terms identifying other vegetative types including forest or wild lands in such situations as legislatively-directed natural resource assessment, land use planning, vegetative management programs, and research funding for natural resources; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association continue to recognize and promote the following definition of rangeland, which was adopted by the Board of Forestry on April 7, 1980:

"Rangeland is land on which the existing vegetation, whether growing naturally or through management, is suitable for grazing or browsing. Rangeland includes any natural grasslands, savannas, shrub lands, deserts, woodlands, and wetlands which support a vegetative cover of native grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, shrubs, or other naturalized species."

#### **24-12 PRESERVATION OF LANDS FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, there exists a long history of conversion of agricultural lands owned or controlled by California universities, colleges, and high schools into non-agricultural uses, even though a large portion of these lands have been acquired through donations and legislation specifying agricultural education use, and

WHEREAS, United States Forest Service lands long dedicated to agricultural research and education are also being converted to other uses; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association pursue appropriate measures to stop the conversion of lands now utilized for agricultural education and research.

## **24-13 RELICENSING OF HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the owners and operators of existing hydroelectric projects have utilized the nation's natural resources in order to generate low-cost electric energy for millions of Americans, and

WHEREAS, the substantial numbers of members of the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) in northern, central, and southern California rely on that electricity for their social and economic well-being, and

WHEREAS, certain hydroelectric facilities are subject to relicensing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Power Act provides for a municipal preference and some municipal utilities are endeavoring to secure the ownership and operation of existing privately-owned generating facilities, and

WHEREAS, this would result in the transfer of the benefits provided by these existing facilities to a smaller service area and thus divert low-cost power away from many of the members represented by CCA, and

WHEREAS, such a transfer would result in increased power costs to those currently receiving the benefit of existing hydroelectric facilities; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support modification of the municipal preference clause of the Federal Power Act to provide that any existing licensee shall receive a new license for its hydroelectric projects unless it is shown that the relicensing of the project would not be in the public interest.

## **24-14 CONSERVATION EASEMENTS**

WHEREAS, conservation and mitigation easements can provide a viable tool for private landowners to maintain the economic sustainability of working ranches and preserve their conservation ethic, and

WHEREAS, a number of California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) members have exercised their private property rights to enter into conservation or mitigation easements, and

WHEREAS, the members of CCA voted to establish the California Rangeland Trust in 1998 to work with landowners to hold voluntary, agricultural conservation easements on working ranches; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support only those conservation or mitigation easements and easement programs that are voluntary, maintain access to grazing wherever appropriate, and do not unreasonably restrict other ranching activities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose government policies that require or otherwise compel landowners to enter into conservation or mitigation easements, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support public and private funding allocated to voluntary conservation and mitigation easements, where consistent with other CCA policies.

## **24-15 FOSSIL FUEL EXPLORATION**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the California Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) to protect private property rights and support the individual's right of self-determination on one’s own property, and

WHEREAS, CCA has a policy titled “Property Rights—Our Lands’ Most Compelling Issue,” specifically stating that “the preservation and restrictive use of agricultural land is continually being used as a ploy to limit the agricultural property owner's right to control his or her land” and resolving that “the [CCA] strongly support the efforts of private property rights advocacy organizations and planning principles that allow agriculture to remain economically viable,” and

WHEREAS, the survival of the beef industry and agriculture depends upon positive changes occurring in the exploration, development, and refining capacities for crude oil here in the United States to increase both the supply of fossil fuel-based energy sources and the refining capacity for that oil, and

WHEREAS, ceasing exploration and the use of fossil fuels cannot be accomplished without severely harming America’s economy and its citizens’ standard of living, and

WHEREAS, CCA recognizes that the survival of the beef industry and agriculture as a whole is dependent upon access to domestic fossil fuel supplies, and

WHEREAS, CCA recognizes that ceasing exploration and mining of fossil fuels will be detrimental to California’s economy and increase dependence on foreign fossil fuel supplies; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support the lawful exploration, development, and mining of domestic oil and gas supplies located in California, including advanced drilling techniques such as hydraulic fracturing, as consistent with CCA’s adopted policies on agricultural land use and preservation and protection of private property rights, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the lawful exploration, development, and mining of domestic oil and gas supplies as an important complementary use of rangelands that could provide a stable stream of income for ranchers operating in a volatile marketplace, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support all the above, providing that CCA advocates first and foremost on behalf of the cattle producers' property rights that are related to his or her ability to conduct his or her cattle operation.

## **24-16 AIR QUALITY BURN PERMIT FEES**

WHEREAS, fees are routinely charged by local air quality management districts to process agricultural burn or prescribed burn permits, and

WHEREAS, fees are inconsistent throughout the state, with some local air quality management districts charging no fees for burn permits while others charge upwards of \$1,250 for permits to conduct a prescribed burn, and

WHEREAS, current fee structures in some areas act as a disincentive for landowners who wish to reduce fuels, improve rangelands and forestlands, and restore habitat, and

WHEREAS, the need for prescribed fire for fuels reduction, range improvement, habitat conservation, and ecosystem restoration remains critical throughout the state regardless of a county or

region's air quality permitting structure; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts to reduce or eliminate local fees collected to process permits that authorize the use of prescribed fire whether legislatively or through negotiations with local air quality management districts.

***LOCAL CONTACT LIST FOR CAL FIRE – Staff Directive***

*WHEREAS, wildfires are growing in intensity and frequency in California, and*

*WHEREAS, the leadership and crews assigned to these fires are frequently not local to the fires they are fighting, and*

*WHEREAS, rangeland cattle ranchers have detailed, real-time information and knowledge of the lands they own and manage; now*

*THEREFORE, BE IT DIRECTED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) work with local associations to develop a contact list of willing members that could provide information to fire officials on access, terrain, and general geography in their locale, and*

*BE IT FURTHER DIRECTED, that CCA update this list annually and provide it to CAL FIRE, USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region, and the Bureau of Land Management California State Office.*

## ***TAX & CREDIT***

### **20-01 BURDEN OF PROOF FOR ASSESSMENT APPEALS**

WHEREAS, the California Revenue and Taxation Code places the burden of proof on the assessor's office in appeals before the Assessment Appeals Board related to residential property which is the owner's principal place of residence, and

WHEREAS, the Revenue and Taxation Code places the burden of proof upon property owners when appealing assessments related to non-residential property; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support legislation to amend the Revenue and Taxation Code to provide that the burden of proof before the Assessment Appeals Board be borne by the assessor on any appeal of increases in the value of agricultural property made by the assessor.

### **20-02 TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIREMENT TO INCREASE TAXES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association continue to support the requirement for a two-thirds vote to increase both state and local taxes and the requirement for a two-thirds vote to establish or increase service fees.

### **20-03 SUBVENTION OF TAX LOSS THROUGH EMINENT DOMAIN AND CONDEMNATION**

WHEREAS, excessive acquisition of private land by government agencies in rural counties continues to reduce the supply of land utilized for the production of forage, feed, and fiber, and

WHEREAS, the general net effect of these projects is to benefit urban centers of the population while reducing the tax base in the counties of project development, thereby creating a greater tax burden on remaining private land, and

WHEREAS, it can thus be shown that rural county residents are subsidizing the activities of the urban population; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support policies that seek to permanently provide subvention payments to county governments of tax revenue lost due to the public taking of private land, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that without subvention payments, government entities should not be able to acquire any land within a county if that county is owed in lieu taxes or other debts and/or liens by the government.

### **20-04 WILLIAMSON ACT SUBVENTION FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) supports the retention of the Williamson Act program and subvention funding, and

WHEREAS, economic circumstances in California have jeopardized the availability of Williamson Act subvention funds, and

WHEREAS, legislative remedies have been enacted to create a short-term sustainable solution in order to keep the Williamson Act in existence; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA continue to support efforts to retain local authority over contracts, minimize landowner contributions, and support legislative remedies to fully fund the Williamson Act subvention payments in order to discourage counties from exiting the program.

#### **21-01 WILLIAMSON ACT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association favor the retention and funding of the Williamson Act.

#### **21-02 SPLIT ROLL PROPERTY TAX**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose any split roll property tax legislation or initiative.

#### **21-03 MINORITY INTEREST IN PROPERTY**

BE IT RESOLVED, the California Cattlemen's Association seek codification of the right to discount the value of property where such property has fractured ownership which creates a minority interest.

#### **22-01 NOTICE & HEARING ON PROPERTY TAXES & ASSESSMENTS**

WHEREAS, new forms of taxes and assessments are being imposed without property owners being individually noticed and provided a hearing; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support adequate notice and opportunity for a hearing be provided individually to all impacted property owners before any new tax or assessment can be imposed on their property.

#### **22-02 INDEXING THE BASIS OF REAL PROPERTY**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts to index the basis for real property valuations for both state and federal tax codes.

#### **22-03 SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS - ESTATE TAXES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support an increased limit as well as the removal of the limitation on special use valuation for federal estate valuation purposes and liberalization of the filing rules.

#### **22-04 WILLIAMSON ACT MONITORING**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work to ensure that the state or counties do not unilaterally change the terms of the contract or the Williamson Act statutes.

## **22-05 INSURANCE COVERAGE**

WHEREAS, all types of insurance coverage to California businesses have dramatically escalated in cost and are becoming increasingly unavailable, and

WHEREAS, the existing compensation and liability system has resulted in unreasonable awards and a needlessly expensive legal process; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support any effort to reform laws involving, but not limited to, liability, workers compensation, casualty, and health insurance to result in reasonable awards and the continued availability of insurance coverage at reasonable rates to California agriculture, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support educational and informational programs which encourage safe working conditions and practices within the cattle industry.

## **22-06 WORKER SAFETY SURVEY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, worker's compensation rate increases are a significant problem to cattle operations, and

WHEREAS, information on the cause of accidents and safety problems is critically needed as is preliminary information indicating the job practices where injuries are occurring, and

WHEREAS, no safety information is currently available; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association coordinate with the Livestock Memorial Research Fund and other cattle industry groups to develop a model safety program for animal agricultural operations.

## **22-07 OPPOSITION TO RESOURCES AGENCY VETO POWER FOR CANCELLATIONS OF WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACTS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose granting power to the California Resources Agency to veto county cancellations of Williamson Act contracts.

## **22-08 DECREASED VALUE OF IRRIGATED LAND IMPACTED BY DROUGHT**

WHEREAS, the drought has resulted in significant reduction or outright elimination of irrigation water which has resulted in drying up of pastures, and

WHEREAS, owners of these lands typically pay a higher per-acre property tax than owners of non-irrigated lands; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with county governments, other appropriate agencies, and allied agriculture organizations to seek appropriate property tax relief for these landowners.

## **23-01 NON-PROPERTY TAX FUNDING OF PEOPLE RELATED SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the state mandates and controls numerous programs that are not property related,



and

WHEREAS, the state has avoided, by disclaimer, State General Fund financing for state-mandated programs; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the concept that people related services such as welfare and MediCal should be paid for by taxes derived from revenue other than the property tax, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage and support legislation that would: 1) accomplish the removal of people related services from property tax rolls; 2) broaden the base for general revenue taxation to pay for people related services; 3) ensure all state-mandated programs are fully paid for by state funds.

### **23-02 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACTED LANDS**

WHEREAS, the annual capitalization approach to valuing agricultural lands for property taxation has proven to be beneficial to the economy of the State of California and to the general agricultural economy; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association actively support and defend the annual assessment of contracted lands based on a capitalization of current income.

### **23-03 LOCAL TAX SHIFT OPPOSITION**

BE IT RESOLVED, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is strongly opposed to the State of California taking local property tax revenue to fund state government.

### **23-04 STATE AGENCY TAX TIMING AND TAX RATE**

WHEREAS, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and any other state agency acquiring land for wildlife values is not required to pay taxes on a land acquisition until it has been designated a wildlife area; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support a requirement for CDFW and any other state agency to make payments in lieu of taxes to local agencies immediately upon acquiring land, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA also support the requirement for CDFW and any other state agency to make payments in lieu of taxes to local agencies in perpetuity based on the current appraised value, not at the previous owner's rate.

### **23-05 AGRICULTURAL UTILITY RATES**

WHEREAS, agricultural utility rates have been increasing dramatically in recent years, and

WHEREAS, these increased rates are detrimentally impacting many California cattlemen, and

WHEREAS, recent legislative and Public Utility Commission activities have focused on utility rates, and

WHEREAS, several proposals have features potentially favorable to agriculture, namely a "time of use" rate and an agricultural interruptible service provision; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support appropriate legislative and regulatory endeavors to amend rate classifications and other matters which would result in possible relief from rising utility rates.

#### **23-06 WILLIAMSON ACT COMPATIBLE USES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) strongly supports efforts to ensure the long-term viability of the Williamson Act, provided those efforts are consistent with existing policy regarding land use and taxation contained in current CCA resolutions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work to identify, document, and recommend reasonable measures to correct actual abuses of the compatible use provisions of the Williamson Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the continued multiple uses of contract grazing lands as compatible uses, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA continue to work with all Williamson Act stakeholders to find common ground on the compatible use issue and further protect the integrity of the Williamson Act.

#### **23-07 ESTATE TAX REPEAL**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) continue to seek permanent increases in federal estate and gift tax exemptions to provide for tax rates at a more reasonable level, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, these pursuits accompany the larger and more important objective of fully eliminating the federal estate tax.

#### **24-01 INCOME TAX ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

WHEREAS, ranchers historically have had the option to choose whatever method of accounting best suits their operation, and

WHEREAS, ranchers may have widely fluctuating income from year to year; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support efforts to ensure that ranchers have a free choice with respect to using the cash, accrual, or hybrid methods of accounting, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support income tax averaging for ranchers on federal and state tax returns.

#### **24-02 BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS**

WHEREAS, rural landowners' properties are comprised of multiple unimproved parcels, which are unduly burdened by new assessments and surcharges levied by state and local governments; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) vigorously oppose new fees and assessments, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with local associations to oppose these fees and assessments as they pertain to local issues, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support efforts to reform benefit assessment statutes to treat contiguous agricultural properties as a single unit for purposes of assessments.

#### **24-03 LAND BASED TAXES AND FARMLAND SECURITY ZONES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association staff pursue including rangeland in Farmland Security Zones.

#### **24-04 CALIFORNIA INHERITANCE TAX**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose reinstatement of the California Estate and Inheritance Tax.