



California Cattlemen's Association

2008 – 2009 Policy Resolutions

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BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE & CARE COMMITTEE

2004-2008 Policy

04-01 CALIFORNIA BEEF CATTLE INDUSTRY PRODUCTION CODE OF ETHICS

As a cattle producer, I recognize that my livelihood and my way of life are dependent upon the wise stewardship of all 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 in a humane manner.
- 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.
- 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 industry and those who subscribe to the above principles.

04-02 HANDLING OF CATTLE WITH OCULAR LESIONS

WHEREAS, individual cattle from various breeds of livestock sometimes suffer from ocular lesions, and

WHEREAS, these animals enter the food chain at sometime in their life, and

WHEREAS, if timely treated while the condition is localized, these animals can continue their productive life, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the industry to provide consumers with the most wholesome product possible; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association urges producers to either aggressively treat any ocular condition upon first identification or properly dispose of such cattle in a timely manner.

04-03 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE EFFORTS

WHEREAS, there is an increasing public and industry awareness of food quality and safety issues, and

WHEREAS, awareness of carcass defects is increasing, and

WHEREAS, all the information necessary to completely eliminate these defects is not currently available; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the Feeder Council Quality Certification Program, the Cow-Calf Quality Assurance Program, and the short- and long-term strategies of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Beef Quality Assurance Task Force on carcass defects.

04-04 ETHICAL LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND RESOURCE USE

WHEREAS, on occasion the industry is faced with issues where some in the industry have not conducted themselves or their businesses in keeping with generally recognized business and livestock management practices, and

WHEREAS, the entire beef cattle industry often 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) calls upon and urges the industry to follow the accepted livestock and business management practices in animal health, animal welfare, grazing practices, co-existence with wildlife, use of water, and waste management, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA shall not be compelled to defend anyone in the beef cattle industry who has clearly acted to abuse livestock or grazing, water or air resources, and

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

04-05 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, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the Animal Care guidelines as adopted in final form by NCBA in January of 2003.

04-06 MARKETING VALUE-ADDED CALVES

WHEREAS, California cow/calf producers produce healthy, quality calves and the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) has a successful Quality Assurance Program, and

WHEREAS, the success of the value-added program for marketing beef calves depends upon cooperation among the cow/calf, stocker, feedlot operator, and the buyer; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA supports value-added programs.

**05-01 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 (CCA) will encourage all rodeo events to follow the PRCA Humane Guidelines and that CCA will support rodeos conducted under the PRCA Humane Guidelines.

05-02 USE OF ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES

WHEREAS, there are no viable substitutes for animal metabolic and physiological systems in the study of disease, immunology, 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 (CCA) advocate legislation to continue the availability and the legality of use of animals in human and animal research, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work together with local cattlemen's associations and other livestock and poultry groups to affect such legislation.

05-03 SUPPORT FOR ETHICAL AND HUMANE DISPOSAL OF HORSES

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

WHEREAS, 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, now

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose legislation that prohibits those practices that could potentially hinder future efforts to dispose of horses.

06-01 CATTLE HANDLING EQUIPMENT DESIGN

WHEREAS, administration of injectable biologics in the neck area was shown to be desirable, and

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, worker safety, and promotion of beef safety.

06-02 RESPONSE TO ANIMAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

WHEREAS, there is an expanding interest in "animal rights" and so-called "humane treatment" of all animals, including domestic livestock, and

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

WHEREAS, a broad-based unified educational effort is most likely to be effective in preserving the opportunity for livestock and poultry 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 true methods of treatment and handling of domestically produced livestock, the validity of animal psychological considerations involved therein, the importance of current efficient production in providing complete protein sources in the American diet, and the rights of animal producers.

06-03 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 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.

07-01 SALE OF CATTLE WITH SEVERELY ULCERATED EYES

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 throughout 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; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association continue to take the lead role in rigorously sponsoring a ban on the merchandising of cattle with severely ulcerated eyes.

07-02 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 that 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 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.

08-01 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 hide and carcass, 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 (CCA) continue to support policies to prohibit the slaughter of disabled (downer, non-ambulatory) cattle in California and the United States for human consumption and that CCA strongly urge the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to adopt a similar position.

CATTLE HEALTH COMMITTEE

2004-2008 Policy

04-01 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) RESEARCH FUNDING FOR EPIZOOTIC BOVINE ABORTION (EBA) RESEARCH

WHEREAS, EBA is known to be endemic in California and parts of Oregon and Nevada, and

WHEREAS, these states contribute substantially to the U.S. Treasury, and

WHEREAS, USDA manages disbursement of funds for cattle research nationwide, and

WHEREAS, California cattlemen lose at least \$6 million annually from EBA; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Cattlemen's Beef Association encourage USDA to place EBA on a high priority list for extramural research funding to resolve this important cattle disease problem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association petition the Secretary of Agriculture as to the importance of funding research for EBA.

04-02 SUPPORT FOR BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION AND PREVENTION

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

WHEREAS, Brucellosis continues to be a problem in several western states, and

WHEREAS, surveillance programs are of prime importance in preventing the introduction and reintroduction of Brucellosis into our livestock herds, and

WHEREAS, continued calthood vaccination programs are very important to preventing Brucellosis in our livestock herds; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA work with all agencies and organizations to complete the eradication and prevention of Brucellosis, including eradication in the cattle and wildlife herds in the greater Yellowstone area and elsewhere.

04-03 NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) recognizes the need for animal identification for purposes of ensuring cattle health and food safety and also recognizes the increasing market-driven needs for animal identification; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA staff, officers, and members be actively involved with state and national agencies and organizations to develop cattle identification programs that meet our members' specific needs for cost-effectiveness, workability, confidentiality, and to limit producer liability, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA strongly support industry and market forces, and not coercive government mandates, that aid in achieving the goal of a national ID program. Furthermore, CCA strongly supports the continued use and enhancement of California's current brand laws to aid in achieving the goal.

04-04 TUBERCULOSIS RULES ON US-MEXICAN BORDER

WHEREAS, bovine tuberculosis is a continuing problem on the US-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 United States cattlemen,
and

WHEREAS, the United States 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 US and Mexican cattle producers; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA work with NCBA and USDA to develop and implement methods to permanently identify, trace, and annually test Mexican origin exhibition steers and bulls for tuberculosis.

05-01 UNIFORM BRUCELLOSIS GUIDELINES

WHEREAS, there are cattle movement and disease issues that cross state borders, and

WHEREAS, some of these issues may be best resolved by establishing uniform regional guidelines and/or regulations,
and

WHEREAS, regional consideration for California includes Arizona, Nevada, Oregon and other Western states, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports establishing uniform regional guidelines and/or regulations between California, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona and other interested states, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support continued calfhoo vaccination and allowing the use of RB51 for adult vaccination in instances where calfhoo vaccination was not utilized and adult vaccination will not jeopardize California's "Brucellosis Free" status. CCA also encourages development and implementation of other science-based regulations to aid in control of Brucellosis and provide economic benefit to the producer.

05-02 CALIFORNIA TRICHOMONOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM REVISIONS

WHEREAS, Trichomonosis is an economically devastating disease in cattle herds, and

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) has successfully worked to pass legislation and enact regulation implementing a California Trichomonosis Control Program, and

WHEREAS, this control program, developed with input from all sectors of the cattle industry, has proven marginally successful in reducing occurrences of Trichomonosis in California, and

WHEREAS, revisions can be made to the current California Trichomonosis Control Program to ensure greater success in controlling this disease on a statewide basis, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the California Cattlemen's Association shall work with CDFA and other industry organizations to enact in regulation the following changes to the California Trichomonosis Control Program:

- § Upon the identification of a Trichomonosis-positive bull, all herd-mate bulls shall be required to have three, negative-consecutive Trichomonosis tests conducted at the owner's expense. The same standard shall be applied upon the identification of a Trichomonosis-positive cow.
- § 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 bulls, at owner's expense, in herds determined to have been exposed.
- § All Trichomonosis diagnostic tests will be official tests which must be administered by a certified veterinarian, cultured in a certified laboratory, and all results must be reported to CDFA.
- § All bulls over 18 months of age sold through a public livestock market shall be green tagged and sold only to slaughter or to a feedlot designated only for slaughter unless accompanied by an official negative Trichomonosis test result from a sample taken within 60 days of sale by a certified veterinarian.
- § Breeding Bulls entering California as part of a herd that has been authorized entry into California via pasture-to-pasture permit pursuant to section 753.1(f)(2)(A) through (H) of Title 3 of the CCR require one negative Trichomonosis test within the 12 months prior to entry. The pasture-to-pasture permit shall include the date and test results or a copy of the test record may be attached to the permit, and the name and telephone number of the testing veterinarian.
- § Upon the identification of a Trichomonosis-positive bull or cow within a herd moved via pasture-to-pasture permit, CDFA shall notify the neighboring state.
- § The minimum testing age for all categories of bulls shall be 18 months of age.
- § As a requirement of entry into California, a negative Trichomonosis test result on a specimen must be collected after ten days without contact with sexually mature female cattle, and within sixty days prior to entry.

05-03 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, USDA 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 CCA and NCBA actively support plans for the development of regional veterinary facilities and vigorously request the necessary funding from Congress.

05-04 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 CCA work with NCBA, the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges, other appropriate groups, and Congress to develop, support and aid in funding the placement of veterinarians in rural communities.

05-05 FEEDING OF ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of December 23, 2003 the Food & Drug Administration proposed adding additional items to list of substances banned in livestock feed including poultry litter, and

WHEREAS, the Food & Drug Administration has yet to take action on this issue, and

WHEREAS, there is a perception that these feed additives create potential for BSE and increase the amount of time after the 1997 feed ban which we can expect new cases of BSE; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association shall work with state and federal agencies, members of Congress, and NCBA to prohibit the use of poultry litter and any other by-products that are proven or suspected to contain the BSE infectious agent in livestock feed.

06-01 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 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 (CCA) continue to urge the FDA to maintain the present levels of permitted selenium supplementation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA staff continue to work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and ask that they actively lobby to keep the present permitted supplementation levels.

06-02 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 (CCA) 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.

06-03 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 cause considerable economic loss to the livestock industry, and

WHEREAS, the industry has been successful in the past garnering support from USDA Veterinary Science 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 direct staff and designated Cattle Health Committee members to work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and appropriate University of California and USDA staff to direct research efforts toward effective control and management of the face fly.

06-04 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 shall urge veterinarians, producers and others (UC Davis, Cooperative Extension, etc) to support a voluntary BVD control program for California producers.

06-05 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, 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.

06-06 NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) recognizes the need for a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) for the purpose of enabling State and Federal animal health officials to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies such as foreign animal disease outbreaks or emerging domestic diseases, and

WHEREAS, the CCA prefers a voluntary program which includes premises registration and individual animal identification; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA staff, officers, and members work to encourage participation in a plan that satisfies the goals of the NAIS but meets the needs of California's beef producers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA strongly encourages its members and all cattle producers to acquire a premises ID as soon as possible and to make plans to individually identify all animals prior to their departure from the ranch.

06-07 ENZOOTIC BOVINE ABORTION

WHEREAS, Enzootic Bovine Abortion (EBA), known as Foothill Abortion, is an economically important disease to cattlemen, and

WHEREAS, there is a significant occurrence of EBA in California, and

WHEREAS, EBA is still not fully understood, and

WHEREAS, further research is necessary to understand and control EBA; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association recommend to the Livestock Memorial Research Fund (LMRF) to significantly fund research through the University of California School of Veterinary Medicine to further our understanding of EBA and to develop a control measure for the disease, such as a vaccine, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LMRF also explore any other appropriate funding source to help solve this problem.

07-01 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 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.

07-02 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 CCA list of highest priority diseases of beef cattle; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA strongly urge the University of California to continue to make this vaccine technology available to help manage this disease and to continue to develop a functional vaccine.

07-03 CALIFORNIA TUBERCULOSIS WORKING GROUP

WHEREAS, bovine tuberculosis is a continuing problem in the United States, and

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

WHEREAS, the prevention of the reintroduction of tuberculosis is paramount in the minds of California cattlemen; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association retain a Tuberculosis Working Group with representatives from all industry interest groups and related organizations to suggest potential solutions to the tuberculosis problem and present these potential solutions to CCA membership through the Cattle Health Committee.

07-04 ADMINISTRATIVE FINES FOR VIOLATING ANIMAL HEALTH REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, 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 a risk, and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA staff seek legislation to ensure CDFA's ability to directly pursue administrative fines for violations of cattle health regulations.

07-05 CLONING

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

WHEREAS, the 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 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 continues 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.

08-01 BLUETONGUE RESEARCH IN CALIFORNIA CATTLE

WHEREAS, Bluetongue is an important disease 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 to maintain the Laramie, WY., ARS facility, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA urges USDA-ARS to continue developing adequate protocol for efficient tests for all animals entering the United States from foreign countries.

08-02 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 urge the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis and the United States Department of Agriculture, to continue research and provide funding for research projects to improve testing methods and develop a more effective method for treatment and prevention of bovine trichomonosis.

08-03 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.

08-04 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 the California Department of Food and Agriculture as appropriate, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA urge the USDA to negotiate agreements of understanding with states to continue state regulation of intrastate biological manufacturing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose any changes of laws or regulations which would restrict the present access and/or availability of animal biologicals, except when the changes are supported by clear scientific evidence done on relevant species.

08-05 REGULATION AND CONTROL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS

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

WHEREAS, these new products of biotechnology 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 duplicate commissions within federal agencies; now

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

08-06 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 the 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 (CCA) support continuing food inspection by the USDA and asks that all of the agencies such as FDA and Public Health coordinate and cooperate with USDA in protecting the consumers' food supply, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA ask the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to support this position.

08-07 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 organization 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 the CDFA as the sole state agency responsible for control and prevention of disease in any farmed exotic animals in California.

08-08 CALIFORNIA ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY LABORATORY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the California Animal Health & Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory is a vital necessity for the protection of humans and animals in California from the introduction of exotic diseases affecting animals and zoonotic disease affecting both animals and humans, and

WHEREAS, the CAHFS is necessary for the early detection of these catastrophic diseases before they become widespread, and

WHEREAS, budget reductions would significantly reduce the necessary effectiveness of the CAHFS's ability to detect disease for the protection of animal welfare and prevention of animal and zoonotic-caused human disease; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association advise the Governor, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture and appropriate legislative groups that the cattle industry strongly urges the state to assure adequate budgetary support to CAHFS.

08-09 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 producer, and to support the National Cattlemen's Beef Association in all efforts to control Johne's disease.

08-10 USDA'S BSE "MINIMAL RISK REGION PROPOSAL"

WHEREAS, a BSE outbreak in the United States would be economically devastating to beef cattle producers and devastating to beef consumer's confidence, and

WHEREAS, any change in the current standards established by the OIE could create a greater risk of BSE occurrence in the U.S, and

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) advocates a zero tolerance policy for BSE, and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA urge United States Department of Agriculture, NCBA and any other appropriate organizations to have OIE approve any proposed changes to current U. S. regulations, such as the proposed BSE minimal risk region that is now being considered, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA urge all agencies and organizations to use the best available science to set BSE control standards.

08-11 SUPPORT REGIONAL VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTERS OF EMPHASIS

WHEREAS, the need for food supply veterinarians is great and is increasing, and

WHEREAS, Regional Veterinary Medical Centers of Emphasis will vastly improve the ability of veterinary colleges to produce food supply veterinarians; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association staff work with Congressional members, the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, American Association of Veterinary Colleges and organizations such as Farm Bureau to promote the development of Regional Veterinary Centers of Emphasis with national support, and obtain funding for the program.

08-12 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, through the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other necessary agencies to initiate newer epidemiological methods, compartmentalization, regionalization and other Tuberculosis control methods to streamline the process of reinstatement of California’s ‘TB Free Status.’

08-13 SUPPORT FOR VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT - Staff Directive

BE IT DIRECTED, that CCA staff actively support the Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act with appropriate emphasis to accomplish CCA goals and policy.

FEEDER COUNCIL

2004-2008 Policy

04-01 OPPOSITION TO LOCAL BIOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, genetic engineering and biotechnology are carefully regulated at the federal level by the USDA and FDA, 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 Feeder Council opposes any local government attempt to categorically prohibit the growing or use of genetically modified organisms.

06-01 SAN LUIS, ARIZONA CATTLE CROSSING

WHEREAS, the cattle crossing port in San Luis, Arizona is a critical infrastructure point for the commerce in beef and cattle trade, and

WHEREAS, beef producers in Arizona and California are discriminated against by forcing Mexican cattle to cross in ports in New Mexico and Texas, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association Feeder Council, along with the Arizona cattle feeder groups, jointly request a change in the code of federal regulations to allow Mexican cattle, from the Mexican states that are allowed to export to the U.S., to cross at the Port of San Luis.

08-01 MANDATORY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING – Also passed by CCA Marketing Committee in 2008

WHEREAS, United States Department of Agriculture has indicated that implementation of mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) Provisions for beef products will impose new animal verification procedures and recordkeeping with unknown consequences on trade policy, and

WHEREAS, there continues to be a lack of accurate cost analysis regarding implementation of this law and information regarding compliance requirements by cattle producers, feedlot owners and others within the supply chain, and

WHEREAS, compliance with COOL should be met in a manner that is as simple as possible for cattle feeders and other cattle producers and one that supports the continued ability to export U.S. beef; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association Feeder Council (CCA) support coordination with the California Bureau of Livestock Identification and United States Department of Agriculture animal identification officials at the federal level to imbed information required for COOL compliance into bill of sale and other transaction documents, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA monitor implementation of mandatory country of origin labeling provisions to ensure that provisions meet the needs of cattle feeders and other cattle producers without slowing commerce and are reconciled with existing labeling regulation to prevent any threats to our trade status, exports to other nations or result in significant new burdens on producers.

08-02 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 Feeder Council strongly urges 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 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.

08-03 CORN BASED ETHANOL

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

WHEREAS, Congress has authorized subsidy payments for ethanol blenders and an import tariff for imported ethanol, which have distorted the free market and have created an unfair advantage for the corn ethanol industry relative to livestock producers, and

WHEREAS, grain prices, namely corn prices, have dramatically risen since 2004 following 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 petition Congress to reduce the ethanol blenders' subsidy, ethanol import tariff and grain-based ethanol portion of the RFS to allow the market to develop renewable fuels in accordance with consumer demand with the goal to completely eliminate all market distortion, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CCA support immediate or administrative action to annually waive the RFS to provide relief to artificially high corn prices while policy decisions are being considered in Congress, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CCA oppose future efforts to mandate the production of a particular biofuel and supports efforts to ensure market forces drive production, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CCA work with California's congressional delegation to craft future energy policies that don't adversely or unfairly impact livestock producers or interfere with normal market interactions.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

2004-2008 Policy

04-01 UTILIZATION OF PRODUCER LEADERSHIP

BE IT RESOLVED, that if legislative issues arise for which there is not clear policy on the books, time constraints permitting, CCA staff will contact appropriate committee members or other experts within CCA for clarification.

05-01 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 strongly supports this right, and

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

08-01 POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES

WHEREAS, regulations have changed relative to political action committees (PACs), placing some restrictions on the amounts that can be received by or contributed by PACs, and

WHEREAS, the Cattle-PAC does not get involved in local races; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association encourage local associations to consider forming PACs to enhance efforts of the beef cattle industry to influence state and local political affairs and to support the efforts of Cattle-PAC.

08-02 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 the legislative enactment or promotion of initiatives to the voters which unreasonably curtail agricultural practices or the use of land and water for agricultural purposes.

08-03 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.

08-04 COORDINATION BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CCA

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) officers and staff will conduct careful and considered consultation, coordination and cooperation with affected cattlemen or cattlemen and the local county cattlemen’s association when an adversarial situation exists, due to proposals, policy or decisions, between cattle producers and a government agency before CCA declares a position.

08-05 APPRECIATION TO CONVENTION HOSTS – Annually

WHEREAS, our 92nd annual California Cattlemen's Association Convention in Sparks, 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 John Ascuaga’s Nugget 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.

08-06 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.

08-07 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 November 10, 2007, up to and including November 21, 2008, 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.

08-08 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 we express sorrow in our loss and extend our sympathies to their bereaved families.

LAND USE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

2004-2008 Policy

04-01 LEGALITY OF PUBLIC USES ON EASEMENT RIGHTS-OF-WAY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association determine the legality of and actively oppose public uses other than the specific purpose for which any easement was originally intended.

04-02 CALIFORNIA COMPETITIVENESS

WHEREAS, private property owners are facing an increasing number of permits due to increased regulations regarding the use and management of their private property from an increasing number of federal, state, and local government agencies, and

WHEREAS, there exists much duplication and conflicting interpretation of regulations between various levels of government as well as conflicts within these government agencies, now

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the creation in the Governor's Office of an ombudsman position dedicated to resolving the conflicts in the permit processes in and between various agencies where a property owner/manager could receive a resolution of issues with regard to the permit requested on a timely basis.

04-03 DEFINITION OF RANGELAND

WHEREAS, the use of the term rangeland is variously confused with terms identifying other vegetative types including forest or wildlands 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 (CCA) continue to recognize 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".

04-04 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 (USFS) 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 (CCA) pursue appropriate measures to either stop the conversion of lands now utilized for agricultural education and research, or compel the replacement of those lands in locations sufficiently close to each respective institution to remain viable for agricultural education and research purposes.

04-05 CAPITAL GAINS TAX AND INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

WHEREAS, investment of capital for the purpose of sheltering taxable non-farm income contributes to overproduction in the cattle industry, and

WHEREAS, the progressive tax rate structure and various tax preferences within the federal tax codes often result in uneconomic investments in agriculture that distort prices of production resources and result in excess production, and

WHEREAS, there is a capital gains tax rate preference on breeding livestock; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) supports tax codes requiring that breeding livestock be held a minimum of 48 months in order to qualify for capital gains treatment, and that the National Cattlemen's Beef Association be urged to support efforts to require this holding period, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose reinstatement of the investment tax credit on livestock, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA supports limitations on ranch operation losses when those losses are the result of operating the ranching business as a passive activity.

04-06 INCOME TAX ACCOUNTING POLICIES

WHEREAS, ranchers historically have had the option to choose whatever method of accounting that 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 take whatever action necessary to insure ranchers 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.

04-07 CONFORMING STATE AND FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support legislation to conform State Income Tax Laws to Federal Income Tax Laws, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that efforts be encouraged in standardizing tax forms to the point where it is possible to pay the California State Income Tax as a percentage of the federal taxable income.

04-08 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.

04-09 BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS, the state of California is facing a serious budget crisis, and

WHEREAS, to help alleviate this crisis the legislature and county governments are implementing fees, assessments and surcharges, and

WHEREAS, rural landowner properties are comprised of multiple unimproved parcels, of which these fees and/or assessments unduly burden these properties; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) continue to vigorously oppose these new fees and assessments, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with local associations to oppose these fees and assessments as it pertains to local issues, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support legislative efforts to reform benefit assessment statutes to: Treat contiguous agricultural properties as a single unit for purposes of assessments.

04-10 TWO THIRDS RULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) continues to support the two-thirds rule for bond and tax measures.

04-11 LAND BASED TAXES AND FARM SECURITY ZONES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) staff pursue including rangeland in Farm Land Security Zones.

04-12 CALIFORNIA INHERITANCE TAX

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) oppose reinstatement of the California Estate and Inheritance Tax.

04-13 TRANSFER OF EASEMENTS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) shall oppose the use of public monies to purchase easements located on public lands.

05-01 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 the control of his 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, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) strongly supports 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 supports and considers 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.

05-02 GOVERNMENT, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC ACCESS

WHEREAS, local governmental units' demand for public access across private lands to public lands, navigable waters, streams, etc. is increasing at an alarming rate, and

WHEREAS, public access through or adjacent to private property disregards problems including liability insurance, littering, vandalism, safety and maintenance responsibilities, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that utility personnel, government employees, and/or their agents should be held 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 the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) seek 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 written permission of the landowner or a search warrant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA requests 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 urges 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.

05-03 SUPPORT FOR STRONGER STATE TRESPASS LAWS

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

05-04 JUST COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY PROTECTION IN PUBLIC TAKING OF PRIVATE LAND

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association 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.

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 land owner or their heirs.

05-05 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 purpose of enhancing agricultural productivity, and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association 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 (from 95-07)

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

05-06 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.

05-07 BURDEN OF PROOF FOR ASSESSMENT APPEALS

WHEREAS, the California Revenue and Taxation Code states that the burden of proof before the Assessment Appeals Board is the responsibility of the property owners when appealing original increases in the value placed on non-residential property by the assessor's office, and

WHEREAS, the tax code places the responsibility for the burden of proof on the assessor's office for residential property involved in an assessment appeal; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association urge the State Legislature to amend the Revenue and Taxation Code to provide that the burden of proof before the Assessment Appeals Board be the responsibility of the assessor on any appeal of increases in the value of agricultural property made by the assessor.

05-08 TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIREMENT TO INCREASE TAXES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) continue to support the requirement for a two-thirds vote to increase both state and local taxes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support any effort to require a two-thirds vote by a governing body to establish or increase service fees.

05-09 SUBVENTION OF TAX LOSS THROUGH EMINENT DOMAIN AND CONDEMNATION

WHEREAS, excessive acquisition of private land by state and federal agencies for the development of water and recreation projects 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 follow a policy of attempting to have incorporated into state and federal statutes the permanent subvention to county governments of tax revenue lost due to the public taking of private land in such instances and that the government will 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, State or Federal.

06-01 PUBLIC TRAILS

WHEREAS, efforts are under way 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, the trails committee, through the California State Department of Parks and Recreation, has 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.

06-02 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 the way of life of local communities, California and the United States is dependent upon private sector ownership and management of these natural resources, and

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 or water rights by state and 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, now

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 legislators and Congressmen be approached with the request that legislation to this effect be introduced in the California Legislature and the United States Congress.

06-03 GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following shall serve as the California Cattlemen's Association's policy on growth management in California:

A. Agricultural Lands

CCA supports efforts in areas of land use planning that are designed to maintain the physical and economic capabilities of agricultural land for the production of food and fiber. National, state and regional policies should be general in nature and require local government to determine and implement the specific local land use regulations for their areas.

Open space lands in California include productive agricultural lands, national forests, wildlife preserves, and parks and other public lands developed for recreational purposes. Agricultural lands include those lands used for beef cattle production, the second largest agricultural commodity in the state. Each of these types of open space lands is a valuable resource and governmental policies must accommodate their various uses. In the case of privately owned agricultural lands, governmental policies should enhance or safeguard their productivity and protect the right of the individual rancher to make reasonable management decisions necessary to maintain

economic production. If restrictions on agricultural practices, such as those designed to protect wildlife, or to promote some other public good, become necessary, and such restrictions make farming and livestock operations economically unviable, then the landowner should be compensated for the loss of the land.

The economic survival of many ranching operations is dependent upon income from multiple uses of ranch lands, including mining, limited timber and hardwood harvesting operations, and recreational ventures. These types of activities not only provide an additional source of income, but also improve a landowner's ability to obtain credit from financial lenders. They also allow the property to remain in the same family's ownership through succeeding generations. Therefore, to keep lands in agriculture, governmental policies should accommodate multiple uses of agricultural lands and protect private water rights. When restrictions on such are in the public interest, just compensation should be paid to landowners if such activities are prohibited or when governmental restrictions make such activities economically unviable.

Generally, cattle ranchers throughout the state would prefer to stay in the livestock business. In the future, however, some livestock operations may become economically unviable due to factors beyond their control, such as drought, depressed livestock markets, excessive governmental regulations, high taxes and fees. The ability to convert portions of one's property to non-agricultural uses may be key to holding larger ranching operations together.

When governmental restrictions are placed on the use of property to preserve agricultural lands as open space or for protection or other public purposes (other than reasonable restrictions for necessary infrastructure requirements), just compensation should be paid to the landowner for the resulting decrease in the property's market value. When due to the proximity of developed lands, the property also cannot be used for its highest and best agricultural use, the landowner should, in addition, be compensated for that corresponding decrease in economic value.

California's fast growing population cannot be accommodated solely within existing urban areas. There will need to be some provision for major planned communities and new towns which will require some development of agricultural lands. Therefore, flexibility should be maintained to convert certain agricultural lands to other uses. Local governments are in the best position to assess which lands are most suitable for such conversion, and should retain this authority.

To preserve agricultural lands, incentive measures, such as the Williamson Act program, are of vital importance. Sufficient subvention funds must be included in the state budget to keep intact county Williamson Act programs and to encourage non-participating counties to offer Williamson Act contracts.

Any effort to inventory, map and assess the agricultural or ecological productivity of private lands used for farming or livestock operations should be an open public process. Landowners and CCA should receive notice and be given an opportunity to comment throughout the process. When entry onto privately owned lands by governmental representatives is required, landowners should receive reasonable advance notice of the purpose and the time of the entry. In no event should the Farmland Mapping Program, known for inaccurate and inconsistent application, be used to define which agricultural lands in the state should be preserved, or for other land use planning purposes without giving the affected landowner the right to appeal the mapping designation.

B. Regional Planning

In areas where metropolitan areas cross county lines or where transportation corridors link neighboring counties' patterns of growth, some form of regional planning may be appropriate to address common growth issues and to bring greater consistency to public policy-making. Generally, however, planning and land use decision-making should remain primarily a local government function. Another layer of government is not the answer to resolving California's environmental and infrastructure problems. Planning and fiscal reforms should:

- Build on existing institutions to better manage for growth with regularly scheduled review processes.
- Safeguard the primary role of elected officials in guiding growth of their communities and protecting private property rights.
- Rely on voluntary cooperation between communities with a process to encourage joint action between them.
- Provide fiscal incentives to communities to encourage joint action between them.
- Encourage existing agencies to coordinate their plans for water quality, capital facilities, air quality, transportation and housing.

C. Acquisition of Private Property for Open Space

Over fifty percent of the land in California is owned by public agencies. Non-profit entities have also purchased large tracts of land for wildlife preserves and other open space purposes. Lands owned by the government and non-profit entities need to be inventoried and the inventory made available through listing in a public registry. The acquisition of private lands or water rights by governmental agencies has many adverse economic impacts. When productive agricultural lands are acquired for wildlife habitat or for other open space purposes, and property taxes are not paid, the tax burden on other taxpayers increases. Rural economies also suffer when agricultural activities are terminated on these lands. Therefore, before any major purchase of agricultural land or water right is made to preserve wildlife habitat, or for other open space purposes which significantly restricts agricultural uses, the economic effects of such a purchase should be analyzed in a public review process.

06-04 PRIVATE LAND CONDEMNATION

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

06-05 RAILROAD EASEMENT REVERSIONARY RIGHTS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Interior has had a law on the books for over 100 years relating to procedures for the abandonment of railroad easements which states that upon abandonment of railroad easements, such easements shall first be offered to the local government agency for transportation use and if no intended use can be proven necessary, then the easement shall revert to the adjoining property owners, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association vigorously oppose any legislation that would result in the diminution of the rights of property owners along abandoned railroad easements and put them at increased risk, and

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

06-06 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.

06-07 LAND USE INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, land use management by the initiative process does not afford elected officials, planners, farmers, ranchers or other landowners the opportunity to make sound land use policy, and

WHEREAS, land use initiatives threaten constitutionally guaranteed private property rights, and must not be used as a land use planning process; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) seek legislative remedies to prohibit the use of the initiative process for planning purposes.

06-08 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 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 entitles that fund those easements, would enjoy the same tax benefits as those who enter into or fund permanent easements.

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

06-09 WILLIAMSON ACT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association favor the retention of the Williamson Act.

06-10 SPLIT ROLL PROPERTY TAX

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose any split roll property tax legislation or initiative.

06-11 RICE STRAW TAX CREDIT

WHEREAS, the California legislature passed a tax credit for the use of rice straw for cattle feed, erosion control and manufacturing uses, and

WHEREAS, this credit is for fifteen dollars a ton, and

WHEREAS, rice straw is being used as a feed source for cattle throughout the state; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association request that the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the governor continue to fund the rice straw tax credit program.

07-01 GRAZING LAND DEFINITION UNDER FARMLAND MAPPING PROCEDURES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association recommend to the State Department of Conservation that for the purpose of mapping under the provisions of Chapter 13 of the 1982 Legislative Session (Farmland Mapping Program), grazing land means land on which the existing vegetation, whether grown naturally or through management, is suitable for grazing or browsing of livestock, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on all maps which delineate grazing land, language be attached which stipulates that "the use of this map should be limited to its purpose as a current inventory of lands capable of grazing livestock, and does not take into consideration economic viability, proximity to urban areas, local general plans or other such factors," and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association staff work with the Department of Conservation in efforts to amend or modify grazing land definitions now used in existing codes.

07-02 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 opposes a categorical exemption from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for government land acquisitions, and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if the agencies do not have resources to manage the land, then the land should be sold to private landowners, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all local government entities be advised of any pending government land acquisitions in their counties, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA pursue 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 development of a management plan include local public hearings to allow affected landowners to comment and that a plan for mitigation of any adverse economic, social or environmental effects, whether upon an individual, business or unit of government, be required prior to any acquisitions of land, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any public entity also be required to 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 the California Cattlemen's Association seek 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.

07-03 EXEMPTION FOR LANDOWNER LIABILITY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association continue to seek legislation 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 the appropriate local or state agency provides funding for cleanup of the illegally dumped materials.

07-04 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.

07-05 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 work to ensure 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.

07-06 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.

07-07 SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS - ESTATE TAXES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association urge the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to seek the removal of any limitation on special use valuation for federal estate valuation purposes.

07-08 USE OF NET INCOME IN LAND ASSESSMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that where owner-operators constitute a substantial percentage of the land ownership in a county, the assessor be required to use, as one factor in his fair rent computations, the net income situation of representative owner-operators.

07-09 WILLIAMSON ACT MONITORING

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) continually monitor all developments, changes, parcel sizes, definitions, and possible abuses of the Williamson Act, and work with other agricultural groups, such as Farm Bureau, and then put our concerns before the appropriate governmental agencies, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCA work to ensure that the state or counties do not unilaterally change the terms of the contract or the Williamson Act statutes.

07-10 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 develop, or cause to be developed, educational and informational programs which encourage safe working conditions and practices within the cattle industry.

07-11 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, and

WHEREAS, state law (SB 198) presently requires employees to develop safety programs; 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.

07-12 OPPOSITION TO RESOURCES AGENCY VETO POWER FOR CANCELLATIONS OF WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACTS

BE IT RESOLVED, that staff oppose granting power to the California Resources Agency to veto county cancellations of Williamson Act contracts.

07-13 WILLIAMSON ACT FEES & USAGE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association is strictly opposed to allowing high density housing development on any Williamson Act lands and/or reducing contract cancellation fees.

08-01 CALIFORNIA COLLEGES AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION LANDS AND FACILITIES

WHEREAS, University of California, State University and State 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 supports agricultural schools and their production lands and facilities used for agricultural education.

08-02 EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT AND REPAIR OF 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 rights being destroyed because of this elongated permitting process; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to support legislation at the state and national levels that will:

1. Allow landowners to take immediate action to replace and repair any land lost by catastrophic events such as floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.
2. Allow that the private property owner will have the authority in each case to return the lands lost to the pre-event topography within nine months of the event.
3. Provide that the private property owner will be able to use and/or move materials within the area or import clean upland materials to replace the land lost during the event.
4. Require that all permitting requirements will 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.
5. 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.
6. Eliminate mitigation for action necessary to replace land lost during such catastrophic events.
7. Exempt temporary access roads, culverted crossings, diversion of flow, or other methods to facilitate reconstruction as needed.
8. Determine the pre-event topography through use of acreage field maps, prior surveys, photos, aerials and/or existing topography.
9. Eliminate the one year or more delays created by the Army Corp on Engineers permitting process, Fish and Game 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.

08-03 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.

08-04 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF 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.

08-05 WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, some counties still do not allow use of the California Land Conservation Act; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work vigorously for state legislation to require all counties to offer the provisions of the Act.

08-06 LOCAL TAX SHIFT OPPOSITION

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is strongly opposed to the State of California taking county property tax revenue to fund state government; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA convey our opposition to this practice to the Governor and all members of the Legislature in the strongest terms, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA communicate with other interested groups and form a coalition to further communicate this opposition.

08-07 STATE AGENCY TAX TIMING AND TAX RATE

WHEREAS, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and/or 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) work to require the CDFG and/or any other state agency to pay taxes immediately upon acquiring land, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA also work to require CDFG and/or any other state agency to pay taxes in perpetuity based on the current appraised value, not at the previous owner's rate.

08-08 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 become involved in appropriate legislative and regulatory endeavors to amend rate classifications and other matters which would result in possible relief from rising utility rates.

08-09 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 representatives work diligently in the context of the Resources Agency and the Ag Lands Task Force 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.

08-10 ESTATE TAX REPEAL

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) urges the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) to seek permanent increases in federal estate and gift tax exemption. In addition, NCBA and CCA should seek reductions in the tax rates to a more reasonable level.

08-11 WILLIAMSON ACT SUBVENTION

WHEREAS, the Williamson act is an important program that helps assure the viability of the California ranching industry, and

WHEREAS, the subvention funds being paid to the Counties are at risk threatening the continuation of the program by some counties

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA work vigorously with the legislators to assure the subvention funds are adequate to fully make payments for acres under contract in the counties.

08-12 LABOR LAWS – Staff Directive

BE IT DIRECTED, that CCA staff prepare a summary of labor laws governing cattle ranching activities.

08-13 INDUSTRIAL WELFARE COMMISSION ORDER NO. 14-2001 – Staff Directive

BE IT DIRECTED, that CCA staff identify options to amend Industrial Welfare Commission Order No. 14-2001 to make the definition of cowboy/cattle rancher consistent with actual practices in the industry, and

BE IT FURTHER DIRECTED, that CCA staff rewrite this staff directive as a resolution to address the future potential of amendments to the order for consideration at the 2009 Mid Year Meeting.

08-14 WILLIAMSON ACT AND FARM SECURITY ZONE AMENDMENTS - Staff Directive

BE IT DIRECTED, that CCA staff investigate the procedure and protocol on how the Williamson Act and Farmland Security Zone Act can be amended, modified or otherwise changed so that the requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) can be expressly waived and not required for those applying for a contract under the Williamson Act or the Farmland Security Zone Act.

08-15 WILLIAMSON ACT PROPERTY TAX REASSESSMENT - Staff Directive

BE IT DIRECTED, that CCA staff research and make recommendations to remedy the discrepancy between the establishment date of a new Williamson Act contract and the date the reassessed property tax is implemented, and

BE IT FURTHER DIRECTED, that CCA staff report back at the 2009 Mid Year Meeting.

LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

2004-2008 Policy

04-01 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 (CCA) work with other agricultural organizations on minimizing the impact of hazardous materials endorsements on all classes of licenses, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with other agricultural organizations to have the current agricultural hazardous materials certification implemented in lieu of the full hazardous materials endorsements, if necessary.

04-02 REGISTRATION OF CALF LOTS

WHEREAS, the number of calf lots in California has increased substantially, and

WHEREAS, calf lots and the industry would benefit from being registered like other commercial feedlots; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports the registration of calf lots as commercial feedlots.

05-01 COMMERCIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION ACT

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

WHEREAS, the State of California requires them registered and classified differently from pickups; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA continues to try to revise the definition of pickups to include flatbed pickups as it applies to the Commercial Vehicle Registration Act.

05-02 BUREAU OF LIVESTOCK ID

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Livestock Identification (BLID) is operating at a deficit and service will begin to suffer as a result, and

WHEREAS, The CCA and the Livestock ID Advisory Board would like to seek all options to streamline and improve BLID; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CCA President and Livestock ID Committee Chairman appoint a task force to meet with the Livestock ID Advisory Board and the BLID to find solutions benefiting both the BLID and cattle industry, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this task force shall meet to identify and recommend changes within the department and have recommendations to membership by the 2006 CCA Midyear meeting.

06-01 LONG TRUCKS - HAULING LIVESTOCK

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association request that the California Department of Transportation allow access to loading areas in close proximity to designated highways by tractor-semi trailers having a kingpin setting in excess of 40 feet.

06-02 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 or other state law or regulations may not allow the use of road funds or gas tax funds for installing or maintaining cattle guards, and

WHEREAS, the State Controllers Office policy or opinion may also disfavor the use of road funds or gas tax funds to be used for cattle guard maintenance; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association take the necessary steps to change the position of the State Controllers's Office or amend the Streets and Highway Code or other laws or regulations so as to allow state road funds or gas tax funds to be used for installing and maintaining cattle guards, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state services, members of the legislature and county supervisors be advised of this resolution, a proposed solution and enlist their support.

06-03 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 (CCA) work with the California Highway Patrol in developing an effective procedure whereby any investigating officer of the California Highway Patrol is required 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, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA contact each county cattlemen's association and request a representative work with the local sheriff's department asking for similar cooperation.

06-04 LIVESTOCK TRUCK LENGTHS

WHEREAS, the Surface Transportation 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 be at least 57 feet in over-all-length of combined cargo space and overall combination length of at least 70 feet.

07-01 DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR PULLING LIVESTOCK TRAILERS WITH PICKUPS

WHEREAS, current laws governing driver's license requirements applicable to pulling trailers with pickup trucks restricts operation for livestock producers with a Class C Driver's License if the Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR) exceeds 26,000 lbs., and

WHEREAS, most pickup and stock trailers combinations used on California ranches have GCWR weight ratings exceeding 26,000 lbs., and

WHEREAS, pickup trucks, in the last twenty years, have dramatically increased their safe towing capacity and stock trailers have similarly increased in their safety; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA pursue regulatory and statutory updates to current Class C Driver's License requirements making the pickup and stock trailer combinations used by California ranchers legal; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA work to address similar low weight limits applying to motor carrying permits at the U.S. Department of Transportation.

08-01 LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

WHEREAS, rural crime, in particular livestock theft, continues to increase at an alarming rate 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, and

WHEREAS, theft seminars could be improved by providing information related to the nature of thefts in each area of California; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) recommend to the Statewide Rural Crime Prevention Task Force the inclusion of livestock identification and investigation curriculum in the training of peace officers or any other employees of appropriate state agencies, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA and the Bureau of Livestock Identification assist in the preparation of that portion of the curriculum, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with the Bureau of Livestock Identification to continue theft seminars, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA shall assist the Bureau of Livestock Identification in improving theft seminars by providing more information 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 seminars.

08-02 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 the American Trucking Association in their efforts to standardize truck length and weights for vehicles used on federal, state and county public roads, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Cattlemen's Beef Association be encouraged to take similar action.

08-03 SHIPMENT OF CATTLE FROM HAWAII

WHEREAS, Hawaii cattlemen ship 50,000 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, therefore, foreign livestock carriers must be used, 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 and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association support reform of the Jones Act to allow the use of foreign livestock carriers to ship cattle between Hawaii and the U.S. mainland.

08-04 USE OF REGISTERED BRANDS FOR SOURCE IDENTIFICATION

WHEREAS, the beef cattle industry in California and other states has in place an effective livestock ownership identification program called the registered brand that can and is being used to track cattle ownership from weaning to slaughter; now

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

08-05 CALIFORNIA TRUCK LENGTH ISSUES – Staff Directive

BE IT DIRECTED, that if all regulatory and legislative remedies have been exhausted, that CCA staff is directed to begin research on legal remedies that may be available to resolve truck access limitations in the state of California.

08-06 BUREAU OF LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION - Staff Directive

BE IT DIRECTED, that CCA staff research the rising pro rata charges incurred by the Bureau of Livestock Identification and meet with the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture to resolve this issue.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

2004-2008 Policy

04-01 INSPECTION UNIFORMITY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association requests the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to work with the appropriate governmental agencies to ensure that all meat processed in the United States meet equal standards for safety and percent water content.

04-02 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 supports 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.

04-03 RESTITUTION FOR LOSSES FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION OF A DAIRY HERD INVENTORY CONTROL PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the California cattle industry can suffer significant direct economic losses as a result of any Dairy Herd Inventory Control Program; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) seek reimbursement for losses suffered due to any new program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA seek the support of other California agricultural groups, as well as the support of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA pursue the restitution idea in the future, as necessary.

04-04 NATIONAL FARM POLICY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports the following set of guidelines for National Farm Policy:

1. Agricultural production is a basic cornerstone of the United States economy, representing 20% of the nation's total Gross National Product (GNP), and affecting 22% of the total U.S. employment. Thus, the American public has a genuine interest in preserving and protecting a healthy agricultural industry.
2. U.S. agriculture cannot long remain economically strong without healthy national and even international economics. Fiscal and monetary policies lie at the heart of such economic health. Lower interest rates, improved domestic real personal incomes, and a more realistic U.S. dollar value in foreign exchange are essential for agriculture's recovery.
3. National agricultural policy dealing with specific commodities must take into consideration its immediate or potential impact on any and all other commodities, including both domestic and foreign market influences. We need to collectively establish a new, coordinated approach to national agricultural policy. In developing programs aimed at solving specific commodity problems, every effort must be made to consider the short and long-term effects on the whole of agriculture, including world markets, and the American taxpayer.
4. Our national agricultural policy should not attempt to guarantee the profitability of any portion of agriculture nor, conversely, create adverse economic impacts on any portion of agriculture.
5. The cornerstone of national agricultural policy should be an orientation to prices that are determined by supply and demand factors which are established in a free, competitive market system, to the degree possible. However, we recognize that many forces, including long established domestic and foreign government policies often preclude or hinder a free, competitive market system, and that under such conditions, united government-backed programs may be necessary to ensure that agricultural producers have the opportunity to earn a fair return on their investment. In such cases, programs based on income supplements are preferable to price support programs. Such programs must be based on traditionally acceptable measurements of need.
6. We must realize at all times that any program which gives government the power and authority to induce or reduce the production of any agricultural commodity can result in a number of undesirable and unfavorable side effects, and pose a real threat to our historic freedom to produce. Thus, such programs must be judiciously drafted and carefully scrutinized to prevent the following:
 - The setting of artificially high prices
 - Stimulation of excessive production
 - Stimulation of inefficient production
 - Result in increased farm production costs
 - Create government controlled commodity reserves
 - Helping one commodity at the expense of another
7. When land is idled through a paid diversion program, such land should not be converted to other crops or grazing permitted on such land while the producer is receiving financial assistance except when in an emergency situation, such as drought, or an approved rangeland program, where the full value of the change in use is deducted from the program payment and the owner of the land is the one growing the crops or owns the cattle to be grazed on the program land.
8. Foreign trade policy has a tremendous impact on domestic agricultural policy. Every effort must be made to develop an integrated domestic-foreign trade policy that recognizes the importance of agricultural trade in our balance of payments, and that respects reciprocal trade arrangements.
9. Conservation of land and productivity should be a major concern of all agricultural programs.

04-05 IMPLEMENTATION OF SPRAY/WASH TECHNOLOGY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) endorse the HAACP and the implementation of the spray/wash procedures, and other consumer acceptable procedures in existence that ensure wholesomeness, cleanliness and quality of beef, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA recommends continued research and development of consumer acceptable beef safety technologies.

04-06 COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen’s Association supports county of origin labeling for all beef products sold within the borders of the United States, and,

WHEREAS, HR 4576 will not serve to create a voluntary county of origin labeling program that is any more workable or any more likely to succeed in creating country of origin labeling for all beef products sold within the borders of the United States than the current program and,

WHEREAS, both the existing mandatory county of origin labeling law and the proposed voluntary country of origin labeling law HR 4576 places too great a burden on domestic producers to prove the origin of their cattle and,

WHEREAS, it should be the objective of Congress to revise the country of origin law now on the books so as to provide the maximum value of county of origin labeling to the beef cattle industry and to American consumers rather than to replace it with HR 4576, a totally ineffective and unworkable voluntary program so

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the current law be revised with industry groups’ involvement and input with specific attention to the following issues:

1. Self certification
2. Exemptions for aged cattle with no records during implementation period
3. Protection of personal production records
4. Revision and simplification of retail labels with special attention to ground beef
5. Tempering of penalties during implementation period
6. Reconciliation with existing labeling regulation

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCA hereby opposes HR 4576 and that said opposition shall be appropriately transmitted by CCA to all members of the California Congressional Delegation at the earliest possible date along with a copy of this resolution.

04-07 OPPOSITION TO LOCAL BIOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, genetic engineering and biotechnology are carefully regulated at the federal level by the USDA and FDA, 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 opposes any local government attempt to categorically prohibit the growing or use of genetically modified organisms.

05-01 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.

05-02 LABELING MEAT WITH COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

WHEREAS, a large and astute proportion of the American consuming public desires to know the origin of the foods that they purchase and consume for a multitude of reasons, including: national loyalty, quality, flavor, tenderness, consistency of product and perceived and actual health risk assessment, and

WHEREAS, the volume of red meat produced in North America is so large relative to the desires of the consuming public that increases in the supply of meat, including imported meat, cause severe declines in prices received by North American cattle producers, and

WHEREAS, under both of the United States Trade agreements, the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), as administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) any requirement for labeling products as to country of origin is approved, and in fact practiced within the borders of most of the United States trading partners, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports country of origin labeling for all beef products sold within the borders of the United States, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports and requests the support of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association in specifying "Beef: Made in the USA" or other beef products that are labeled as U.S. beef as those beef products which are produced from cattle that are born, raised and harvested in the United States.

06-01 ANIMAL DRUGS IN IMPORTED MEAT

WHEREAS, the marketing of red meat produced with the aid of unapproved products may create an unfair competitive advantage for imported meat and may cause increased concern on the part of the consumer about the wholesomeness and purity of all red meat products; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association go on record as opposing the importation of meat and meat products produced with the aid of animal drugs not approved for use in the United States, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association with a request that this issue be discussed with the appropriate United States regulatory agencies as well as major importers of meat.

06-02 SOURCE AND AGE VERIFICATION

WHEREAS, source and age verification is required to access export markets, and has proven potential to add value to the 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.

07-01 NATIONAL BEEF CHECKOFF PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the investment producers make in the beef checkoff has been and continues to be instrumental in increasing the demand for beef, funding critical product and food safety research, informing the public about beef’s positive nutritional profile and health attributes, organizing and coordinating beef industry issues management strategies, leveraging dollars for international marketing efforts, and working with retailers and foodservice outlets to promote beef in a way that bolsters consumer confidence and has returned dollars to producers’ pockets, and

WHEREAS, during the past 20 years, inflation has reduced the buying power of the beef checkoff such that \$1.90 is required today to buy what \$1.00 would have in 1986, and

WHEREAS, the per head assessment rate has changed several times since the California Beef Council Law created the beef checkoff in the 1950’s with California being the first state to raise the checkoff rate to \$1.00 per head in the early 1980’s; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) strongly support the Beef Checkoff Program as a producer controlled program and support the program’s further efforts to ensure beef continues to compete domestically and globally, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support changes to the current Beef Checkoff Act and Order which require a mandatory producer referendum for the continuation of the Beef Checkoff Program to be conducted periodically, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support increasing the per head rate collected on the sale of cattle to \$2.00 or more to sustain and enhance the critical efforts undertaken by the California Beef Council and the Cattlemen’s Beef Board.

08-01 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 and the National Meat 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 the sponsoring of 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.

08-02 COLD PASTEURIZATION

WHEREAS, ground beef is one of the major items of beef consumption, and

WHEREAS, *E. coli-0157:H7* is causing serious concern about the safety of this product, and

WHEREAS, cold pasteurization could be the process to eliminate *E. coli-0157:H7* in ground beef; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association direct the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association to make every effort to establish cold pasteurization of ground beef as a national standard without delay.

08-03 IMPROVED ACCESS TO PROCESSING FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the California beef and dairy industries need sufficient processing facilities, and

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen’s Association membership demands the highest standards for animal care and handling, which is supported by industry standards and enforced by United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service inspections, and

WHEREAS, regional processing plants are necessary to prevent long distance transport of cattle going to slaughter; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support the immediate reopening and reinstatement of inspection for the Chino plant (formerly Hallmark Westland Meat Packing Co.), stringent enforcement of existing USDA regulations, in particular, the Humane Slaughter Act, adoption by all cattle producers of Beef Quality Assurance standards for cattle care and handling and encourages regulatory approval of new processing facilities.

MEMBERSHIP & REVENUE COMMITTEE

2004-2008 Policy

04-01 ASSOCIATE MEMBER DIRECTORY

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) staff produce a listing of associate members for distribution via the CCA magazine, at no cost to CCA every other year.

08-01 CBCIA MEMBERSHIP BILLING - Staff Directive

BE IT DIRECTED, that CCA staff will include CBCIA brochures in CCA membership initial renewal mailings for the next year, and

BE IT FURTHER DIRECTED, that CCA obtain the brochures from CBCIA and receive compensation for any additional mailing expenses from CBCIA, if there is any.

PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE

2004-2008 Policy

04-01 PERMITTEE ALLOTMENT MONITORING

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

WHEREAS, environmental groups, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Game would be the most likely entities to question the validity of the data collected by permittees on their own allotments; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) strongly urge USFS and BLM to work with these groups and agencies to ensure and document their buy-in to this monitoring program.

04-02 PERMIT BUYOUT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there has been a proposed federal buyout of public lands permits by several groups whose expressed interest is to eliminate public lands grazing, and

WHEREAS, the economy of California counties dependant on public lands would suffer a severe negative impact as a result of a buyout; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA oppose any buyout of any public lands grazing permits whether initiated by the federal government or other organizations.

04-03 REGULATORY RELIEF FOR PUBLIC LAND USERS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) actively pursue legislation to accomplish the following;

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

04-04 LEGISLATIVE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LANDS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) urge the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) to closely coordinate, cooperate and consult with the American Farm Bureau Federation, Association of National Grasslands, American Sheep Industry and the Public Lands Council (PLC) on a legislative effort to ensure the economic viability of the public land permittees, and that the NCBA work closely with the above organizations to fund the effort to pass legislation to keep the public land grazing industry profitable and that the NCBA encourage PLC to encourage, support, and pass favorable legislation and handle funds generated to lobby for favorable legislation.

04-05 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

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

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, and
2. Legislation to support the Forest Plan as the NEPA sufficient document that authorizes grazing and that additional analysis is necessary only when new projects are planned, and
3. The accelerated development and implementation of AMPs on 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 the CCA requests the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and its affiliates and the Public Lands Council (PLC) and its affiliates to pursue the same objectives.

04-06 MONITORING POLICY

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

That monitoring of precipitation, forage production and utilization be used to establish range trend over time, rather than one-time forage inventories or average annual grazing use, and that this be the basis for federal range management decisions including forage allocations and determination of stocking rates and that CCA oppose the use of computerized forage allocations and any range evaluation system using strict percentage of utilization figures, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage federal agencies to accept and consider all credible monitoring and analysis information that can be verified and reproduced.

04-07 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.

04-08 FUNDING POLICY

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

1. That the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) urge Congress to make funds available as authorized by the provisions of the Rangeland Improvement Act and urge the administration to make every effort to expedite Congressional action, and
2. That the legal percent of grazing fees designated for range improvement and predator control be given by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) directly to grazing advisory boards where they exist and if a grazing board does not exist in a district, that federal law ensure that the monies are used as intended, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that permittee's ideas be considered in the planning and decision making process and distribution of funds to where they would be most beneficial, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Forest Service and 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.

05-01 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, each Forest is developing “Forest strategies” to comply with programmatic agreements between the Region and the Forest and Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service and the State Historic Preservation Officer,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) supports legislation requiring that section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) shall not delay or impede the authorization or reauthorization of any activity on federal lands where such activity has been previously authorized, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this legislation also contain provisions which shall not delay or impede the maintenance of existing facilities nor the approval, construction, or maintenance of environmental mitigation measures.

05-02 ANTI-GRAZING POLICIES OF STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association strive for legislation to correct the unwarranted anti-grazing policies of the Department of Parks and recreation and other state and federal agencies and require that the potential benefits of grazing, as a land and resource management tool, be constructively considered for all units administered by the government, and that state and federal agencies and departments be required to show cause for reduction or elimination of grazing.

05-03 SIERRA NEVADA PILOT PROJECT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) will explore and pursue developing federal legislation to create a five year pilot project to maintain and enhance the viability of grazing within Region 5, United States Forest Service, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this legislation contain the necessary funding to develop and maintain the required infrastructure necessary for such a pilot project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a streamlined NEPA process be developed to encourage the use of alternative forage contained within vacant allotments to preserve active animal unit months and that the beneficial aspects of grazing be defined within this legislation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA develop support for this legislation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and a coalition consisting of supporting related industry and environmental groups.

05-04 ESTABLISHING OF MONITORING METHODS THAT EMPOWERS RANCHERS TO DETERMINE HEALTH AND/OR CONDITIONS OF RANGELANDS IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to the direction of the U.S. Congress it is important to monitor and document the current condition and trend of America's rangelands, and

WHEREAS, such knowledge of the biological and physical processes on rangelands is vital for designing and evaluating the effects of management alternatives on the environment and economic efficacy of range livestock productions systems, and

WHEREAS, such knowledge needs to be gathered in a practical, economic, and feasible manner, and interpreted and stored in a functioning information system that serves in the decision making process for ranchers, and

WHEREAS, the needs and knowledge base of the range livestock industry shall be incorporated in the development of such a monitoring system and that ranchers play an important role in the development of interpretation procedures; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Congress direct the USDA Agricultural Research Service to undertake the development of innovative methods to assess the health and/or conditions of rangelands over time and space, and fully fund this effort on an annual sustainable basis, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this congressional direction should require provisions for active involvement and participation by knowledgeable representatives from the range livestock industry throughout the development process, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be re-directed toward NCBA.

05-05 SUPPORT FOR THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOL AND COMMUNITIES SELF DETERMINATION ACT (PL 106-393)

WHEREAS, the creation of the national forest system in 1905 encompassing 153 million acres of forestland diminished rural forest counties tax base, and

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

WHEREAS, PL 106-393, a compact between the people of rural forest counties and the federal government provided relief from the diminishing tax base through the development of forest health improvement projects and stimulating job development and economic stability, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA supports PL 106-393, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA supports legislation that extends the September 2006 sunset date of PL 106-393.

06-01 PUBLIC RANGELANDS LEGISLATION

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

Very Important Issues:

- 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, and
- Hunting and fishing access.

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, and
- Multiple use.

06-02 SUPPORT FOR BIG VALLEY CUTTING CIRCLE

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

WHEREAS, timber resources on US 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; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA 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.

06-03 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; now

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

07-01 WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

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

1. Review all lands in wilderness area classification and wilderness study areas in California and that any land not meeting the wilderness classification be removed from designation as wilderness area and wilderness study areas, and
2. Permit livestock grazing on all suitable wilderness land in California, and
3. Prevent further designation of land into wilderness classification, and
4. Release the 1.7 million acres presently designated for future planning in the 1984 California Wilderness Act.

07-02 BURNING FOR RANGE IMPROVEMENT

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

07-03 WILD HORSES

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

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

07-04 VENUE FOR COURT CASES INVOLVING FEDERAL LANDS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association strongly urge the California Congressional Delegation to introduce legislation or support regulations which will insure that each lawsuit involving federal lands be heard in the nearest Federal District Court having jurisdiction over such cases.

07-05 LOCAL POLICE POWER CONTROL ON FEDERAL LAND POLICY

WHEREAS, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 does now provide 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 strongly recommend 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.

07-06 PROTECTION OF PRIVATE WATER RIGHTS ON FEDERAL LANDS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association recommend that the state of California refuse to recognize any federal agency action which threatens the ownership of private water rights without due process and just compensation to include all pre-1914 rights.

07-07 CALIFORNIA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) supports the California Public Lands Council Operating Rules adopted by the CCA Public Lands Committee at their meeting on Thursday, December 3, 1992.

07-08 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, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports regulations which make it incumbent on the owner of the private land to build and maintain a legal fence around the land if he wishes to keep the cattle off his property.

07-09 ACCELERATED LAND EXCHANGE POLICY

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

07-10 OPPOSITION TO GAVIOTA COAST NATIONAL SEASHORE DESIGNATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association shall support the Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association in its fight against this federal designation, and shall further enlist the support of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to defeat any federal designation of the Gaviota Coast.

07-11 NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, the National Public Lands Grazing Campaign, directed by Andy Kerr, is seeking federal legislation and funding to compensate grazing permittees for the permanent retirement of their grazing permit and allotment, and

WHEREAS, implementation of the program promoted by the National Public Lands Grazing Campaign would result in a net loss of available grazing allotments, and adverse impacts to taxpayers and adjacent privately-owned land; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the California Cattlemen's Association is officially opposed to the efforts of the National Public Lands Grazing Campaign.

07-12 PUBLIC LANDS POLICY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) promotes the following:

1. Maximizing grazing opportunities on all public lands regardless of agency or ownership, and
2. That further withdrawals of Federal multiple use lands be stopped so that the national resources of grazing, timber harvest, and mineral development may be utilized under sound management practices, and
3. Supporting coordinated resource planning and participating as appropriate at the State and local levels, and
4. The continued use of livestock grazing as a tool to manage rangeland vegetation and achieve a desired plant community on our public lands, and
5. The University of California Cooperative Extension to study and publish the positive impacts of grazing, and
6. Supporting compensation to affected permittees for involuntary reductions in Animal Unit Months or season of use due to environmental restriction beyond the control of permittees.

07-13 USFS/BLM FENCE CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management frequently require fencing to exclude livestock out of areas they deem as being “sensitive,” and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that California Cattlemen’s Association work with the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and the Public Lands Council to shift fence construction and maintenance burdens back to the mandating federal land management agency that creates an exclusion of livestock use.

07-14 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 Restoration Plan, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage both USFS and BLM to designate money to implement the plan, 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 (CAL-FIRE) in establishing “let burn” areas within the plan area.

08-01 PERMITTEE INPUT INTO PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

WHEREAS, Section 8 of PL-95-514 (Public Rangelands Improvement Act) specifically requires consultation, cooperation and coordination with lessees, permittees and landowners, the District Grazing Advisory Boards and state agencies involved in 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 the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Governor of California to ensure permittee involvement.

08-02 CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL ECONOMY AND LIFESTYLE IN PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association support and encourage the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and the Public Lands Council to draw the attention of public land administrators, congressional delegations, environmental organizations and the general public to the importance of rural local economies and rural lifestyles and cattle grazing in all future public land management decisions.

08-03 FOREST COUNTIES COALITION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association support efforts of the Forest Counties Coalition and participate where necessary in opposing a reduction in resource activity on federally managed lands, including grazing, with a resultant reduction in legally prescribed gross receipts for local counties.

08-04 RANGE MONITORING FUNDING

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Congress be requested to fund a line item to be used solely for monitoring, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this monitoring of resource conditions and trends be performed only by qualified persons (i.e. federal, state and local government, grazing permittees and lessees, university personnel and trained general public), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the monitoring protocols shall be site specific, scientifically valid and subject to peer review and monitoring data shall be periodically verified.

08-05 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON EXISTING STATE LANDS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association request greater emphasis be placed on the development of recreational facilities for public use on State Parks and Recreation lands as opposed to future expansion of the State Park System or the local park system by acquisition of land by the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Department of Fish and Game or the State Lands Commission, and that livestock grazing be encouraged as a management tool on state parklands.

08-05 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 and increasing vegetative diversity.

08-06 SAFE FOOD SUPPLY – Staff Directive

BE IT DIRECTED, that CCA staff encourage NCBA to urge federal agencies, specifically the Department of Homeland Security, to maintain public lands grazing to provide a safe national food source and disease-free food supply.

08-07 RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT – Staff Directive

BE IT DIRECTED, that CCA staff work with California Farm Bureau Federation and California Woolgrowers Association to draft support letters to federal and state agencies to encourage mitigation of encroachment of trees onto wet meadows/riparian systems and to improve upland range conditions through similar management.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

2004-2008 Policy

04-01 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 encourage 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.

04-02 WETLANDS MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, management of wetlands is increasingly intruding on normal farming and ranching operations; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) 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. CCA support the limitation of the definition of wetlands to existing natural wetlands (excluding wet areas created by irrigation and artificially created ponds) and that wetlands be defined by including all of the following criteria: hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology.
3. CCA support the recognition in the permitting process of benefits created by agricultural and recreational activities which impact wetlands.
4. CCA 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.

04-03 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 within California to support voluntary, locally led conservation efforts has seriously declined; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) does hereby support the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) effort to increase the State of California's base-level funding for districts by an additional two million dollars annually, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA does hereby support CARCD's initiative to increase national annual funding for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California by an additional eight million dollars, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA does hereby request the support of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association in support of the National Association of Conservation Districts initiative to increase the annual national technical assistance funding to the USDA NRCS at the national level.

04-04 CALIFORNIA FIRE PLAN/PREScribed BURNING – DROPPED IN 2008

04-05 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 California Cattlemen's Association work with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to designate it as a noxious weed of concern and consider designating funding for its management including weed abatement funding.

04-06 CALIFORNIA FUELS HAZARD REDUCTION ACT – DROPPED IN 2008

04-07 PUNCTUREVINE BIOCONTROL

WHEREAS, Puncturevine is a significant rangeland pest in California, and

WHEREAS, Natural predators for this pest exist, and

WHEREAS, the only natural predators in California only exist below 2500' elevation; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA work with CDFA and encourage NCBA to work with USDA to import appropriate biocontrol organisms from other countries to help control this pest.

05-01 FARM SERVICES AGENCY BRUSH AND JUNIPER MANAGEMENT COST-SHARE PRACTICE

WHEREAS, there are multiple public benefits resulting from brush and juniper management, and

WHEREAS, the use of fire as a management tool is economically and environmentally feasible; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) continue to support cost-share programs for controlled burning as a brush management practice in the county branches of the Farm Services Agency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA request, through local associations, the county branches of Farm Services Agency work more closely with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Vegetation Management Program and the California Air Resources Board on the planning, implementation and evaluation (monitoring) of controlled burns, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the county branches of Consolidated Farm Services Agency seek available technical assistance from appropriate sources to assist with implementing such programs.

05-02 CCA HARDWOOD POLICY

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) does not believe there is a reason or need to regulate the harvesting of hardwoods in California, and

WHEREAS, the California Board of Forestry has taken action to support oak woodland protection through local efforts, and

WHEREAS, CCA recognizes the importance of private property rights and endorses the concept that landowners be provided the maximum right of self determination, and

WHEREAS, those lands described as oak woodlands within the state provide a multitude of sustainable benefits, including commercial livestock grazing, wildlife habitat and fuel wood harvesting, and

WHEREAS, there is no definitive scientific information indicating that the hardwood resource in the state is threatened or endangered, and

WHEREAS, the economic viability of agricultural enterprises operating within these oak woodlands must be protected, and

WHEREAS, CCA has always recognized that responsible stewardship by landowners is necessary to sustain oak woodland resources; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA does hereby adopt the following oak woodland management guidelines, based upon voluntary participation, for the sustained management of oak woodlands:

1. All landowners who wish to harvest oak woodlands should develop their own management plans and to contact private and public sources for expert assistance.
2. Landowners should use the information provided by the Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program and to use the general guidelines that are part of and recommended within this resolution.
3. Landowners should establish a review process, within their respective counties, to evaluate and substantiate the effectiveness of this program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA requests the University of California Cooperative Extension coordinate with local government agencies and private organizations to offer workshops on oak woodland management and conservation to landowners, ranchers, developers and community organizations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to all local cattlemen's associations and publicized in CCA publications and that a progress report of CCA's efforts on the hardwood issue be made to the Range Management Advisory Committee and the State Board of Forestry on an annual basis.

06-01 AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES/HERBICIDES USE

WHEREAS, herbicides are essential management tools for the continued volume production of food, feed and fiber demanded by the international economy, and

WHEREAS, brush control is of great importance to improved range forage production and to fuel hazard reduction which minimizes and makes less difficult the control of wildfires; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the use and application of licensed herbicides and pesticides at levels of reasonable tolerance of residue outlined by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

06-02 RANGE POSITION ON THE BOARD OF FORESTRY

WHEREAS, we feel a range position should be included on the State Board of Forestry, and

WHEREAS, we oppose the forestry reform draft unless they add a range position on the State Board of Forestry; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association take the position to actively pursue the range position on the State Board of Forestry.

06-03 GRAZING LANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act (FAIR-96) was signed into law in 1996, and

WHEREAS, this act dramatically changes the federal government's direction from underwriting production agriculture to promoting environmental conservation, and

WHEREAS, two of the programs within this act, the Private Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), offer federal assistance to livestock ranchers for environmental conservation, and

WHEREAS, participation in either of these programs is purely voluntary, and

WHEREAS, it is the prime mission of the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) to protect private property rights and support the individual's right of self-determination on his or her own property; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA maintain a position on both the GLCI Steering Committee and the EQIP Technical Committee, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA endeavor to provide direction to these committees in the formulation and implementation of environmental conservation policies that will affect the ranching and livestock industry in the State of California to ensure that private property rights, water rights and the individual's right of self-determination on his or her own property is preserved.

07-01 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND PRIVATE PERMIT BURNING PROGRAMS – DROPPED IN 2008

07-02 CERTIFIED RANGELAND MANAGER

WHEREAS, managing California's rangeland resources is becoming more complicated by the proliferation of government mandated programs at the federal, state and regional levels; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports the Cal-Pac Section - Society for Range Management's "Certified Rangeland Manager" program approved and adopted by the State Board of Forestry.

07-03 NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Cal Trans) and counties share the responsibility for maintenance of public rights-of-way and roads and highways, and

WHEREAS, Cal Trans has not been doing a satisfactory job of controlling the spread of noxious weeds, particularly yellow starthistle, artichoke thistle, puncture vine, and white top along these rights-of-way, and

WHEREAS, seed from these noxious weeds produced along rights-of-way spread to adjacent private land, making it virtually impossible for landowners to control these weeds, and

WHEREAS, Cal Trans has committed to a 50% reduction in herbicide use statewide by the year 2000 and an 80% reduction by 2012, and

WHEREAS, this reduction in herbicide use by Cal Trans is alarming at a time when noxious weed populations are spreading at a rate of at least 4,600 acres per day on federal lands alone in the Western United States and there currently are no economical and effective alternatives, other than herbicides, available nor on the horizon for noxious weed control, and

WHEREAS, manual, mechanical, or other methods for noxious weed control along highways are ineffective, not cost-efficient, and waste taxpayers' money, resulting in the accelerated spread of noxious weeds and increased fire hazard on public and private land; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support funding requirements for Cal Trans and those public agencies responsible for the control of infestations of noxious weeds, particularly yellow starthistle, artichoke thistle, puncture vine, and white top along public rights-of-way, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA seek the assistance of state and federal lawmakers in reversing Cal Trans' no-spray trend and in reducing Cal Trans' allocation of tax dollars for highway purposes should Cal Trans fail to properly maintain its rights-of-way, consistent with the California Interagency Noxious Weed Coordinating Committee, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA request that the University of California or other research institutions increase research on developing an effective biological control method for controlling these serious rangeland noxious weeds and plants, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the biological control research of the United States Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Research Service's Western Regional Research Center at Albany, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and county agricultural commissioners to identify priority noxious weeds in each county, and work with CDFA to seek a legislative remedy to change the noxious weed classification system to provide greater emphasis on the noxious weeds identified in this resolution.

08-01 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 opposes 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/or permittees.

08-02 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, the UC Sierra Foothill Range Field Station is a center for range cattle production research and 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 these internships shall be known as the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) Range Cattle Production Internships, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA shall encourage local associations and individuals to also support internships.

08-03 RMAC REPRESENTATION OF RANGELAND

WHEREAS, a number of state agencies are increasingly involved in regulating animal production on private and public lands, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Board of Forestry and the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) have purview over management of the "wildlands" in the state; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) request the RMAC to become involved in establishing policy for the Resources Agency and Department of Food and Agriculture to guide these state agencies in reducing regulatory burdens and improving landowner lessee relations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA suggest to the RMAC the following areas of current critical focus in addition to hardwood rangeland:

1. Wetlands
2. Riparian area management
3. Vegetative management burning, including Air Resources Board issues
4. Improved relations between landowners, lessees and the Department of Fish and Game
5. Call for an in-depth study on the legality of utilities preventing controlled burning in and around rights-of-way

08-04 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 request the University of California Cooperative Extension and other appropriate agencies continue to study and publish the positive impacts of grazing.

08-05 RANGELAND FIRE FIGHTING ENHANCEMENT

WHEREAS, the 99.8 million acre land mass of the State of California includes over 34 million acres of pasture and rangeland used for livestock production, and

WHEREAS, livestock production contributes \$6.2 billion to the California economy, and

WHEREAS, wildland fires are destructive to the economic and physical well being of range livestock operators, and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the lead agency charged with the task of fire prevention and suppression in all unincorporated areas of California; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) agree to provide input and support into the California State Fire Plan, including support for landscape scale fuels management, support CAL FIRE'S efforts in 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 promotes the training of other forces used by CAL FIRE that emphasize 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 local CCA associations 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 will assist and promote the need for training and education to the numerous municipal and mutual aid firefighting agencies that may be under the jurisdiction of CAL FIRE on rangelands,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA will assist and promote the training and education of CAL FIRE, local and municipal firefighters on rangelands.

08-06 PRESCRIBED BURNING - VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND PRIVATE PERMIT BURNING (LE7) 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 destructive wildfires that will increase the need for emergency funding, and

WHEREAS, the private permit burning program, administered by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), has stimulated improved brushland management to the benefit of the general public and the landowner, and

WHEREAS, the Vegetation Management Program (VMP), also 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 cost-effective public benefit, and

WHEREAS, there is continued need for both 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 those programs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support budget increases for VMP and State 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 change applicable state laws to provide for liability indemnification for persons conducting burning operations under the management of CAL FIRE 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 enabling 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 and citizen losses and fuel reduction in accordance with the State Fire Plan.

WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

2004-2008 Policy

04-01 PERMITS FOR IRRIGATION DIVERSIONS

WHEREAS, requirements of the Fish and Game Department 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) take appropriate action to eliminate Fish and Game requirements for permits 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 take appropriate action to eliminate Fish and Game requirements for permits to perform stream channel work that is urgently needed to protect private property.

04-02 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) work with the University of California to develop information on the impact of grazing on water quality, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with the State Water Resources Control Board to resolve industry concerns on this matter.

04-03 PESTICIDE CHEMICAL RESIDUE POLICY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports the active role of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in a consultive position in the Department of Pesticide Regulation under Cal-EPA with regard to pesticide use.

04-04 ENDANGERED SPECIES-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governments own approximately 55 percent of 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 before the taking of any land and/or water for endangered species or before a threatened or endangered species may be moved or relocated, an economic analysis and an environmental impact statement should be made by the proposing agency including the impact of the acquisition or relocation on the local, county, state and national economies.

04-05 DELISTING OF FAIRY SHRIMP

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has declared the fairy shrimp as an endangered species, and

WHEREAS, the habitat of the fairy shrimp will encompass a vast portion of the grazing land in California, and

WHEREAS, the habitat of the endangered fairy shrimp has been subject to grazing for over 150 years; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association engage in efforts to delist the fairy shrimp.

05-01 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 all wild and scenic river designations, except that staff need not oppose such designations where landowners' property rights and historical agricultural uses including husbandry and cultural practices on surrounding lands in and to the watercourse are recognized and protected.

05-02 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 seek to maintain agricultural exemptions for management, cultural practices, and confined animal production, including, but not to limited to, use of fuels, roads (dust), burns, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that air quality advisory bodies have adequate agricultural representation.

05-03 PERMIT COORDINATION AND COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA), California Farm Bureau Federation and Western Growers Association have been negotiating with state and federal agencies, along with legislators to promote cooperative conservation and the coordination of permits and regulations,

WHEREAS, the coordination of permits and regulations is to assist ranchers in the continued economic viability of their operation,

WHEREAS, the basis for cooperative conservation is to promote open space and imperiled species conservation while simultaneously operating a productive operations versus creating burdens and disincentives to landowners,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA continue to work on legislation and regulations so as to provide permit and regulation coordination and promote cooperative conservation.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work on legislation and regulations that provide reasonable protections for landowners and livestock operators in respect to accidental and incidental take of listed species.

05-04 CALIFORNIA RANGELAND RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports the California Rangeland Resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association continues to cooperatively work with resolution co-signatories in future endeavors that promote the goals and policies of the California Cattlemen's Association.

06-01 SUPPORT OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RANGELAND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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 Rangeland Watershed Management Program, conducted jointly with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, has been successful in providing education, technical assistance and field research during the development of the California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan; now

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

06-02 OPPOSITION TO NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION BECOMING SUBJECT TO §401 PERMITS

WHEREAS, a recent court ruling may have potentially devastating consequences to nonpoint source pollution naturally associated with grazing and other agricultural activities by stating that these activities may be subject to the permit provisions of §401 of the federal Clean Water Act, and

WHEREAS, §401 permits are extremely burdensome, onerous and economically infeasible in application to nonpoint sources of pollution typically associated with agriculture; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association take all actions necessary to ensure that cattle grazing and other agricultural activities do not become subject to the permit provisions of §401.

06-03 WATERSHED PARTNERSHIPS

WHEREAS, nonpoint source pollution, regardless of the source, is becoming of greater concern to water suppliers and water treatment operators as they attempt to comply with the state and federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act, and

WHEREAS, the cost of complying with these new standards is becoming increasingly prohibitive, and are causing some water users to call for possible restrictions on land uses in areas of origin in the name of protecting water quality, and

WHEREAS, some downstream water users have realized that scarce financial resources may be put to better use by helping to pay for management practices that protect and/or enhance water quality in areas of origin and may be calling for future legislation to accomplish this task; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) recognizes that watershed partnerships are a potentially good solution to water quality problems and will take an active and fully participatory role in any type of legislation that calls for such watershed partnerships, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCA insure that private property rights, including water rights are fully protected and that participation be fully voluntary.

06-04 OPPOSITION TO LISTING OF THE COHO SALMON

WHEREAS, the proposed listing arbitrarily considers area populations as part of a "Northern California" coho "species." Southern California stocks have already been listed and Sacramento stocks are not being considered. The "species" definition is purely political and has no scientific basis; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) opposes the listing of coho salmon as an endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCA support litigation opposing the listing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCA support efforts to mitigate the impacts of the listing.

06-05 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 Endangered Species Act within their preferred habitat, and

WHEREAS, the mechanism for delisting of such species is cumbersome; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) encourage streamlining the delisting process, and

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

06-06 DISCHARGE FROM GRAZING LANDS

WHEREAS, Regional Water Boards have promulgated policies and waivers which presume that grazing results in the discharge of waste to waters of the State, and

WHEREAS, cattle operations are often far removed from such waters and cattlemen generally do not add pesticides and fertilizers to grazing lands; therefore, such grazing land seldom discharges waste to waters of the State; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose any code, law, regulation, or policy that presumes grazing results in the discharge of waste to waters of the State.

07-01 SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIED WATER CONSERVATION FACILITIES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association favors the addition and improvement of water storage and transportation systems in the state.

07-02 WATER POLICY GUIDELINES (GROUNDWATER & TRANSFERS)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association adopt the following water policy guidelines:

1. We recognize that overdrafting exists in specific areas as evidenced by lowering water tables, water quality degradation, salt water intrusion, and land subsidence.
2. We support groundwater management by local districts or agencies which are responsible for surface water management and delivery, or by a special district or joint powers agency formed by and with the consent of local water users and/or local districts for the specific purpose of conducting groundwater management. In the event ground water basins with persistent overdraft are not being managed in such a way as to reduce the overdraft, we suggest legislation to establish mandatory groundwater management, the final form of which shall meet with approval of water users within the proposed district.
3. It is imperative that water conservation and groundwater management be combined with ongoing programs to obtain supplemental water to solve overdraft.
4. We oppose out-of-basin transfers of native groundwater without prior review and approval by a local groundwater management district.
5. We support limited term, voluntary transfers of water by individuals or water groups with possessory interests in the water, up to the quantity which could be reasonably used on the overlying or riparian lands under their jurisdiction, subject to the protection of the watershed of origin.
6. We oppose any water export plan which would result in groundwater degradation, or any permanent overdrafting of groundwater supplies, including basins lying within two or more states.
7. We oppose any extension of governmental authority to dedicate water to in-stream uses.
8. We support procedural modifications to the statutory adjudication process which will simplify procedures and shorten the time involved.
9. We oppose quantification of riparian rights.

07-03 AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) oppose implementation of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose the designation of water bodies as American Heritage Rivers and take action as necessary to avert future designations.

07-04 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REFORM

WHEREAS, California has more threatened, endangered and candidate species and suffers more impacts from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) than any other state; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to ensure that Congress corrects the defects in the ESA to the benefit of production agriculture within California and the nation.

07-05 DESERT TORTOISE DELISTING AS A THREATENED/ENDANGERED SPECIES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the Mojave population of the desert tortoise as an endangered species, the Sonoran population north and west of the Colorado River as a threatened species, and upgraded the listing of the Beaver Dam Slope population from threatened to endangered, and

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) recognizes the importance of managing and preserving desert tortoise habitat as multiple use, and

WHEREAS, a virulent respiratory disease has been recently identified and is causing significant declines to certain desert tortoise populations, and

WHEREAS, CCA recognizes that current knowledge, based on scientific research and studies, relating to causes of the respiratory disease and to livestock grazing impacts is incomplete, based on small, widely separated study plots, and that this information is crucial to the listing process; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that they direct, in desert tortoise habitat, traditional uses of the public lands continue until adequate information on population status and the impacts of multiple uses are characterized, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA urge the state BLM directors of Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah, to include qualified interdisciplinary scientists on the membership of the state technical research advisory teams, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA recommend to the Secretary of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that the BLM continue its investment in research, leading to a better understanding of the respiratory disease, and the interrelationships of desert tortoise populations, grazing ungulates, and their habitat requirements, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to give major consideration to viable populations to insure that subsequent recovery plans are economically viable, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA request that the Secretary of Interior use his discretion and authority to conduct an evidentiary hearing to insure adequate biological and inventory data is made available, for the benefit of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service public record in its consideration of the delisting of the desert tortoise.

07-06 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDIES & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS

WHEREAS, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has funds available to acquire lands for wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS, DFG funding is not sufficient in all cases to manage and staff the acquired lands, and

WHEREAS, because of lack of management plans and personnel, the lands become overrun with noxious weeds and rodents, and

WHEREAS, the DFG attempts to create buffer zones on adjoining private land, and

WHEREAS, the use of lands to be acquired is often changed to the extent that it is an environmental detriment or significant negative impact to adjacent land uses; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that DFG be required to do an economic impact study and environmental impact report whenever they propose to acquire lands, so that the economic impacts may be known and addressed for all affected people.

08-01 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) make all reasonable efforts to sponsor, support, promote or defend 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 assist by whatever means necessary to help protect the water rights and entitlements of the members of CCA.

08-02 WATER POLICY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association adopt the following points as water policy:

1. The wise development and use of water resources is essential for the future life and development of the state. Any water plan should contemplate the eventual development and use under the multiple use concept (such as power, irrigation or recreation) of all available water resources which are deemed economically feasible.
2. California water laws relating to the acquisition, control, use and distribution of water should apply alike to all, including agencies of government, whether local, state or federal.
3. Projects for the development and distribution of water resources should be owned and operated locally insofar as practical, the control being exercised wherever possible by the users of the facilities.
4. First rights for water should be reserved for the ultimate reasonable needs of the areas of origin where it can be beneficially and most economically used.

08-03 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 government and other interests, operating as Cal Fed 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.

08-04 PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE ISSUES

WHEREAS, Public Trust Doctrine issues are complicated matters requiring expertise in water, economic and wildlife values, which can best be analyzed by the State Water Resources Control Board; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support legislation requiring Public Trust Doctrine claims against water users first be brought before the State Water Resources Control Board before any litigation may be initiated.

08-05 REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD REPRESENTATION

WHEREAS, Regional Water Quality Control Boards from time to time have technical advisory groups, and

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) should be represented on such groups; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA be encouraged to nominate qualified, interested persons to such groups.

08-06 FEDERAL RECLAMATION ACT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports the elimination of all provisions of the Federal Reclamation Act which unilaterally change provisions of existing federal contracts signed prior to the 1993 amendments.

08-07 CENTRAL VALLEY IRRIGATED LANDS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, many California livestock producers irrigate lands, and

WHEREAS, the sunset of the tail water discharge waiver by the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board will impact producers in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins and the Tulare Lake Basin, and

WHEREAS, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has promulgated the Irrigated Lands Program to regulate irrigation and stormwater discharges from irrigated lands; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association shall work with the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board staff and board members and other stakeholders to ensure the Irrigated Lands Program is the least intrusive, and most cost effective possible.

08-08 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

WHEREAS, California has promulgated regulations to mandatorily reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 emission levels by the year 2020, and

WHEREAS, efforts are underway by the federal government to develop a climate change policy to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, 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, CCA support sound science and research to develop emissions inventories for agricultural sources and sinks, and E IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CCA should remain vigilant in working with local, state and federal government to ensure any future climate change policy impacts the industry to the least extent possible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CCA support market mechanisms, where appropriate, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to provide financial incentives for those who reduce greenhouse gas emissions in regulatory and voluntary markets, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CCA oppose state or national climate change regulations that involuntarily regulate greenhouse gases from biogenic sources, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CCA support efforts to develop protocols that would allow ranchers and property owners to participate in a market-based system through carbon sequestration of rangelands, woody landscapes, riparian habitat or other means, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CCA oppose the listing of species or habitat under the federal Endangered Species Act or California Endangered Species Act based primarily on climate change.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2004-2008 Policy

04-01 PREDATOR ANIMAL CONTROL

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) supports a strong predator animal control program which keeps livestock losses to a minimum, and

WHEREAS, these programs are essential for public health protection, as well as for the protection of the interest of livestock producers; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support increases in Federal-State cooperative funding, by the use of general funds, for predator animal control programs.

04-02 ANNUAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WHEREAS, wildlife and cattle co-exist on ranches, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is responsible for wildlife management, and

WHEREAS, a cooperative dialogue between ranchers and DFG will enhance the state's wildlife; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) ask the director of DFG to sponsor the Department of Fish and Game's attendance at the CCA annual convention, and the mid-year meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourages local associations to meet with Fish and Game staff at least once each year.

05-01 SUPPORT FOR USE OF TRAPS

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 supports the use of the most selective, humane, and effective leghold 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 supports research, development, and use of suitable alternatives or improvements to the steel-jaw traps such as soft-catch padded traps, snares, and humane lethal traps.

06-01 WILDLIFE HEALTH PROGRAM

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 program, and

WHEREAS, diseases generally do not benefit either wildlife or livestock and may result in apparent conflicts; now

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

06-02 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 under a depredation permit, trapping of pigs be permitted and that in some cases the permittee be allowed to dispose of the carcass.

06-03 CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR THE TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the Conservation Strategy as long as the terms outlined within it abide by CCA policies; now

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCA sign on to the Memorandum of Agreement for the implementation of the Conservation Strategy for the Tricolored Blackbird.

06-04 WAIVE FEES FOR 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 the CCA supports landowners who engage in restoration projects that benefit water quality, wildlife, or the public, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that landowners undertaking restoration projects should be eligible for a waiver of any and all fees from federal, state or any other governmental organization that has oversight on the restoration project.

07-01 PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL JOINT COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, livestock depredation, property damage, and game animal depredation by predatory animals cause severe economic losses to livestock and property owners, and

WHEREAS, livestock and property owners suffering losses are currently represented by several separate organizations and groups, and

WHEREAS, it is important for these organizations and groups to work together in dealing with government bodies and agencies to achieve their goals in predatory animal control; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association encourage the continued cooperation of the formation of a joint predatory animal committee including representatives of the California Cattlemen's Association, the California Wool Growers Association, the California Farm Bureau Federation and any other group concerned with economic losses suffered by livestock and property owners due to predatory animals.

07-02 FISH AND GAME GUIDE LICENSE

WHEREAS, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Code Section 2535 defines "guide" to mean any person who is engaged in the business of packing or guiding, or who for compensation, assists another person in taking or attempting to take any bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, or reptile or who, for compensation, assists another person in locating any bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, or reptile to photograph or view, and

WHEREAS, this definition is used in DFG Code Section 2535-2546 which requires a landowner or his agent to pay a fee to DFG and obtain a guide license, and

WHEREAS, this fee assessment provides no benefit to the landowner nor does it provide a benefit to DFG by assisting with propagation of fish and wildlife resources of the state; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) seek an amendment to Section 2535 to exclude the language which states: ". . . assists another person in locating any bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, or reptile to photograph or view."

07-03 DEER HERD IMPROVEMENT

WHEREAS, the deer population continues to fall below historic levels; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) attempt to insure funds collected for tags by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) 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 to limit season, depredation, and tag quotas to improve the health of the deer herd and encourage the California Fish and Game Commission and boards of supervisors to work with local landowners to propose an acceptable season and take.

07-04 FIRE MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) manages around 1 million acres in California, most of which was historic grazing lands 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 CDFG has limited staff to manage these lands; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association work with the CDFG to add trained rangeland specialists to improve fire prevention, enhance biodiversity and utilize grazing to further improve the fire risk of these lands, enhance species biodiversity and wildlife habitat, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA works with the California Department of Forestry and Protection (CAL-FIRE) to create a uniform fire control program for Federal, state and private lands to protect and preserve wildlife habitat.

08-01 WILDLIFE SERVICE AVIATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the ability of United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services to control predators has been curtailed; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the California Cattlemen’s Association support the wildlife service aviation program and increased funding for the program.

08-02 MOUNTAIN LION

WHEREAS, the Fish & Game Commission has specific authorities for the management of the mountain lion, 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, the parts of such a program should include control of depredating mountain lions, the hunting of mountain lions in suitable situations and the protection of public safety and welfare; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the California Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) support the installation of a complete management program for the mountain lion at the level allowed by current law, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA ask the Fish & Game Commission 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.

08-03 REVENUE ENHANCEMENT 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.

08-04 ELK RELOCATION

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association supports relocation of elk where proper conditions exist, and

WHEREAS, elk relocation has caused property damage and conflict between landowners and operators; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that no further relocations of elk be made unless an agreement is reached among landowners on the surrounding property that will be impacted by the elk, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that depredation permits be allowed for elk.

08-05 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 lion, black bear 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 of the public and the wildlife of the State of California, and

WHEREAS, large wild predatory animals are having an adverse affect 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, and

WHEREAS, county governments, livestock producers and the federal government are funding wildlife damage management programs in certain areas of the state within their monetary limits; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association is opposed to the current proposed state budget cuts for the Wildlife Services Program and supports restoration of these cuts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of California distribute any budget cuts to the Wildlife Services Program in a manner that is consistent with all agricultural programs administered by the state.

08-06 RODENTICIDE SURCHARGE SUPPORT

WHEREAS, the use of arvicides 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 continued registration; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support legislation to continue the assessment surcharge program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCA request that the California Department of Food and Agriculture report on an annual basis to the CCA Wildlife Management Committee the progress of research that has been done with the surcharge monies and what is scheduled to be done.

08-07 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 Health Services to research and provide environmentally safe and effective alternatives to control rodents, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA should support the continued use of all available rodenticides.

08-08 ELK MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the population and distribution of elk (Roosevelt, Tule and Rocky Mountain) in California has increased in recent years, and

WHEREAS, elk are causing significant damage to crops, fences and reducing the forage available to livestock on private lands, and

WHEREAS, landowners are not compensated for this damage by the California Department of Fish and Game; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support increasing tag quotas, reimbursement to land owners for damages, additional landowner tags, reduced acreage requirements for landowner tags or other appropriate means.