



California Cattlemen's Association  
2016 - 2017  
Policy Resolutions

California Cattlemen's Association  
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## ***AG & FOOD POLICY***

### **12-01 DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR PULLING LIVESTOCK TRAILERS WITH PICKUPS**

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

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

WHEREAS, U.S. pickup manufacturers have increased the gross vehicle weight rating of new  $\frac{3}{4}$  and one ton pickups compared to previous models, and

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) pursue state legislation to allow farmers and ranchers to operate pickups and stock trailers greater than 26,000 lbs. GCWR with a non-commercial Class C Driver's license , and

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

### **12-02 COMMITTEE JURISDICTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that California Cattlemen's Association staff designate all issues involving animal identification or resolutions involving animal identification, to be voted on by the Livestock Identification and Transportation Committee.

### **13-01 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 prevention seminars, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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 prevention seminars.

### **13-02 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 all efforts to standardize truck length and weights for vehicles used on federal, state and county public roads.

### **13-03 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.

### **13-04 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, that the California Cattlemen's Association continues to support California's registered hot iron brand system and the activities of the Bureau of Livestock Identification.

### **13-05 SUPPORT OF THE USDA FOR FOOD INSPECTION**

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

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

WHEREAS, the USDA has the ability to integrate the protection of 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.

### **13-06 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.

### **13-07 CCA RANGE CATTLE PRODUCTION INTERNSHIPS**

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

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

WHEREAS, 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, the California Cattlemen's Association support student internships at the UC Sierra Foothill Range Field Station and other University of California Cooperative Extension sites and encourage the University of California and other private donors to provide the necessary resources to ensure internships are made available in the future.

### **13-08 SUPPORT REFILLING OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ADVISOR POSITIONS**

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

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

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

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

#### **14-01 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, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) work with other agricultural organizations on minimizing the impact of hazardous materials endorsements on all classes of licenses.

#### **14-02 U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR**

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

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

#### **14-03 WINTERIZING BIODIESEL**

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, CCA work to support legislation to allow effective winterizing products be reinstated and made available so as to provide reliable operation of diesel engines.

#### **14-04 OPPOSITION TO THE REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS**

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

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

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

### **15-01 FLATBED PICKUPS**

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support revising the definition of pickups to include flatbed pickups.

### **15-02 GUN CONTROL**

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

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

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

### **15-03 SUPPORT FOR ETHICAL AND HUMANE DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC & FERAL HORSES**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **16-01 LONG TRUCKS - HAULING LIVESTOCK**

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

#### **16-02 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; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support an amendment to the California statute so as to allow state road funds or gas tax funds to be used for installing and maintaining cattle guards.

#### **16-03 OWNER NOTIFICATION FOLLOWING FENCE DAMAGE**

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

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

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

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

#### **16-04 LIVESTOCK TRUCK LENGTHS**

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the shipment of cattle in the Western United States depends on truck/trailer

combinations to move from areas not accessible to doubles or tractor/semi combinations, and

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

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



## ***BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE & CARE COMMITTEE***

### **12-01 HANDLING OF CATTLE WITH OCULAR ISSUES**

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the practice of merchandising these cattle with severely ulcerated eyes is not necessary or vital to the economics of this industry or in line with the California Beef Cattle Production Code of Ethics; now

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

### **12-02 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.

### **13-01 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 continue to support policies to prohibit the slaughter of disabled (downer, non-ambulatory) cattle in California and the United States for human consumption.

#### **14-01 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 livestock and natural resources. I pledge to meet the following standards:

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

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

#### **14-02 ETHICAL LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND RESOURCE USE**

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

WHEREAS, all beef producers 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) call upon and urge cattle producers to follow accepted livestock and business management practices in animal health, animal welfare, grazing practices, co-existence with wildlife, use of water and waste management; and

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

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

#### **14-03 SUPPORT OF ANIMAL CARE GUIDELINES**

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

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

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

#### **15-01 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 will encourage all rodeo events to follow the PRCA humane guidelines.

#### **15-02 USE OF ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES**

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support legislation seeking to continue the availability of using animals in human and animal research.

#### **16-01 CATTLE HANDLING EQUIPMENT DESIGN**

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

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

#### **16-02 RESPONSE TO ANIMAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

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

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

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

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

### **16-03 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, producer participation and input prior to publication and release to the general public and that the universities and state colleges provide regular updates on research related projects to CCA as they develop.

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

### **12-01 CCA SUPPORT FOR U.C. DAVIS SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **12-02 PINKEYE VACCINE**

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

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

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

### **12-03 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 the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the authority of CDFA to directly pursue administrative fines for violations of cattle health regulations currently established by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 per violation.

#### **12-04 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 (CCA) oppose any attempt to label beef and beef products from cloned animals and their progeny differently than beef and beef products from non-cloned animals, and

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

#### **12-05 ALTERNATIVE FEEDSTUFFS**

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) urge industry educators to discourage the practice of feeding poultry litter and acknowledge its more beneficial use as a fertilizer in those regions of the country where the product use is concentrated, and

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

#### **12-06 CALIFORNIA ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY LABORATORY SYSTEM**

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, CDFA has recently experienced significant budget cuts and many CDFA programs, including the lab, will likely require new funding sources in the future to maintain lab operations unless the budget cuts are restored, and

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

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

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

### **13-01 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.

### **13-02 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.

### **13-03 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.

### **13-04 REGULATION AND USE OF BIOLOGICALS**

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose any 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.

### **13-05 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 request that these functions be assumed by existing animal health divisions within the California Department of Food and Agriculture and USDA.

### **13-06 DISEASE CONTROL RESPONSIBILITIES - FARMED EXOTIC ANIMALS**

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

WHEREAS, CDFA is the only state 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.

### **13-07 CONTROL OF JOHNE'S DISEASE**

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

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

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

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

### **13-08 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 consumers' confidence, and

WHEREAS, any change in the current standards established by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) could create a greater risk of BSE occurrence in the United States, 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 all agencies and organizations to use the best available science to set BSE control standards.

### **13-09 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.

### **13-10 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 and National Cattlemen's Beef Association urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other necessary agencies to develop newer epidemiological methods that improve Tuberculosis detection in live cattle and ensure federal and state regulations do not place burdensome requirements on California beef cattle producers seeking to ship cattle interstate.

### **13-11 FOOTHILL ABORTION VACCINE**

WHEREAS, research trials indicate the U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine has developed a vaccine to prevent foothill abortion, and

WHEREAS, the U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine does not have the necessary resources to provide for the expenses associated with the initial production of a commercially available vaccine; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) request that the Livestock Memorial Research Fund assist the U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine by allocating funds to pay for startup expenses including both time spent by university staff and the purchase of equipment to facilitate the production of a vaccine that can be marketed commercially to livestock producers.

### **14-01 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; now

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support continued mandatory interstate and intrastate calfhood vaccination programs to prevent Brucellosis in our livestock herds, and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support continued calfhood vaccination and allowing the use of RB51 for mature vaccination in instances where calf hood vaccination was not utilized and mature 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 to

provide economic benefits to producers.

#### **14-02 TUBERCULOSIS RULES ON U.S. - MEXICAN BORDER**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **14-03 CALIFORNIA TRICHOMONOSIS REGULATIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CCA also support:

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

#### **14-04 ANTIBIOTIC USE**

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

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

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

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

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

- All beef producers recognize the serious nature of antibiotic resistance and practice careful and judicious use of antibiotics, to preserve antibiotics as an important tool for human and animal health, promote stewardship and protect animal welfare.
- Recognize that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration expects veterinary oversight regarding the use of all medically important antibiotics, and that most cattle producers have established veterinary/client relationships. CCA encourages all producers to establish a veterinary/client relationship.
- Support and encourage the development of alternatives to the traditional use of antibiotics in all phases of beef production.

- Participate, as appropriate, in any development of a national methodology that is practical to track antibiotic use that protects veterinarian client patient relationships.

#### **15-01 SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTERS**

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

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

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

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

#### **15-02 VETERINARIANS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES**

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

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

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

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

#### **15-03 ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY**

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

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

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

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

animal diseases of concern, and

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

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

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

1. Additional costs to the beef and dairy industry must be minimized, allowing low cost visual or electronic official tagging devices paid for by federal or state funds, if possible.
2. Any information relative to cattle identification information should be under the control of state animal health officials and kept confidential and strongly protected from disclosure.
3. The system must operate at the speed of commerce.
4. The priority animals for participation in the individual identification framework are sexually intact cattle 18 months or older. Cattle herd movement between adjoining states on pasture-to-pasture permits should be allowed to continue at the discretion of the state animal health officials involved.
5. Producers must be protected from liability for acts of others after cattle have left their control.
6. The purpose of the animal disease traceability system should be solely animal disease surveillance, control, and eradication. The only data required to be collected should be that necessary to accomplish this goal.
7. Encourage producers that official identification be applied at the herd of origin if destined for interstate movement.
8. The animal data management system does not replace or impede existing state brand inspection activities.

#### **16-01 SELENIUM SUPPLEMENTATION NEEDS FOR HEALTHY CATTLE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **16-02 VETERINARY STUDENTS**

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

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

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

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

#### **16-03 FACE FLY IMPACT ON CATTLE INDUSTRY**

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

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

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

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

#### **16-04 BVD CONTROL**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **16-05 CALIFORNIA SPECIFIC RESEARCH**

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

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

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

#### **16-06 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, the funds from the Livestock Memorial Research Fund (LMRF) have furthered knowledge on this disease; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association recommend to LMRF to continue to fund research through the University of California School of Veterinary Medicine to continue to further our understanding of EBA and to explore opportunities to produce the vaccine at a commercial scale, and

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

#### **16-07 LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT & ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS**

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

WHEREAS, CCA also believes in the right of each individual rancher to identify and exercise the animal care practices that are most appropriate for his or her operation, and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support additional research to identify and test



alternative cattle production practices that maintain the highest standards for animal welfare without resulting in additional costs to producers, losses in production, or mandates of specific animal handling practices, and

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

#### **16-08 REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **12-01 BEEF CHECKOFF INCREASE**

WHEREAS, a recent vote taken to increase the Beef Checkoff by \$1 narrowly failed, and

WHEREAS, following the vote, numerous producers voiced concerns that the multiple-stage voting process used by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) may have discouraged producer participation, and

WHEREAS, some producers received their ballot after the ballot deadline and were disqualified from voting; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) petition CDFA to again conduct a vote of eligible producers to increase the Beef Checkoff from \$1.00 to \$2.00 and increased funds are to be controlled solely by the California Beef Council, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA request that CDFA conduct only one mailing and include both the eligibility to vote statement and the ballot on a single form.

### **13-01 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.

### **13-02 MANDATORY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING**

WHEREAS, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 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 support coordination with the California Bureau of Livestock Identification and USDA 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 COOL 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.

#### **14-01 LIVESTOCK SELLERS PROTECTION LEGISLATION**

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

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

#### **14-02 RESTITUTION FOR LOSSES FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION OF A DAIRY HERD INVENTORY CONTROL PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the California beef cattle industry can suffer significant direct economic losses as a result of any controlled and incentivized dairy herd buyout program; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the California Cattlemen's Association adamantly oppose any future dairy herd buyout program funded in whole or in part or otherwise incentivized using public funds.

#### **14-03 IMPLEMENTATION OF SPRAY/WASH TECHNOLOGY**

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

#### **14-04 BEEF PROMOTION**

WHEREAS, the California Beef Council (CBC) conducts beef promotion, research and consumer education; and

WHEREAS, the CBC has a high priority on educating consumers to defend against environmental, animal welfare and nutritional attacks from anti-beef activists; and

WHEREAS, the buying power of a dollar has been cut by more than one-half since the Beef Checkoff began; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association initiate the process with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to increase the Beef Checkoff from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per head; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the additional dollars collected will be allocated at the discretion of the CBC.

#### **14-05 IMPORTATION OF FRESH, CHILLED & FROZEN BEEF FROM ARGENTINA &**

## **BRAZIL**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to allow the importation of fresh, chilled and frozen beef from Argentina and fresh and chilled beef from regions of Brazil; and

WHEREAS, northern Argentina has not been declared free of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and FMD may be transmitted in fresh, chilled and frozen beef; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the California Cattlemen's Association oppose the importation of fresh, chilled and frozen beef from Argentina and Brazil.

## **15-01 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.

## **16-01 SOURCE AND AGE VERIFICATION**

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

WHEREAS, source and age verification is voluntary; now

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

## **16-02 RAISING THE BEEF CHECKOFF FROM \$1.00 TO \$2.00 PER HEAD**

WHEREAS, The California Beef Council conducts beef promotion, research and consumer education, and

WHEREAS, key Checkoff activities include promoting beef at restaurants and grocery stores, promoting trade and adding carcass value, investing in beef safety and technology enhancements, developing new beef products to meet consumer demands, telling the truth about ranchers and cattle production to our state's population, and

WHEREAS, the California Beef Council has placed a high priority on educating consumers to defend against environmental, animal welfare, and nutritional attacks from anti-beef activists, and

WHEREAS, University research has shown today's Checkoff returns five times the investment back to the cattle industry, and

WHEREAS, the buying power of a dollar has been cut by more than half since the Checkoff began, and

WHEREAS, the California Beef Council's marketing budget has less than 4 cents for each consumer in California and less than one penny is available for research and public relations efforts to promote and defend our product; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association initiate the process with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to increase the Beef Checkoff from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per head with the increased funds to be used in California only. We will carry this message to all cattle producers in California, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CCA seek a legislative change to allow any increase in the state checkoff to be refunded to a producer at his/her request.

*ELECTRONIC LOGGING DEVICE – Staff Directive*

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

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

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

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

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

- *Exempt the transportation of livestock from the mandatory use of an ELD,*
- *Provide additional flexibility for livestock transporters by discounting time from an ELD that count against Hours of Service for time spent waiting to load and loading livestock, waiting in traffic, stuck in weather, etc.,*
- *Provide an additional two hours beyond the established Hours of Service provisions for livestock transporters to deliver cattle, or*
- *Revise the Hours of Service provisions to provide additional flexibility for cattle producers with or without the use of an ELD, and*

*BE IT FURTHER DIRECTED, that CCA communicate the importance of this issue to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and urge them to take any and all necessary actions to seek these changes.*

## ***FEEDER COUNCIL***

### **13-01 MANDATORY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING**

WHEREAS, Mexico and Canada are the two largest importers of United States beef, and

WHEREAS, Mexico and Canada received a favorable ruling from the World Trade Organization against the U.S. that will allow both countries to legally impose retaliatory tariffs on imported U.S. products, and

WHEREAS, retaliatory tariffs imposed by Mexico and Canada on the importation of U.S. products will have a profound economic impact on the U.S. economy; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support any or all of the following legislative and regulatory initiatives:

1. Transition mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (mCOOL) to a voluntary – not mandatory – program, and/or
2. Revise the definition of “Product of the U.S.” under mCOOL to be consistent with the definition prescribed by the Food Safety Inspection Service to mean a product “...having undergone a significant change.”

### **13-02 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 (CCA) Feeder Council strongly urge the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other appropriate agencies to reclassify polyether ionophores to reflect their true function as modifiers of rumen fermentation and 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.

### **13-03 FEED BASED ETHANOL**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **13-04 IMMIGRATION REFORM**

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

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

#### **14-01 OPPOSITION TO BIOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES**

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

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

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

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

## ***FEDERAL LANDS***

### **12-01 WILDERNESS DESIGNATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association request that the National Cattlemen's Beef Association 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, and
5. Oppose further national monument designation that does not consider livestock grazing on lands suited for grazing.

### **12-02 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.

### **12-03 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 un-adopted wild horses and burros with sales receipts to be used in the Wild Horse and Burro Program.

### **12-04 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.

### **12-05 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.

#### **12-06 PROTECTION OF PRIVATE WATER RIGHTS ON FEDERAL LANDS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose the sale or transfer of pre-1914 or riparian water rights to the U.S. Forest Service or other federal land management agencies.

#### **12-07 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 support regulations that 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.

#### **12-08 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.

#### **12-09 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.

#### **12-10 PUBLIC LANDS POLICY**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association 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 study and publication of the positive impacts of grazing, and
6. Compensation to affected permittees for involuntary reductions in Animal Unit Months or season of use due to environmental restriction beyond the control of permittees.

#### **12-11 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 the 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.

## **12-12 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 in establishing “let burn” areas within the plan area.

## **13-01 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.

## **13-02 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.

### **13-03 PUBLIC LANDS RANGE MONITORING FUNDING**

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

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

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

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

### **14-01 PERMITTEE ALLOTMENT MONITORING**

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

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

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

### **14-02 PERMIT BUYOUT**

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 dependent on public lands would suffer a severe negative impact as a result of a buyout; now

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

### **14-03 REGULATORY RELIEF FOR PUBLIC LAND USERS**

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

1. Grandfather grazing that is historic and ongoing on public lands.
2. Complete the analysis of ecological, archeological, water and other resources in careful and considered consultation, coordination and cooperation with permittees, local residents, local governments and state governments, with full consideration of the customs and culture of the local region, in a timely manner.
3. Streamline the process for transferring an existing grazing permit or acquiring a new grazing permit to reduce impacts on individual permittees and local communities.

4. Ensure that bureaucratic red tape or paperwork does not cause a delay in the reauthorization, transfer or acquisition of grazing permits.

#### **14-04 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)**

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

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

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

#### **14-05 MONITORING POLICY**

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

#### **14-06 U.S. RECOGNITION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS AND GRAZING PERMITTEES ON PUBLIC LAND**

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

#### **14-07 RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT**

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

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

#### **14-08 FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT ON FOREST SERVICE LANDS**

WHEREAS, catastrophic wildfires continue to threaten lives, property, and the natural resources

of the state of California; and

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

WHEREAS, California has more than 43 million acres of federal land including 20 million managed by the U.S. Forest Service, much of which has not been adequately managed to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, there continues to be a widely recognized extremely high risk of catastrophic wildfires due to unnaturally heavy fuel loads and the early drying of wild land vegetation; now

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

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

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

#### **14-09 FUNDING POLICY**

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support efforts to ensure that the legal percentage of grazing fees designated for range improvement be used by federal land management agencies for those intended purposes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support consideration by federal agencies of permittees' ideas regarding the planning and decision making process and distribution of funds to where they would be most beneficial.

#### **14-10 FEDERAL AGENCY MANAGEMENT STAFF**

BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support efforts to ensure that 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.

#### **15-01 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS, each National 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; now

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

#### **15-02 ANTI-GRAZING POLICIES OF STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES**

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

#### **15-03 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 bases, and

WHEREAS, rural forest counties' tax bases 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 the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support PL 106-393, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support legislation that continues PL 106-393.

#### **16-01 PUBLIC RANGELANDS LEGISLATION**

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

Very Important Issues:

Grazing fee formula,  
National Environmental Policy Act,  
Water rights,  
Public participation (protests, appeal rights, and effect of decisions),  
Standards and guidelines,  
Resource Advisory Councils,  
Resource Advisory Committees,  
Grazing Advisory Councils,  
Monitoring,  
Hunting and fishing access,  
Monument and/or Wilderness Designation, and  
Wild horses and burros.

Important Issues:

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

Support:

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

#### **16-02 SUPPORT FOR CUTTING CIRCLES**

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

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

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

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

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

### 16-03 PUBLIC LAND WEED CONTROL

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

WHEREAS, many counties have developed weed management areas, and

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

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

#### **SUPPORT FOR DEVIL'S GARDEN PRESERVATION GROUP VS. U.S. FOREST SERVICE—Staff Directive**

*BE IT DIRECTED, that upon approval of the complaint by the Devil's Garden Preservation Group and submission of the complaint to CCA staff, CCA staff shall examine the complaint and engage with impacted CCA members and the POSSEE committee to develop a recommendation for the Executive Committee of CCA on whether or not to support the lawsuit.*



## ***GENERAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE***

### **13-01 IRRESPONSIBLE INITIATIVES**

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association use the most effective approach to oppose 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.

### **13-02 COOPERATING WITH ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS**

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

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

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

### **13-03 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.

### **14-01 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, California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) staff will contact appropriate committee members or other experts within CCA for clarification.

### **15-01 ASSOCIATION PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, our 100th 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 the Nugget Casino Resort has truly been outstanding; now

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

#### **COMMENDATIONS – Annually**

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the actions of the Board of Directors of the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA), during the period November 21, 2015, up to and including December 3, 2016, as a Board of the Association are hereby approved and ratified, and

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

#### **IN MEMORIAM – Annually**

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA express sorrow in our loss and extend our

sympathies to their bereaved families.

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

## **12-01 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.

## **12-02 FISH AND GAME GUIDE LICENSE**

WHEREAS, the California Fish and Game 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 Fish and Game Code Section 2535-2546 which requires a landowner or his agent to pay a fee to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and obtain a guide license, and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen’s Association seek an amendment to Section 2535 to exclude the language which states: “Guide also includes any person who, for profit, transports other persons, their equipment or both to or from a hunt or fishing area.”

## **12-03 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 Wildlife (DFW) be spent on improvements that benefit the propagation of big game, and

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

#### **12-04 FIRE MANAGEMENT**

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) work with the CDFW to add trained rangeland specialists to improve fire prevention, enhance biodiversity and utilize grazing to further reduce 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 Fire Protection to create a uniform fire control program for Federal, state and private lands to protect and preserve wildlife habitat.

#### **12-06 GRAZING LAND DEFINITION UNDER FARMLAND MAPPING PROCEDURES**

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

#### **12-07 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 CCA 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.

## **12-08 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, the appropriate local or state agency provides funding for cleanup of the illegally dumped materials.

## **12-09 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.

## **12-10 CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, according to Section 30500 of the California Coastal Act of 1976 (amended as of 2009), each local government lying, in whole or in part, within the coastal zone shall prepare a local coastal program for that portion of the coastal zone within its jurisdiction, and, the precise content of each local coastal program shall be determined by the local government, consistent with Section 30501, in full consultation with the commission and with full public participation (Amended by Ch. 1173, Stats. 1981; Ch. 1009, Stats. 1984.), and

WHEREAS, per Section 30512.2 of the California Coastal Act of 1976 (amended as of 2009), the following provisions shall apply to the commission's decision to certify or refuse certification of a land use plan pursuant to Section 30512: (a) The commission's review of a land use plan shall be limited to its administrative determination that the land use plan submitted by the local government does, or does not, conform with the requirements of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200). In making this review, the commission is not authorized by any provision of this division to diminish or abridge the authority of a local government to adopt and establish, by ordinance, the precise content of its land use plan, and

WHEREAS, local governments, with full public participation, have a greater understanding than the State of the challenges facing agriculture and what is required in order for it to be viable, and an appreciation for the values and benefits provided by the agricultural lands in their respective communities; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the California Cattlemen's Association believes the authority of the California Coastal Commission relative to agriculture and agricultural practices should be rescinded and returned to local government.

## **12-11 SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIED WATER CONSERVATION FACILITIES**

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

## **12-12 AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS**

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

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

## **12-13 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.

## **12-14 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.

## **12-15 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDIES & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS**



WHEREAS, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) continues 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, high fire fuel loads 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.

#### **12-16 GUIDELINES FOR CCA'S PARTICIPATION WITH CALIFORNIA RANGELAND CONSERVATION COALITION**

WHEREAS, the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (CRCC) has had a prior informal, undefined relationship with CCA and its members, and

WHEREAS, CCA feels that there may be some overlapping benefit in maintaining a relationship, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CCA adopts the following as guidelines for its relationship with CRCC:

1. Three CCA members will be appointed by the CCA President to the CRCC steering committee and ratified by the CCA Board of Directors at the annual meeting. The objective of the appointed members will be to represent CCA and its members and adherence with CCA bylaws and policy.
2. CCA representatives to the CRCC steering committee will be cognizant of and maintain consistency with CCA bylaws and policy resolutions in all matters.
3. CCA representatives to CRCC steering committee will not formally or informally be party to any CRCC activity, program or plan with a third party that could directly or indirectly compromise CCA, its members, bylaws or policy resolutions.
4. All substantive activities by CRCC will be maintained transparent to the CCA representatives to the steering committee and those representatives will quarterly update CCA membership and present a summary of activity to CCA at the Annual Meeting.
5. In any case where CCA policy is unclear on a proposed action, the action will be presented to all local affected associations and appropriate policy committees for direction.
6. Any endeavors that may arise within CRCC that could result in violation of one of the above tenets shall be discussed with CRCC steering committee and subsequently with CCA at its Annual meeting. If, after CCA members hearing of such endeavors vote to not support the activity in question, CRCC will not pursue the action any further.

7. CCA endorsement of, or participation in, any CRCC policy adoption, or program/project development shall be contingent upon prior approval of the CCA board, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA shall follow policy General Resolution “Coordination between producers and CCA” for all proposals from CRCC.

### **13-01 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 works 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, culvert 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.

### **13-02 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 Wildlife or the State Lands Commission, and that livestock grazing be encouraged as a management tool on state parklands.

### **13-03 GRAZING AS A PRIMARY TOOL**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association encourage all local, state and federal agencies to carefully consider utilizing livestock grazing as a first alternative for fuel load reduction, reducing wildfire potential, increasing water yield, increasing public safety, improving livestock and wildlife habitat and increasing vegetative diversity.

### **13-04 FENCING RIPARIAN AREAS**

WHEREAS, there is a conflict of opinion on whether or not the complete exclusion of livestock from riparian areas by fencing is necessary to maintain those areas in a stable, to improving condition, and

WHEREAS, where fencing is believed to be necessary, the major benefit is to wildlife, sportsmen and other recreationists, and not to the livestock permittees and private landowners; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association oppose any land agency policy that would require permittees and private landowners to construct and maintain fences built to exclude livestock from riparian areas without the cooperation and consultation of the affected landowners, lessees and/or permittees.

### **13-05 BENEFICIAL ASPECTS OF GRAZING**

WHEREAS, grazing of rangelands has many positive aspects, and

WHEREAS, much of the population is not aware of the facts regarding grazing, and

WHEREAS, grazing benefits air quality, water quality, fire control and wildlife habitat; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association request the University of California Cooperative Extension and other appropriate agencies continue to study and publish the impacts of grazing.

### **13-06 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 \$2.82 billion to the California economy, and

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

WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the lead agency charged with 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, and

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

### **13-07 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.

### **13-08 PROTECTION OF WATER RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, the people, the legislature, the courts and the executive branch of the government of the State of California have long recognized the rights of individuals to beneficially use water lawfully coming into their possession, and

WHEREAS, the riparian, groundwater, appropriative and adjudicated rights and entitlements to beneficial use of water are essential and precious rights that the cattlemen of California cannot afford to lose through excessive regulation or outright taking, for the public good or otherwise, and

WHEREAS, the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America provides that private property of citizens shall not be taken for the public good without just compensation; now

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

### **13-09 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 concepts (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.

### **13-10 DELTA WATER FACILITIES/TRANSFERS**

WHEREAS, most of the water availability is in the northern portion of the state and most of the water need is in the southern portion of the state, and

WHEREAS, the state and the federal 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA not take a position on any proposed and specific Delta conveyance project and if an official position is necessary, the President call a special committee meeting that is highly advertised to discuss and recommend a position to the CCA Board of Directors.

### **13-11 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.

### **13-12 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.

### **13-13 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, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) oppose efforts by environmental and animal rights activists to decrease consumer demand of animal protein and agricultural products based on an alleged and unsubstantiated amount of greenhouse gas emissions emitted from the livestock industry, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support sound science and research to develop emissions inventories for agricultural sources and sinks, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA should remain vigilant in working with local, state and federal government to ensure any future climate change policy impacts the industry to the least extent possible, and

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

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

#### **13-14 WILDLIFE SERVICE AVIATION PROGRAM**

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association supports the wildlife service aviation program and increased funding for the program.

#### **13-15 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, that 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.

### **13-16 REVENUE ENHANCEMENTS THROUGH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, California's ranchers believe that ranching and wildlife are beneficial to each other, and

WHEREAS, California's ranchers value and foster stewardship, working landscapes and wildlife values, and

WHEREAS, ranching is a way of life and the production of livestock can be a challenging way to make a viable living; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support any effort to enhance production and ranch revenue opportunities through voluntary wildlife management.

### **13-17 ELK RELOCATION**

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, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support increasing tag quotas, reimbursement to land owners for damages, additional landowner tags, reduced acreage requirements for landowner tags or other appropriate means to address elk damage.

### **13-18 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 effect on the livestock industry, certain wildlife species and human safety, and

WHEREAS, the public, by the passage of statewide initiatives, have severely affected the ability of individual livestock producers to protect their livestock from predation by wild predators, 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 (CCA) is opposed to any proposed state budget cuts for the Wildlife Services Program, and

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

### **13-19 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 CCA request that the California Department of Food and Agriculture report on an annual basis to the CCA Property Rights and Environmental Management Committee the progress of research that has been done with the surcharge monies and what is scheduled to be done.

### **13-20 SUPPORT FOR RODENT CONTROL**

WHEREAS, rodents are devastating pests to agriculture and the environment, creating a large economic loss, and

WHEREAS, rodents transmit diseases that threaten public health; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the University of California, California Department of Pesticide Regulation and the Department of Public Health to research and provide environmentally safe and effective alternatives to control rodents, and

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

### **13-21 ILLEGAL WATER DIVERSIONS**

WHEREAS, there has been increased illegal diversions of water, and

WHEREAS, there is limited state legislation that addresses the outright theft of water from water rights holders, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that California Cattlemen's Association staff work with the legislature to develop appropriate laws to proactively diminish, correct or prosecute water theft in California.

### **13-22 ILLEGAL DRUG OPERATIONS ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS**

WHEREAS, ranchers, timberland owners as well as private and public property are being severely impacted by the cultivation, harvesting and distribution of marijuana, and

WHEREAS, such activity threatens and degrades the environment by polluting the water, diverting normal stream flows, killing cattle and wildlife and polluting the air, and

WHEREAS, such activity threatens the personal safety of ranchers, landowners, farm and ranch workers and family members along with those using public lands, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) coordinate and collaborate with the affected parties including ranchers, timberland owners, sportsmen's groups, public land use groups, public agencies, county boards of supervisors, legislators and the Governor to communicate and cooperate with the various environmental enforcement agencies, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Drug Enforcement Agency, federal state and local law enforcement agencies and local politicians in an effort to allocate and appropriate adequate funding and other resources to effectively aid in enforcing existing laws and ordinances restricting and regulating the cultivation, harvesting and distribution of marijuana throughout the State of California, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a multi-tiered approach is needed to resolve these problems and CCA supports and will advocate on behalf of the following:

1. Secure funding for the sheriff's department and search for grant funding from state and federal agencies and private entities.
2. Improve coordination between the aforesaid agencies to increase the efficiency of these agencies and specifically local law enforcement to implement the enforcement of existing laws and ordinances regulating marijuana.
3. Legislation that increases fines and penalties for violations of drug laws.
4. Increase public awareness of environmental damage being done and the impacts of growers' dogs killing cattle, growers' poisoning wildlife, diverting water, polluting water, growers' armed and on drugs and the general increase in crime associated with these elements.

### **14-01 PERMITS FOR IRRIGATION DIVERSIONS**

WHEREAS, requirements of the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) for permits to put in irrigation diversion dams is another unnecessary, bureaucratic invasion of private property rights; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has already issued water rights, permits or licenses to divert water from streams; and

WHEREAS, water diversions have been placed in streams year after year for many decades; and

WHEREAS, the securing of permits is costly to the property owners and the state; and

WHEREAS, stream channel work is often essential to protect private land; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) oppose requirements for regulatory permits from a government agency to install irrigation diversions where the State of California has granted an application, permit or license to appropriate water, or where similar water diversion equipment or structures have been placed repeatedly in streams in the same location for many years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose requirements for permits to perform stream channel work that is urgently needed to protect private property.

#### **14-02 CATTLE IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY**

WHEREAS, there have been unsubstantiated accusations of cattle having degraded water quality and riparian vegetation; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) continue to work with the University of California to develop information on the impact of grazing on water quality; and

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

#### **14-03 PESTICIDE CHEMICAL RESIDUE POLICY**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the active role of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in a consultative position in the Department of Pesticide Regulation under California Environmental Protection Agency with regard to pesticide use.

#### **14-04 ENDANGERED SPECIES-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governments own a significant amount of the lands 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 the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts to ensure that government agencies prepare an economic analysis (including the impacts on local, state and national economies) and an environmental impact statement before the taking of any land or water for endangered or threatened species, before the designation of critical habitat or similar designation, and

before a threatened or endangered species may be moved or relocated.

#### **14-05 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.

#### **14-06 SUPPORT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR ALFALFA WEEVIL**

WHEREAS, the alfalfa weevil has spread to rangeland areas impacting burr clover production; and

WHEREAS, there is no registered nor economical pesticide control available; and

WHEREAS, only limited research has been directed to the rangeland aspects of alfalfa pests; and

WHEREAS, the University of California is expanding research and educational efforts in integrated pest management; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts by the University of California to incorporate further investigation of the role of parasite control of alfalfa pests on burr clover and other rangeland plants in the alfalfa component of their Integrated Pest Management Program.

#### **14-07 WETLANDS MANAGEMENT**

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

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 wetlands be defined by including all of the following criteria: hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology.
3. CCA oppose expansion of the definition of wetlands by regulatory agencies.
4. CCA support the recognition in the permitting process of benefits created by agricultural and recreational activities that impact wetlands.
5. 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.

**14-08 SUPPORT FOR FUNDING OF VOLUNTARY, LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION EFFORTS THROUGH RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AND THE USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

WHEREAS, demands on the ranching community to meet stringent water quality and environmental quality regulations on California's rangelands have increased; and

WHEREAS, funding for, and availability of, technical assistance in California to support voluntary, locally-led conservation efforts has seriously declined; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts' (CARCD) effort to increase the State of California's base-level funding for districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support CARCD's initiative to increase national annual funding for the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in California; and

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

**14-09 HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY LISTED AS A NOXIOUS WEED WITH CDFA**

WHEREAS, the Himalayan Blackberry is an invasive, non-native plant impacting thousands of acres of riparian areas, waterways, pasture and rangeland; and

WHEREAS, it reduces habitat for wildlife as well as forage for livestock; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association work with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to designate the Himalayan Blackberry as a noxious weed of concern and consider designating funding for its management, including weed abatement funding.

**14-10 PUNCTUREVINE BIOCONTROL**

WHEREAS, puncture vine is a significant rangeland pest in California; and

WHEREAS, natural predators for this pest exist; and

WHEREAS, natural predators in California only exist below 2,500 feet elevation; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts to import appropriate biocontrol organisms from other countries to help control this pest.

**14-11 JUNIPER REMOVAL**

WHEREAS, many California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) members currently have juniper trees on their ranches and grazing allotments that require active management that includes removal; and

WHEREAS, these junipers are invasive and impact the ecological health of rangelands; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA work with the California Board of Forestry to assure juniper removal does not require a Timber Harvest Plan.

#### **14-12 LEGALITY OF PUBLIC USES ON EASEMENT RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

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

#### **14-13 DEFINITION OF RANGELAND**

WHEREAS, the use of the term rangeland is variously confused with terms identifying other vegetative types including forest or wild lands in such situations as legislatively-directed natural resource assessment, land use planning, vegetative management programs and research funding for natural resources; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association continue to recognize 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."

#### **14-14 PRESERVATION OF LANDS FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, there exists a long history of conversion of agricultural lands owned or controlled by California universities, colleges and high schools into non-agricultural uses, even though a large portion of these lands have been acquired through donations and legislation specifying agricultural education use; and

WHEREAS, United States Forest Service lands long dedicated to agricultural research and education are also being converted to other uses; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the California Cattlemen's Association pursues appropriate measures to either stop the conversion of lands now utilized for agricultural education and research.

#### **14-15 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.

#### **14-16 CONSERVATION EASEMENTS**

WHEREAS, conservation and mitigation easements can provide a viable tool for private landowners to maintain the economic sustainability of working ranches and preserve their conservation ethic; and

WHEREAS, a number of California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) members have exercised their private property rights to enter into conservation or mitigation easements; and

WHEREAS, the members of CCA voted to establish the California Rangeland Trust in 1998 to work with landowners to hold voluntary, agricultural conservation easements on working ranches; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support only those conservation or mitigation easements and easement programs that are voluntary, maintain access to grazing wherever appropriate and do not unreasonably restrict other ranching activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA oppose government policies that require or otherwise compel landowners to enter into conservation or mitigation easements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support public and private funding allocated to voluntary conservation and mitigation easements, where consistent with other CCA policies.

#### **14-17 FOSSIL FUEL EXPLORATION**

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

WHEREAS, CCA has a policy titled "Property Rights—Our Lands' Most Compelling Issue," specifically stating that "...the preservation and restrictive use of agricultural land is continually being used as a ploy to limit the agricultural property owner's right to control his or her land..." and resolving

that "...the [CCA] strongly support the efforts of private property rights advocacy organizations and planning principles that allow agriculture to remain economically viable"; and

WHEREAS, the survival of the beef industry and agriculture depend upon positive changes occurring in both the exploration, development and refining capacities for crude oil here in the United States to increase both the supply of fossil fuel based energy sources and the refining capacity for that oil; and

WHEREAS, ceasing exploration and the use of fossil fuels cannot be accomplished without severely harming America's economy and its citizens' standard of living; and

WHEREAS, CCA recognizes that the survival of the beef industry and agriculture as a whole is dependent upon access to domestic fossil fuel supplies; and

WHEREAS, CCA recognizes that ceasing exploration and mining of fossil fuels will be detrimental to California's economy and increase dependence on foreign fossil fuel supplies; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA support the lawful exploration, development and mining of domestic oil and gas supplies located in California, including advanced drilling techniques such as hydraulic fracturing, as consistent with CCA's adopted policies on agricultural land use and preservation and protection of private property rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the lawful exploration, development and mining of domestic oil and gas supplies as an important complementary use of rangelands that could provide a stable stream of income for ranchers operating in a volatile marketplace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support all of the above, providing that CCA advocates first and foremost on behalf of the cattle producers' property rights that are related to his or her ability to conduct his or her cattle operation.

#### **14-18 PROPOSED BERRYESSA-SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION**

WHEREAS, the designation of national monuments on federal lands can have a detrimental effect on adjacent personal property, and national monument designations can lead to a reduction or loss in grazing rights on federal lands, and national monument designations change public land management goals from multiple use to more restrictive uses; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the California Cattlemen's Association opposes the designation of public lands in Yolo, Lake, Napa, Colusa, and Mendocino Counties as the Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument.

#### **14-19 PREDATOR MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, populations of predators have increased; and

WHEREAS, these populations have put people, domestic animals and wildlife populations at risk; and

WHEREAS, that single species management as a solution to predator prey relationships is not working; now



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, CCA work with legislators, organized sportsman's groups and like-minded agricultural organizations to seek legislation that would mandate population control through proactive management, including hunting, of any wildlife species that is impeding the balance and carrying capacity of their natural habitat; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CCA support increases in federal-state cooperative funding, by the use of general funds, for predator animal control programs.

#### **14-20 GRAP OPPOSITION**

WHEREAS, California water boards have proposed a Grazing Regulatory Action Program (GRAP) seeking to regulate naturally-occurring runoff; and

WHEREAS, this Program would result in a violation of private property rights; and

WHEREAS, this Program would have an adverse economic effect on both private and public grazing; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, CCA staff and officers oppose GRAP, and work to eliminate and/or minimize GRAP's impact on cattle ranchers.

#### **15-01 SUPPORT FOR USE OF TRAPS AND BAITS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **15-02 PROPERTY RIGHTS - OUR LANDS' MOST COMPELLING ISSUE**

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

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

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

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

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

### **15-03 GOVERNMENT AND UTILITIES ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support efforts to hold utility personnel, government employees, and their agents to the highest standards regarding observation of local trespass laws and the privacy and property rights of all citizens, and

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

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

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

### **15-04 SUPPORT FOR STRONGER STATE TRESPASS LAWS**

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

### **15-05 JUST COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY PROTECTION IN PUBLIC TAKING OF PRIVATE LAND**

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

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

private use, and

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

#### **15-06 AGRICULTURAL LAND USE ELEMENT AND PLANNING**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **15-07 GRAZING LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

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

#### **15-08 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**

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

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

#### **15-09 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

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

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

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

#### **15-10 CALIFORNIA RANGELAND RESOLUTION**

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

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

#### **15-11 PERMIT COORDINATION**

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

#### **15-12 TAKE PROTECTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support legislation and regulations that provide reasonable protections for landowners and livestock operators with respect to accidental and incidental take of listed and candidate species.

#### **15-13 DISCHARGE FROM GRAZING LANDS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **15-14 INAPPROPRIATE USE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **15-15 WOLF MANAGEMENT**

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the collaring of as many wolves as possible with GPS tracking collars and a policy that real time locations be made available to livestock producers when a wolf is in their area, and

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

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

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

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

#### **15-16 GRAZING FEDERAL & STATE OWNED LANDS**

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support the grazing of federal and state owned lands to improve wildlife habitat through forage overgrowth management and to restore critical habitat to pre-conservation levels.

## **15-17 COMMERCIAL SCALE SOLAR AND WIND FACILITIES**

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

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

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

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

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

## **15-18 STOCK PONDS**

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA specifically support that the following provisions be included in such legislation and regulation:

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

## **16-01 WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER**

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

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

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

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

## **16-02 DEPREDATION PERMITS FOR WILD PIGS**

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

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

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

### **16-03 WAIVE FEES FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS**

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

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

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

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

### **16-04 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.

### **16-05 NO NET LOSS OF PRIVATE PROPERTY**

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, appropriate producer organizations, and the news media, and that key state and federal legislators and congressmen be approached with the request that legislation to this effect be introduced in the California Legislature and the United States Congress.

#### **16-06 PRIVATE LAND CONDEMNATION**

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

#### **16-07 RAILROAD EASEMENT REVERSIONARY RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, the Railroad Right of Way Abandonment Act (43 U.S.C. § 912) relating to procedures for the abandonment of railroad easements states that upon abandonment of railroad easements, such easements shall 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.

#### **16-08 UTILITY EASEMENT RENTAL**

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

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

#### **16-09 LAND STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAMS**

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



their stewardship practices, and

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

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

#### **16-10 CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDING**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support programs and encourage funding to conserve rangeland agriculture through voluntary agreements where consistent with other policies of the Association.

#### **16-11 COASTAL SUBCOMMITTEE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association create and maintain a Coastal Subcommittee to help members located in this state's coastal zone with land use issues, and that the Coastal Subcommittee report annually to the Property Rights and Environmental Management Committee regarding its activities.

#### **16-12 SUPPORT OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RANGELANDS**

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

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

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

#### **16-13 DELISTING ENDANGERED SPECIES**

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

WHEREAS, the mechanisms for delisting of such species 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 delisting species which do not continue to meet the listing criteria.

#### **16-14 303(d) REGULATORY LISTINGS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the entire 303(d) list be revisited and reworked to rectify the concerns noted above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no additional watersheds be listed or regulated under the present criteria.

#### **16-15 LEGISLATIVE UNFUNDED MANDATE**

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

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

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

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

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

these regulatory agencies.

#### **16-16 STATEWIDE GRAZING REGULATION RESOLUTION**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **16-17 WATER DIVERSION CURTAILMENT FOR FISH HABITAT**

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

#### **16-18 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDIES & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS**

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

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

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

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

#### **16-19 DEVELOP SELF-CERTIFICATION OPTION FOR SB88 COMPLIANCE**

WHEREAS, the passage of SB88 resulted in the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issuing water measurement and reporting regulations that imposed a significant burden upon water rights owners, and

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

WHEREAS, compliance with this regulatory requirement will be difficult and expensive; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association actively engage the legislature and SWRCB to develop an alternative option that allows diverters of 100 acre-feet or more per year to self-certify upon completion of a water measurement educational session.

## **16-20 CALIFORNIA GRAZING WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPATION**

WHEREAS, proactive participation by the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) in the protection of our rangeland water quality assisted in the development of the 1995 California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan, and

WHEREAS, the 1995 California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan helped to serve the ranching and water quality regulatory communities successfully for 20 years, along with the individual ranchers' best management practices, including millions of dollars spent by ranchers to enhance water quality on rangelands, and

WHEREAS, recent research projects, field studies, and new technology all pertaining to rangeland water quality is available for additional Rangeland Water Quality efforts; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA staff proactively participate in the updating of the 1995 California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan, with the full participation and cooperation of the California Grazing Water Quality Partnership, as established by University of California Cooperative Extension, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that staff will develop a report for the Executive Board of CCA and the Property Rights and Environmental Management Committee at the Annual CCA Convention on progress toward a new Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan that will incorporate the 1995 Plan as the basis for new voluntary water quality compliance with voluntary participation on the ranch level by the state's livestock producers, and which will be presented to the state's producers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA, in partnership with the California Grazing Water Quality Partnership, develop a program similar to the Beef Quality Assurance Program to enable and instruct livestock grazers to meet voluntary guidelines.

### ***WATER STORAGE – Staff Directive***

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

*WHEREAS, California is faced with a historic drought and unpredictable weather patterns, and*

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

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

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

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

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

## ***TAX & CREDIT***

### **12-01 NOTICE & HEARING ON PROPERTY TAXES & ASSESSMENTS**

WHEREAS, new forms of taxes and assessments are being imposed without property owners being individually noticed and provided a hearing; now

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

### **12-02 INDEXING THE BASIS OF REAL PROPERTY**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support efforts to index the basis for real property valuations for both state and federal tax codes.

### **12-03 SPECIAL USE VALUATIONS - ESTATE TAXES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association urge the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to advocate for an increased limit as well as the removal of the limitation on special use valuation for federal estate valuation purposes and liberalization of the filing rules.

### **12-04 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 CCA work to ensure that the state or counties do not unilaterally change the terms of the contract or the Williamson Act statutes.

### **12-05 INSURANCE COVERAGE**

WHEREAS, all types of insurance coverage to California businesses have dramatically escalated in cost and are becoming increasingly unavailable, and

WHEREAS, the existing compensation and liability system has resulted in unreasonable awards and a needlessly expensive legal process; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support any effort to reform laws involving, but not limited to, liability, workers compensation, casualty and health insurance to result in reasonable awards and the continued availability of insurance coverage at reasonable rates to California agriculture, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA develop, or cause to be developed, educational and informational programs which encourage safe working conditions and practices within the cattle industry.

### **12-06 WORKER SAFETY SURVEY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, worker's compensation rate increases are a significant problem to cattle operations, and

WHEREAS, information on the cause of accidents and safety problems is critically needed as is preliminary information indicating the job practices where injuries are occurring, and

WHEREAS, no safety information is currently available; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association coordinates with the Livestock Memorial Research Fund and other cattle industry groups to develop a model safety program for animal agricultural operations.

### **12-07 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.

### **13-01 NON-PROPERTY TAX FUNDING OF PEOPLE RELATED SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the state mandates and controls numerous programs that are not property related, and

WHEREAS, the state has avoided, by disclaimer, State General Fund financing for state-mandated programs; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support the concept that people related services such as welfare and MediCal should be paid for by taxes derived from revenue other than the property tax, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA encourage and support legislation that would: 1) accomplish the removal of people related services from property tax rolls; 2) broaden the base for general revenue taxation to pay for people related services; 3) ensure all state-mandated programs are fully paid for by state funds.

### **13-02 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACTED LANDS**

WHEREAS, the annual capitalization approach to valuing agricultural lands for property taxation has proven to be beneficial to the economy of the State of California and to the general agricultural economy; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association actively support and defend the annual assessment of contracted lands based on a capitalization of current income.

### **13-03 LOCAL TAX SHIFT OPPOSITION**

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is strongly opposed to the State of California taking local 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.

#### **13-04 STATE AGENCY TAX TIMING AND TAX RATE**

WHEREAS, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) 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 CDFW and/or any other state agency to make payments in lieu of taxes to local agencies immediately upon acquiring land, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA also work to require CDFW and/or any other state agency to make payments in lieu of taxes to local agencies in perpetuity based on the current appraised value, not at the previous owner's rate.

#### **13-05 AGRICULTURAL UTILITY RATES**

WHEREAS, agricultural utility rates have been increasing dramatically in recent years, and

WHEREAS, these increased rates are detrimentally impacting many California cattlemen, and

WHEREAS, recent legislative and Public Utility Commission activities have focused on utility rates, and

WHEREAS, several proposals have features potentially favorable to agriculture, namely a "time of use" rate and an agricultural interruptible service provision; now

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

#### **13-06 WILLIAMSON ACT COMPATIBLE USES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) strongly supports efforts to ensure the long-term viability of the Williamson Act, provided those efforts are consistent with existing policy regarding land use and taxation contained in current CCA resolutions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work to identify, document and recommend reasonable measures to correct actual abuses of the compatible use provisions of the Williamson Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support the continued multiple uses of contract grazing lands as compatible uses, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA continue to work with all Williamson Act stakeholders to find common ground on the compatible use issue and further protect the integrity of the Williamson Act.



### **13-07 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 exemptions. In addition, NCBA and CCA should seek reductions in the tax rates to a more reasonable level, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, these pursuits accompany the larger and more important objective of fully eliminating the federal estate tax.

### **13-08 WILLIAMSON ACT SUBVENTION**

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

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

### **14-01 INCOME TAX ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

WHEREAS, ranchers historically have had the option to choose whatever method of accounting best suits their operation; and

WHEREAS, ranchers may have widely fluctuating income from year to year; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) support efforts to ensure that ranchers have a free choice with respect to using the cash, accrual or hybrid methods of accounting, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA support income tax averaging for ranchers on federal and state tax returns.

### **14-02 BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS**

WHEREAS, rural landowners' properties are comprised of multiple unimproved parcels, which are unduly burdened by new assessments and surcharges levied by state and local governments; now

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCA work with local associations to oppose these fees and assessments as they pertain to local issues; and

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

### **14-03 TWO THIRDS RULE**

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

#### **14-04 LAND BASED TAXES AND FARM SECURITY ZONES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association staff pursue including rangeland in Farmland Security Zones.

#### **14-05 CALIFORNIA INHERITANCE TAX**

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

#### **15-01 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 support legislation 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.

#### **15-02 TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIREMENT TO INCREASE TAXES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association continue to support the requirement for a two-thirds vote to increase both state and local taxes and the requirement for a two-thirds vote to establish or increase service fees.

#### **15-03 SUBVENTION OF TAX LOSS THROUGH EMINENT DOMAIN AND CONDEMNATION**

WHEREAS, excessive acquisition of private land by government agencies in rural counties continues to reduce the supply of land utilized for the production of forage, feed, and fiber, and

WHEREAS, the general net effect of these projects is to benefit urban centers of the population while reducing the tax base in the counties of project development, thereby creating a greater tax burden on remaining private land, and

WHEREAS, it can thus be shown that rural county residents are subsidizing the activities of the urban population; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Cattlemen's Association support policies that seek to permanently provide subvention payments to county governments of tax revenue lost due to the public taking of private land, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, without subvention payments, government entities should not be able to acquire any land within a county if that county is owed in lieu taxes or other debts and/or liens by the government.

**15-04 WILLIAMSON ACT SUBVENTION FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the California Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) supports the retention of the Williamson Act program and subvention funding, and

WHEREAS, economic circumstances in California have jeopardized the availability of Williamson Act subvention funds, and

WHEREAS, legislative remedies have been enacted to create a short term sustainable solution in order to keep the Williamson Act in existence; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CCA continue to support efforts to retain local authority over contracts, minimize landowner contributions, and support legislative remedies to provide some level of the Williamson Act subvention payments in order to discourage counties from exiting the program.

**16-01 WILLIAMSON ACT**

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

**16-02 SPLIT ROLL PROPERTY TAX**

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

**16-03 MINORITY INTEREST IN PROPERTY**

BE IT RESOLVED, the California Cattlemen’s Association seek codification of the right to discount the value of property where such property has fractured ownership which creates a minority interest.