



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

July 14, 2020

Honorable Henry Stern
Chair, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 235 (Mayes) – As Amended June 29, 2020 - SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Stern:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 235, which would provide additional flexibility to the California Fish and Game Commission when it reviews a petition to list an endangered species on the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

CESA requires the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) to establish a list of endangered species and a list of threatened species. Any person, through a petition process, may also request that FGC add a species to the list. In order to be accepted by FGC, the petition must include sufficient scientific information that the petitioned action may be warranted. In evaluating whether the petitioned action may be warranted, FGC is required to address a range of issues related to the petitioned species, including population trend, abundance, life history, factors affecting the ability to survive and reproduce, and others. Importantly, under existing law, if FGC accepts a petition and determines that a petitioned action may be warranted, then the species automatically becomes a "candidate species" and is temporarily afforded the same protections as an endangered or threatened species until a final determination is made.

AB 235 makes reasonable modifications by allowing the FGC to concurrently determine that a listing may lead to economic hardship or an impact on critical infrastructure. If such a determination is made, then FGC would authorize a taking of the candidate species during the review period and before the final decision, which in effect means that the candidate species would be treated the same way as it had been before the petition was accepted.

For the reasons listed above, the County supports AB 235. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please contact Josh Candelaria, Governmental and Legislative Director, at 909 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Curt Hagman in black ink.

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Handwritten signature of Dawn Rowe in black ink.

Dawn Rowe
Third District Supervisor
Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water
Honorable Chad Mayes
San Bernardino County State Legislative Delegation

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