

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR A
COOPERATIVE SERVICE AGREEMENT AND ANNUAL WORK/FINANCIAL PLAN BETWEEN
SHASTA COUNTY AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT
HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE – WILDLIFE SERVICES**

Shasta County is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has completed the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed project identified as the Cooperative Service Agreement (CSA) and Annual Work/Financial Plan Between Shasta County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services (APHIS-WS).

USDA APHIS-WS has an existing Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) program that it implements throughout the U.S. APHIS-WS implements the IWDM program to selectively remove specific individual animals that cause damage to property, infrastructure, agricultural or livestock commodities, and public health and safety or are non-native species. The IWDM program does not seek to eradicate any species, regardless of legal status, or result in take that would substantially reduce species populations. APHIS-WS does not target certain species for reduction. In 1998, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved its first five-year CSA between APHIS-WS and the County, which was maintained thereafter by the Shasta County Department of Agriculture and APHIS-WS. In February 2017, the Board approved a five-year CSA to remain in effect until June 30, 2021, or until either party requested to terminate the agreement, followed by approval of an annual work and financial plan for fiscal year 2017-18 in July 2017. The County voluntarily terminated the CSA with APHIS-WS in July 2018. There is currently no authorization in place for APHIS-WS services in Shasta County, pending completion of environmental review pursuant to CEQA, and approval of another CSA by the Board. The proposed project is the implementation of APHIS-WS IWDM activities that would be provided through a CSA between Shasta County and APHIS-WS. The overall goal of the proposed project is to ensure that wildlife damage management in Shasta County for purposes of protecting agricultural resources (including field crops, livestock, and bees), public health and safety, and property is performed in a biologically sound, environmentally safe, and accountable manner and in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Neither APHIS-WS nor Shasta County is proposing any changes to the APHIS-WS IWDM program in Shasta County as it historically operated in conjunction with the implementation of the IWDM activities.

The Draft EIR is now available for public review. Public comment on the Draft EIR is invited during a 45-day review period extending from **Thursday, August 13, 2020**, through **Monday, September 28, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.**

The County's consultant, Michael Baker International, Inc., has prepared the Draft EIR pursuant to CEQA. A Final EIR will be prepared following public review of the Draft EIR. The Board will consider the information in the Final EIR when deliberating the proposed project, and the alternatives discussed in the EIR.

The Draft EIR evaluates the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the IWDM program and includes a comprehensive analysis of potential impacts on wildlife species populations and habitat. The APHIS-WS IWDM program analyzed in the EIR is not limited by the five-year time frame of the proposed CSA. Potential future renewal of the IWDM program for subsequent five-year terms is considered a later activity of the proposed project and is programmatically analyzed in the EIR.

This notice of availability of a Draft EIR is being published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the proposed project and distributed to the Shasta County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research for comment during a 45-day formal review period in accordance with CEQA Guidelines section 15087. **Your response must be received by the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 2020.**

The Draft EIR, including appendices, may be reviewed online by clicking on the "Cooperative Service Agreement Between Shasta County and USDA APHIS – Wildlife Services" link at www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm/planning/eir. A hard copy of the Draft EIR, including appendices, is available for inspection at the Shasta County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures, 3179 Bechelli Lane, Suite 210, Redding, CA 96002, (530) 224-4949, during regular business hours and subject to facility policies and/or any new laws, regulations, or orders concerning the operation of facilities. Hard copies will be provided at the requester's expense at the direct cost of reproduction; electronic copies on thumb drive or CD format are available at no cost. Hard copies of the Draft EIR, including appendices, are available for review by appointment at the Anderson, Redding, and Burney branches of the Shasta

Public Libraries during regular business hours and subject to facility policies and/or any new laws, regulations, or orders concerning the operation of facilities:

Anderson Branch
3200 West Center St.
Anderson, CA 96007
(530) 365-7685

Redding Branch
1100 Parkview Ave.
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 245-7250

Burney Branch
37116 Main St.
Burney, CA 96013
(530) 335-4317

Please send your written comments to Paul Hellman, Director, Shasta County Department of Resource Management, 1855 Placer Street, Suite 200, Redding, CA 96001 via regular mail or by e-mail at phellman@co.shasta.ca.us. For general questions and assistance, please contact Paul Hellman by telephone at (530) 225-5789 or by e-mail.