



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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**SHEILA KUEHL**  
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

February 14, 2020

Charlton H. Bonham, Director  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1416 9th Street, 12th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Dear Director Bonham,

I was extremely disheartened to learn of the death of P-56, a collared male mountain lion living in the western Santa Monica Mountains. The landowner who killed the mountain lion had a depredation permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife following attacks on livestock.

There has been tremendous public investment in Los Angeles County and beyond, to create open space for mountain lion habitat. The mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains have been a part of an ongoing study for the past eighteen years and P-56 was one of only two collared male mountain lions in the region. His death is devastating given the dwindling mountain lion population in the area.

Additionally, I find it particularly egregious that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife did not consult their partner agencies to help make certain the landowner had truly taken all necessary steps to avoid loss of livestock and to give us an opportunity to dissuade the landowner from taking deadly force before issuing the depredation permit. This is a dire situation that mandates collaboration by all - both public and private actors. No one agency or landowner should have the ability to completely eradicate a species from an area. Let me be clear, I expect extraordinary efforts to save the last remaining mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains. I hope you do, as well.

To help protect the already isolated and declining mountain lion population in Southern California, I implore you to immediately amend the current California Department of Fish and Wildlife geographic area covered by the "three strikes" policy to include the entire corridor between the Los Padres National Forest and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. I further urge you to list the mountain lion as an endangered species in order to afford this magnificent animal the level of protection necessary to ensure its continued survival.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my Senior Planning Deputy, Nicole Englund, at (213) 974-3333.

Sincerely,

SHEILA KUEHL  
Supervisor, Third District

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