RESOLUTION NO. 20-11

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA
PROCLAIMING SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS MOUNTAIN LIONS IN NEED OF
EXPANDED PROTECTIONS

WHEREAS, Southern California mountain lions are specially protected, including
California Department Fish and Wildlife bulletin 2017-07 that established a Santa Monica
Mountains Area of Sensitive Mountain Lion Population that requires a “three strikes”
criteria for wildlife depredation permits; and

WHEREAS, new research published in 2019 in the journal Ecological Society of
America warns that due to inbreeding, the critically endangered Santa Monica
Mountains population of mountain lions could become extinct within 15 years; and

WHEREAS, toxic rodenticides, vehicle strikes, depredations, wildfires, inbreeding
and increasing isolations due to freeways and development are all contributing to
the untimely deaths, genetic bottlenecking, and habitat loss of these apex predators;
and

WHEREAS, apex predators are essential to balanced population dynamics and
functioning of a healthy ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, dispersing male mountain lions have been known to travel up to 300
miles to establish a home range or die in conflicts over territory; and

WHEREAS, Ventura County citizens value natural resources and their protection, in
particularly endangered and threatened species including mountain lions of the
Santa Monica Mountains; and

WHEREAS, Ventura County through adoption of its habitat connectivity and wildlife
corridor ordinance, its reduction in use of anticoagulant rodenticides, and its
unanimous support for the wildlife bridge at Liberty Canyon and other initiatives, has
prioritized protection of mountain lions and other native flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, P-56, one of only two male lions collared by the National Park Service in the
Santa Monica Mountains, was killed under a depredation permit issued by the California
Department of Fish and Wildlife in January 2020 outside the boundary of CDFW Bulletin
2017-07 Santa Monica Mountains Area of Sensitive Mountain Lion Population; and

WHEREAS, expanded protections are now necessary as mountain lions in the Santa
Monica Mountains have become even more threatened;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors
hereby includes in its 2020 State Legislative Agenda and Platform support or sponsorship
of legislation and/or administrative action to end the issuance of depredation permits in
Ventura County for mountain lions that attacked livestock and other animals; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Ventura supports legislative or
executive action to support the listing of the Southern /Central Coast Evolutionary
Significant Unit (ESU) of Mountain Lions at Threatened under the California
Endangered Species Act as recommended by the California Department of Fish and
Wildlife.

Upon motion of Supervisor Parks, seconded by
Supervisor Bennett, and duly carried, the Board hereby approves
and adopts this resolution on the 25th day of February 2020.

ATTEST:
Michael Powers,
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura, State of California.

By: Deputy Clerk of the Board