



September 2, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
 Governor, State of California  
 1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
 Sacramento, CA 95814  
 Submitted via email to [Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov](mailto:Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov)

**RE: SIGNATURE REQUEST – Assembly Bill 1788 (Bloom)**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The undersigned organizations respectfully request your signature on AB 1788, the California Ecosystems Protection Act, which takes a commonsense approach to limiting dangerous anticoagulant rodenticide poisons harming our state's wildlife, through the enactment of a moratorium. This moratorium on second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs), with limited exceptions, would be in effect until the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) finishes its reevaluation of these toxic chemicals in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to ensure that potential continued use of SGARs will not result in significant adverse effects to nontarget species.

We greatly appreciate the input your administration has provided over the past two years to improve this bill and its implementation with relevant agencies, resulting in its successful passage. This bill is a lifeline to California's wildlife, including the mountain lion that you have long supported protecting. And it is especially timely and appropriate after the [National Park Service just announced less than a week ago that another mountain lion and bobcat were found dead due to these SGARs.](#)

As the pandemic has unfolded and people have spent more time indoors, we have seen wildlife returning to nature. This return highlights the negative human impact on our environment. From Yosemite to San Francisco to the greater Los Angeles region, the human impact on these magnificent creatures is clear. They are harmed by numerous human activities including habitat destruction,

wildfires caused by climate change, dangerous road crossings, and anticoagulant rodenticides, to name just a few.

Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) pose a significant threat to the wildlife in our state. A lethal dose of SGARs can be ingested in a single feeding and, most alarming, they can persist in an animal's liver for up to 100 days. These factors make SGARs especially problematic to predators and scavengers – such as raptors, owls, mountain lions, and bobcats – who tend to feed on the animals that have been poisoned with bait. This concern for protection of non-target wildlife, in part, led the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to pull SGARs from consumer shelves in July 2014.

Unfortunately, however, there has been **no decrease** in the rate of wildlife poisoning from these products since that time, as licensed pest control applicators are still permitted to use SGARs and continue to do so throughout the state. In fact, in recent studies reviewed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, between 70 to 90% of tested wildlife were found to have SGARs in their systems. This, and the death of multiple endangered Santa Monica Mountain Lions in the last year due to rodenticide poisoning, has resulted in DPR issuing a new notice of reevaluation in March of this year.

There is public demand for limitation on the use of these dangerous toxins as demonstrated by the 29 jurisdictions in the State of California – including Humboldt County, Santa Cruz, and San Francisco – that have enacted resolutions encouraging residents to avoid buying, selling, and using anticoagulant rodenticides. This is a growing trend in the state as more and more residents learn about the harms caused by anticoagulant rodenticides and explore other solutions to manage rodent infestations. Since local municipalities are preempted from enacting ordinances outright banning the use of rodenticides, such resolutions, coupled with public education campaigns, are the best that local jurisdictions can do to protect their ecosystems and make laws to reflect the will of their residents. These municipalities – and their residents – are all relying on the state to take necessary steps to protect ecosystems through enacting AB 1788.

It is critical that the State take immediate action to place a moratorium on the use of SGARs in California, except in limited circumstances, pending the reevaluation of the Department of Pesticide Regulation, in order to prevent the extinction of mountain lions in Southern California and to protect the many other wildlife species at risk in the state. Protecting mountain lions and golden eagles is not just beneficial to these species; it is also critically important as these predators play an invaluable role in regulating our delicate ecosystem.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to sign AB 1788 into law. Thank you for your consideration and your leadership.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hauge, Animal Legal Defense Fund – sponsor  
Jonathan Evans, Center for Biological Diversity – sponsor  
Lisa Owens Viani, Raptors Are the Solution – sponsor  
Lindsay Larris, WildEarth Guardians  
Joel and Kian Schulman, Poison Free Malibu  
Tony Tucci, Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife

Gerry Hans, Friends of Griffith Park  
Neal Desai, National Parks Conservation Association  
Sabrina Ashjian, Humane Society of the United States  
Judie Mancuso, Social Compassion in Legislation  
Rene Rowland, PawPAC  
Lisa Levinson, In Defense of Animals  
Carolyn Trocino, Poison Free Agoura  
Pam Young, Golden Gate Audubon Society  
Judy Neuhauser, Morro Coast Audubon Society  
Shani Kleinhaus Ph.D., Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society  
Ana M. Ruiz, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Lena Eyen, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority  
Michael Wellborn, California Watershed Network  
Ann Riley, California Urban Streams Partnership  
Carlos de la Rosa, Lindsay Wildlife Experience  
Don Chartrand, Creek Lands Conservation  
Lexie Bell, Morro Bay National Estuary Program  
Kimberly Perez, Pacific Wildlife Care  
Mary Webb, Greenspace - The Cambria Land Trust  
Gordon Hensley, San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper  
Sandra Marshall, Earth Day Alliance, Inc.  
Stacey Hunt, Ecologistics  
Kathleen Dillon, SLO-Raptors Are the Solutions  
Mary Ciesinski, ECOSLO  
Jeanne Blackwell, SLO Clean Water  
Nancy Wenninger, Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

**IF QUESTIONS, CONTACT:**

Sosan Madanat  
Lighthouse Public Affairs  
[sosan@lh-pa.com](mailto:sosan@lh-pa.com)  
(925) 639-1164