

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of: Adopting federal weekly hours work standard for herders in California.

Resolution No.: 2021-288

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held on August 31, 2021, by the following vote:

Ayes: GORE, HOLMES, JONES, GUSTAFSON, WEYGANDT

Noes: NONE

Absent: NONE

Signed and approved by me after its passage.



Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:



Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, the production of sheep and wool are important to the economy of California with the state's wool production ranking first and sheep inventory ranking second in the United States, and more than 3,500 family farms raising sheep and goats throughout California;

WHEREAS, sheep and goat production is uniquely nomadic requiring a mobile and skilled workforce of herders to care for and manage movement of flocks whether located in distant areas grazing agricultural land or serving as four-legged firefighters in our forests and wildland-urban interface by reducing fire fuel vegetation;

WHEREAS, sheep and goat grazing aligns with Governor Newsom's Climate Change Executive Order (N-82-20) as a wildfire prevention tool which produces a net benefit in carbon sequestration and air quality, and is especially suited to enhance carbon neutrality in situations of rural-urban interface;

WHEREAS, the economic and environmental benefits this industry provides California is in jeopardy because consequences brought on by an adopted California law in 2016 (AB 1066) which affects overtime pay requirements of the agricultural sector, and which will increase sheep and goat herder pay by an economically unsustainable 50 percent;

WHEREAS, prior to adoption of AB 1066, California herders were already the highest paid in the nation and paid as much as 80 percent more than herders in some other states; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the federal Department of Labor determined that herder work hours cannot be tracked because of its remoteness, that 48 hours of work per week was a reasonable estimate, and further that federal courts have upheld this determination as both reasonable and well supported by available evidence

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors, County of Placer, State of California, That the Placer County Board of Supervisors strongly urges the Department of Industrial Relations to use administrative authority to adopt the federal weekly hours work standard for herders in California, to which overtime pay would apply as currently required in California statutes.