

RESOLUTION NO. 93-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST STRONGLY DECLARING ITS SUPPORT OF THE COUNTY OF KERN'S ENDEAVORS TO HAVE THE MOHAVE GROUND SQUIRREL DELISTED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, DUE TO THERE BEING INSUFFICIENT BIOLOGICAL DATA ON RECORD TO SUPPORT THIS ACTION.

WHEREAS, the State of California Fish and Game Commission is holding a public hearing on May 13th and 14th, 1993 to review its findings in regards to Kern County's petition to delist the Mohave Ground Squirrel; and

WHEREAS, although the City of Ridgecrest is in the enviable position of having acquired a \$2081 permit from the California Department of Fish and Game for the take of this species, it does not lessen the City's duty to bring forward its citizenry's opinion on this issue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ridgecrest concurs with Kern County's finding that this listing was a legislative act that is unsupported by the biological evidence on record; and

WHEREAS, the requirements for mitigation fees and purchase of mitigation lands may have placed the City of Ridgecrest in the position of leveling development fees without justified nexus; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Fish and Game's requirements, for mitigation land ratios as high as 5:1, are not supported by scientific evidence delineating how this will effect and enhance the continuance of this species; and

WHEREAS, the continued biologically unsupported listing of the Mohave Ground Squirrel as a state threatened species is denying the property owners of land within its range, the full and complete enjoyment of their property rights; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the lands named as the habitat range of this species are already under federal and state management and jurisdiction and that to further require the private land owner wishing to develop to place more of these lands under public agency purview certainly appears to be double mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the extensive lands that are currently under the public domain can be wisely managed for Biodiversity and sustenance of all native species that abide there; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council of the City of Ridgecrest strongly supports and applauds Kern County in their petition to the California Fish and Game Commission asking that the Mohave Ground Squirrel be removed from the state threatened species list.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of May , 1993, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Corlett, Council Members Auld, Bitney, Bryan, and Parode.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.



Kevin S. Corlett, Mayor

ATTEST:



Pam Snyder, Interim City Clerk