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Assemblymember Bloom to Introduce Legislation to Improve Coexistence with Mountain Lions

SACRAMENTO – Assemblymember Richard Bloom will introduce legislation to give the state more flexibility on how it deals with protected wildlife that may pose a danger to livestock and property. Last Monday, a mountain lion preyed on and killed nearly a dozen livestock in the Santa Monica Mountains. The mountain lion known as P-45 was shown by radio collar data to have been in the area. In response, a livestock owner applied for and received a Depredation Permit, after investigation by a California Department of Wildlife, which grants the owner the right to track and kill the suspected mountain lion within a period of 10 days.

“The recent events concerning the mountain lion P-45 have raised many questions about how to coexist in the urban-wildlife interface,” said Assemblymember Bloom (D-Santa Monica). “It is clear that incidents of depredation need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis. I intend to introduce legislation to increase the flexibility and non-lethal tools available to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for dealing with these incidents.”

In 1990, California voters approved the Wildlife Protection Act, which prohibits the hunting of mountain lions. However, the act also authorizes owners of livestock that have been attacked by a mountain lion to seek depredation permits. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is legally required to grant these permits and over the past several decades, thousands of mountain lions have been killed through the issuance of these permits.

“This measure will be an important step to improving how we coexist with protected species in our state,” said Assemblymember Bloom. “My office is actively communicating and working with agency partners at the federal, state, and local level on how to best pursue this further.”

Richard Bloom represents California’s 50th Assembly District, which comprises the communities of Agoura Hills, Bel Air, Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Hollywood, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Topanga, West Hollywood, and West Los Angeles.