



December 9, 2011

Dear Residents:

The intent of this letter is to provide an update regarding the on-going complaints of nuisance wild turkeys and the City's commitment to address them. A small band of birds, habituated to humans, have been causing destruction of yards, leaving droppings on driveways and roosting on roofs and trees.

Police staff met with individual residents experiencing these problems to investigate the level of property damage, problem-solve and map the movements of the turkeys. We estimate three to eight birds are commonly remaining in the neighborhood and generating the various complaints we have received.

We canvassed neighborhoods gathering information and simultaneously distributed information about wild turkey management provided by the California Department of Fish and Game. The flyer gives residents ideas to deter the birds away from property and homes.

On September 8, 2011, a neighborhood meeting was held at the Marina Community Center attended by several concerned residents. Mayor Bruce Delgado also attended. Marina Police Community Services Officer Barbara Patchin presented several alternatives to discourage the wild birds from remaining on your property. Some of the solutions included using a falconry service, trapping and releasing elsewhere and netting.

Non-lethal methods to discourage the birds include removal of pea gravel, purchasing a motion-activated "hydroblast" water sprinkler or spraying a garden hose at them. Also discussed were visual deterrents such as Mylar "eye-spot" reflective predator-eye balloons, "flash-tape" reflective flags (used in vineyards) and taste deterrents such as hot pepper flakes to spread on lawns. The most important deterrent is not to feed any wild animal.

Some residents reported using some of these deterrents with little or no success. The police department has been asked about the possibility of trapping and relocating the turkeys to open lands owned by the City. It is important to understand that the Department of Fish and Game has sole jurisdiction and the authority and discretion pursuant to the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR § 671.6) and Fish and Game Code (FG § 2116) for the removal, relocation and depredation of any wild animals as described under the Codes mentioned. Fish and Game also follows a *Strategic Plan for Wild Turkey Management* that specifies how nuisance turkeys will be handled.

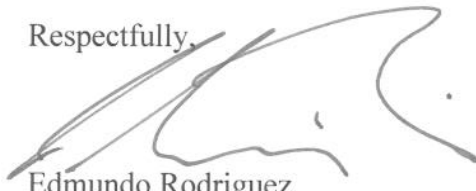
I or CSO Patchin has spoken with chief officials from the Department of Fish and Game's Monterey region. They will not agree to "catch and relocate" of wild turkeys because of the threat of transferring diseases that they may carry to other areas, or exposing them to diseases from those areas; and concern that the nuisance problem will be displaced to other areas and the animals may return if they are relocated too close from where they were removed.

Individuals may apply for a Depredation Permit from the Department of Fish and Game provided the applicant can articulate specific threats to health, safety and property. Fish and Game is also agreeable to issue the permit to the City if the problem is widespread. Regardless of who the permit is issued to, the permittee must contract with a certified wildlife removal agency. Fish and Game will provide a list of agencies certified by the State.

We have been monitoring the movements of the wild turkeys and it appears they have moved away from the Crivello Road neighborhood to another area.

I have decided to seek a 30-day Depredation Permit from Fish and Game. The City will hire a wildlife removal service that will capture and humanly euthanize any turkeys remaining in those neighborhoods they inhabit. Residents will have to pursue their own Depredation Permit once the City's permit expires. Residents will be notified when the City obtains and begins enforcement of its permit. You may contact me at 831.884.1229 if you have any further questions or feedback. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Respectfully,



Edmundo Rodriguez
Chief of Police