

Noah J. Lopez



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Subject: Letter of Interest for Membership on the Range Management Advisory Committee

Dear Ms. Wolf and Members of the Range Management Advisory Committee,

Thank you for reviewing my nomination to the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) by the California Cattlemen's Association. I appreciate the opportunity to be considered for membership on the RMAC. My interest and qualification for membership on RMAC stem primarily from my work with the California Cattlemen's Foundation on their Rancher Technical Assistance Program (RTAP) and work on various other issues affecting cattle producers across California.

RTAP helps ranchers throughout the state navigate environmental, business, and regulatory issues present on California ranches. In its three years, RTAP has assisted on nearly 400 distinct issues across 49 California counties. This work has and continues to provide the opportunity to connect with and learn from rangeland managers about a wide variety of resource management issues and the regulatory framework in which management decisions are made. As part of this project, I attend many local cattlemen's association meetings, connecting with ranchers and range managers across the state. These connections would provide an on-the-ground perspective from a diverse array of rangeland managers across California.

In addition to RTAP, I have also the chance to work on a variety of other regulatory issues relevant to rangeland and grazing. These include work on both state and federal public lands grazing, review and comment on environmental planning and species listing, and research on distinct issues with a nexus to rangelands. One such project was a 2023 white paper our firm published titled, *Range Cattle in California County Climate Action Plans*. The paper explored how range cattle operations were represented in California county climate action planning and the impact of such planning on cattle operations. I believe this technical basis regarding the regulatory environment in which rangelands are managed would be useful as a member of RMAC.

I would value the opportunity to represent the perspective of ranchers on issues related to California's rangeland resources as a member of RMAC. I appreciate the nomination from the California Cattlemen's Association and the consideration of the RMAC members. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

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