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20 October 2022

**Subject: Letter of Support for the Sierra Foothill Monarch and Pollinator Flyway Rescue Project,** [www.SierraMonarchRescue.com](http://www.SierraMonarchRescue.com)

Dear Wildlife Conservation Board,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I’m a well-known entomologist, honey bee researcher, and commercial California beekeeper, active in the beekeeping industry worldwide.

As an entomologist and beekeeper, I’m acutely aware of the decline or disappearance of insect species in the California foothills during our prolonged drought and changing climate. Species that were abundant only 20 years ago are now rare or have completely disappeared from our area.

The two poster children for insect preservation are the honey bee and the monarch butterfly, which can be greatly helped by providing forage plants. For the monarch, large patches of milkweed along its migration range are critical, and something that we humans can realistically promote.

The proposed Sierra Foothill Monarch and Pollinator Flyway Rescue Project deserves State support, since it aims to engage the local community in establishing patches of native milkweed forage for the monarchs, as well as other pollinator-friendly plants.

The Sierra Monarch Rescue program will be a model for other California communities to follow. We may not be able to save other species, but the monarchs only need patches of milkweed to survive, so this project has a high chance of success.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

cc info@SierraMonarchRescue.com