

# **UC Agriculture & Natural Resources**

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## OPENING REMARKS—FIFTEENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

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Good morning. On behalf of the Vertebrate Pest Council, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 15th Vertebrate Pest Conference. I am John Borrecco and I have the honor of representing the Council as Chair for this Conference.

This meeting marks the 30-year anniversary of the Conference. Over this period there have been a number of changes in our format but the purpose of this conference has not changed. That purpose is to provide you the best, up-to-date information on vertebrate pest problems and solutions to those problems. Our objectives, quite simply, are to promote the exchange of information, experiences, and ideas and to establish professional relationships among those persons interested in vertebrate pest management. To accomplish these objectives, we encourage the participation of researchers, educators, resource managers, governmental regulators, environmentalists, farmers, pest control advisors, and other

practitioners of vertebrate pest management. Again this year continuing education credits are available for California Pest Control Advisors and Operators, Vector Control Specialists, Structural Pest Control Operators, Society of American Foresters, and Wildlife Society Members.

As Chair, I have only one real difficult task and that is to select the committee chairs who plan and organize this conference. Based on the program before us, I think I have been very successful in this respect. I especially want to recognize Drs. Robert Timm and Robert Schmidt, Program Co-Chairs, who have planned and organized what I consider to be an excellent program. I hope you find this Conference educational, interesting and entertaining.

With this, I open the 15th Vertebrate Pest Conference and turn it over to Program Co-Chair Bob Timm.

