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Opening Remarks – Twenty-Second Vertebrate Pest Conference

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Proc. 22nd Vertebr. Pest Conf. (R. M. Timm and J. M. O'Brien, Eds.)
Published at Univ. of Calif., Davis. 2006. p. 1.

Good morning. Welcome to the Berkeley Marina DoubleTree Hotel and the Twenty-Second Vertebrate Pest Conference. I am John O'Brien, and I have the honor of representing the Vertebrate Pest Council as chairman of this conference.

The first conference was held 44 years ago, and the longevity of the conference is a testament to its value. The conference has grown and changed as the times have changed; however, its primary objective the dissemination of sound information on vertebrate pest management remains the same.

There are three special symposia at this conference which is a new feature. The first one, "Managing Charismatic Megafauna" (I love that title), is the Plenary Session, which follows these opening remarks – fortunately for you, I will keep them short. The second one, "Advances in Fertility Control", has 11 papers and is all day Wednesday. Finally, the third one, "Wildlife Diseases and Public Health", contains 17 papers and is all day Thursday.

Of course, there is even more at this conference than the symposia. Except for the Plenary Session which follows, the whole conference has concurrent sessions, so you can pick and choose what paper you most want to hear at any given time – more than 90 papers in all. Check out the poster papers and the commercial displays, which also provide information. The discussions and social interaction among attendees is consistently ranked one of the most valuable parts of this conference. Be sure to partake of the scheduled social events, a no-host social this evening, and the vendors' forum with light hors d'oeuvres tomorrow night.

For those of you who can stay after the conference, the city of San Francisco, the Napa Valley, and a variety of other sightseeing opportunities are close at hand.

I would like to thank the many people who have helped put this conference together – Council members and non-members. They make this a success. Enough for opening remarks – Enjoy the conference!