



SQUIRRELS AND PEOPLE

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

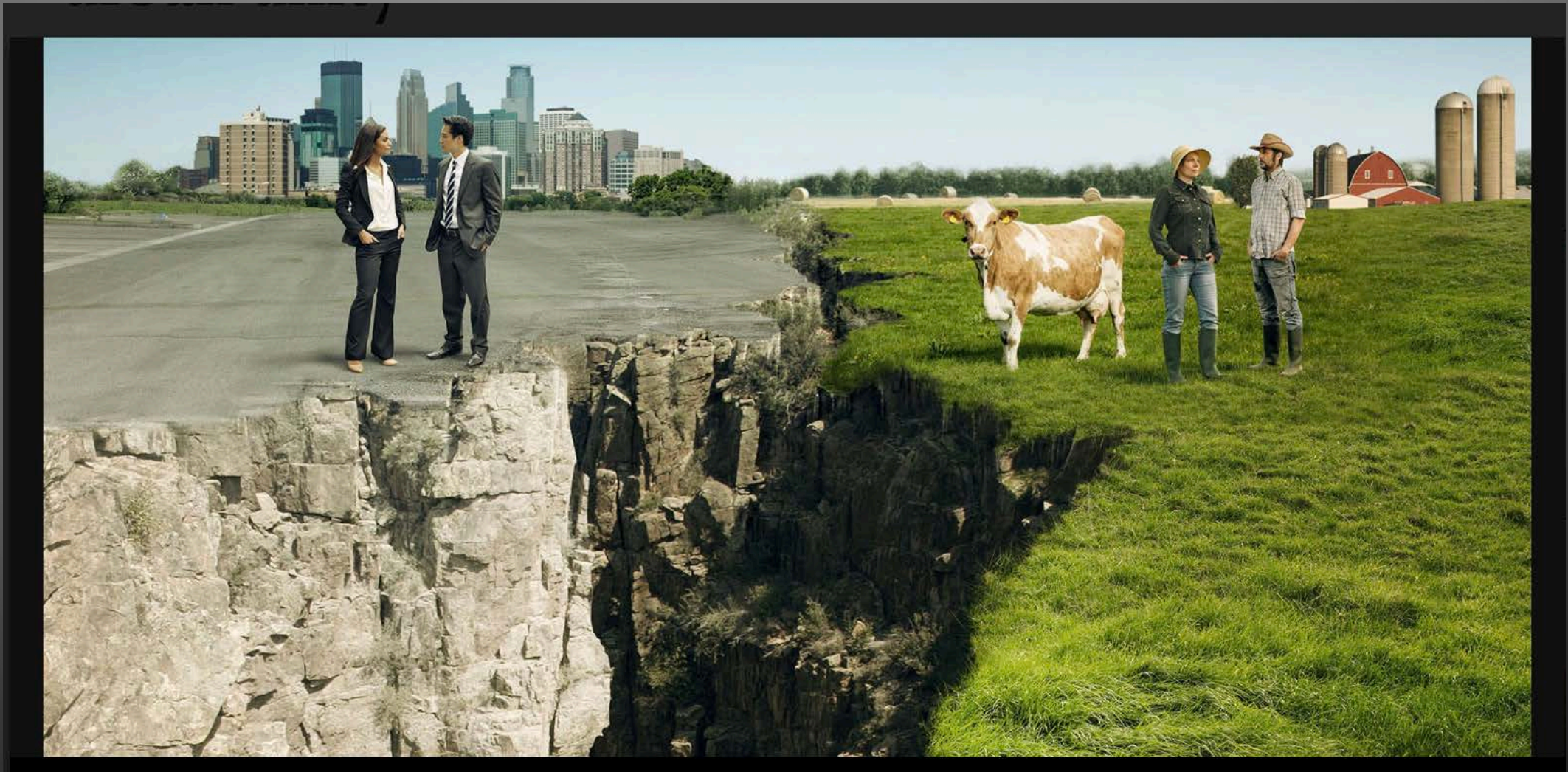


AN EFFECTIVE CONTROL PROGRAM SHOULD CONSIDER.....

TOLERANCE

THE MESSAGE

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



California Ground Squirrel



Location found: Woodland, CA
Diagnosis: habituated to humans
Length of care: 4 weeks
Approximate cost of care: \$1220



A family found this squirrel when she was a baby and decided to keep her. They soon realized that wild squirrels make terrible pets and they brought her to our hospital. Unfortunately, the squirrel had become used to humans and could no longer survive in the wild. Luckily, Lindsay Wildlife Museum was able to house the ground squirrel

DANGER/PELIGRO

This Property Area Under Fumigation
DO NOT ENTER/NO ENTRE



PHOSPHINE GAS



This Property Area Is Being Fumigated With

- EPA#
- 72959-1 FUMITOXIN® TABLETS
 - 72959-2 5857 FUMITOXIN® PELLETS
 - 72959-3 CELLS/STRIPS
 - 72959-4 PHOSTOXIN® TABLETS
 - 72959-5 PHOSTOXIN® PELLETS
 - 72959-6 SPOT FUMIGANT
 - 72959-7 PHOSTOXIN® TABLET ROPE
 - 72959-8 PHOSTOXIN® TABLET PREPACS
 - 72959-10 DETEA FUMEX

THIS SIGN MAY ONLY BE REMOVED BY A CERTIFIED APPLICATOR OR A PERSON WITH DOCUMENTED TRAINING AFTER THE STRUCTURE AND/OR COMMODITY IS COMPLETELY AERATED (CONTAINS 0.3 PPM OR LESS OF PHOSPHINE GAS) IF INCOMPLETELY AERATED COMMODITY IS TRANSFERRED TO A NEW STRUCTURE, THE NEW STRUCTURE MUST ALSO BE PLACARDED IF IT CONTAINS MORE THAN 0.3 PPM PHOSPHINE. WORKERS EXPOSURE DURING THIS TRANSFER MUST NOT EXCEED ALLOWABLE LIMITS.

FUMIGATION PERFORMED BY:

Name H. PRE PEST CONTROL
Address 7571 CRESTVIEW LANE
CAMPBELL CA 95008

DATE OF FUMIGATION:

START 2-12-14 1930H END 2-14-14

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE

Day 925-554-1953
Night _____

FOR HUMAN OR ANIMAL
EMERGENCIES CALL 1-800-308-1856

ALL OTHER CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES
CALL CHEMTREC 1-800-424-9300

Care or Kill?



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE CONTROLLING SQUIRRELS FOR OVER 200 YEARS

- Superabundant population of squirrels
 - Benefit from “human invasion”
- 
- 

HISTORY OF SQUIRREL CONTROL

WRITTEN IN 1918 BY CA STATE COMMISSION OF HORTICULTURE

- California has had enough!
- A 236 page pamphlet detailing squirrel habitats, behaviors, and control methods
- Details on Squirrel Week

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN
CALIFORNIA STATE COMMISSION OF HORTICULTURE
Volume VII NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1918 Nos. 11 and 12

California Ground Squirrels

A Bulletin Dealing With Life Histories
Habits and Control of the Ground
Squirrels in California

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THE MONTHLY BULLETIN.

The California Ground Squirrel is probably known by sight to more people than any other one of our four hundred kinds of native mammals. It inhabits open ground in well-settled territory and it forages abroad during the daylight hours when its movements are most likely to attract attention. Numbers are to be seen from the windows of passing trains, and the traveller by automobile is often thrilled by the narrow escapes of those headless individuals which dash across the road immediately in advance of him, not infrequently to their own undoing. Then, too, this squirrel has, perhaps, been more widely advertised than any of our other mammals. A few years ago it came into prominence as a proven disseminator of the dreaded bubonic plague, and it has become notorious for its exceeding destructiveness to cultivated crops.

The term "Digger Squirrel" is often applied to this species, more especially in the foothill and mountain regions, in recognition of its burrowing habits, to distinguish it from the tree-inhabiting gray and red squirrels. The book name, Beechey Ground Squirrel, much used in the literature relating to it, is derived from the accepted scientific name *Citellus beecheyi*. This name, *beecheyi*, was bestowed upon the animal by its original describer (Richardson, 1829, p. 170) "in honour of the able and scientific Commander of the Blossom," Captain F. W. Beechey. The British ship "Blossom" cruised the Pacific Ocean northward even to Bering Strait during the years 1825 to 1828. Collections of specimens were brought back from many localities visited, including San Francisco and Monterey; among these specimens was one or more of the squirrels in question. These were evidently preserved for the most part by Mr. Collie, surgeon of the ship, who is quoted by Richardson as stating that "this kind of Spermophile 'burrows in great numbers in the sandy declivities and dry plains in the neighbourhood of San Francisco and Monterey, in California, close to the houses. They frequently stand up on their hind legs when looking round about them. In running, they carry the tail generally straight out, but when passing over any little inequality, it is raised, as if to prevent it being soiled. In rainy weather, and when the fields are wet and dirty, they come out but little above ground.'" And further information is given, according, for the most part, with what anyone can see for himself today in the same general region. This attests to the acuteness of observation of Mr. Collie, and also shows how the squirrels had already, some ninety years ago, begun to impress people with their numbers and boldness.

The California Ground Squirrel may be distinguished from other members of the squirrel family by the combination in it of the following characters: essentially ground-dwelling habits, relatively large size, long bushy tail, tall pointed ears, and generally grayish coloration with a three-cornered silvery white patch on each shoulder. Close inspection discloses a finely dappled pattern of coloration (see Fig. 2) such as is not shown in any tree squirrel or in any of our other ground squirrels except its near relatives, the Douglas, Fisher, Rock and Catalina Island squirrels. The detailed descriptions, measurements, etc., as given in the accompanying small-type paragraphs, should be studied for further particulars in this connection.

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THE GROUND SQUIRRELS OF CALIFORNIA.

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FIG. 2. A typical example of the California Ground Squirrel, the rodent of chief economic importance in the state. Note the bushy tail, the pointed ears, the three-cornered silvery white patch on the shoulder, and the dappled pattern of coloration. Photographed from life by J. Dixon.

MEMBER ISSUED BY
CONTROL DIVISION
Squidward - - - - Editor
I. Superintendent, Associate Editor

State Printing Office

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PROCLAMATION SQUIRREL WEEK

APRIL - 29TH

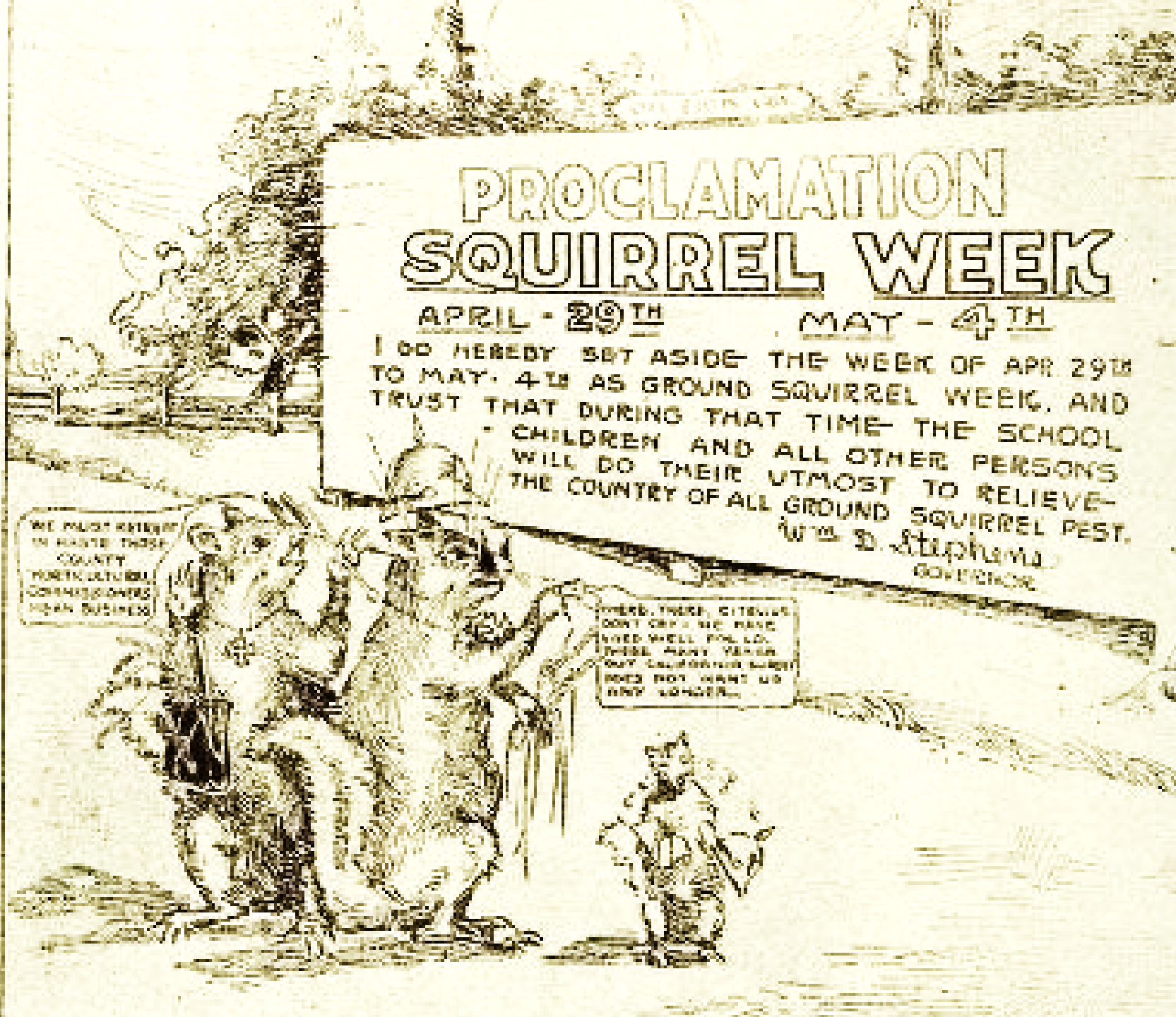
MAY - 4TH

I DO HEREBY SET ASIDE THE WEEK OF APR 29TH
TO MAY 4TH AS GROUND SQUIRREL WEEK, AND
TRUST THAT DURING THAT TIME THE SCHOOL
CHILDREN AND ALL OTHER PERSONS
WILL DO THEIR UTMOST TO RELIEVE
THE COUNTRY OF ALL GROUND SQUIRREL PEST.

W. D. STEPHENS
GOVERNOR

WE MUST REMEMBER
IN WASTE THOSE
COUNTY
FOURTH DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS
NEAR BUSINESS

WHERE THESE CITIZENS
DON'T GET THE NAME
USED WELL FOR US.
THESE HAVE BEEN
OUR CALIFORNIA SQUIRREL
DOES NOT WANT US
ANY LONGER.



SQUIRRELS MENACE YOUR CROPS



Dead
Squirrels
Destroy
None

KILL THEM

Ask your County
Horticultural Commissioner
for control methods.

issued by
Rodent Control Division
State Commission of
Horticulture,
G. H. Hecke,
Commissioner

Sacramento

california

FIG. 61. Poster used in shop and store windows throughout the state.

DEATH



TO THE

SQUIRREL

THE

SPRING DRIVE

IS ON

Millions In Food Must Be Saved

Slay the Mother Squirrel During Breeding Season—March to May

A Squirrel In Time Saves Killing Nine

ASK Your County Horticultural Commissioner HOW

Or Write Rodent Department, State Commission of Horticulture
Sacramento, California

FIG. 56. First of the series of posters issued by the Rodent Control Division during the Spring

GIFT

MAR 21 1917

KILL THE SQUIRRELS

CHILDREN, WE MUST KILL THE SQUIRRELS TO SAVE FOOD. BUT USE POISONS CAREFULLY.

POISON BARLEY

OUR STAR BOARDERS

HOTEL CALIFORNIA BOARD BILL FOR SQUIRRELS IN 1917 THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS

AND YOU MAY SERVE ME SOME NICE, YOUNG BARLEY SPROUTS

WAITER, TODAY ILL HAVE MY FAVORITE DISH - WHOLE WHEAT CAKES

MENU
WHEAT
NUTS
OATS
BARLEY

MR. SQUIRREL

MRS. SQUIRREL



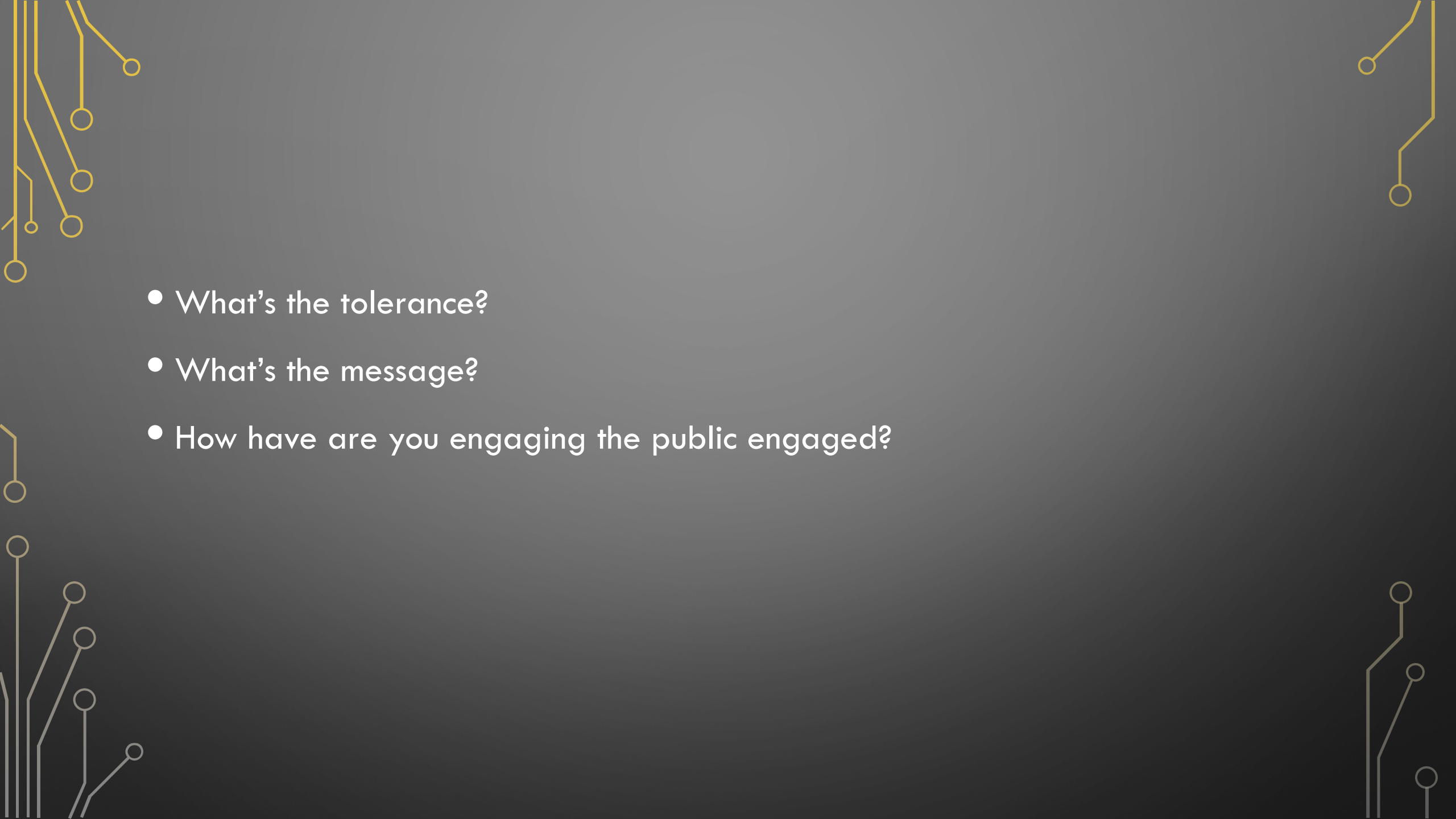
STATE COMMISSION OF HORTICULTURE

G. H. HECKE, Commissioner

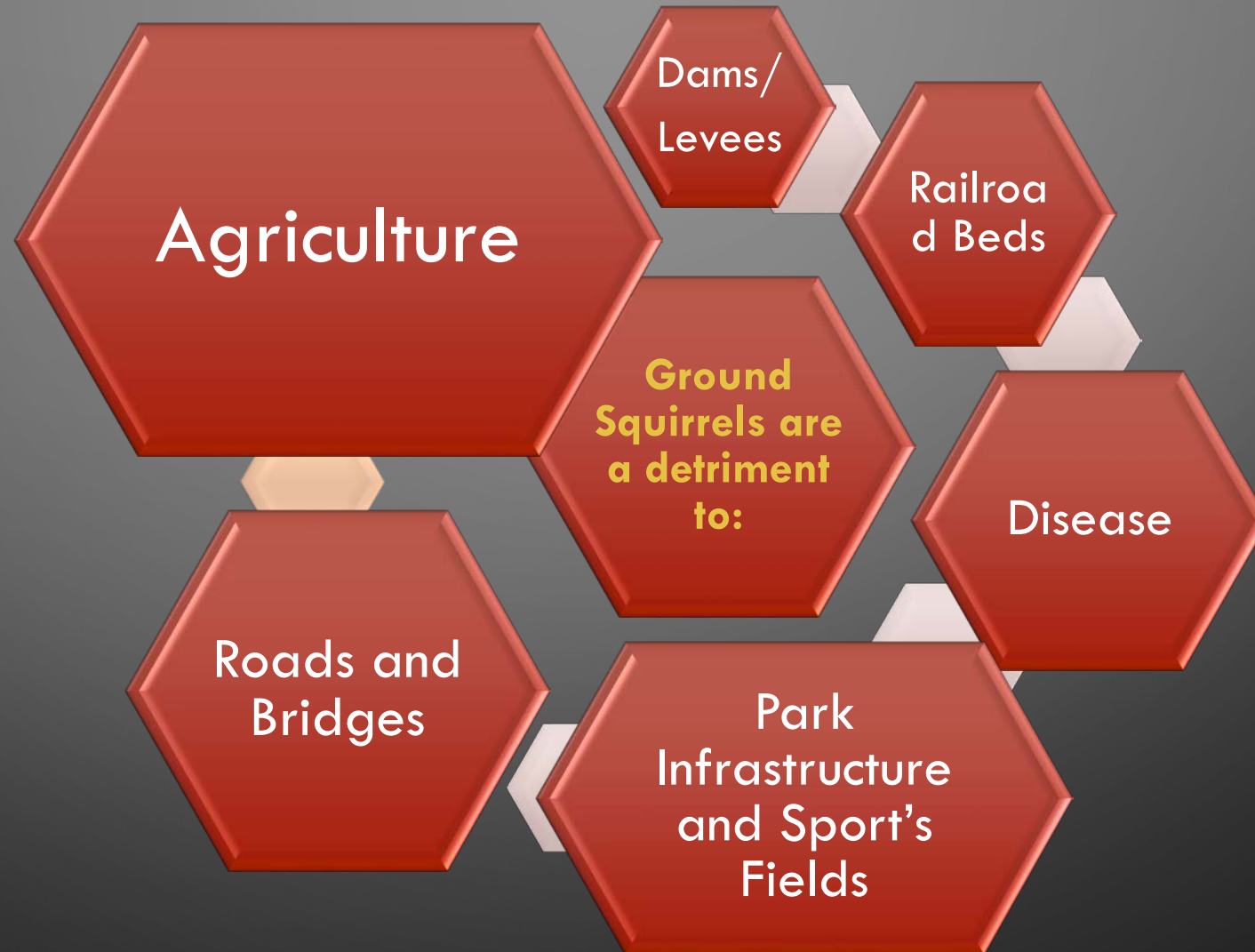
RODENT CONTROL DIVISION

W. C. JACOBSEN, Superintendent

Sacramento, California

- 
- The image features a dark gray background with decorative circuit-like lines in the corners. The lines are yellow in the top-left and top-right corners, and white in the bottom-left and bottom-right corners. Each corner has a complex network of lines ending in small circles, resembling a printed circuit board or a neural network diagram.
- What's the tolerance?
 - What's the message?
 - How have are you engaging the public engaged?

WHY DO WE CONTROL SQUIRRELS? THEY ARE A PEST AND CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE



SQUIRREL – DAMAGE

WHAT'S OUR TOLERANCE?

- Consume plants
- Destroy cables and pipe
- Disturb ground for invasive plants & mowing
- Damage trees, girdle roots
- Cause Erosion
- Weaken infrastructure



BUT THEY ARE ALSO A KEYSTONE SPECIES

- COMMON, NATIVE

Photo Credit: Paul Sullivan



WESTERN BURROWING OWL SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN



CA TIGER SALAMANDER --- ENDANGERED



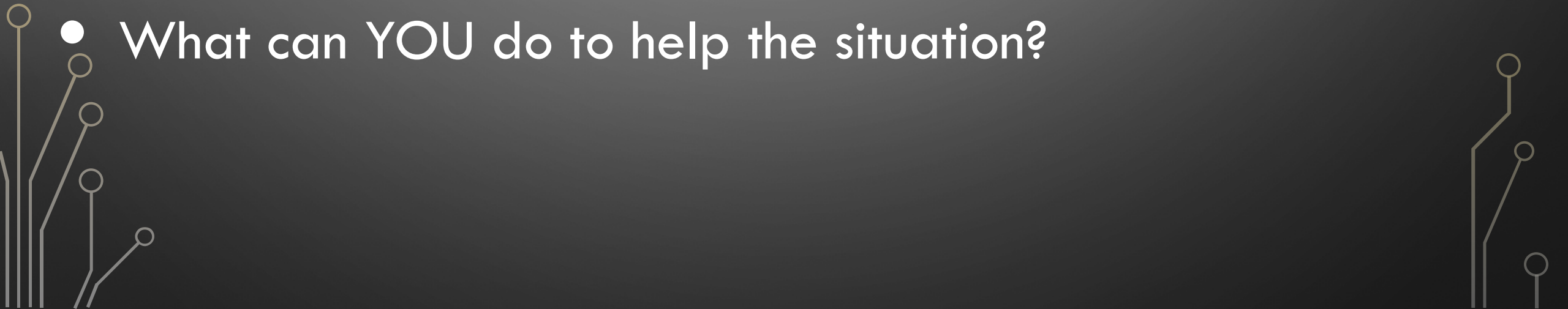
TOLERANCE

- Eradication- Where is this necessary and feasible?
- No Control Needed – Where is this desired and feasible?
- Minimize Numbers and Damage
 - Monitor impacts
 - Monitor control





MESSAGE



- Why are they being “controlled”?
 - How are we controlling them?
 - What can YOU do to help the situation?
- 

The image features a dark gray background with decorative circuit-like lines in yellow and white. These lines are located in the corners, forming a grid-like pattern with small circles at the end of the lines, resembling a stylized circuit board or data network.

WHY?
PUBLIC SAFETY
FOOD PRODUCTION
DAMAGE TO INFRASTRUCTURE



DEVELOP A CONSISTENT MESSAGE

- Closed Landfill: Rodent Population Control at CC Park
 - Squirrels, Gophers Unleash Toxins at Former Berkeley Landfill into Bay...
 - City of Berkeley Plans to Kill Squirrels Accused of Spreading Toxins....
 - City of Berkeley Delays Pilot Plan to Exterminate Squirrels at CC Park
 - Berkeley Squirrels Saved from Execution
 - Berkeley Squirrels and the *Mystery of the Vanishing E-mails*
- 
- 

The image features a dark gray background with a subtle gradient. In the four corners, there are decorative elements consisting of thin, light-colored lines that resemble circuit traces or fiber optic paths. These lines terminate in small circles, creating a sense of connectivity and technology. The word "HOW?" is centered in the upper-left quadrant in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

HOW?

WHAT CAN YOU
DO?



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



**PLEASE
DO
NOT
FEED
THE SQUIRRELS!**



Feeding the squirrels at the Marina is causing overpopulation.

When this happens, the squirrels become sick and die.

You will be helping the squirrels by NOT feeding them.

Thank you!



City of Berkeley Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Dept.
For more information call (510) 881-8720.

DANGER



**DO NOT FEED
SQUIRRELS**

Even if they look furry
and cute



STUYTOWN
GOOD NEIGHBORS



**Please do not
feed** squirrels
within 50
feet of this
playground.




Please don't feed the animals

Bread and snacks are unhealthy for squirrels, deer and birds.

Handouts can lead to malnutrition and starvation. These animals need their natural diets.

Let them find their own food.

Feeding wildlife prohibited by County Ordinance #8.42.012



**IF YOU ENJOY
SEEING SQUIRRELS,
DON'T FEED THEM!**

An unnaturally large food supply causes Squirrel populations to grow beyond natural limits. Overpopulation may be controlled by other methods, including poison. Please keep food away from squirrels and dispose of trash safely. Don't cause the painful death of these squirrels by feeding them.

Don't feed squirrels in the park.
Instead, give them the cash they
can use to buy their own food.





QUESTIONS

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