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# OPENING COMMENTS—SEVENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

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## **OPENING COMMENTS—SEVENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE**

CHARLES C. SIEBE, Program Supervisor, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, California 95814

On behalf of the Vertebrate Pest Council, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Seventh Vertebrate Pest Conference.

We are pleased that the American Society for Testing and Materials held its first Symposium on Test Methods for Vertebrate Pest Control and Management Materials in conjunction with our Conference, and we congratulate Symposium Chairman Rex Marsh for the excellent program that was presented.

The concerns and challenges of today's society mandate that we be knowledgeable and up-to-date concerning the use of vertebrate pest damage control methods and materials and the impacts of our programs on the environment.

Animal damage control and the management of vertebrate pest species are difficult and complex endeavors. There is no panacea that will provide damage control at little cost and with little effort. Sound biological analysis of vertebrate pest damage problems and the proper use of the tools available to us are necessary if control is to be realized with the least possible impact on the environment.

The Vertebrate Pest Council realizes that there is a need for workers in the various phases of vertebrate pest damage control and vertebrate pest management to meet and exchange information and ideas.

This Conference provides a vehicle for such information exchange and the program committee has put together a program that will be both interesting and of value to you. We hope that you will be able to take home ideas and information that will assist you in solving your problems.

We are grateful for the efforts of the many people who have worked to put this Conference together and to those of you who have traveled so far to participate with us.

Please feel that this is your Conference. We want it to be a good and fruitful experience for you. If you have suggestions as to what could be done to improve our programming for the next Conference, please let us know.