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## Closing Remarks - Eighteenth Vertebrate Pest Conference

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## CLOSING REMARKS — EIGHTEENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

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Proc. 18th Vertebr. Pest Conf. (R.O. Baker & A.C. Crabb, Eds.) Published at Univ. of Calif., Davis. 1998.

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As Chair-Elect of the Council, I would like to thank all of those who participated in this 18th Vertebrate Pest Conference here at the Double Tree Hotel, Costa Mesa, California. Thanks to A. Charles Crabb, University of California, for handling all arrangements for this event.

We had a total attendance of 409 from 31 states in the U.S., including attendees from 6 countries outside the U.S. This is the largest attended conference in the last four held, although attendance from foreign countries was down.

Special thanks go to Chair, Rex O. Baker, Cal Poly State University at Pomona, who kept us headed in the right direction and to our Program Co-Chairpersons, W. Paul Gorenzel and Desley A. Whisson, University of California, who did an outstanding job of providing a program with a variety of information. I have attended the conferences since 1976 and there have been tremendous changes since then. We continue to have higher quality papers and diversity with a better mix of theory and application.

We had approximately 15 Exhibitors of Commercial Displays this year arranged through Council Members Greg Giusti and Bob Timm, University of California.

Minoo Madon from the California Department of Health Services, Vector-Borne Disease Section, Ontario, arranged for our field trip through the Los Angeles area, including historical plague sites. Gary Simmons, USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services, Sacramento, handled publicity in a reliable manner; hence the good attendance. Thanks to Sydni Gillette, University of California, Davis, who once again handled the massive job of registration. Sydni was assisted by Becky Miller, student assistant, and on-site by various Council Members, Terry Salmon, Charlie Crabb, Rex Marsh, Charles Smith, Pierre Gadd, Lew Davis, John O'Brien, John Borrecco, and others we may have forgotten. Continuing Education was handled through PAPA this year. We would also like to thank Gerry Miller, CDFA, for transporting registration materials to the southern California area and arranging for CDFA employees to help run projectors and lights. Thanks to various other individuals from USDA-Health and students and retirees who also helped run projects and other support functions.

The next conference (19th Vertebrate Pest Conference) will be held March 5-9, 2000, at the San Diego Mission Valley Hilton, San Diego, California. Thank you for attending this 18th Vertebrate Pest Conference, and we hope to see you in the year 2000.