

Press Reports and Audits on Governmental Waste, Fraud and Mismanagement

Compiled by the California Taxpayers' Association

Fish and Game

Endangered Rats

Dollar Amount: \$74,000,000

To save an endangered kangaroo rat whose habitat is in San Bernardino and Riverside counties will cost between \$14 million and \$74 million, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Taxpayers will share the costs with developers. According to The Associated Press, environmental groups have been working to protect the rat and sued the federal government. Costs include studies, land purchases and other associated expenses. (2001)

Region: So. California

Jurisdiction: County

Source: Associated Press - 2001

Compensation Ruffles Feathers

Dollar Amount:

Owners of roosters, hens and other "backyard birds" that have to be destroyed to control Newcastle disease are compensated between \$5 and \$1,800 per bird. The federal and state combined Exotic Newcastle Disease Task Force would not say how one bird could be worth \$1,800, but a state Food and Agriculture official said it was possible that some of the money has gone to breeders of fighting cocks. Cock fights are illegal in California but breeding and raising cocks that might be used in such activity is legal. Owners have to be compensated for fair market value. More than 3.1 million birds have been destroyed in the campaign to eradicate the disease. The report was in the Bakersfield Californian (March 17).

Region: C. Valley

Jurisdiction: State

Source: Bakersfield Californian - Mar. 17, 2004