

Support of City Council Motion 14-0518 Re: Santa Monica Mountains Wildlife Corridor

The Mar Vista Community Council supports CF 14-0518, which instructs the Planning Department to prepare and present an ordinance to create a Wildlife Corridor in the eastern area of the Santa Monica Mountains (Hillside Ordinance zone).

City Council Motion 14-0518

There are various communities throughout the city that are the location of natural lands and low density residential neighborhoods where wildlife exist under the jurisdiction of the hillside ordinance. Unfortunately in these and other communities in the city, development activities often involve actions that detrimentally impact wildlife movements. Without doubt private property interests and environmental considerations benefit by definite and consistent guidance on the environmental regulatory controls needed in any proposed land use development project.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy have begun looking into wildlife corridors within its territories, which will prevent further injuries and deaths to wildlife, and protect the open spaces and wildlife linkages that exist. Incursions into the habitat of wildlife in the city is counter to the intent and protections offered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The city needs to preserve the wildlife corridors in the eastern area of the Santa Monica Mountains (Hillside Ordinance zone), and to designate this area as a Regional Wildlife Habitat Linkage Zone, and to develop the necessary land use guidelines and measurable metrics to protect this region and dwindling habitat areas citywide.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Planning Department, with the assistance of the City Attorney, and in consultation with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and citizen advocates such as, but not limited to Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) and the Mulholland Design Review Board (MDRB), to prepare and present an ordinance to create a Wildlife Corridor in the eastern area of the Santa Monica Mountains (Hillside Ordinance zone) that requires the following:

1. Do not issue any building or grading permits until project applicants ensure that they will permanently accommodate wildlife habitat connectivity as part of their development projects.
2. Require easements and deed restrictions in perpetuity to protect wildlife habitat connectivity.
3. Formally designate the area as a Regional Wildlife Habitat Linkage Zone in the Municipal Code, in as much as just one single family residential project can cause adverse impacts to the existing and threatened wildlife populations.
4. Require a Biological Constraints Checklist as part of every new building project will undergo a 'habitat connectivity and wildlife permeability review' within areas of concern.