

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 26, 2010

From  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 9(b): Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Camarillo on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Conejo Creek Properties Specific Plan, Ventura County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Camarillo on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Conejo Creek Properties Specific Plan.

Background: The City of Camarillo proposes to plan and zone for development 740 acres near the base of the Camarillo Grade on Highway 101, extending the built footprint of the City to the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains. The predominantly agricultural site is bordered by Calleguas Creek, Conejo Creek, and Highway 101. The Conejo Creek undercrossing of the freeway is a regionally significant wildlife crossing for large mammals such as mountain lions.

The City plans include a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial land uses with both single-family and multi-family housing. To mitigate flood risk on the site, the development proposes to construct a bypass channel parallel to Conejo Creek.

The attached letter proposes to restore a natural buffer along the creek and encourages any flood control measures to maximize riparian habitat. The letter also recommends that development not be permitted between the mountains and the Conejo Creek undercrossing to facilitate wildlife movement across the freeway.