

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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February 28, 2011

Mr. Ron Kosinski, Deputy District Director
Division of Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation, District 7
100 South Main Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Proposed Realignment of Mulholland Drive Bridge
And Skirball Center Drive Widening**

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) appreciates your staff's willingness to work with us to address our concerns regarding the proposed realignment of the Mulholland Drive bridge and widening of Skirball Center Drive. As you are aware, we submitted the attached comments to the Mulholland Design Review Board outlining our concerns about retaining walls, sidewalks, grading, lighting, traffic, and other aspects of the proposed realignment. We respectfully request that these comments be included in the public record for the relevant Environmental Addendum for the project.

It should be noted that while the Conservancy did not address wildlife crossings specifically on the Mulholland Drive bridge in the original scoping process, the National Parks Service and others have documented regular crossings on both the north and south sidewalks of the Mulholland Drive bridge. The proposed project change is substantially different than the project evaluated during scoping with respect to these impacts. Had the project description included the proposed realignment and addition of retaining walls, the Conservancy would have noted these impacts at that time. Any potential impacts to wildlife movement must be mitigated to a level of insignificance, regardless of previous comments.

Sincerely,

ANTONIO GONZALES
Chairperson

cc: Michael Barbour, I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project Director