

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between

California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Transportation
California State Parks
Santa Clara River Watershed Conservancy
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
The National Park Service
The Nature Conservancy
SC Wildlands

For Application To the
Linkage Implementation Alliance (LIA)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a voluntary cooperation between the organizations listed above, in the interest of promoting landscape connectivity and conservation between Ventura and Los Angeles counties.

I. MISSION

Our goal is to promote and maintain landscape connectivity between the Los Padres and Angeles National Forests and the Santa Monica Mountains through conservation easements, landowner education, purchasing land from willing sellers, raising conservation awareness, working with city and county planning departments, and other appropriate tools. Substantial research in population genetics, ecology, and conservation indicate that in order to preserve the biological diversity found within our region, connectivity between smaller urban fragments such as the Santa Monica Mountains and Verdugo Mountains and larger areas of intact habitat such as the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests must be maintained.

II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Linkage Implementation Alliance has been formed to conserve landscape scale connectivity between the Los Padres and Angeles National Forests and the Santa Monica Mountains with an initial focus on the connection between the Sierra Madre and Santa Monica Mountains. Each signatory to this MOU is interested in conserving these lands and brings experience, knowledge, and/or information which can promote the LIA's mission.

The LIA is interested in working with planning departments, landowners, conservation organizations, cities, counties, and other interested parties to maintain landscape connectivity for the benefit of all species and ecosystems especially in regards to climate change. Connectivity of natural areas within this region will also benefit the human population of the area through increased recreational opportunities as well as the health and psychological benefits provided by living near and recreating within natural areas.

Each organization that is party to this MOU is responsible for its own expenses related to this MOU, however each signatory agrees to assist in identifying, locating, and providing information for funding opportunities or financial assistance that may help the LIA achieve its mission.

The goals of the LIA include:

1. Producing a Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) for the California Department and Fish and Game that will assist with land purchases and identifying key lands for conservation, easements, or purchase.
2. Incorporating landscape connectivity considerations into transportation and land use planning.
3. Providing and Utilizing the best available GIS data and layers.
4. Identifying and utilizing best practices for the preservation of connectivity.
5. Facilitating acquisition of lands/easements as preserved open space.
6. Facilitating management of above lands to protect linkages associated with them.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

Together, the Parties entered into this Memorandum of Understanding commit to:

1. Promote conservation of the lands described above.
2. Keep each other abreast of developments that may impact conservation of this area, and
3. Support the Linkage Implementation Alliance's goals within your agency or organization.
4. Attend scheduled meetings as possible.
5. Share the workload by hosting meetings, providing copies or other office tasks/products, organizing meetings if necessary, making contacts useful to the LIA, and other similar tasks.
6. Help develop and maintain either an email notification list or a group website that will allow information to be shared and as a means for members to contact one another.
7. Add to the list of potential research projects that will help further LIA goals.
8. Notify the group (or group leader) of potential funding opportunities that relate to the LIA or the LIA's goals.
9. Write letters of support, when needed, to promote the group's goals.
10. Assist in grant/proposal writing, editing, feedback, or mapping.
11. Provide resources to further the goals, as available. This may include conference space, access to research tools/records, etc.
12. Sign the MOU.

IV. TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING

The term of this MOU is for a period of *three years* from the effective date of this agreement and may be extended upon written mutual agreement. It shall be reviewed in the first quarter of each year to ensure it is fulfilling its purpose and to make any

necessary revisions. Any signatory may terminate this MOU upon thirty (30) days written notice without penalties or liabilities.

Authorization

The signing of this MOU is not a formal undertaking. It implies that the signatories will strive to reach, to the best of their ability, the objectives stated in the MOU. On behalf of the organization I represent, I wish to sign this MOU and contribute to its further development.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
California Department of Fish and Game		

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
California Department of Transportation		

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
California State Parks		

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Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy		

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Santa Clara River Watershed Conservancy		

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
The National Park Service		

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>The Nature Conservancy</i>		

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