

STATE CAPITOL ROOM 4025
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4025
FAX (916) 324-4823

DISTRICT OFFICE
2718 OCEAN PARK BLVD., STE. 306B
SANTA MONICA, CA 90405
TEL (310) 314-5214
TEL (310) 321-6062
TEL (805) 515-3917
FAX (310) 314-5263

California State Senate

SENATOR
FRAN PAVLEY
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER
CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
ENERGY, UTILITIES &
COMMUNICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING

August 22, 2012

Joe Edmiston
Executive Director
Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Agenda Item 12
SMMC
10/29/12

Dear Mr. Edmiston,

Please accept my recommendation that the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) apply to the Wildlife Conservation Board for Proposition 117 funds on behalf of Save Open Space (SOS) Santa Monica Mountains for acquisition of the Chesebro Meadow Liberty Canyon Wildlife Corridor property. The funds should include acquisition of property north of the 101, contiguous to the Chesebro Canyon and south of the 101 with the recent foreclosure of the proposed office complex on the NW corner of Liberty Canyon and Agoura Road. The property is on the SOS list of acquisition priorities, but only government agencies are allowed to apply for these funds.

As you know, Proposition 117 funds are meant to provide for the preservation of wildlife through the acquisition of vital habitat. The South Coast Wildlands Project has classified Liberty Canyon as one of the 15 critical biological linkage sites for California mountain lions. The Liberty Canyon underpass is the only viable 101 freeway crossing for mountain lions for miles in either direction. In 2009, a mountain lion designated P-12 crossed at Liberty Canyon Road. He has subsequently fathered cubs, including the two most recent mountain lion births this month in the Santa Monica Mountains. However, there is DNA evidence of inbreeding, and more measures need to be taken in order to help these new cubs survive, and to introduce new genetic material into the species.

Acquiring this property would go a long way towards preserving our precious mountain lion population. Therefore, this acquisition would meet the requirements of Proposition 117 for acquisition funding and would be in line with the priorities of partner agencies in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA). As Chair of the Natural Resources and Water Committee and as the Senator representing the Western Santa Monica Mountains, this is one of my highest priorities.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (310)314-5214. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fran Pavley

Senator Fran Pavley, SD 23

CC: Paul Edelman, MRCA
Mary Wiesbrock, SOS