

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: March 18, 2013

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution supporting AB 1213 (Bloom).**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution supporting AB 1213 (Bloom).

Background: Assembly Member Richard Bloom has introduced the Bobcat Protection Act of 2013 to ban the commercial trapping of bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) in California, along with the commercial sale and export of bobcat pelts. See attached copy and fact sheet.

Bobcats are an irreplaceable part of California's natural heritage, playing an important ecological role not just in the ecosystems they inhabit, but also in the state's recreation, tourism and wildlife viewing industries. However, bobcats receive only very limited protections under current law.

The Department's current authority to issue depredation permits for bobcats would not be affected. Hunting of bobcats consistent with existing law and regulations would still be allowed in California.

There are no costs associated with this bill.