

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 14, 2013

To: The Advisory Committee Members

From:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

Subject: **Agenda Item V: Special recognition to the following former Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority members, for extraordinary accomplishments:**

Ron Krueper, Governing Board Member
Howard Vipperman, Governing Board Member
John Rowe, Governing Board Alternate
Stephen Davis, Advisory Committee Member
Susan Ferguson, Advisory Committee Member
Sona McCoy, Advisory Committee Member

Background: The above-mentioned former Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) Governing Board, Alternate, and Advisory Committee members have left WCCA. Staff appreciates their participation and hard work. Staff are sorry to see them leave and wish them the best. Below is some background on these individuals.

Ron Krueper: Ron, Inland Empire District Superintendent, whose career has spanned over 35 years with California State Parks, has retired. He first started as a seasonal lifeguard at Silverwood Lake in 1975, later becoming a permanent Lifeguard at Huntington Beach State Beach. Returning to the San Bernardino Mountains in 1996, he has worked as a Supervising Ranger at Silverwood Lake, Park Superintendent at Chino Hills/Citrus, Lake Perris, and District Superintendent of the Mojave Desert State Parks. He is a graduate of San Francisco State University with degrees in Health Science and Physical Education. Ron has had a lasting impact on the parks he had worked in and his contributions to California State Parks are immeasurable. We will surely see Ron out in the parks in the future.

Howard Vipperman: Howard is the President of VIP Rubber, a very successful rubber and plastics manufacturer in La Habra. He first ran for a council seat in La Habra Heights where he and his family have a lovely home with a number of different animals on several acres. He was concerned about the city properly managing its finances and also was greatly concerned about fire protection. He

handily won his seat in March 2007 and when he chose to run again in 2011, he was also successful.

If there is one achievement he is most proud of while on the council, it would be the replacement of a dilapidated dorm (originally a mobile classroom) which housed the volunteer firefighters on duty for well over 15 years after it was purchased from a school district. The council had spent many years debating the issue while the building continued to deteriorate.

Prior to running for the council, Howard had been the financial watchdog of Hacienda Golf Club's successful total renovation of the course and reconstruction of its Club House.

Howard has resigned from the council to focus on family. He remains active in the Pet Prescription Team, the La Habra Boys and Girls Clubs, La Habra Rotary, and Hacienda Golf Club.

John Rowe: John is currently the Park Superintendent for Lake Perris, Wildwood and San Timoteo State Properties within the Inland Empire District. He was previously assigned to the Chino Sector working in Chino Hills State Park as the Park Superintendent. John began his State Parks career at Lake Perris as a seasonal lifeguard and truly enjoys all aspects of Lake Perris State Recreation Area.

Steve Davis: Steve brought a fair-minded approach in listening to the issues for the corridor. He asked good insightful questions as he grappled with decisions that met the mission of WCCA, while honoring local interests.

Sona McCoy: Sona is one of those rare individuals who loves the hills from the ground up. Her extensive knowledge of the plants and animals that inhabit the corridor was invaluable. She always came from a place that started with a love of the land. The area could not have asked for a more heartfelt advocate.

Susan Ferguson: Since Susan's retirement after 36 years of teaching for Rowland U.S.D., she has been devoting her time to community service. Susan is very committed to preserving open space and wildlife habitat.