

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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August 14, 2013

The Honorable Senator Kevin de León, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, California 95814

Support of Assembly Bill 1213 (The Bobcat Protection Act)

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

The Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) supports the proposed Assembly Bill (AB) 1213 (The Bobcat Protection Act) which would prohibit unauthorized trapping of bobcats on lands adjacent to public conservation areas if designated for protection by the Fish and Game Commission.

WCCA was created to provide for the proper planning, conservation, environmental protection, and maintenance of the habitat and wildlife corridor between Whittier-Puente Hills, Chino Hills, and the Cleveland National Forest in the Santa Ana Mountains. It is one of our main goals to ensure that sufficient continuity of habitat can be preserved to maintain a functioning wildlife corridor within this area.

The bobcat population is considered one of the umbrella species in this ecosystem, where they have a direct impact on regulating the populations of rodents and other small mammals. Protecting their population would play an integral role in preserving the well-being and health of this ecosystem, which is primarily surrounded by highly urbanized developments. Located near the Cleveland National Forest, this wildlife corridor is capable of sustaining or connecting habitat for large mammals, and threatened and endangered species. Extending protection to the bobcat population under AB 1213 in this wildlife corridor would allow for bobcats to utilize this natural area as part of their habitat without concern to their livelihood.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, please contact Judi Tamasi of our staff by phone at (310) 589-3230, ext. 121, or by email at judi.tamasi@mrca.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Glenn Parker
Chairperson