

# WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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August 14, 2013

Russell Williams  
Environmental Division Manager  
Riverside County Transportation Department  
3525 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Riverside, California 92501

**Santa Ana River Trail Improvements Project  
(Work Order #ZC10642, TaskCode #Z1530)**

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) supports the letter from California State Parks to the County of Riverside Transportation Department, dated July 31, 2013 on the subject project. That letter states that the preparation of an Initial Study and adequate circulation of the study for public review must be completed.

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. WCCA is most interested in the potential impacts to biological and recreational resources on the project site and its surrounding area. WCCA recommends that the County of Riverside Transportation Department prepare an Initial Study to analyze these impacts. According to the Notice of Exemption, 75 percent of the project site is within the boundaries of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The Initial Study should address in detail how the project is consistent with specific sections of the Western Riverside County MSHCP. Preparing an Initial Study would provide more detailed insight into the potential environmental impacts and how steps can be taken to avoid, minimize, and mitigate those impacts to ensure that proper environmental protection and conservation efforts are provided for the affected areas.

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](mailto:judi.tamasi@mrca.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Glenn Parker  
Chairperson