

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: July 28, 2014

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 16: Consideration of resolution supporting Santa Monica Mountains (Hillside Ordinance Zone) Wildlife Corridor Ordinance (CF 14-0518 Koretz), City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution supporting the City of Los Angeles' proposed Santa Monica Mountains Wildlife Corridor Ordinance.

Background: To date the City of Los Angeles Planning Department does virtually no analysis of potential adverse wildlife corridor impacts from single family home development in any area of the City. Unless the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, a homeowners group, or an individual addresses such impacts, develop proceeds that is virtually irreversible.

To rectify this gap in the City's impact analysis process, City Councilmember Paul Koretz and four cosigners introduced the attached motion directing the planning staff and the City Attorney to work with groups to prepare and present an ordinance.

The effected area would be limited to the portion of the Santa Monica Mountains covered by the City's Hillside Ordinance zone. The motion is comprehensively written to require assurances before building or grading permits are issued. It also requires in perpetuity deed restrictions and easements. Further, it would actually designate a Regional Wildlife Habitat Linkage Zone in the Municipal Code. Lastly it mandates preparation of a Biological Constraints Checklist so every new building project must undergo a habitat connectivity and wildlife permeability review.

Staff will keep the Conservancy and Advisory Committee up to date on the progress of this motion. The first step is for the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee to hear the item. A hearing date is not yet set. The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Homeowners and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority have adopted resolutions in support of the draft Ordinance.