



Sharon Dickinson <sharon.dickinson@lacity.org>

CF14-0518 SUPPORT, In PLUM 4-19-16, Wildlife Corridor Santa Monica Mountains Hillside Ordinance Zone

Diane Edwardson <diane.edwardson@gmail.com>

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To: Sharon.Dickinson@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org

Cc: "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.ryu@lacity.org, Christine Peters <christine.peters@lacity.org>, Amy Ablakat <Amy.Ablakat@lacity.org>, Juan Fregoso <juan.fregoso@lacity.org>, Hector Vega <hector.vega@lacity.org>, gerald.gubatan@lacity.org, Conrado Terrazas <conrado.terrazas@lacity.org>, "Joseph T. Edmiston" <edmiston@smmc.ca.gov>, Rorie Skei <skei@smmc.ca.gov>, Dash Stolarz <dash.stolarz@mrca.ca.gov>, paul.edelman@mrca.ca.gov, "board@silverlakenc.org" <board@silverlakenc.org>

Councilmember Huizar, PLUM Chair:

I strongly support establishment of a Wildlife Corridor between the 405 and the 5 Freeways. I urge you to include the Hillside Areas linking Griffith Park to Elysian Park (west of the 5 Freeway) NOT just stopping at the 5 Freeway and LA River.

In the past year ,LA County Natural History Museum (NHM), along with a neighbor, documented 2 bobcats on and adjacent to the Red Car Property in Silver Lake. One had ear tags indicating it came from either Griffith Park or west of the 101 Freeway. <http://redcarproperty.blogspot.com/search/label/bobcat>
<http://www.theeastsiderla.com/2015/03/bobcats-in-silver-lake/>

A bobcat was documented by NHM in August 2015 in Elysian Park.
<http://www.theeastsiderla.com/2015/12/elysian-park-bobcat-caught-on-video/>

I've also documented gray fox in the Red Car Property area.
<http://redcarproperty.blogspot.com/2008/05/corralitas-fox-update.html>

I've followed coyotes on foot using the the steep hillsides, open space, hillside paper streets, unofficial trails and vacant lots from Elysian Park, north through the Semi Tropic Spiritualists' Tract, Red Car Property and the Menlo Property and the 15 - 20' min. width open space corridor in the hills behind apartment buildings on Riverside Drive, north to Griffith Park - in broad daylight after morning rush hour. Most neighbors don't know these areas exist, but clearly, wildlife does.

The hillside corridor between Griffith and Elysian Parks is critical for genetic diversity of bobcats and foxes and other species too. Elysian Park is a much smaller and isolated park than Griffith Park. As we've all seen in recent years, wildlife crosses roads and freeways to get where it wants to go. It also uses backyards, sidewalks, public staircases and storm drains. There are minimal road crossings along the hillside corridor between Griffith and Elysian Park.

In 26 years of living on Corralitas Drive, I've watched coyotes, raccoons, opossum, rats and even snakes use the underpass on Rosebud Ave to get past the 2 Freeway "barrier." I've also seen them use the storm drains.
<http://redcarproperty.blogspot.com/2010/05/menlo-property-consultant-thinks.html>

I urge you to support this motion and expedite the establishment of the wildlife corridor habitat zone and standards established by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for wildlife sustainability and permeability.

Diane Edwardson
26 year resident
24 year community leader
2642 Corralitas Drive
Los Angeles CA 90039
<http://redcarproperty.blogspot.com>

redcarproperty@gmail.com
323-666-1392