



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, California 91360-4207

April 19, 2016

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Los Angeles City Councilmembers:

Thank you for hearing Council File 14-0518 on April 19th, 2016. The National Park Service (NPS) offers the following comments on the proposed Santa Monica Mountains Wildlife Corridor Ordinance. NPS is a voting member on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Board of Directors, and we concur with the comments of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in their resolution dated July 28, 2014.

The U.S. Congress recognized the Santa Monica Mountains as nationally significant in 1978 when it created Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Much of the area affected by the proposed ordinance is within the recreation area boundary or within the Santa Monica Mountains Ecological Zone, also recognized by Congress in the park's enabling legislation.

During approximately 15 years of research in the Santa Monica Mountains, the NPS has identified increasing urbanization and habitat fragmentation as one of the key challenges to protecting local wildlife and a functioning ecosystem. The proposed ordinance would support NPS goals and objectives to protect open space and provide for wildlife movement throughout the Santa Monica Mountains and the greater vicinity.

The NPS provides comments on the effects of private and public land development in the Santa Monica Mountains at the invitation of state and local units of government with authority to prevent or minimize adverse uses. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have questions, please call Kate Kuykendall at (805) 370-2343.

Sincerely,

David Szymanski
Superintendent