



Friends of Griffith Park

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friendsofgriffithpark.org

April 18, 2016

Planning and Land Use Management Committee
City Hall, Room 395
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: CF #14-0518 Wildlife Corridor Motion (Koretz)

Honorable Councilmembers,

We embrace and support the concept that the Los Angeles Planning Department becomes proactive, through jurisdiction under the Baseline Hillside Ordinance, to protect the permeability of lands in the Santa Monica Mountains region to the benefit of our wildlife. As an organization which advocates for the protection of natural habitat through education and sometimes through CEQA-based challenges, we realize that guidelines need to be on the books to encourage land owners and residents to do what is best for all LA's citizenry and its wildlife.

We would also suggest that critical choke point regions be given a higher priority for scrutiny. Development in these high priority areas might trigger more restrictive lot coverage ratios or mitigation measures. An example of such an area would be the Cahuenga Pass region, where chunks of habitat on both sides of the freeway are critical zones leading to extremely weak linkages across the freeway, essentially now relegated to two overpass bridges. The "launching pads" are as critical as the actual bridges, themselves.

Connectivity across the Santa Monica Mountains - including Griffith Park – is crucial for species to maintain sufficient genetic variability. The clock is ticking for various species already, and more will follow. In evolutionary time, habitat fragmentation is a recent phenomenon – perpetrated by humans.

We and our scientific advisors are anxious to work with the City, MRCA, Citizens for LA Wildlife and others to slow down the loss of wildlife connectivity and this motion is an excellent start.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hans
President