



City Council

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January 30, 2019

Robert McCoy
Mayor

Ventura County Planning Commission
Hall of Administration
Ventura County Government Center
800 South Victoria
Ventura, CA 93009

Via Email: Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org

RE: PROPOSED HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDOR ORDINANCE

Dear Ventura County Planning Commission:

On behalf of the City of Thousand Oaks we support the Proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance by the County of Ventura.

The City of Thousand Oaks currently has more than 15,194 acres in its planning area set aside as open space. This natural area includes untouched hillside areas, creeks, oak woodlands and native plants and wildlife, including large mammals such as deer, bobcats, coyotes, and mountain lions. The open space is managed and protected by the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA), which is a joint partnership between the City and the Conejo Recreation and Park District. The City's Open Space Element, which is part of the City's General Plan, specifically acknowledges the importance of wildlife corridors and provides important policy tenants to support their preservation. Under Chapter 2, Section A. Wildlife, the Open Space Element states:

"Preserving wildlife resources requires preserving land in open space because any form of wildlife must have a habitat. Loss or alteration of habitat is a major cause of various forms of extinction.

Another critical function of open space is to provide wildlife movement corridors. Movement corridors are habitat linkages utilized by wildlife species to gain access to preferred foraging, water sources, nesting, and breeding areas. In order to maintain their populations in a healthy condition, animals must have access to these critical areas. In the Conejo Valley, these corridors also function as important access routes around developed areas to undeveloped parcels."

One policy provision in the Open Space Element is OS -14:

"To further reinforce the ring of open space planning principle, the City shall support efforts by other government agencies or non- profit organizations to acquire and beneficially manage open space in the vicinity of the Planning Area, and to work to preserve regional wildlife habitat linkages."

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The City recognizes that regulatory policies which are part of the General Plan are essential for COSCA in supporting planning and land use efforts to support wildlife movement, connectivity, and habitat preservation within the City's open space.

We support the County's Proposed Ordinance Regulating Development Within the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors and the Critical Wildlife Passage Areas Overlay Zones. They serve as a comprehensive proposal to advance efforts to protect wildlife and enhance increased connectivity through critical wildlife corridors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert McCoy". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Robert McCoy
Mayor

c: Linda Parks, VC Board of Supervisors, District 2, Via Fax: 805-373-8396