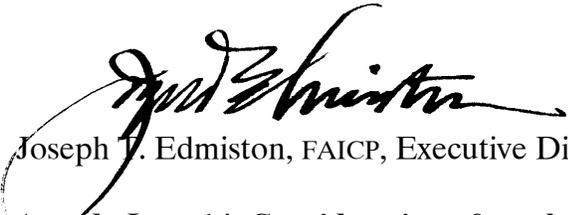


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date : March 22, 2004

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing preparation of a wildlife corridor map for the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing preparation of a wildlife corridor map for the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles.

Legislative Authority: Section 33211(c) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: A fragile network of habitat patches, habitat linkages, and non-habitat wildlife movement paths create a wildlife corridor system from the west side of the San Diego (405) Freeway to the interior of Griffith Park. In some locations, the development of a single house could permanently sever part of this corridor. If there is no redundancy to that portion of the corridor, the persistence of numerous wildlife species located east of that point may be permanently threatened. In many cases, these critical connection involves small slivers of one or more small lots. The mere construction of a perimeter yard fence could have regional adverse consequences on the sustainability of deer, bobcat and grey fox populations from all points east, including the entirety of Griffith Park.

Staff has created wildlife corridor maps for portions of the fragile area, most notably in the Cahuenga Pass. In every other case, research is required to ascertain whether or not small and large project with result in significant adverse impacts on wildlife movement in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. The City of Los Angeles Planning Department has been requesting a comprehensive wildlife corridor map for over a year. It completely behooves the Conservancy to prepare and submit such a map to the City to further conservation objectives in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. This map will cover all know wildlife movement routes and choke points between Mandeville Canyon (west of the 405 Freeway) to the interior of Griffith Park. It will be prepared both on aerial photo base and topographic base.

