

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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Agenda Item 12(c)
SMMC
2/27/12



November 4, 2010

Mr. Carlos Montez
Division of Environmental Planning (Palo Comado/US 101 Interchange Project)
California Department of Transportation, District 7
100 South Main Street, Suite 100, MS 16A
Los Angeles, California 90012

Palo Comado/US 101 Interchange
07-LA-101 (PM 33.0/34.4)
Addendum to Previous Letter

Dear Mr. Montez:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) previously commented on the proposed project on October 15, 2010. Since that time, we have collaborated with the National Parks Service (NPS) and concur with their recommendation to add a mitigation measure requiring further wildlife corridor study in the project vicinity. As we mentioned in our previous letter, this corridor crossing of the 101 Freeway is highly constrained, with documented effects on wildlife permeability and genetic diversity. Further study is needed to better understand these constraints with the goal of eventually constructing an infrastructure solution to the habitat fragmentation caused by the freeway.

The mitigation measure should allocate funding to NPS to conduct the proposed wildlife monitoring, beginning as soon as possible to capture a sufficient time period of crossing data. As noted by NPS, this monitoring must take place both before and after the proposed project. We anticipate that the required level of monitoring will cost approximately \$100,000, however will defer to NPS expertise to better define the study parameters. Depending on the preliminary results of this study, the Conservancy may offer additional comments. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (310) 589-3200, ext. 128.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Edelman", written over a horizontal line.

PAUL EDELMAN
Deputy Director
Natural Resources and Planning