

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 14, 2013

To: The Governing Board Members

From:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

Subject: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing a support letter for Assembly Bill 1213 (the Bobcat Protection Act), an act to add Section 4155 to the Fish and Game Code, relating to fish and wildlife, introduced by Assembly Member Bloom.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board authorize a support letter for Assembly Bill 1213 (the Bobcat Protection Act), an act to add Section 4155 to the Fish and Game Code, relating to fish and wildlife, introduced by Assembly Member Bloom.

Background: Assembly Member Richard Bloom has introduced the Bobcat Protection Act of 2013 to ban the commercial trapping of bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) in California, along with the commercial sale and export of bobcat pelts. See attached copy of the bill, fact sheet, support letter from Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, and resolution of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy supporting said act.

Bobcats are an irreplaceable part of California's natural heritage, playing an important ecological role not just in the ecosystems they inhabit, but also in the state's recreation, tourism and wildlife viewing industries. However, bobcats receive only very limited protections under current law.

The current authority of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue depredation permits for bobcats would not be affected. Hunting of bobcats consistent with existing law and regulations would still be allowed in California.

There are no costs associated with this bill. The Senate scheduled a floor session on August 12, 2013, which includes the consideration of this bill.