

2204 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0533  
(202) 225-3976  
waxman.house.gov

RANKING MEMBER  
COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

LOS ANGELES OFFICE:  
8436 WEST THIRD STREET  
SUITE 600  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90048-4183  
(323) 651-1040

MANHATTAN BEACH OFFICE:  
1600 ROSECRANS AVENUE  
4TH FLOOR  
MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266-3708  
(310) 321-7664

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0533**

HENRY A. WAXMAN  
33RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

December 12, 2014

**Mr. Douglas Bosco**  
**Chairman**  
**California Coastal Conservancy**  
**1330 Broadway, Suite 1300**  
**Oakland, California 94612-2530**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express support for the funding request submitted by Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) to the State Coastal Conservancy for the planning, design and environmental compliance for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at the US - 101 highway.

The Santa Monica Mountains to the Sierra Madre Range is one of the few coastal to inland habitat connections remaining in Southern California and it is important to preserve and enhance this critical linkage. The National Park Service (NPS) has been collecting and publishing data on large-carnivore movements for over a decade, further validating the importance of the linkage for sustaining wildlife populations in the Santa Monica Mountains. As the research indicates, the US-101 highway acts as an impenetrable barrier for wildlife as they attempt to migrate into or out of the mountains. Animals with large home ranges, such as mountain lions, are essentially trapped, resulting in inbreeding and high mortality rates.

Caltrans and many other stakeholders have been working towards this crossing for over a decade and now is a critical time for implementation. Research by the NPS' Carnivore Study proves that mountain lions are already inbreeding in the Santa Monica Mountains due to the physical barrier in reaching other mates. Without outside genetic material in the population, the animals could be extirpated.

This grant will allow for the opportunity to provide the seed funding for a landmark project that will help reconnect an entire ecosystem and potentially build what could be the largest wildlife crossing in the world. The project also has the additional benefit of increasing recreational and outdoor opportunities for local residents and legions of visitors to the Santa Monica Mountain Recreation Area, the largest urban park in the country.

For all of these reasons, I strongly support the Liberty Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101 project and urge the State Coastal Conservancy Board to support the grant application from Caltrans and the NWF.

December 12, 2014

Page 2

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry A. Waxman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

HENRY A. WAXMAN

Member of Congress

HAW:rz

Cc: Beth Pratt, National Wildlife Federation



JULIA BROWNLEY  
26TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
<http://juliabrownley.house.gov>

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0526

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE

December 23, 2014

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, California 94612

Re: SCC Grant for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. Highway 101

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing this letter of introduction on behalf of the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS), the state agency responsible for highway, bridge, and rail transportation planning, construction, and maintenance, and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). The National Wildlife Federation is a conservation organization that works with members, partners and supporters to inspire Americans to protect wildlife so that future generations can thrive along with wildlife and natural areas.

It is my understanding that CALTRANS and NWF are applying for funding from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) for the planning, design, and environmental compliance for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. Highway 101.

The Santa Monica Mountains to the Sierra Madre Range is one of the few coastal to inland habitat connections remaining in Southern California and I recognize the need to preserve and enhance this critical linkage. I am told the National Park Service (NPS) has been collecting and publishing data on large-carnivore movements in the area for over a decade, validating the importance of the linkage for sustaining wildlife populations in the Santa Monica Mountains. As the research demonstrates, the U.S. Highway 101 acts as an impenetrable barrier for wildlife as they attempt to migrate into or out of the Santa Monica Mountains. Animals with large home ranges, such as mountain lions, are essentially trapped within the mountain range, resulting in inbreeding and high mortality rates.

CALTRANS and many other stakeholders have been working toward this crossing for over a decade, and now is the critical time to begin implementation. Research by the NPS's Carnivore Study proves that mountain lions are already inbreeding in the Santa Monica Mountains because they cannot physically reach other potential mates. Without outside genetic material in the population, they could be extirpated.

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

With this grant, I recognize the SCC has an opportunity to provide the seed funding for a landmark project that will help reconnect an entire ecosystem, and potentially build what could be the largest wildlife crossing in the world. The project also has the additional benefit of increasing recreational and outdoor opportunities for local residents and the hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Santa Monica Mountain Recreation Area, the largest urban park in the country.

I appreciate your full and fair consideration of the application from CALTRANS and the National Wildlife Federation, consistent with all relevant rules and regulations. Thank you for your attention to this matter

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julia Brownley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

JULIA BROWNLEY  
Member of Congress

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4035  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4027  
FAX (916) 651-4927

DISTRICT OFFICE  
5016 N. PARKWAY CALABASAS  
SUITE 222  
CALABASAS, CA 91302  
TEL (818) 876-3352  
FAX (818) 876-0802

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
FRAN PAVLEY

TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER  
CHAIR  
ELECTIONS  
ENERGY, UTILITIES &  
COMMUNICATIONS  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING

December 22, 2014

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: SCC Grant for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express support for the grant application from Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation to the State Coastal Conservancy for the planning, design, and environmental compliance for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101. This planned wildlife crossing is located in the heart of my State Senate District and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

The Santa Monica Mountains to the Sierra Madre Range is one of the few coastal to inland habitat connections remaining in Southern California, and we recognize the need to preserve and enhance this critical linkage. The National Park Service (NPS) has been collecting and publishing data on large-carnivore movements for over a decade, validating the importance of the linkage for sustaining wildlife populations in the Santa Monica Mountains. As the research demonstrates, the US-101 acts an impenetrable barrier for wildlife as they attempt to migrate into or out of the Santa Monica Mountains. Animals with large home ranges, such as mountain lions, are essentially trapped within the mountain range, resulting in inbreeding and high mortality rates.

Caltrans and a coalition of stakeholders, including the NPS, Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the cities of Agoura Hills and Thousand Oaks, and many others have been working toward this crossing for over a decade, and now is the critical time to begin implementation. Research by the NPS's Carnivore Study proves that mountain lions are already inbreeding in the Santa Monica Mountains, because they cannot physically reach other potential mates. Without outside genetic material in the population, they could be extirpated.

With this grant, the SCC has an opportunity to provide the seed funding for a landmark project that will help reconnect an entire ecosystem, and potentially build what could be the largest wildlife crossing in the world. The project also has the additional benefit of increasing recreational and outdoor opportunities for local residents and the hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Santa Monica Mountain Recreation Area, the largest urban park in the country.

For all of these reasons, I strongly support the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101 project and urge the State Coastal Conservancy Board to support the grant application from Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Bill Craven in my Capitol Office at (916) 651-4027 or Kara Seward in my District Office at (818) 876-3352.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fran Pavley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fran Pavley  
State Senator, District 27

cc: Barbara Marquez, Senior Environmental Planner, Caltrans District 7  
Beth Pratt, California Director, National Wildlife Federation



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

821 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
Tel: 213-974-3333 Fax: 213-625-7360 Sheila@bos.lacounty.gov

**SHEILA KUEHL**  
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

December 18th, 2014

Douglas Bosco, Chair

State Coastal Conservancy

1330 Broadway, Suite 1300

Oakland, CA 94612

Re: SCC Grant for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101

Dear Doug,

On behalf of the residents of the 3rd Supervisorial District of Los Angeles County, I am writing to express support for the funding requested by Caltrans from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) for the planning, design, and environmental compliance for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101.

As National Park Service research demonstrates, the US-101 currently acts an impenetrable barrier for wildlife as they attempt to migrate into or out of the Santa Monica Mountains. Animals with large home ranges, such as mountain lions, are essentially trapped within the mountain range, resulting in inbreeding and high mortality rates.

Caltrans and many other stakeholders have been working to make this crossing happen for over a decade, and now is the critical time to begin implementation. With this grant, the SCC has an opportunity to provide the seed funding for a landmark project that will help reconnect an entire ecosystem, and potentially build what could be the largest wildlife crossing in the world. The project also has the additional benefit of increasing recreational and outdoor opportunities for local residents and

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

the hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Santa Monica Mountain Recreation Area, the largest urban park in the country.

For all of these reasons, I strongly support the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101 project and urge the State Coastal Conservancy Board to support the application from Caltrans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sheila Kuehl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large loops and a prominent initial "S".

Sheila Kuehl, Los Angeles County Supervisor



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF VENTURA

GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

From the Desk of **STEVE BENNETT**  
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT  
(805) 654-2703  
FAX: (805) 654-2226  
E-mail: [steve.bennett@ventura.org](mailto:steve.bennett@ventura.org)

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD  
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PETER C. FOY  
JOHN C. ZARAGOZA

December 11, 2014

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: SCC Grant for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express support for the funding requested by Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation from the State Coastal Conservancy for the planning, design, and environmental compliance for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101. The crossing will provide a critically needed connection for wildlife, including mountain lions, that inhabit the Santa Monica Mountains that stretch across both Ventura and Los Angeles counties.

The Santa Monica Mountains to the Sierra Madre Range is one of the few coastal to inland habitat connections remaining in Southern California and we recognize the need to preserve and enhance this critical linkage. The National Park Service (NPS) has been collecting and publishing data on large-carnivore movements for over a decade, validating the importance of the linkage for sustaining wildlife populations in the Santa Monica Mountains. As the research demonstrates, the US-101 acts an impenetrable barrier for wildlife as they attempt to migrate into or out of the Santa Monica Mountains. Animals with large home ranges, such as mountain lions, are essentially trapped within the mountain range, resulting in inbreeding and high mortality rates.

Caltrans and many other stakeholders have been working toward this crossing for over a decade, and now is the critical time to begin implementation. Research by the NPS's Carnivore Study proves that mountain lions are already inbreeding in the Santa Monica Mountains because they cannot physically reach other potential mates. Without outside genetic material in the population, they could be extirpated.

With this grant, the SCC has an opportunity to provide the seed funding for a landmark project that will help reconnect an entire ecosystem, and potentially build what could be the largest wildlife crossing in the world. The project also has the additional benefit of increasing

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

recreational and outdoor opportunities for local residents and the hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Santa Monica Mountain Recreation Area, the largest urban park in the country.

For all of these reasons, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors strongly supports the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101 project, and urges the State Coastal Conservancy Board to support the application from Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "S" and a long, horizontal tail.

Steve Bennett  
Chair, Ventura County Board of Supervisors

cc. Beth Pratt, National Wildlife Federation, [prattb@nwf.org](mailto:prattb@nwf.org)



City Council

2100 Thousand Oaks Boulevard • Thousand Oaks, CA 91362  
Phone 805/449.2121 • Fax 805/449.2125 • www.toaks.org

December 11, 2014

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY GRANT- LIBERTY CANYON WILDLIFE CROSSING AT U.S. 101**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the City of Thousand Oaks, I am writing to express support for the funding requested by Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) for the planning, design, and environmental compliance for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101.

The Santa Monica Mountains to the Sierra Madre Range is one of the few coastal to inland habitat connections remaining in Southern California and we recognize the need to preserve and enhance this critical linkage. The National Park Service (NPS) has been collecting and publishing data on large-carnivore movements for over a decade, validating the importance of the linkage for sustaining wildlife populations in the Santa Monica Mountains. As the research demonstrates, the US-101 acts an impenetrable barrier for wildlife as they attempt to migrate into or out of the Santa Monica Mountains. Animals with large home ranges, such as mountain lions, are essentially trapped within the mountain range, resulting in inbreeding and high mortality rates.

Caltrans and many other stakeholders have been working toward this crossing for over a decade, and now is the critical time to begin implementation. Research by the NPS's Carnivore Study proves that mountain lions are already inbreeding in the Santa Monica Mountains because they cannot physically reach other potential mates. Without outside genetic material in the population, they could be extirpated.

With this grant, the SCC has an opportunity to provide the seed funding for a landmark project that will help reconnect an entire ecosystem, and potentially build what could be the largest wildlife crossing in the world. The project also has the additional benefit of

**State Coastal Conservancy Grant**

**December 11, 2014**

**Page 2**

increasing recreational and outdoor opportunities for local residents and the hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Santa Monica Mountain Recreation Area, the largest urban park in the country.

For all of these reasons, the City of Thousand Oaks strongly supports the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101 project and urges the State Coastal Conservancy Board to support the application from Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Al Adam  
Mayor

c. Beth Pratt, National Wildlife Federation, [prattb@nwf.org](mailto:prattb@nwf.org)

C:\CMO\100-40:H:Common\Council Correspondence\Adam\2014\12 11 2014 SCC Letter.doc



**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY**

RAMIREZ CANYON PARK  
5750 RAMIREZ CANYON ROAD  
MALIBU, CALIFORNIA 90265  
PHONE (310) 589-3200  
FAX (310) 589-3207  
WWW.SMMC.CA.GOV



January 5, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, California 94612

**State Coastal Conservancy Grant for  
Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at US 101**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy expresses its support for the proposed State Coastal Conservancy grant to the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the planning, design, and environmental compliance of the Liberty Canyon – 101 Freeway Wildlife Overcrossing. Extensive animal tracking data and agency consensus dictate the regional significance of this proposed project. This project is an investment that will pay dividends for decades. It will also provide recreational benefits for the Simi to the Sea trail. The timing of the proposed grant will allow the project to continue moving directly forward upon completion of Caltrans' Project Study Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rorie Skei".

RORIE SKEI

Chief Deputy Director



Exhibit 4: Project Letters  
**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

January 5, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, California 94612

**State Coastal Conservancy Grant for  
Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at US 101**

Dear Mr. Bosco,

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority expresses its support for the proposed State Coastal Conservancy grant to the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the planning, design, and environmental compliance of the Liberty Canyon – 101 Freeway Wildlife Overcrossing. This cutting edge project both enhances and protects a billion dollars of public open space investment in the Simi Hills and Santa Monica Mountains. The need and efficacy of the freeway overpass are supported by a decade of research by the National Park Service. This project represents a great coalescence of public and public agency support working with Caltrans to create permanent regional ecological and recreational benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Edelman".

Paul Edelman  
Chief of Natural Resources and Planning



**RESOURCE**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
OF THE  
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

818.597.8627 **phone**  
818.597.8630 **fax**  
info@rcdsmm.org

30000 Mulholland Highway, Agoura Hills, CA 91301  
Mail: PO Box 638, Agoura Hills, CA 91376-0638

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Clark Stevens, Architect

January 2, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: SCC Grant for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of The Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains I am writing to express support for the funding requested by Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation from the State Coastal Conservancy for the planning, design, and environmental compliance for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101. This grant will build upon work to date supported by numerous funding and technical partners, which has resulted in conceptual planning and schematic design for the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing area, and will fund the next critical stage of the design process at Caltrans.

The Santa Monica Mountains to the Sierra Madre Range is one of the few coastal to inland habitat connections remaining in Southern California and we recognize the need to preserve and enhance this critical linkage. The National Park Service (NPS) has been collecting and publishing data on large-carnivore movements for over a decade, validating the importance of the linkage for sustaining wildlife populations in the Santa Monica Mountains. As the research demonstrates, the US-101 acts an impenetrable barrier for wildlife as they attempt to migrate into or out of the Santa Monica Mountains. Animals with large home ranges, such as mountain lions, are essentially trapped within the mountain range, resulting in inbreeding and high mortality rates.

Caltrans and many other stakeholders have been working toward this crossing for over a decade, and now is the critical time to begin implementation. Research by the NPS's Carnivore Study proves that mountain lions are already inbreeding in the Santa Monica Mountains because they cannot physically reach other potential mates. Without outside genetic material in the population, they could be extirpated.

With this grant, the SCC has an opportunity to provide the seed funding for a landmark project that will help reconnect an entire ecosystem, and potentially build what could be the largest wildlife crossing in the world. The project also has the additional benefit of increasing recreational and outdoor opportunities for local residents and the hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Santa Monica Mountain Recreation Area, the largest urban park in the country.



**RESOURCE**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
OF THE  
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

For all of these reasons, The Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains strongly supports the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101 project and urges the State Coastal Conservancy Board to support the application from Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Stevens'.

Clark Stevens, Architect  
Executive Officer

cc. Beth Pratt, National Wildlife Federation, [prattb@nwf.org](mailto:prattb@nwf.org)



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

625 WEST HILLCREST DRIVE, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD  
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Chair  
STEVE BENNETT  
LINDA PARKS  
PETER C. FOY  
JOHN C. ZARAGOZA

**LINDA PARKS**  
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT  
(805) 214-2510  
FAX: (805) 480-0585  
E-mail: [Linda.Parks@ventura.org](mailto:Linda.Parks@ventura.org)

January 16, 2015

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: SCC Grant for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support for the funding requested by Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation from the State Coastal Conservancy for the planning, design, and environmental compliance for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101.

The habitat linkage between the Santa Monica Mountains and the Simi Hills is of vital importance to maintaining the genetic integrity and population stability of wildlife in the region. The 101 Freeway bisects and fragments wildlife habitat, but a dedicated crossing at Liberty Canyon would provide critical passage between the Simi Hills and the Santa Monica Mountains. Such a wildlife crossing would be a key step forward to sustain our local mountain lion population.

A Liberty Canyon wildlife crossing would not only help to maintain and protect healthy wildlife populations, it would also enhance motorist safety on the 101 Freeway by providing a passage that wildlife could use rather than traversing the freeway. The project also has the additional benefit of increasing recreational and outdoor opportunities for local residents and visitors to the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area. I strongly support funding for this most worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Parks".

Linda Parks  
Supervisor, 2<sup>nd</sup> District



---

*"Gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area"*

---

Via US Mail/E-Mail

January 12, 2015

Mr. Douglas Bosco  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Ste. 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support – Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing

Dear Mr. Bosco and Board Members:

On behalf of the City Council for the City of Agoura Hills, this letter is to express our support for the allocation of a grant to The National Wildlife Federation who recently applied for a grant with the State Coastal Conservancy on behalf of Caltrans for \$1 million--the money would be used by Caltrans for the design and environmental compliance for the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing. It is our understanding that funding considerations are in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 and the State Coastal Conservancy is scheduled to discuss this matter soon.

If approved, this project will provide significant wildlife crossing enhancements and habitat linkage at US 101 and Liberty Canyon. A coalition including RCDSMM, the National Park Service, Caltrans, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority, local cities, elected officials, and adjacent land owners have expressed support for this endeavor.

At its November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Council approved Resolution No. 14-1768 (attached), expressing its support for the building of a wildlife corridor on the 101 freeway. Recent news stories have documented the killing of a mountain lion while attempting to cross the US 101 freeway. The National Park Service Carnivore Study has been running since 1996 and has an extraordinary collection of GPS data derived from 26 radio collared mountain lions.

Many data points show resident mountain lions approaching the Ventura Freeway (US 101) and turning around, demonstrating the need for wildlife crossing enhancements. The allocation of funding to move forward the building of a wildlife corridor on the US 01 Freeway would benefit the region.

Support – Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing

November 12, 2014

Page 2

We urge your support for this funding allocation and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Illece Buckley-Weber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Illece Buckley-Weber  
Mayor

cc: City Council  
City Manager

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-1768**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT FOR THE BUILDING OF A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR ON THE 101 FREEWAY**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Agoura Hills lies within the Santa Monica Mountains, an important habitat whose natural beauty is an important part of the character of Agoura Hills and its way of life. Maintaining and protecting the ecosystem of the Santa Monica Mountains is critical to maintaining and protecting the economic and social values of Agoura Hills residents; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years, the Santa Monica Mountains area has suffered habitat degradation and species loss due to isolation from other natural habitat areas as the result of human development. In particular, the habitats have become totally isolated by the US 101 and I-405 Freeways; and

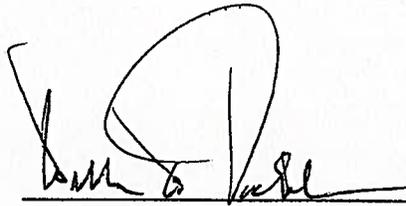
**WHEREAS**, the region's wildlife is suffering from the isolation and the ecosystem of the Santa Monica Mountains is threatened with long term degradation if the isolation persists. The apex predator of the Santa Monica Mountains, the mountain lion, has shown signs of increased conflict and genetic defects as a result of its inability to disperse. Because local urban parklands are bordered by major freeways, its nearly impossible for mountain lions and other wildlife to cross safely into new territories. Without free movement, the wildlife is threatened with the loss of genetic diversity and territorial disputes, much of which is caused by the dangers of crossing multilane freeways; and

**WHEREAS**, a growing group of advocates, including the National Park Service, Caltrans, Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy, Mountain Recreation and Conservancy Authority, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, National Wildlife Foundation, Western Alliance for Nature, Santa Monica Mountains Fund, the City of Calabasas, the City of Malibu, and others, have joined together on a project to build a wildlife corridor across the US 101 at Liberty Canyon in order to link protected habitats on either side of the freeway. The passage will provide mountain lions and other wildlife safe passage to find more food and mates, and will improve the genetic diversity of both flora and fauna of the Santa Monica Mountain ecosystem.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS HEREBY** supports a wildlife corridor on the US 101 at Liberty Canyon in Agoura Hills to protect the ongoing health of Santa Monica Mountains ecosystem and preserve this natural heritage for Agoura Hills residents today and in the future.

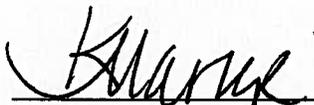
**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Agoura Hills this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014, by the following vote to wit:

AYES: (5) Koehler, Buckley Weber, Edelston, Schwarz, Weber  
NOES: (0)  
ABSENT: (0)  
ABSTAIN: (0)



William D. Koehler,  
Mayor

ATTEST:



Kimberly M. Rodrigues, MMC  
City Clerk





CITY of CALABASAS

LUCY MARTIN  
Mayor pro Tem

January 7, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: SCC Grant for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express support for the funding requested by Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation from the State Coastal Conservancy for the planning, design, and environmental compliance for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101.

The Santa Monica Mountains to the Sierra Madre Range is one of the few coastal to inland habitat connections remaining in Southern California and we recognize the need to preserve and enhance this critical linkage. The National Park Service (NPS) has been collecting and publishing data on large-carnivore movements for over a decade, validating the importance of the linkage for sustaining wildlife populations in the Santa Monica Mountains. As the research demonstrates, the US-101 acts an impenetrable barrier for wildlife as they attempt to migrate into or out of the Santa Monica Mountains. Animals with large home ranges, such as mountain lions, are essentially trapped within the mountain range, resulting in inbreeding and high mortality rates.

Caltrans and many other stakeholders have been working toward this crossing for over a decade, and now is the critical time to begin implementation. Research by the NPS's Carnivore Study proves that mountain lions are already inbreeding in the Santa Monica Mountains because they cannot physically reach other potential mates. Without outside genetic material in the population, they could be extirpated.

With this grant, the SCC has an opportunity to provide the seed funding for a landmark project that will help reconnect an entire ecosystem, and potentially build what could be the largest wildlife crossing in the world. The project also has the additional benefit of increasing recreational and outdoor opportunities for local residents and the hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Santa Monica Mountain Recreation Area, the largest urban park in the country.

100 Civic Center Way  
Calabasas, CA 91302  
(818) 224-1600  
Fax (818) 225-7324

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

Douglas Bosco, Chair

January 7, 2015

Page 2

For all of these reasons, I strongly support the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101 project and urges the State Coastal Conservancy Board to support the application from Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation.

Sincerely,



Lucy Martin

Mayor pro Tem

LM/ah

cc. Beth Pratt, National Wildlife Federation, [prattb@nwf.org](mailto:prattb@nwf.org)

## Exhibit 4: Project Letters



1.805.225.4766 • INFO@CLAWONLINE.ORG • PO BOX 50000 • STUDIO CITY CA. 91614

January 19, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: SCC Grant for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, Inc. (CLAW) is a non-profit advocacy group whose mission is to promote, educate and protect the fundamental importance of wildlife, wildlife corridors and wildlife habitats everywhere. Within the City of Los Angeles, CLAW is working closely with citizens and City Council as well as the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to implement an ordinance that would protect existing wildlife habitat linkages (wildlife corridors) in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains and establish a Regional Wildlife Habitat linkage zone in the Los Angeles municipal code (LA City Council File 14-0518.) Our efforts are closely connected to Liberty Canyon, Agoura Hills, the Coast, the Rim of the Valley and beyond.

Reconnecting ancient wildlife connectivity is the case we are facing now at the Liberty Canyon and US-101 in Agoura Hills. Therefore, CLAW joins Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation to urgently request funding from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) for the planning, design, and environmental compliance for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101.

The Santa Monica Mountains to the Sierra Madre Range is one of the few coastal to inland habitat connections remaining in Southern California and we recognize the need to preserve and enhance this critical linkage. The National Park Service (NPS) has been collecting and publishing data on large-carnivore movements for over a decade, validating the importance of the linkage for sustaining wildlife populations in the Santa Monica Mountains. As the research demonstrates, the US-101 acts an impenetrable barrier for wildlife as they attempt to migrate into or out of the Santa Monica Mountains. Animals with large home ranges, such as mountain lions, are essentially trapped within the mountain range, resulting in inbreeding and high mortality rates.

With this grant, the SCC has an opportunity to provide the seed funding for a landmark project that will help reconnect an entire ecosystem, and potentially build what could be the largest wildlife crossing in the world. The project also has the additional benefit of increasing recreational and outdoor opportunities for local residents and the hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Santa Monica Mountain Recreation Area, the largest urban park in the country.

For these reasons, CLAW strongly supports the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101 project and urges the State Coastal Conservancy Board to support the application from Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation.

Sincerely,

Alison Simard  
Chair, Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW)

cc. Beth Pratt, National Wildlife Federation, [prattb@nwf.org](mailto:prattb@nwf.org)

P.O. Box 27404  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

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Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

January 19, 2015

Re: Support for SCC Grant for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at  
US 101

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc., founded in 1952, represents 44 homeowner and residents associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains, from Pacific Palisades to Mt. Washington. The Federation's mission is to protect the property and quality of life of its over 200,000 constituents and to conserve the natural habitat and appearance of the hillside and mountain areas in which they live.

The Federation supports the funding requested by Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation from the State Coastal Conservancy for the planning, design, and environmental compliance for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at US 101.

This project will provide significant wildlife and habitat linkage at US 101 and Liberty Canyon. This connectivity is needed to support the ongoing efforts of groups like the Resource Conservation District, the National Park Service, Caltrans, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority, local cities and elected officials, and adjacent land owners to facilitate safe wildlife passage in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood  
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners  
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners  
Bel Air Ridge Association  
Benedict Canyon Association  
Brentwood Hills Homeowners  
Brentwood Residents Coalition  
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners  
Canyon Back Alliance  
CASM-SFV  
Crests Neighborhood Assn.  
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West  
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.  
Highlands Owners Assn.  
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.  
Hollywood Heights Assn.  
Hollywoodland Homeowners  
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.  
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.  
Lake Hollywood HOA  
Laurel Canyon Assn.  
Lookout Mountain Alliance  
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.  
Mt. Olympus Property Owners  
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.  
Nichols Canyon Assn.  
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon  
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.  
Oaks Homeowners Assn.  
Outpost Estates Homeowners  
Pacific Palisades Residents Assn.  
Residents of Beverly Glen  
Roscomare Valley Assn.  
Save Sunset Blvd.  
Shadow Hills Property Owners  
Sherman Oaks HO Assn.  
Studio City Residents Assn.  
Sunset Hills Homeowners Assn.  
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.  
Torreyson Flynn Assn.  
Upper Mandeville Canyon  
Upper Nichols Canyon NA  
Upper Riviera Homeowners Assn.  
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS  
Shirley Cohen  
Jerome C. Daniel  
Patricia Bell Hearst  
Alan Kishbaugh  
Gordon Murley  
Steve Twining

CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM  
Brian Moore  
Polly Ward

The natural and urban barriers hindering wildlife from dispersing to new territory limits the genetic diversity and increases the possibility of death by territorial disputes and freeway crossings. The dangers were uniquely highlighted in October 2013 when a genetically desirable male mountain lion — previously unknown to area researchers — was killed crossing US 101 at this location. The unique genetic code from this male is sorely needed in the Santa Monica Mountains, where recent instances of inbreeding have occurred in what is already the least genetically diverse population of mountain lions outside of Florida.

The National Park Service Carnivore Study, which has collected data for almost 20 years from 26 radio collared mountain lions, show resident mountain lions approaching the Ventura Freeway (US 101) and turning around, demonstrating the urgent need for wildlife crossings. The prime location for these enhancements in the immediate future is the US 101 at Liberty Canyon, where one mountain lion (and many other animals) appears to have successfully used the crossing. The wildlife crossing at Liberty Canyon will increase the likelihood of wildlife usage and promote safe passage from the Santa Monica Mountains to the Simi Hills. Additionally, this crossing will increase recreational and outdoor opportunities for local residents and visitors to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

On behalf of our hillside constituency, we urge you to support the application before you.

Sincerely,

*Marian Dodge*

Marian Dodge



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area  
401 West Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks, California 91360-4207

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

January 2, 2015

Re: SCC Grant for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U.S. 101

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter is regarding the application submitted by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the National Wildlife Federation for the planning, design, and environmental compliance for the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing project. Our agency has been working closely with both Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation to develop a workable solution for a crossing in that area.

The Santa Monica Mountains to the Sierra Madre Range has been identified as one of the most important wildlife connections in Southern California, and we recognize the need to preserve and enhance this critical linkage. The National Park Service (NPS) has been studying the movements of carnivores in this area for close to 20 years, focusing specifically on the barrier effects of large roads such as freeways. This research has demonstrated that US-101 acts as an almost complete barrier for carnivores, including bobcats, coyotes, and especially mountain lions, as they attempt to disperse into or out of the Santa Monica Mountains. Mountain lions in particular, the last large carnivore in the park, are essentially trapped within the mountain range, resulting in close inbreeding (such as father-daughter matings), high mortality for dispersing animals from intraspecific aggression, and very low genetic diversity.

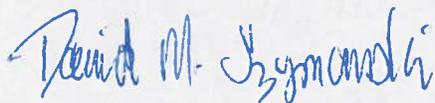
Caltrans and many other stakeholders (especially NPS, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and California State Parks) have been working toward this wildlife crossing for over a decade, and now is the critical time to begin implementation. The levels of genetic diversity documented by the NPS research are lower than in any other mountain lion population in the western U.S. The only population of this species with lower levels of genetic diversity was the endangered Florida panther, where genetic defects resulted in low survival, poor reproductive success, and the threat of extinction. Without outside genetic material coming in to the Santa Monica Mountains population from the north, it could face similar challenges, including eventual extirpation. Although mountain lions are likely most in danger because of their low population density, the freeway is a major barrier for many other species as well, which would also benefit from increased connectivity.

With this grant, the SCC has an opportunity to provide the seed funding for a landmark project that will help reconnect an entire ecosystem and result in what could be the largest

wildlife crossing in the world. This crossing will make a profound statement about the importance of conservation in California, where residents and agencies have chosen to prioritize the value of wildlife and wilderness even in one of the largest metropolitan areas, and across one of the busiest freeways, in the world. The project has the additional benefit of increasing recreational and outdoor opportunities for local residents and the hundreds of thousands of visitors to Santa Monica Mountain Recreation Area, the largest urban national park in the country.

Completing the planning, design, and environmental compliance is an important step towards the goal of connecting the habitat on both sides of the 101 Freeway. We support the efforts of Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation to secure funding for this goal.

Sincerely,



David Szymanski, Superintendent

cc. Beth Pratt, National Wildlife Federation, [prattb@nwf.org](mailto:prattb@nwf.org)



January 15, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: SCC Grant for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at US 101

SAVE COLDWATER CANYON, a neighborhood organization dedicated to protecting Coldwater Canyon's scenic beauty and preserving the canyon's open spaces and wildlife habitat, expressly supports Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation request for funding the steps necessary for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at U. S. 101.

This is a critical link in the protection of larger wildlife such as mountain lions, deer and bobcats. These animals need safe links between main habitats to survive. As civilization encroaches upon their natural habitats it becomes necessary for the animals to travel to other habitats. Without safe linkages between habitats these animals face extinction. U.S. 101 is an impenetrable barrier to wildlife attempting to move in or out of the Santa Monica Mountains. These animals with large home ranges are trapped within the mountain range, causing inbreeding and high death rates. Without being able to find different mates and food sources they will be extinguished.

Caltrans and others have been working on this crossing for many years. The time for implementation is now. The State Coastal Commission has the opportunity to fund a project that would create the largest wildlife crossing in the world. It would also enhance the opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the Santa Monica Mountain Recreation area.

Save Coldwater Canyon!, Inc. urges the Coastal Conservancy to grant funding requested by Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sarah Boyd  
President, Save Coldwater Canyon!, Inc.