

**Wildlife Ordinance Comment Letters received  
March 11, 2019 After 3:00 pm**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Title</b>
Adair	Debra		
Aleman	Debbie		
Appere	Francois		
Barksdale	Corine		
Barry	Brigitte		
Barry	Patrick		
Benson	Karin		
Berger	Rose		
Bernard	Julie		
Bigley	Geoff		
Bigley	Molly		
Bohnett	Noah		
Bollinger	Carla		
Brady	Deanna		
Brian	Claire		
Buss	Amy		
Cataldo	Lexie		
Davidson	Kenmere		
Dietrick	Jan	Dietrick Institute for Applied Insect Ecology	Executive Director
Donley	Ian		
Dubuc	Nancy		
Elder	Mimi		
Flores	Christine		
Franko	Matthew		
Gann	Jill		
Grace	Olivia		
Greene	Janis		
Harney	Lora		
Henderson	Mark		
Higgason	Tristan		
Higgins	Libby		
Horton	Michael		
Howell	Zizi		
Hughes	Laura		
Ingram	Karen		
Ireland	Catherine		
Ives	Jon R.		

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<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Title</b>
Jamison	Marsha		
Khatchatourian	Erik		
Kohles	Karen		
Lakeman	Darlene		
Lamoire	Kim		
Lee	Brian		
Lees-Taylor	Alison		
Leicht	Ed		
Leonard	Deidre		
Loire	Sophie		
London	Mazal		
Lundin	Lana		
Maher	Laura		
Martin	Julie		
Mason	Marie		
Mather	Robert		
Maulhardt	Terry		
McHugh	Gregory		
McLeod	Mary		
Miller	Carrie		
Nancy	Dubuc		
Naoum	Kathleen		
Nelson	Judy		
Nordenson	Sonia		
Osterhaven	Jan		
O'Sullivan	Nancy	Villanova Preparatory School	Head of School
Palermo	Lauren		
Pasetta	Christina		
Perille	Amy		
Perrin	Sue		
Peters	Vickie		
Petralia	Llysa		
Pfeiffer	Rick		
Pierce	Kathleen		
Rabideau	Randy		
Ramirez	Carmen		
Raskin	Sarah		
Reinman	Sally		



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<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Title</b>
Sands	Tracey		
Schaar	David		
Schaefer	Nancy		
Schmerse	Wendy		
Scott	Eva		
Scott	Carol		
Silvestri	Linda		
Stahl	Alan		
Stott	Carol		
Taylor	Robert		
Thomas	Sandy		
Turner	Ben		
Wells	April		
Wells	Susan		
Whitehurst	Ron	Rincon-Vitova Insectaries	Co-Owner
Wills	Morris		
Wolfe	Trudy		
Yap	Tiffany		
Yeomans	Kathy		
Zrust	Amanda		
		Brushpoppers	

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Debra Adair [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 12:58 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

I care about the future of our local wildlife and other benefits that maintaining an intact ecosystem provide, such as fresh water, clean air, and biodiversity—all of which ensure a healthy and vibrant future for Ventura County's economy and quality of life.

The proposed ordinance represents a reasonable compromise between property owners and wildlife that will enable them to co-exist and thrive for generations to come.

Please reject the recommendations made by the Planning Commission that would undermine the intent of the ordinance such as the reduction of surface water feature setbacks and the exclusion of large areas from the overlay zones. These recommendations only serve to weaken the proposed ordinance's ability to protect wildlife habitat and movement in Ventura County.

Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Debra Adair  
[REDACTED]  
Ojai, CA 93023

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Debbie Aleman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 9:46 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

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Thank you,

Debbie Aleman  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Francois Appere [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 7:00 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

**Categories:** Blue category

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Thank you,

Francois Appere  
[REDACTED]  
Ventura, CA 93003

**Hall, Anna**

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**From:** Corine Barksdale [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 2:14 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Steve  
**Subject:** Wildlife corridors

Please protect the ventura county wildlife corridors and consider a zoning overlap.  
We need to provide a home for all ventura county wildlife.

Thank you for all you do for us.

Corine J. Barksdale

Sent from my iPad

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Brigitte Barry <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 3:49 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

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Thank you,

Brigitte Barry  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Patrick Barry <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 3:50 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

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Thank you,

Patrick Barry  
[REDACTED]

Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Karin Benson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 7:28 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

**Categories:** Blue category

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Thank you,

Karin Benson  
[REDACTED]  
Topanga, CA 90290



**Batinica, Meighan**

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**From:** Sussman, Shelley  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 1:20 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: Board of Supervisors re: Wildlife Corridor

Sending this directly to you instead of wildlife.corridors folder.

**From:** ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 1:04 PM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Board of Supervisors re: Wildlife Corridor

*Lori*

**From:** Sunnie Rose [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 1:00 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Steve <Steve.Bennett@ventura.org>; Parks, Linda <Linda.Parks@ventura.org>; Long, Kelly <kelly.long@ventura.org>; Huber, Bob <Bob.Huber@ventura.org>; John.zaragosa@ventura.org; ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard <ClerkoftheBoard@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** TO: Board of Supervisors re: Wildlife Corridor

Dear Supervisors,

I have thoroughly reviewed the proposed ordinances and am opposed to it in its current form due to security issues, mapping inaccuracies, fire danger and the lack of environmental review.

This ordinance is based on regional biological studies that are outdated by 13 years. The result is a set of **flawed maps** that do not achieve the objective of wildlife passage through undeveloped lands.

The mapped corridors unnecessarily pass through residential neighborhoods, commercial and industrial zones, existing agricultural preserves, and 2 college campuses. The maps must be adjusted to avoid these existing areas.

Restrictions on brush clearance required in stream buffers throughout the corridors are a threat to fuel management efforts that are critical to protect adjacent cities from devastating wildfires like the recent Thomas, Hill and Woolsey Fires.

The restrictions on fencing and lighting have no consideration for security needs of properties near public access trails, parks, schools, businesses and safety hazards.

I urge you to follow all of the recommendations made by your trusted Planning Commission on 1-31-19. In a 5-0 vote the Commissioners outlined further study and many changes to the ordinance. As

this decision is being rushed through without time to rectify the mapping errors, security issues, fire hazards and environmental review, I recommend that you VOTE NO on this ordinance.

As a home and land owner in Ventura County, Lockwood Valley precisely, I am troubled and concerned about the upcoming Wildlife Corridor regulations and restrictions that I understand are going to be voted on and potentially carried out. I am deeply concerned about the wildlife and our forests and about the financial hardships that this will have on myself and my family and neighbors in that it would potentially make it impossible for us to sell our home or rebuild in the event of anything catastrophic. As a hard working person it has taken me all my life to earn enough to purchase land and a home so that I can be able to retire comfortably. This could possibly be financially devastating for the future of my family and lead to homelessness, or our reliability on the county and state for assistance. Should I ever have to walk away, I'd have nothing. Everything I have worked so hard for my entire life is invested in my home.

Lockwood Valley is naturally a Wildlife Corridor. It is a huge valley with a sparse population. Wildlife is presently able to roam freely where ever they want. Lockwood is a remote area and provides little to no danger to wildlife. We embrace and love our wildlife, we protect them and live harmoniously with them. Lockwood Valley is not in danger of development due to the already existing meticulous restrictions and that in fact, most of the land is National Forest and protected.

Residents and Homeowners are not what are causing danger to our beloved wildlife; it's sadly the devastation from forest fires and the forests not being properly overseen for dangerous natural fuels that are causing danger not only to residents but to wildlife. It is not a fair burden that homeowners be made accountable for the losses the County Supervisors and Commissioners

I am encouraging you and the County to not pass this wildlife corridor plan as it is currently being presented and to please work with us, together, to come up with a real solution to protect our beloved wildlife, our national forest treasures, our homes, and all that we have worked so hard for, all of our lives to partake of.

I am abundantly grateful for your service, and the work is not done. This proposal is not the answer. We must continue to find a way to fulfill our mutual objective without infringing on the rights, and backs of the community's that are what make this county strong.

Sincerely,  
Rose Berger  
Lockwood Valley; Frazier Park, CA.

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Julie Bernard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 4:57 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Julie Bernard  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

**Batinica, Meighan**

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**From:** Geoff Bigley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 8:48 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** I do not support

**Categories:** Blue category

I do not support. I do not agree with government telling individuals and/or companies how to manage there land. They know and care for it on a day to day bases and treasure it.

Geoff Bigley

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Molly Bigley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 8:45 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** DO NOT SUPPORT

**Categories:** Blue category

Molly Bigley  
Camarillo, Ca

I DO NOT support the Wildlife Corridor!

**Batinica, Meighan**

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**From:** Noah Bohnett <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 7:24 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Noah Bohnett

[REDACTED]  
Ojai, CA 93023



March 11, 2019

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

Re: Comments for Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors Overlay Zone

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for proposing an ordinance that will provide for a habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors overlay zone (hereafter referred to as wildlife overlay zone). I can't think of anything more important for the future preservation of Ventura County and all of Southern California's wildlife, biological diversity, agricultural industry, and a better environment for humans, than to support the passage of this ordinance.

Sadly, another cougar, P-53, suffering with mange, was captured recently by Jeff Sikich, National Park Service biologist. Mange is an indication that rat poisoning is in her system. Poisoning is one of the stresses our wildlife is subjected to along with their open space diminished by commercial and residential developments, and lack of safe wildlife crossings under/over freeways. Cougars, bobcats, coyotes, and raptors are all too often subjected to anti-coagulant poisoning and become sick and often die, whether treated or not. And, ironically, these are the natural predators of rodents that will keep the rodent population down.

While many of us are focused on the larger mammals that need to be protected, so are smaller animals and the pollinators. Bees and Monarch butterflies are subjected to loss of habitat. Monarch population, once common and plentiful, has declined in recent years and they are now being considered by the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service to be placed on the Endangered Species Act as "Threatened". Ventura County fires, loss of habitat, and use of crop pesticides, are creating a serious threat to Ventura County's agricultural industry.

Because of SOAR, Ventura County has achieved a layer of protection for the agriculture and ranchers, protecting them for loss of their way of life and land. I hope that they will be more willing to make a few minor modifications with their night lighting and fencing to support the Wildlife Overlay Zone.

The Simi Hills is the most viable wildlife habitat-corridor in Ventura County. I strongly urge that the Santa Susana Field Lab, a culturally-historical zone rich with Native American artifacts and petroglyphs are preserved, rocket engine development that greatly contributed to America's landing on the Moon (this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this monumental humankind achievement), a beyond "wildlife corridor" but a wildlife habitat where Dr. Seth Riley reported the cougars aren't just "passing through" but have taken up residence. Boeing has partnered with the management by the North American Land Trust to continue the preservation of the natural and historical resources.

There has been controversy over the clean up of the SSFL. William Vietinghoff, assigned with rocket engine development, was hired by North American Aviation July 1953, then as Rocketdyne in 1955. He was referred to as the, "Aerophysics Laboratory". He retired in 1998, by then Boeing had become the owner of Rocketdyne. They convinced him to stay on to write Engineering procedures for ISO9001 Quality Certification. The projected few months turned into eleven years as a Boeing employee. His length of work at the SSFL, between 1953 and 2006 is 53 years, and an addition three years he worked at the Canoga Park facility. In 2010 he was hired by Boeing as a "Visitor Consultant" and worked at the SSFL Area IV meeting room and gave presentations at the Test Stand site for tour groups. He has reported in various news publications of his experience during the Sodium Reactor Experiment Fuel Element Damage. He was working at the SSFL that day with other workers. The reactor was shut down, workers went home and repairs began the next day. The "meltdown" was not newsworthy. Contamination was created over the years by energy research but not by a "meltdown". The Atomic Energy Commission final report was issued on the incident and available on the internet. Goggle: NAA-SR-4488".


The problem when a lie is told, it can grow larger, which has been the case in this situation. Mr. Vietinghoff was there and reports, "No one was injured from the meltdown, no buildings were damaged, there was no evacuation of the area, no radioactive material was discharged into the soil outside of the reactor."

If the site were contaminated beyond livable, or residential level, then why did the City of Simi Valley and DTSC find after testing in Runkle Canyon, adjacent to the SSFL, that contamination levels, soil and water posed no threat, that a development of 460 residences was approved? My children and I lived at the bottom of Runkle Canyon in the 1970s and it was a mecca for wildlife. This development in the Simi Hills is a killer of wildlife. The SSFL-North America Land Trust needs to be included in the Ventura County Wildlife Overlay Zone to save 2850 acres that is a central connection between Sage Ranch-Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park-Santa Susana Mountains and beyond to the north, Upper Las Virgenes Open space Preserve and the Santa Monica Mountains to the south.

Thank you for your work to provide an ordinance to preserve open space, habitat and wildlife corridors. It's commendable, appreciated, and I fully support.

Sincerely,

Carla Bollinger  
Public Land Alliance Network/PLAN and member of the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club and Conejo Valley Audubon Society





## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Deanna Brady [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 9:35 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Very Concerned Citizen

**Categories:** Blue category

To whom it may concern:

My name is Deanna Brady and I have lived in Moorpark Ca for 15 years. I am very concerned about this WildLife Corridor initiative because it doesn't appear to have been fully vetted and there has been no study down to determine what the fiscal impact would be for our city, businesses and local farmers. I urge you to vote to hold off on this initiative until further planning/studies are conducted.

Sincerely,  
Deanna Brady  
Moorpark resident

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Claire Spiegel Brian [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 1:16 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** please add me to the list of interested parties to receive notifications

claire brian  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Lexie Cataldo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:35 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Lexie Cataldo  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Kenmere Davidson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 8:52 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

**Categories:** Blue category

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Thank you,

Kenmere Davidson

[REDACTED]  
Ventura, CA 93003

March 11, 2019

Steve Bennett, Chair, Ventura County Board of Supervisors  
Members of the Board of Directors  
800 S. Victoria Ave.,  
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Wildlife Corridor Overlay March 12, 2019 1:00 PM

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

We enthusiastically support the proposed legislation creating a wildlife corridor overlay in Ventura County's General Plan. We wish the corridors along the Ventura River where we live and run our business were much wider, but this is a great start..

Ultimately all of the floodplain needs to be in conservation. Mammals must be able to roam from the river to the hills. We look forward to collaboration with transportation agencies to build bridges over Highway 33 and Ventura Avenue that is safe for wildlife and people.

At least ten percent of land must be in perennial vegetation for carbon sequestration and enhancing biodiversity. Science found that insect populations have declined 70% and at an increasing rate due to severe degradation of land and widespread use of Roundup which must be banned. We want to see much more land growing native pollinator plants!

We are running out of time to transform our understanding as a community about functional and dysfunctional natural and working lands. The forecast is in the direction of extinction of most life forms under the current management system. We need a paradigm shift and to act now.

Sincerely,  
Jan Dietrick, Executive Director  
Dietrick Institute for Applied Insect Ecology  
and  
Ron Whitehurst, PCA, Co-Owner, Rincon-Vitova Insectaries  
[REDACTED]  
Ventura, CA 93001

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Ian Donley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:43 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

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Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Ian Donley  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

**Batinica, Meighan**

---

**From:** Nancy Dubuc <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 11:59 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

I care about the future of our local wildlife and other benefits that maintaining an intact ecosystem provide, such as fresh water, clean air, and biodiversity—all of which ensure a healthy and vibrant future for Ventura County's economy and quality of life.

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Thank you,

Nancy Dubuc  
[REDACTED]  
Pasadena, CA 91104

**Batinica, Meighan**

---

**From:** Mimi Elder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 3:58 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

That every county in California does not have at least ONE wildlife protection corridor is shameful. Please, let Ventura take a lead position so that others will follow!!

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

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Thank you,

Mimi Elder  
[REDACTED]  
Goleta, CA 93117



## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Christine Flores <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:39 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

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Thank you,

Christine Flores  
[REDACTED]

Camarillo, CA 93010

**Batinica, Meighan**

---

**From:** Matthew Franko <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 7:52 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Matthew Franko  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Jill Gann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 2:26 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

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Thank you,

Jill Gann  
[REDACTED]  
Oak Park, CA 91377

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Olivia Grace [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 7:08 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Olivia Grace  
[REDACTED]

Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Janis Greene [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 11:35 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Janis Greene  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Lora Harney <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 5:31 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

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Thank you,

Lora Harney  
[REDACTED]  
Moorpark, CA 93021

**Batinica, Meighan**

---

**From:** Mark Henderson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 5:10 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

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Thank you,

Mark Henderson  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Tristan Higgason <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 4:55 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Wildlife project

I'm contacting you in opposition to the proposed wildlife corridor project as it currently stands.

I have several issues with the project:

The maps and research appear to be based on studies that are 20 years old - in particular the riparian data is not even close to existing conditions in our area.

Reading through the data associated with the study shows many inconsistencies and conflicting data that shows that the entire project has been rushed to completion.

For a county that prides itself on our agriculture and history this proposal severely restricts the ability for agriculture to be conducted in a profitable manner and would destroy the contributions of several farming families to our heritage.

If you are going to pursue such a significant project, please take more time and do it right.

Sincerely, Tristan  
Sent from my iPhone



## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Libby Higgins <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 4:42 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Libby Higgins  
[REDACTED]  
Camarillo, CA 93012

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Michael Horton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 10:31 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Michael Horton  
[REDACTED]  
Los Angeles, CA 91311

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Zizi Howell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 4:17 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Zizi Howell  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Laura Hughes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 9:50 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Laura Hughes  
[REDACTED]  
Ventura, CA 93003

**Batinica, Meighan**

---

**From:** Karen Ingram <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 3:01 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Karen Ingram  
[REDACTED]

Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Cathrine Ireland <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 3:52 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Cathrine Ireland

[REDACTED]  
Malibu, CA 90265

**Batinica, Meighan**

---

**From:** Jon R. Ives [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 2:06 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor Protection

We support the proposed wildlife corridor for Ventura County.

Jon and Ann Ives

~~~~~

Jon R. Ives

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Marsha Jamison <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 5:58 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Marsha Jamison  
[REDACTED]

Oxnard, CA 93035



## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Erik Khatchatourian [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:53 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Wild life ordinance - concerned residents

**Categories:** Blue category

Ventura County Supervisors,

We have recently become aware of the wildlife ordinance and are very concerned about lack of communication about a cause with such a big impact to the community. As a homeowner and life long resident of the Conejo Valley, I am concerned about the multitude of changes this ordinance would allow and more concerned that no one is aware of this. Where is the financial analysis study on the potential impact to the community? I am shocked by how one sided this ordinance is when there are multiple parties being impacted. There is seemingly no regard for the people, families, businesses and communities that will be negatively impacted by these changes. Why isn't this a public vote? Implementing so many changes without public knowledge and without a public vote is not right.

As a representative of the people, I implor you to look at all sides and demand that all parties be given equal treatment in the planning and decision process. The downstream effects of this ordinance will impact us all if the land & home owners are forced out of the area. This is your home town too. Our community deserves better. Please do the right thing for the people that know and deserve better and for the larger group of people that have no idea this is happening in their own backyard. Please don't pass this ordinance knowing all of this.

Sincerely,  
Erik and Sara Khatchatourian

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:14 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: TAKE MUTAU FLATS OUT OF WILDLIFE CORRIDOR!

*Lori*

**From:** Karen Kohles [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:04 PM  
**To:** Long, Kelly <kelly.long@ventura.org>; Bennett, Steve <Steve.Bennett@ventura.org>; Parks, Linda <Linda.Parks@ventura.org>; Supervisor Huber <Supervisor.Huber@ventura.org>; Zaragoza, John <John.Zaragoza@ventura.org>; ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard <ClerkoftheBoard@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** TAKE MUTAU FLATS OUT OF WILDLIFE CORRIDOR!

Dear Board of Supervisors,

My family has owned the Mutau Flats property for over 150 years. It is currently in the middle of the Los Padres National Forest. It is also alongside the Sespe Wilderness Area. The forest and wilderness area did not even exist when our family acquired the Mutau Flats land. It is unnecessary for the Mutau Flats to be included as a wildlife corridor. Wildlife have free roam of most of our property and the surrounding forest and wilderness areas. We often see wildlife run right across our valley when we are there. Please revise the corridor map to exclude Mutau Flats from the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen Kohles

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Darlene Lakeman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 2:41 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Darlene Lakeman  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

**Batinica, Meighan**

---

**From:** Brian Lee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 11:30 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridors

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Habitat Connectivity Overlay Zone.

Maintaining our few remaining wildlife corridors is critical to having healthy wildlife populations in our local natural areas. Over time conversion of natural areas to urban and agricultural uses has resulted in a patchwork of remaining green spaces. Unfortunately, most of these natural areas are simply too small to support their native wildlife. Without connections to large open spaces like the National Forests they will lose key species and the ability to function as nature intended.

Conservation groups and government agencies have invested years of work and millions of dollars to maintain important wildlife corridors in the California. A network of linkages is being protected across the state. Here in Ventura places like Ahmanson Ranch and Rocky Peak Park were acquired for public recreation and to protect wildlife corridors. More recently nearly 400 acres of Alamos Canyon were acquired including a large wildlife crossing under the 118 Freeway. The result allows wildlife traveling on an existing key corridor to safely cross under the freeway. We need to protect our investment by maintaining these corridors.

We now need to ensure that our open spaces and farmlands continue to allow wildlife passage between our protected areas. Wildlife movement is compatible with farms and ranching. We can ensure both will continue thrive with a common sense based solution. I believe that the proposed overlay zone is an excellent solution to the problem and does so with a light regulatory touch.

Thank you for considering this important proposed overlay zone.

Sincerely,  
Brian Lee

Excuse my brevity; sent from my phone.

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Alison Lees-Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 8:32 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Alison Lees-Taylor  
[REDACTED]  
Los Angeles, CA 90069

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Ed Leicht <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 8:33 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Cc:** Ed Leicht  
**Subject:** supervisor meeting 3/12/19

**Categories:** Blue category

To the Ventura County Board of Supervisors:

I am the property owner of:  
11097 Rodeo Dr  
Oak View, CA

My wife and I purchased the property in 2016 and were not informed of any pending action regarding Wildlife Corridors. The first we heard of it was when we read about it in the January 2019 flyer mailed to our house, which we received just prior to the public hearing meeting, but we were not able to attend. That flyer did not make the supervisor meeting sound "imminent", rather we thought that the January public hearing would be followed by multiple public hearings as is common in these types of decisions. Looking over the VCRMA website tonight I can see that there have been prior meetings in June and August 2017 and August 2018 (none of which we received notification for via mail, phone, email, etc). That makes a total of 4 hearings with the affected stakeholders, which seems a minimal interaction given the magnitude of the decision.

I feel that a decision of this magnitude which affects literally hundreds of home and property owners should have well more than 4 public hearings and discussions. It seems to me that there is a "rush" from the board of supervisors to hurry this process along, having begun the process in only 2015 - even electing to prioritize this project ahead of the overall GPU development. What I cannot find in any of the documents available, and given the short time I have known about this project, is an explanation as to the need for speed. Rather this monumental decision, affecting property rights of hundreds of individuals, should be carefully discussed in at least a dozen public hearings, with at least 50% planned after normal business hours so that those of us who need to be at work during the day can attend, be informed, and offer comment.

I appreciate that you can accept comments via email, thank you.

My comment: please hold at least 4-5 more public hearings, which need to be much more well publicized than the last 4 hearings, with at least 1/2 of the next meetings held after 6pm or on a weekend day. Please provide more time for the public to understand the issues at hand without feeling as though it is another government intrusion or restriction. It seems a whirlwind of activity- we were impacted by the Thomas Fire in 2017, spent a few months of 2018 in a hotel, just finished restoring portions of the property in January 2019, now this. Please slow down so we can catch up.

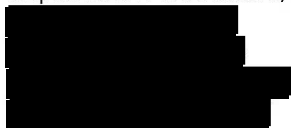
To the VCRMA staff:

Here is a direct question which I cannot see addressed anywhere in the FAQ's: How will public streets interact with the corridors? Creek Road runs centrally along a designated corridor, what is the plan to manage this from a traffic/wildlife encounter standpoint?

Sincerely, and thank you,

Ed Leicht  
[REDACTED]  
Oak View, CA

Ed Leicht  
General Manager / COO  
Implantech Associates, Inc.



**Batinica, Meighan**

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**From:** Deidre Leonard <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 5:23 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

I care about the future of our local wildlife and other benefits that maintaining an intact ecosystem provide, such as fresh water, clean air, and biodiversity—all of which ensure a healthy and vibrant future for Ventura County's economy and quality of life.

The proposed ordinance represents a reasonable compromise between property owners and wildlife that will enable them to co-exist and thrive for generations to come.

Please reject the recommendations made by the Planning Commission that would undermine the intent of the ordinance such as the reduction of surface water feature setbacks and the exclusion of large areas from the overlay zones. These recommendations only serve to weaken the proposed ordinance's ability to protect wildlife habitat and movement in Ventura County.

Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Deidre Leonard  
[REDACTED]  
Camarillo, CA 93012



## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Sophie Loire <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:34 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Wildlife corridor  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Hi!

Please reject the latest draft of the wildlife corridor ordinance.

I love nature and animals but this ordinance makes life or ordinary property owners way too complicated. This ordinance:

- is too big, too complex and impossible to enforce properly and fairly.
- uses a surface flow map with many mistakes.
- applies regulations to residential areas (for example live oak acres) that do not make sense. In residential neighborhoods, wildlife management cannot be applied similarly than on a large ranch or in the forest.

The planning commission recommendations are a good start at making this ordinance more acceptable but a lot still need to be improved.

Please reject this ordinance and suggest its author make additional changes such as the complete removal of any residential neighborhood (for instance "live oak acres" in Oak View).

Thank you.

Sophie Loire

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Mazal London <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 4:45 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

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Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Mazal London  
[REDACTED]  
Simi Valley, CA 93063

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Lana Lundin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 3:36 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

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Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Lana Lundin  
[REDACTED]  
Camarillo, CA 93012

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Laura Maher <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 1:36 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

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Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Laura Maher  
[REDACTED]  
Camarillo, CA 93012

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Marie Mason <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 1:53 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

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Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Marie Mason

[REDACTED]  
Simi Valley, CA 93063

**Batinica, Meighan**

---

**From:** Robert Mather <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 8:40 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

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Please reject the recommendations made by the Planning Commission that would undermine the intent of the ordinance such as the reduction of surface water feature setbacks and the exclusion of large areas from the overlay zones. These recommendations only serve to weaken the proposed ordinance's ability to protect wildlife habitat and movement in Ventura County.

Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Robert Mather  
[REDACTED]  
Ventura, CA 93001

**Batinica, Meighan**

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**From:** Terry Maulhardt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 3:44 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I live in the proposed wildlife corridor and I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

I care about the future of our local wildlife and other benefits that maintaining an intact ecosystem provide, such as fresh water, clean air, and biodiversity—all of which ensure a healthy and vibrant future for Ventura County's economy and quality of life.

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Please reject the recommendations made by the Planning Commission that would undermine the intent of the ordinance such as the reduction of surface water feature setbacks and the exclusion of large areas from the overlay zones. These recommendations only serve to weaken the proposed ordinance's ability to protect wildlife habitat and movement in Ventura County.

Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Terry Maulhardt  
[REDACTED]  
Oak View, CA 93022

**Batinica, Meighan**

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**From:** Hall, Anna  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 4:38 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition to Proposed Wildlife Corridor Ordinance

**From:** Greg McHugh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 4:04 PM  
**To:** Bennett, Steve <[Steve.Bennett@ventura.org](mailto:Steve.Bennett@ventura.org)>; Parks, Linda <[Linda.Parks@ventura.org](mailto:Linda.Parks@ventura.org)>; Long, Kelly <[kelly.long@ventura.org](mailto:kelly.long@ventura.org)>; Huber, Bob <[Bob.Huber@ventura.org](mailto:Bob.Huber@ventura.org)>; Zaragoza, John <[John.Zaragoza@ventura.org](mailto:John.Zaragoza@ventura.org)>; ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard <[ClerkoftheBoard@ventura.org](mailto:ClerkoftheBoard@ventura.org)>  
**Cc:** [bryan@rinconstrategies.com](mailto:bryan@rinconstrategies.com)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Proposed Wildlife Corridor Ordinance

Dear Supervisors,

After careful consideration, I am opposed to this ordinance in its current form due to security issues, mapping inaccuracies, fire danger and the lack of environmental review.

This ordinance is based on regional biological studies that are 13 years old. The result is a set of **flawed maps** that do not achieve the objective of wildlife passage through undeveloped lands.

The mapped corridors unnecessarily pass through residential neighborhoods, commercial and industrial zones, existing agricultural preserves, and 2 college campuses. The maps must be adjusted to avoid these existing areas.



Restrictions on brush clearance required in stream buffers throughout the corridors are a threat to fuel management efforts that are critical to protect adjacent cities from devastating wildfires like the recent Thomas, Hill and Woolsey Fires.

The restrictions on fencing and lighting have no consideration for security needs of properties near public access trails, parks, schools, businesses and safety hazards.

I urge you to follow all of the recommendations made by your trusted Planning Commission on 1-31-19. In a 5-0 vote the Commissioners outlined further study and many changes to the ordinance. As this decision is being rushed through without time to rectify the mapping errors, security issues, fire hazards and environmental review, I recommend that you VOTE NO on this ordinance.

The Planning Commission on 1-31-19 also recommended that two areas (Lockwood Valley and Tierra Rejada) be removed from the overlays, but when Bell Canyon was brought up, the Head of the Planning Commission vehemently opposed removing Bell Canyon from the overlays. She gave no reasons for her adamant opposition to treating Bell Canyon like other urban areas in Ventura County. With the subsequent addition of Boeing to the overlay zones any perceived "need" to include Bell Canyon can no longer justified.

As a resident of Bell Canyon I am deeply offended by the callousness and disregard for our legal rights shown by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. In addition to the many flaws identified above, this proposed ordinance is flawed by violations of due process, violations of equal protection, and violations of the takings clause. If passed as written, this will certainly end up in Federal Court, and possibly with the US Attorney, with significant impact on every Supervisor, every Planning Commissioner, every Planning employee, and others, who worked together to create these violations.

Sincerely,

Gregory F. McHugh  
Bell Canyon

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Mary McLeod <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 1:55 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Mary McLeod

[REDACTED]  
Ojai, CA 93023

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Carrie Miller [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 3:07 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Carrie Miller

[REDACTED]  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Kathleen Naoum <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 1:53 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Kathleen Naoum  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Judy Nelson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 10:16 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Judy Nelson  
[REDACTED]

Ojai, CA 93023

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Sonia Nordenson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 5:01 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife, and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

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Thank you,

Sonia Nordenson

[REDACTED]  
Ojai, CA 93023

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Osterhaven, Jan  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 2:37 PM  
**To:** ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard; Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** "Ventura County ordinance gives animals room to roam", 3/7/19 Guest Editorial, The Acorn  
**Attachments:** 0225\_001.pdf  
**Categories:** Blue category

fyi

# THE Acorn

## Ventura County ordinance gives animals room to roam

GUEST OPInion /// Wildlife protection

*March 07, 2019*

By J.P. Rose

Center for Biological Diversity

His short life ended with a sickening thud on a Ventura County freeway. When the mountain lion kitten became roadkill two years ago, he made headlines for perishing just weeks after his mother was killed on the same part of Highway 118.

Car collisions are a key reason why mountain lions are on the verge of extinction here in Southern California. As development reaches into our last wild places, animals of all kinds are pushed onto roadways, with lethal results for them—and plenty of risk for human drivers. Now Ventura County is fighting back.

County supervisors are poised to adopt a first-of-its-kind ordinance to protect wildlife and the community. The ordinance would give animals like mountain lions room to roam by helping ensure long-term connectivity between the Santa Monica Mountains and Los Padres National Forest. Protective measures like this ordinance are badly needed.

Our planet is enduring what scientists call the sixth mass extinction, with as many as 30 to 50 percent of species potentially going extinct by mid-century. Habitat loss and fragmentation are leading factors.

Here in Southern California, our Santa Monica and Santa Ana mountain lions struggle to avoid highways, development and rat poison's toxic threat. Because



of isolation caused by severe habitat fragmentation, these populations suffer the lowest genetic diversity of any Western population, making them vulnerable to disease.

As a top predator with expansive home ranges, the cougar aids natural dynamics that keep native wildlife and vegetation healthy, which benefits the entire ecosystem, including humans.

Take the eastern U.S., where eastern pumas have been wiped out completely. Deer populations have surged, leading to increases in tick-borne diseases that threaten human health. This overabundance also causes overgrazed vegetation and more collisions between deer and automobiles.

Ventura County's ordinance could help our region avoid a similar fate by safeguarding known wildlife corridors. The ordinance would limit disturbances to lions by encouraging clustering of development, establishing setbacks from streams and wildlife-crossing structures, and prohibiting excessive lighting and wildlife-impermeable fencing.

Such measures are crucial to mountain lions because they're extremely sensitive to human activities and development. One study found that when mountain lions hear human voices, they immediately leave the area— even if that means abandoning their prey.

The ordinance also will give other animals room to find food, shelter and mates as climate change and development intensify. That could help save California's official state amphibian—the California red-legged frog—as well as creatures like the southern steelhead trout.

Despite this ordinance's benefits, a well-funded opposition campaign has circulated inaccurate information. The campaign's attorneys claim the ordinance would increase wildfire danger by limiting defensible space. Not true, according to experts at the Ventura County Fire Protection District, which concluded the ordinance has sufficient fire safety measures.

Excessive removal of native vegetation far from structures can actually spread non-native grasses and weeds that intensify wildfire conditions, according to studies by U.S. Geological Survey scientists. The ordinance could reduce wildfire threats to property by encouraging development in existing communities instead of in fire-prone wildlands.

Opponents also assert that the science supporting the corridors is outdated. But the ordinance is actually based on the best available science, including consultations with the National Park Service, Caltrans, UC Berkeley and conservation organizations.

If corridor areas change over time, Ventura County's ordinance can be updated based upon further studies. What we shouldn't do is sit on our hands while species slide toward extinction.

*J.P. Rose is a staff attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity's Urban Wildlands program.*

# VILLANOVA PREPARATORY SCHOOL

FOUNDED IN 1924 BY THE  
AUGUSTINIAN FATHERS AND BROTHERS

COED RESIDENTIAL AND  
DAY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

January 30, 2019

Ventura County Planning Division  
Attn: Wildlife Corridors  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009-1740

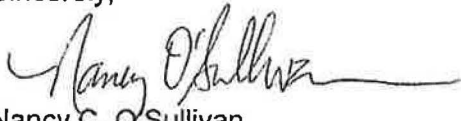
Dear Members of the Ventura County Planning Commission,

Villanova would like comment on the proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor. While Villanova does not object to the concept of a wildlife corridor, we feel the corridor boundaries as proposed were designed using a "broad brush" approach. For example, the proposed border on our property runs directly through the center of our campus between our classroom building and our gymnasium. This area of pavement and sidewalks is not a wildlife corridor.

We believe the corridor should be reviewed on a parcel by parcel basis so that the corridor will be sufficient to meet the goals of the corridor while not being overly restrictive to property owners. We are willing to meet with the county planners to adjust the proposed corridor borders where they lie on Villanova School property.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nancy C. O'Sullivan  
Head of School

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Prillhart, Kim  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 12:11 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Fwd: Wildlife Corridor

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Sussman, Shelley" <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Date:** March 11, 2019 at 11:44:08 AM PDT  
**To:** Nancy O'Sullivan [REDACTED] >  
**Cc:** "Prillhart, Kim" <Kim.Prillhart@ventura.org>, "Offerman, Steve" <Steve.Offerman@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Wildlife Corridor

Hello Ms. O'Sullivan,

Thank you for your attendance at the Planning Commission hearing on January 31 and for providing the map indicating the area you believe should be removed from the proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor. I forwarded your map to Supervisor Bennett's office. As we discussed, the proposed corridor boundaries are not parcel-based, and the Villanova school campus is one of many parcels throughout the corridor where the boundary includes some, but not all of a parcel.

During our discussion, several questions arose:

**Could a baseball field be added to your campus if the Wildlife Corridor ordinance is approved?** Adding a recreational field to your campus would likely require a discretionary permit and the proposed ordinance allows for recreational facilities that have lights and fences.

**Could you add lights to your existing football stadium?** Yes. The proposed ordinance allows for recreational facility lighting that complies with the lighting levels recommended in the "Lighting Handbook" available online by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America for the class of play identified. Recreational lights can stay on after 10:00 p.m. to accommodate a recreational activity that is still ongoing at 10:00 p.m.

**How are parking lot lights impacted?** The proposed ordinance did not change the parking lot lighting standards that are already part of the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance. (See Section 8108-5.12 of the NCZO.)

**How were the corridor boundaries established?** Animal and plant species representing a diversity of habitat needs and movement patterns were identified by a large group of scientists, regulators, academics, land managers, and others. Based on this information, computer modeling and field work was conducted to identify habitat linkage boundaries that are key to supporting animal and plant survival and wildlife movement. This analysis was done on a large "landscape" scale, not a parcel-based scale.

Given that the ordinance seems to allow for the types of development anticipated by the school, we did not see the need to modify the corridor boundary.

Sincerely,  
Shelley Sussman

**From:** Nancy O'Sullivan [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 05, 2019 9:25 AM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor

Hello Shelley,

Thank you for your call yesterday. Please see the attached map which we believe is a more appropriate area for the wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration.

In truth, unity, and love,  
Nancy O' Sullivan  
Head of School

Villanova Preparatory School  
[REDACTED] N [REDACTED] V [REDACTED] A [REDACTED]  
Ojai, Ca 93023  
[REDACTED]

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Lauren Palermo <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 5:01 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

I care about the future of our local wildlife and other benefits that maintaining an intact ecosystem provide, such as fresh water, clean air, and biodiversity—all of which ensure a healthy and vibrant future for Ventura County's economy and quality of life.

The proposed ordinance represents a reasonable compromise between property owners and wildlife that will enable them to co-exist and thrive for generations to come.

Please reject the recommendations made by the Planning Commission that would undermine the intent of the ordinance such as the reduction of surface water feature setbacks and the exclusion of large areas from the overlay zones. These recommendations only serve to weaken the proposed ordinance's ability to protect wildlife habitat and movement in Ventura County.

Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Lauren Palermo  
[REDACTED]  
Simi Valley, CA 93065

**Batinica, Meighan**

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**From:** Christina Pasetta [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 5:54 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

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Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Christina Pasetta  
[REDACTED]  
Ventura, CA 93001

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Amy Perille <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:11 PM  
**To:** Uhlich, Kim; Bennett, Steve; Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor

**Categories:** Blue Category

To the Ventura County Planning Committee and Board of Supervisors,

My name is Amy Perille. My husband Bob and I own a 277+ acre ranch in the Cuyama Valley region of Ventura County. We are located in Corral Canyon. Our address is: 29443 Highway 33, Maricopa, CA 93252. The ranch was purchased through our limited liability company, Silver Birch Partners LLC, in 2012. The property consists of 4 parcels. Two of our four boundary lines abut vast national forestland. We have horses, goats, donkeys, chickens, and alpacas on the property and we enjoy spending time being out in nature hiking and trail riding.

We have concerns about the proposed wildlife corridor in our area. I am a retired veterinarian and have spent time in my early professional career involved in wildlife rehabilitation in Massachusetts. I am concerned about the welfare of wildlife in Southern California, but I feel a wildlife corridor in our area is unnecessary. Our location is extremely remote. We have no land phone lines, no outside cellular service, and no local police, fire or medical services. We are near 4 major wilderness areas: the Sespe, Matilija, Chumash, and Dick Smith Wilderness areas. There are enormous tracks of land in our area for wildlife to travel. For example, there is over one mile of national forest between the northern border of Corral Canyon Ranch and Apache Canyon along highway 33. This large tract of land extends from the mountain wilderness areas above to the Cuyama River below. As with Lockwood Valley, we would like you to consider exempting our area (and surrounding properties) from the corridor. Our personal concern is the restriction that would be imposed for adding new buildings and fencing to our property. The fence restrictions would create problems with providing adequate new fencing for our horses and other farm animals. In the future, we may want to build a barn or maybe another out building for storage. We are aware that there will be an appeal process for these situations, but that process will be most likely be costly and very time consuming. We hope you will take another look at our small corner of Ventura County and consider excluding it from the wildlife corridor.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Perille



## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Hall, Anna  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 4:39 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: I support the Wildlife Corridor Zone!

-----Original Message-----

From: ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard  
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 4:38 PM  
To: Hall, Anna <anna.hall@ventura.org>  
Subject: FW: I support the Wildlife Corridor Zone!

Lori

-----Original Message-----

From: Sue Perrin <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 3:27 PM  
To: ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard <ClerkoftheBoard@ventura.org>  
Subject: I support the Wildlife Corridor Zone!

To whom it may concern,

I am in total support of wildlife corridors in Ventura County. They will reduce car accidents with animals which will save both human and animal lives and will help in allowing animals enough territory to roam to feed and reproduce. I think there will be little impact to personal property for housing and agricultural land.

Thank you,

Sue Perrin  
Santa Rosa Valley  
[REDACTED]

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Vickie Peters <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 7:58 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** VC Board of Supervisors : please SUPPORT the Habitat Connectivity Overlay Zone  
**Categories:** Blue category

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

I join Science & Collaboration for Connected Wildlands along with countless other scientists as well as environmental planners and conservation advocates in applauding the Ventura County Resource Management Agency and the Ventura County Planning Commission for developing and supporting the Habitat Connectivity Overlay Zone (HCOZ) and associated ordinances.

The South Coast Missing Linkages projects managed by SC Wildlands were highly collaborative efforts among federal, state and local agencies as well as non-governmental organizations to identify and conserve landscape-level habitat linkages to protect significant biological and ecological processes in the South Coast Ecoregion. These regionally significant habitat linkages are essential to accommodate wildlife movement and to sustain large-scale ecosystem processes which will support and enhance our region's resilience to the intensifying impacts and consequences of climate change.

The HCOZ is based on two of the South Coast Missing Linkages, the Santa Monica - Sierra Madre Connection, and the Sierra Madre - Castaic Connection, which are part of a broader regional conservation strategy. Having the HCOZ ordinance in place is vital to conserving these regionally important areas and is consistent with numerous other local, regional and statewide plans, programs and policies.

I encourage you to support your Planning Commission's unanimous recommendation (1/31/2019) and the actions subsequently recommended in the Resource Management Agency letter (3/12/2019) which are summarized as follows: Establish a Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors Overlay Zone and a Critical Wildlife Passage Areas Overlay Zone, and to Adopt Regulations for These Areas.

Respectfully,

Victoria Peters  
Ojai

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Llysa petralia <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:40 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

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The proposed ordinance represents a reasonable compromise between property owners and wildlife that will enable them to co-exist and thrive for generations to come.

Please reject the recommendations made by the Planning Commission that would undermine the intent of the ordinance such as the reduction of surface water feature setbacks and the exclusion of large areas from the overlay zones. These recommendations only serve to weaken the proposed ordinance's ability to protect wildlife habitat and movement in Ventura County.

Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Llysa petralia  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Rick Pfeiffer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:17 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Rick Pfeiffer  
[REDACTED]

Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Kathleen Pierce <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 7:27 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

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Thank you,

Kathleen Pierce  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Randy Rabideau <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 1:26 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Randy Rabideau

[REDACTED]  
Oak Park, CA 91377

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Sarah Raskin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 9:10 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Sarah Raskin  
[REDACTED]  
Ojai, CA 93023

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Sally Reinman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 10:03 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Sally Reinman  
[REDACTED]  
Santa Monica, CA 90401



## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Tracey Sands <T [REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 7:01 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Tracey Sands  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** david schaar <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 7:14 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
**Categories:** Blue category

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Thank you,

david schaar  
[REDACTED]

Oak View, CA 93022

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Nancy Schaefer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 8:24 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Nancy Schaefer  
[REDACTED]  
Ventura, CA 93003

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Wendy Schmerse [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 9:10 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Wendy Schmerse

[REDACTED]  
Oxnard, CA 93035

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Eva Scott <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 10:50 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Eva Scott  
[REDACTED]  
Los Angeles, CA 90034

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Linda Silvestri <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 2:41 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Linda Silvestri  
[REDACTED]  
Santa Clarita, CA 91354

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Alan Stahl <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 2:33 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors; Zaragoza, John  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridors Project

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I was made aware of the "Wildlife Corridors Project" and although I am not sure how it will effect my property, I am surprised that given the possibility that my land may be impacted, why have I not received any mail or something if in fact we are in the area of possible legislative change.

For this reason I protest any change that may effect my property and suggest that any decision regarding same is delayed until all residents in all effected areas are formally notified and a clear understanding of exactly what you are doing is explained....In simple and easily understood terms. It was suggested that you will be taking property from homeowners without a clear understanding of what you are doing, how it will impact property taxes if any, and what responsibilities I will have, now do have vs. what will change.

I believe that all of my points are issues that any law abiding citizen would ask and frankly if this was coming to a vote tomorrow night without me even being aware until today that something is going on, shame on the Board for thinking that something that may be of such impact on my property was not more transparent. Possibly I would approve of what you are doing if I knew exactly what you are planning, since I do not indicates a lack of reasonable communication of the Boards part. I think it is only fair and proper that there was and is more ongoing communication and any decision non any of this is delayed until all of us know what you are doing, the intent etc.

If this project has no impact on my property, then please accept my apology. If it does, then what I have written is my position.

Thank you.

Alan and Debbie Stahl

[REDACTED]  
SimiValley, Ca. 93065  
[REDACTED]

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Carol Stott <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 9:36 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Carol Stott  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360



## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Robert Taylor <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 9:34 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Robert Taylor  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Sandy Thomas <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 9:33 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

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Thank you,

Sandy Thomas  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Ben Turner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:47 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Fwd: Wildlife corridor question

**Categories:** Blue category

My name is Ben Turner and I am the authorized agent for Ralph Weigis, whose property is located at 2298 Alamo Circle, Ozena. The APN is 002-0-210-060. The property comprises of 159.33 acres on the Northern boundary (the corridor covers almost the entire property) of one of the 'corridors'.

We are asking to be excluded from the proposed ordinance. This property is a working ranch and the owner's agricultural activities would be negatively impacted by the ordinance's restrictions on a number of items that are central to the property use. The restrictions to normal agricultural practices and development would reduce the value of this agricultural property.

Regards,

Ben Turner  
J.E. Armstrong Architects, inc.  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ben Turner** <[ben@jeaarchitects.com](mailto:ben@jeaarchitects.com)>  
Date: Wed, Mar 6, 2019  
Subject: Wildlife corridor question  
To: <[Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org](mailto:Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org)>

I am working on a project for a client located at 2298 Alamo Circle, Ozena. The APN is 002-0-210-060. The property is at the edge of one of the corridor zones.

The scope of work (to abate in part a violation) is to demolish one structure, return another building (a barn) back to its permitted use and to add a new residence.

Since this is an active ranch, my client asked me to reach out to you to ask a few questions. I have read the staff report and powerpoint presentation, but I was hoping to come to the Planning Department before the next stakeholder meetings to ask a few questions.

Regards,

Ben Turner

J.E. Armstrong Architects, inc.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Batinica, Meighan**

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**From:** April Wells <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:53 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

I care about the future of our local wildlife and other benefits that maintaining an intact ecosystem provide, such as fresh water, clean air, and biodiversity—all of which ensure a healthy and vibrant future for Ventura County's economy and quality of life.

The proposed ordinance represents a reasonable compromise between property owners and wildlife that will enable them to co-exist and thrive for generations to come.

Please reject the recommendations made by the Planning Commission that would undermine the intent of the ordinance such as the reduction of surface water feature setbacks and the exclusion of large areas from the overlay zones. These recommendations only serve to weaken the proposed ordinance's ability to protect wildlife habitat and movement in Ventura County.

Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

April Wells  
[REDACTED]  
Los Angeles, CA 91307

**Batinica, Meighan**

---

**From:** Susan Wells <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:52 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

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Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Susan Wells

[REDACTED]  
Simi Valley, CA 93063

**Batinica, Meighan**

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**From:** ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 5:59 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: Wildlife Corridor Overlay Agenda Item March 12, 2019 at 1:00 PM - Support  
**Attachments:** Letter to Board of Supervisors in support of Wildlife Corridor Overlay Plan.docx

Hi, here is another email regarding the wildlife corridor.

*Lori*

**From:** Ron Whitehurst and Jan Dietrick <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 5:06 PM  
**To:** ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard <ClerkoftheBoard@ventura.org>; Cc: <steven.bennett@ventura.org>; Parks, Linda <Linda.Parks@ventura.org>; Zaragoza, John <John.Zaragoza@ventura.org>; robert.huber@ventura.org; Long, Kelly <kelly.long@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor Overlay Agenda Item March 12, 2019 at 1:00 PM - Support

March 11, 2019

Steve Bennett, Chair, Ventura County Board of Supervisors  
Members of the Board of Directors  
800 S. Victoria Ave.,  
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Wildlife Corridor Overlay March 12, 2019 1:00 PM

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

We enthusiastically support the proposed legislation creating a wildlife corridor overlay in Ventura County's General Plan. We wish the corridors along the Ventura River where we live and run our business were much wider, but this is a great start..

Ultimately all of the floodplain needs to be in conservation. Mammals must be able to roam from the river to the hills. We look forward to collaboration with transportation agencies to build bridges over Highway 33 and Ventura Avenue that is safe for wildlife and people.

At least ten percent of land must be in perennial vegetation for carbon sequestration and enhancing biodiversity. Science found that insect populations have declined 70% and at an increasing rate due to severe degradation of land and widespread use of Roundup which must be banned. We want to see much more land growing native pollinator plants!

We are running out of time to transform our understanding as a community about functional and dysfunctional natural and working lands. The forecast is in the direction of extinction of

most life forms under the current management system. We need a paradigm shift and to act now.

Sincerely,

Jan Dietrick, Executive Director

Dietrick Institute for Applied Insect Ecology

and

Ron Whitehurst, PCA, Co-Owner, Rincon-Vitova Insectaries

[REDACTED]

Ventura, CA 93001



**Batinica, Meighan**

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**From:** Morris Wills <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 7:20 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** I support the Overlay zone eom.  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Sent from my iPhone

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Trudy Wolfe <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 10:28 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

I care about the future of our local wildlife and other benefits that maintaining an intact ecosystem provide, such as fresh water, clean air, and biodiversity—all of which ensure a healthy and vibrant future for Ventura County's economy and quality of life.

The proposed ordinance represents a reasonable compromise between property owners and wildlife that will enable them to co-exist and thrive for generations to come.

Please reject the recommendations made by the Planning Commission that would undermine the intent of the ordinance such as the reduction of surface water feature setbacks and the exclusion of large areas from the overlay zones. These recommendations only serve to weaken the proposed ordinance's ability to protect wildlife habitat and movement in Ventura County.

Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Trudy Wolfe

[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91361

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Tiffany Yap <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 2:00 PM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley; Batinica, Meighan; Wildlife Corridors  
**Cc:** ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard; Bennett, Steve; Parks, Linda; Long, Kelly; Supervisor Huber; Zaragoza, John; J.P. Rose  
**Subject:** Comments on the Proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance and Planning Commission Recommendations  
**Attachments:** CBD Comment Letter on Connectivity Ordinance to BoS 2019-03-11.pdf

Dear all,

Please find attached the Center for Biological Diversity's comments regarding the Proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance and Planning Commission Recommendations. We will also be submitting a letter with references attached (on CD) via FedEx.

Please confirm that you have received our comments.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

Tiffany

Tiffany Yap, D.Env/PhD  
Scientist, Wildlife Corridor Advocate  
Urban Wildlands Program  
Center for Biological Diversity - Oakland  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



March 11, 2019

*Sent via email and FedEx*

Ventura County Board of Supervisors  
Attn: Shelley Sussman & Meighan Batinica  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California, 93009  
[Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org](mailto:Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org)  
[Meighan.Batinica@ventura.org](mailto:Meighan.Batinica@ventura.org)  
[Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org](mailto:Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org)

**Re: Proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance and Planning Commission Recommendations**

Dear Ventura County Board of Supervisors:

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity (the "Center") regarding the proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance ("Ordinance") and the Planning Commission Recommendations. The Center appreciates the work of the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Planning Division Staff in developing the Ordinance. The Ordinance as originally proposed would be a major step forward in maintaining and enhancing wildlife connectivity within Ventura County and the region; however, some of the proposed revisions and recommendations based on discussions from the January 31, 2019 Planning Commission meeting substantially weaken the Ordinance.

The Center strongly supports the objectives of the Ordinance and the County's efforts to preserve functional connectivity by establishing designated habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors (HCWC) and critical wildlife passage areas (CPWA). Limiting development and associated noise and lighting in these important corridor areas, enhancing wildlife crossing infrastructure where barriers already exist (*i.e.*, roads), and incorporating corridor redundancy will help to preserve habitat connectivity and foster the County's expansive biodiversity through current and future climate regimes. However, the Center is concerned about exemptions that would allow for excessive lighting, wildlife impermeable fencing, and surface mining and oil and gas exploration activities in these areas. Furthermore, recommendations from the Planning Commission do not take into account the best available science and instead aim to reduce the designated corridor areas to appease unknown agricultural concerns. The Center urges the Board to strengthen the Ordinance by applying the best available science to identify critical areas for wildlife movement and habitat connectivity, minimizing exemptions that undermine the Ordinance's goals, and requiring larger development buffers from surface water features (*i.e.*,

intermittent and perennial streams and wetlands) to effectively preserve functional connectivity for wildlife and vegetation throughout the County.

The Center is a non-profit, public interest environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has over 1.4 million members and online activists throughout California and the United States. The Center and its members have worked for many years to protect imperiled plants and wildlife, open space, air and water quality, and overall quality of life for people in Ventura County.

## **I. Habitat Connectivity Is Essential for Wildlife Movement and Biodiversity Conservation.**

Habitat connectivity is vital for wildlife movement and biodiversity conservation. Limiting movement and dispersal with barriers (*e.g.*, development, roads, or fenced-off croplands) can affect animals' behavior, movement patterns, reproductive success, and physiological state, which can lead to significant impacts on individual wildlife, populations, communities, and landscapes (Trombulak and Frissell 2000; Tewksbury et al. 2002; Cushman 2006; van der Ree et al. 2011; Haddad et al. 2015; Ceia-Hasse et al. 2018). Individuals can die off, populations can become isolated, sensitive species can become locally extinct, and important ecological processes like plant pollination and nutrient cycling can be lost. In addition, connectivity between high quality habitat areas in heterogeneous landscapes is important to allow for range shifts and species migrations as climate changes (Heller and Zavaleta 2009, Cushman et al. 2013). Lack of wildlife connectivity results in decreased biodiversity and degraded ecosystems. Thus, preserving and maintaining natural and created corridors is critical for species and habitat conservation in fragmented landscapes (Gilbert-Norton et al., 2010).

Wildlife connectivity and migration corridors are important at the local, regional, and continental scale. Local connectivity that links aquatic and terrestrial habitats would allow various sensitive species to persist, including state- and federally-protected California red-legged frogs (*Rana draytonii*), arroyo toads (*Anaxyrus californicus*), and other species. At a regional scale, medium- and large-sized mammals that occur in Ventura County, such as mountain lions (*Puma concolor*), bobcats (*Lynx rufus*), gray foxes (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), ring-tailed cats (*Bassariscus astutus*), and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), require large patches of heterogeneous habitat to forage, seek shelter/refuge, and find mates. In addition, anadromous fish, such as steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), are born in some of Ventura's waterways, spend several years in the Pacific Ocean, and return to Ventura to spawn. Ventura is an important hub for local and global biodiversity; wildlife movement and habitat connectivity must be maintained throughout the Ventura County.

## **II. Climate Change Is Likely to Significantly Alter Wildlife Behavior and Movement.**

A strong, international scientific consensus has established that human-caused climate change is causing widespread harms to human society and natural systems, and climate change threats are becoming increasingly dangerous. In a 2018 *Special Report on Global Warming of*

1.5°C from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the leading international scientific body for the assessment of climate change describes the devastating harms that would occur at 2°C warming, highlighting the necessity of limiting warming to 1.5°C to avoid catastrophic impacts to people and life on Earth (IPCC 2018). In addition to warming, many other aspects of global climate are changing. Thousands of studies conducted by researchers around the world have documented changes in surface, atmospheric, and oceanic temperatures; melting glaciers; diminishing snow cover; shrinking sea ice; rising sea levels; ocean acidification; and increasing atmospheric water vapor (USGCRP, 2017).

Climate change is increasing stress on species and ecosystems, causing changes in distribution, phenology, physiology, vital rates, genetics, ecosystem structure and processes, and increasing species extinction risk (Warren et al., 2011). A 2016 analysis found that climate-related local extinctions are already widespread and have occurred in hundreds of species, including almost half of the 976 species surveyed (Wiens 2016). A separate study estimated that nearly half of terrestrial non-flying threatened mammals and nearly one-quarter of threatened birds may have already been negatively impacted by climate change in at least part of their distribution (Pacifi et al. 2017). A 2016 meta-analysis reported that climate change is already impacting 82 percent of key ecological processes that form the foundation of healthy ecosystems and on which humans depend for basic needs (Scheffers et al. 2016). Genes are changing, species' physiology and physical features such as body size are changing, species are moving to try to keep pace with suitable climate space, species are shifting their timing of breeding and migration, and entire ecosystems are under stress (Cahill et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2011; Maclean & Wilson, 2011; Parmesan, 2006; Parmesan & Yohe, 2003; Root et al., 2003; Warren et al., 2011). As such, it is imperative that current and future land use planning consider the impacts of climate change on wildlife movement. In order to further this goal, any development within the overlay zones should be reviewed to ensure functional connectivity in light of potential climate change impacts.

### **III. Corridor Redundancy Helps Retain Functional Connectivity and Resilience.**

Corridor redundancy (*i.e.* the availability of alternative pathways for movement) is important in regional connectivity plans because it allows for improved functional connectivity and resilience. Compared to a single pathway, multiple connections between habitat patches increase the probability of movement across landscapes by a wider variety of species, and they provide more habitat for low-mobility species while still allowing for their dispersal (Mcrae et al., 2012; Olson & Burnett, 2008; Pinto & Keitt, 2008). In addition, corridor redundancy provides resilience to uncertainty, impacts of climate change, and extreme events, like flooding or wildfires, by providing alternate escape routes or refugia for animals seeking safety (Cushman et al., 2013; Mcrae et al., 2008; Mcrae et al., 2012; Olson & Burnett, 2008; Pinto & Keitt, 2008). Thus, the Center supports efforts that account for corridor redundancy and functional connectivity to facilitate wildlife movement throughout the County.

#### **IV. Human Development and Associated Noise and Lighting Can Interfere with the Behavior of Local Wildlife Such as Mountain Lions.**

Human development and associated noise can degrade adjacent wildlife habitat and behavior. (See, e.g., Slabbekoorn 2008.) For instance, field observations and controlled laboratory experiments have shown that traffic noise can significantly degrade habitat value for migrating songbirds. (Ware et al. 2015.) This finding followed lab results indicating that subjects exposed to 55 and 61 dBA simulated traffic noise exhibited decreased feeding behavior and duration, as well as increased vigilance behavior. (*Id.*) Such behavioral shifts increase the risk of starvation, thus decreasing survival rates. A recent study also highlighted the detrimental impacts of siting development near areas protected for wildlife. The study noted that “Anthropogenic noise 3 and 10 dB above natural sound levels . . . has documented effects on wildlife species richness, abundance, reproductive success, behavior, and physiology.” (Buxton, et al.) The study further noted that “there is evidence of impacts across a wide range of species [] regardless of hearing sensitivity, including direct effects on invertebrates that lack ears and indirect effects on plants and entire ecological communities (e.g., reduced seedling recruitment due to altered behavior of seed distributors).” (*Ibid.*) Moreover, human transportation networks and development resulted in high noise exceedances in protected areas. (*Ibid.*)

There also is strong evidence documenting the effects of human activity specifically on mountain lions. One study found that mountain lions are so fearful of humans and noise generated by humans that they will abandon the carcass of a deer and forgo the feeding opportunity just to avoid humans. (Smith 2017.)<sup>1</sup> The study concluded that even “non-consumptive forms of human disturbance may alter the ecological role of large carnivores by affecting the link between these top predators and their prey.” (Smith 2017.) In addition, the study found that mountain lions respond fearfully upon hearing human vocalizations. Another study demonstrates that mountain lions exposed to other evidence of human presence (lighting, vehicles, dogs) will impact mountain lion behavior. (Wilmsers 2013.) Other studies documented diet shifts in mountain lions near human development, and recommended minimizing any development in mountain lion habitat. (Smith 2016; see also Smith 2015.)

Additional studies similarly documented that mountain lions avoid “urban, agricultural areas, and roads and prefer[] riparian areas and more rugged terrain.” (Zeller 2017; see also Vickers 2015.) One study found that over half (55 percent) of radio collared mountain lions in urban areas did not survive, and the majority were killed by humans either by vehicle strikes or using depredation permits. (Vickers 2015.) Given that human activities can interfere with natural behavior and movement of local wildlife, the Center supports the County’s efforts to limit development and associated noise and lighting in corridor areas.

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<sup>1</sup> See also Sean Greene, “How a fear of humans affects the lives of California’s mountain lions,” *Los Angeles Times* (June 27, 2017), available at <http://beta.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-pumas-human-noise-20170627-story.html>.



## **V. Creating and Enhancing Wildlife Crossings for Existing Roads Is Critical to Maintaining Healthy Ecosystems.**

The Center supports the objective of the Ordinance to enhance wildlife connectivity on existing roads through the use of increased setbacks. Enhanced connectivity helps sustain functional ecosystems and ensure public safety. Although natural, existing corridors in fragmented landscapes have been shown to have more wildlife movement compared to created corridors (Gilbert-Norton et al., 2010), crossing structures combined with setbacks at the entrances and exits are useful as retroactive restoration in areas where existing roads have high incidence of wildlife vehicle conflict or where species movement has been severely impacted. When appropriately implemented, wildlife crossing infrastructure has been shown to improve wildlife permeability and reduce wildlife vehicle collisions (Bissonette & Rosa, 2012; Dodd Jr. et al., 2004; Dodd et al., 2012; Kintsch et al., 2018; Sawaya et al., 2014; Sawyer et al., 2012). Thus, by maintaining and restoring habitat connectivity that facilitates movement required for current and future species ranges and behaviors, the County would improve driver safety while promoting local biodiversity.

Outside of California many other states and jurisdictions have been proactively addressing wildlife connectivity issues. For example, Arizona, Colorado, and Wyoming have seen 80-96% reductions in wildlife vehicle collisions while gradually increasing the level of wildlife permeability over time (it appears that some species take more time than others to adapt to crossings) on sections of highways where they have implemented wildlife crossing infrastructure, such as underpasses, culverts, overpasses, wildlife fencing, and escape ramps (Dodd et al., 2012; Kintsch et al., 2017; Kintsch et al., 2018; Sawyer et al., 2012). Utah just completed the state's largest wildlife overpass at Parleys Canyon for moose, elk, and deer. Washington State is about to complete its largest wildlife overpass on I-90, which is anticipated to provide habitat connectivity for a wide variety of species between the North and South Cascade Mountains. The overpass cost \$6.2 million as part of a larger \$900 million expansion project that will include multiple wildlife crossings along a 15-mile stretch of highway. Savings from less hospital bills, damage costs, and road closures from fewer wildlife vehicle collisions will make up those costs in a few years (Valdes 2018). State transportation departments are actively pursuing these types of projects because of the benefits for wildlife connectivity, public safety, and the economy. The Center supports Ventura County's efforts to actively invest in preserving habitat connectivity where there are no roads or development while also enhancing or restoring connectivity where roads or other transportation infrastructure already exist.

## **VI. The Ordinance Should Require Stronger Development Buffers for Streams and Wetlands.**

Based on recommendations from the Planning Commission, the Ordinance's surface water feature setbacks were reduced from 200 feet to 100 feet. The revision was based on concerns regarding potential impediments on agricultural operations. However, in a letter to the Board of Supervisors, Planning Division staff stated that it was not clear "what specific agricultural operations were of concern" given that there are already various exemptions for commercial agricultural activity (March 12, 2019 Planning Division Letter at 11). This change does not support one of the main objectives of the Ordinance to "[p]reserve the functional



connectivity and habitat quality of surface water features” (Section 8104-7.7(b)). Streams are important corridors for wildlife movement and habitat connectivity; the Ordinance should consider the best available science and require a minimum 200-foot setback from all perennial and intermittent streams, with special attention given to streams that are located within designated critical habitat or support or have the potential to support special-status, sensitive, or rare species.

Streams and wetlands throughout the County support numerous special-status flora and fauna, including steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), least Bell’s vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and California red-legged frogs (*Rana draytonii*). Many species that rely on these aquatic habitats also rely on the adjacent upland habitats (e.g., riparian areas along streams, and grassland habitat adjacent to wetlands). In fact, 60% of amphibian species, 16% of reptiles, 34% of birds and 12% of mammals in the Pacific Coast ecoregion (which includes Ventura County) depend on riparian-stream systems for survival (Kelsey and West 1998). Many other species, including mountain lions and bobcats, often use riparian areas and natural ridgelines as migration corridors or foraging habitat (Dickson et al, 2005; Hilty & Merenlender, 2004; Jennings & Lewison, 2013; Jennings & Zeller, 2017). Additionally, fish rely on healthy upland areas to influence suitable spawning habitat (Lohse et al. 2008), and encroachment on these habitats and over-aggressive removal of riparian areas have been identified as major drivers of declines in freshwater and anadromous fish (e.g., Stillwater Sciences 2002; Lohse et al. 2008; Moyle et al. 2011).

A literature review found that recommended buffers for wildlife often far exceeded 100 meters (~325 feet), well beyond the largest buffers implemented in practice (Robins 2002). For example, Kilgo et al. (1998) recommend more than 1,600 feet of riparian buffer to sustain bird diversity. In addition, amphibians, which are considered environmental health indicators, have been found to migrate over 1,000 feet between aquatic and terrestrial habitats through multiple life stages (Semlitsch and Bodie 2003; Trenham and Shaffer 2005; Cushman 2006; Fellers and Kleeman 2007). Specifically, the California red-legged frog, a threatened species that occurs and has designated critical habitat within Ventura County, was found to migrate about 600 feet between breeding ponds and non-breeding upland habitat and streams, with some individuals roaming over 4,500 feet from the water (Fellers and Kleeman 2007). Other sensitive species known to occur in Ventura County, such as western pond turtles (*Actinemys marmorata*, a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act) and California newts (*Taricha torosa*), have been found to migrate over 1,300 feet and 10,000 feet respectively from breeding ponds and streams (Trenham 1998; Semlitsch and Bodie 2003). Accommodating the more long-range dispersers is vital for continued survival of species populations and/or recolonization following a local extinction (Semlitsch and Bodie 2003; Cushman 2006). In addition, more extensive buffers provide resilience in the face of climate change-driven alterations to these habitats, which will cause shifts in species ranges and distributions (Cushman et al., 2013; Heller & Zavaleta, 2009; Warren et al., 2011). This emphasizes the need for sizeable riparian and upland buffers around streams and wetlands in Ventura County, as well as connectivity corridors between heterogeneous habitats. The Ordinance should not be weakened to 100-foot stream setbacks.

In addition, maintaining a minimum 200-foot development buffer from streams would facilitate essential ecosystem services that humans rely on. Larger buffer zones than those

proposed in the weakened Ordinance along streams would provide more stream bank stabilization, water quality protection, groundwater recharge, and flood control both locally and throughout the watershed (Nieswand et al. 1990; Norris 1993; Whipple Jr. 1993; Sabater et al. 2000; Lovell and Sullivan 2006). They would also protect communities from impacts due to climate change by buffering them from storms, minimizing impacts of floods, and providing water storage during drought (Environmental Law Institute 2008). Thus, the County should require a minimum 200-foot buffer around streams.

## **VII. Some of the Proposed Exemptions to the Critical Wildlife Passage Areas Overlay Zone Undermine the Objectives of the Ordinance.**

The Center wholeheartedly supports the objectives of the Ordinance, which are outlined in the staff report to include (1) regulating the siting of structures, uses and activities within individual lots so as to avoid key habitat areas used by wildlife; (2) consolidating development to provide open areas as a means to facilitate wildlife passage within and between individual lots; and (3) providing access to, and movement between, surrounding protected habitat areas on a regional geographic scale.

In furtherance of those objectives, the Center again recommends that certain exemptions be removed from the Ordinance. In particular, section 8109-4.9 establishes the Critical Wildlife Passage Areas Overlay Zone ("CWPA"), which provides requirements and procedures for development in this zone. (Exh. 14 at 21.) However, the next section provides that these requirements and procedures do not apply to some types of development, including "[a]ny development on a lot zoned Commercial (CO, C1, CPD)....aboveground pipelines or transmission lines...construction and maintenance of driveways and roads internal to a lot." (*Id.* at 21.) Commercial development, pipelines, and internal roads can all impede wildlife connectivity and disturb animal behavior. As such, it is unclear why these uses are exempt from the CWPA requirements and procedures. Instead, these exemptions undermine the objectives of the Ordinance.

In addition, it appears that some uses are partially exempt from the CWPA requirements and procedures, including golf courses, wildlife impermeable fencing used to enclose commercially grown agricultural crops or products (Section 8109-4.929(c)), and drilling for geologic testing. Golf courses can fragment and degrade wildlife habitat while causing groundwater and surface water pollution arising from pesticides and fertilizers. And as stated in Section 8104-7.7, wildlife impermeable fencing "can create barriers to food and water, shelter, and breeding access to unrelated members of the same species needed to maintain genetic diversity." Exempting wildlife impermeable fencing that encloses vast areas of land undermines the goals of the Ordinance to "preserve functional connectivity for wildlife and vegetation" and "[m]inimize wildlife impermeable fencing" (*Id.*). These types of development/land use should not be exempt from the CWPA requirements and procedures.

### **VIII. The Lighting Exemptions for Surface Mining and Oil and Gas Exploration Undermine the Objectives of the Ordinance.**

Light pollution can confuse migratory birds and otherwise disturb and disrupt wildlife foraging and breeding. Light pollution can seriously threaten the continual survival of numerous species: “[t]he cumulative effects of behavioral changes induced by artificial night lighting on competition and predation have the potential to disrupt key ecosystem functions.” (Rich and Longcore 2013). Species known to be impacted include mammals, birds (both migrating and non-migrating), reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, fishes and plants. The impacts are wide ranging. Impacts include utilization of artificial lights, such as streetlights to forage underneath for food, which increases predation risk. (Rich and Longcore 2013). Bird species can also become “entrapped” within lighted areas, refusing to move for the night, and thus increasing their risk of predation. (*Id.*) Furthermore, light pollution need not be highly extensive to have a major impact on nearby plants and wildlife. For instance, one study found that desert rodents reduced foraging activity when exposed to the light of a single camp lantern. (Rich and Longcore 2013).

As such, any exemptions for outdoor lighting standards set forth in section 8109-4.8.2.1 should be narrowly drawn. (See Exh 14 at 8). While some of these exemptions described in section 8109-4.8.2.2 appear warranted, it is unclear why this section exempts “temporary or intermittent outdoor night lighting used for surface mining operations or oil and gas exploration and production.” (*Id.*) Notably, the term “intermittent” is defined as a period of between “31 and 90 calendar days within any 12-month period.” This exemption would allow surface mining or oil and gas exploration operations to use outdoor night lighting—often in remote or rural areas—for up to three months out of any given year. This exemption is likely to undermine the objective of the Ordinance to provide for movement between protected habitat areas on a regional geographic scale.

Further exemptions are provided in a post-Planning Commission revision in Section 8109-4.8.2.4(b)(11), which states that “lighting utilized for oil and gas exploration and production and surface mining operations may deviate the above-stated standards and requirements and shall be specified in a lighting plan approved by the County during the discretionary permitting process for the subject facility or operation.” This weakens the Ordinance by allowing for increased light pollution that would further degrade wildlife corridors and deter animals from using them for movement and migration. Additional exemptions for lighting standards and requirements should not be afforded to surface mining and oil and gas exploration.

### **IX. The Ordinance Should Use the Best Available Science to Identify Important Areas for Wildlife Movement and Habitat Connectivity.**

The Planning Commission Recommendations include the removal of Lockwood Valley from the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor (“HCWC”) overlay zone. As detailed in the March 12, 2019 Planning Division Letter to the Board of Supervisors, the wildlife connectivity mapping is a result of a collaborative research effort spanning several years and involving “scientists, regulatory agencies, academics, land managers, private property owners, businesses,

and non-profits throughout California.” This mapping is the best available science that delineates habitat linkages with “the best potential movement routes” to support animal and plant species that were collectively selected to “represent a diversity of habitat needs and movement patterns” (*Id.*). As such, important habitat linkages identified through this process, including Lockwood Valley, should remain in the HCWC overlay zone.

The Planning Commission Recommendations also include the removal of Tierra Rejada Valley from the Critical Wildlife Passage Areas (“CWPA”) overlay zone. This is one of three areas that were identified as “critically important wildlife passage areas” because they have the “highest risk of functional connectivity loss” (*Id.*) Again, this area was designated as a priority corridor area based on the best available science and should not be dismissed. The idea is to encourage clustering of development to minimize impacts of human activities (*e.g.*, habitat degradation and removal; increased frequency of wildfire ignitions; edge effects caused by irrigation, artificial night-lighting, introduction of invasive species). To facilitate the general purpose of the Ordinance stated in Section 8104-7.7 “to preserve functional connectivity for wildlife and vegetation throughout the overlay zone by minimizing direct and indirect barriers, minimizing loss of vegetation and habitat fragmentation and minimizing impacts to those areas that are narrow, impacted or otherwise tenuous with respect to wildlife movement,” the Tierra Rejada Valley should remain designated in the CWPA overlay zone.

The Center is encouraged by and supports the Planning Commission’s recommendation to include the entire lot of the Santa Susana Field Lab in the HCWC and CWPA overlay zones, as the Save Open Space, Santa Monica Mountains (“SOS”) identified this area as important habitat for mountain lions and other wildlife. (See Exh. 23 at PDF 189.) In addition, the SOS requested that the Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley area be considered for inclusion in the HCWC and CWPA overlay zones because multiple mountain lions have been known to use the undeveloped areas of Lake Sherwood (*Id.*). The Center joins SOS in requesting that this area be considered for inclusion in the overlay zone. Ventura County should implement the best available scientific information regarding wildlife movement and habitat connectivity in the Ordinance. Furthermore, the Center urges the County to monitor existing corridors and identify other priority wildlife movement and habitat connectivity areas in collaboration with local experts, agencies, and organizations.

## **XI. Conclusion**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Ordinance and Planning Commission Recommendations. The Center strongly supports the objectives of the Ordinance and appreciates Ventura County's effort to use its local land use authority to develop an ordinance that promotes regional wildlife movement and habitat connectivity. Please do not hesitate to contact the Center with any questions at the number or email listed below.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Yap, D.Env/PhD  
Scientist, Wildlife Corridor Advocate  
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cc:

Rosa Gonzalez, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board  
[Clerkoftheboard@ventura.org](mailto:Clerkoftheboard@ventura.org)

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John C. Zaragoza, District 5 Supervisor  
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(included on CD)

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## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Kathy Yeomans <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:53 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors  
  
**Categories:** Blue category

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I support the protection of our local wildlife and want to ensure that they are able to survive in an increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

I care about the future of our local wildlife and other benefits that maintaining an intact ecosystem provide, such as fresh water, clean air, and biodiversity—all of which ensure a healthy and vibrant future for Ventura County's economy and quality of life.

The proposed ordinance represents a reasonable compromise between property owners and wildlife that will enable them to co-exist and thrive for generations to come.

Please reject the recommendations made by the Planning Commission that would undermine the intent of the ordinance such as the reduction of surface water feature setbacks and the exclusion of large areas from the overlay zones. These recommendations only serve to weaken the proposed ordinance's ability to protect wildlife habitat and movement in Ventura County.

Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Kathy Yeomans  
[REDACTED]  
Ventura, CA 93001

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Amanda Zrust [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 3:37 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Please vote YES on Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

Please vote yes on more wildlife corridors in the face of wildlife working around our increasingly developed landscape.

Please adopt a strong and effective wildlife corridor ordinance that would establish reasonable limits on fencing, lighting, and development in key wildlife corridors that will protect wildlife habitat and movement throughout the County.

I care about the future of our local wildlife and other benefits that maintaining an intact ecosystem provide, such as fresh water, clean air, and biodiversity—all of which ensure a healthy and vibrant future for Ventura County's economy and quality of life.

The proposed ordinance represents a reasonable compromise between property owners and wildlife that will enable them to co-exist and thrive for generations to come.

Please reject the recommendations made by the Planning Commission that would undermine the intent of the ordinance such as the reduction of surface water feature setbacks and the exclusion of large areas from the overlay zones. These recommendations only serve to weaken the proposed ordinance's ability to protect wildlife habitat and movement in Ventura County.

Please vote to pass this innovative ordinance and propel Ventura County to the forefront of wildlife protection in California. Our human and wildlife communities depend on it.

Thank you,

Amanda Zrust  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Brushpoppers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 5:58 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Re: Board of Supervisors Hearing Information for the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor project

**Categories:** Blue category

Hello. I've been trying to find the study which was preformed regarding this wildlife corridor. No one seems to be able to answer the question. Where is the study and how can I get a copy? You know..the study saying how they came up with the boundaries. What determined what animals were affected? Who mapped out their migration? What study put Lookwood Valley in and what study took it out. How and where and by who was all this determined? No one came to our ranch to inspect the area they thought should be included. No physical inspection? Did the county decided this was necessary or was there a different interested party? If so who? What California Agency developed this? The mule deer and badgers are not impeded now. There needs to be freeway over crossings for the lions and nothing else.

The Mine Rd. Boyle Ranch  
Simi Valley  
Ca. 93063

-----Original Message-----

From: Wildlife Corridors  
Sent: Mar 1, 2019 5:15 PM  
To:  
Subject: Board of Supervisors Hearing Information for the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor project

Dear Interested Party,

This is to advise you that materials for the upcoming Board of Supervisors hearing for the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor project, tentatively scheduled for March 12, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., have been posted on the Planning Division website.

<https://vcrma.org/habitat-connectivity-and-wildlife-movement-corridors>

Please direct any questions or comments to:

[Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org](mailto:Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org)

Thank you.

