

Letters of Support  
Received after January 17, 2019

County of Ventura  
Planning Commission Hearing  
PL16-0127  
Exhibit 25 – Comment Letters Received  
after January 17, 2019

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** BERKLEY BURCH <burchberkley@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 1:59 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Citizen caused neighborhood critter nuisance problems

To Kim L. Prillhart:

Hello Kim;

Thank you for the wildlife corridors along the Ventura River and we love the nearby Rio Vista Preserve. There has been a problem however with a neighbor who daily baits the Ventura to Ojai Bike Path in Oak View, from Mahoney and Prospect Street down 1&1/2 miles to the south of the San Antonio Creek Bridge with bread bits and peanuts, luring critters including rats, raccoons, squirrels, possums and destructive birds out of the preserve and into the neighborhood and to his house where he has more goodies. The trouble is, I am his neighbor and I get to be the hangout, nursery and bathroom for all the supposedly wild creatures. I am disabled and have an older house, so I get the problems with some of them getting into my house. Also attracted to his bait are congregations of wild doves waiting for his diner to open, while they use my Pecan Tree to soil my patio furniture and deck as their toilet.

I love nature and am a former backpacker, so I want to see wild animals kept wild, not having their wildness stolen from them by people feeding them

The same man has planted an invasive species of daisy along the center of the bike path which is taking over and will soon be invading down into the Rio Vista Preserve.

Also along the path area couple of areas of the invasive trees called Tree of Heaven, *Alianthus altissima*(sp). The Arundo bamboo removal in the preserve was a tremendous success

Thank you for your consideration with this matter and perhaps there can be some coordination with the County Parks, the people in charge of the Bike Path. I also know we all want to keep signs to a minimum and attractive when necessary and perhaps there could be flyers recommending not feeding or offering water to wild animals "Please Keep All Critters including birds Wild, Do Not Feed".

Thanks again for this wonderful feature for our neighborhood!

Berkley Burch

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Nancy Breuer <nancy.breuer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 19, 2019 3:06 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor

Dear Ventura County Planning Division,

We received your January 14 letter about the proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor. Thank you.

We want to send our strongest possible endorsement of this plan, for several reasons:

- It is so disheartening to hear of yet another mountain lion found dead beside a freeway when we can mitigate those losses through better planning and wildlife passage creation.
- We have watched our night sky lights flicker out consistently over the 17 years we have lived in Box Canyon, and we have long realized that capping or limiting certain types of lighting could perhaps bring some of those stars back.
- We have planted our 1.5 acres in California natives and are thrilled with the results.

Because we live in Box Canyon, we are, we learned, in a Critical Wildlife Passage Area. We want to do anything we can to help you protect this passage area. Every time a neighbor puts up an uncapped spotlight, or even sodium lighting (Really??), we cringe. The owls that grace this canyon will not long tolerate sodium lighting.

Although we cannot attend the public hearing, we want you to know that we fully support your efforts.

Thank you for your work in this critical area.

Best regards,  
Nancy Breuer and Scott Bartchy

Nancy Breuer  
Principal, CLEAR MAGIC LLC  
805.581.0544  
<https://clearmagic.net>

*your content, your voice, your schedule*

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** George Colman <gcolman@sacfirm.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 20, 2019 12:15 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Cc:** Kathi Colman; Parks, Linda  
**Subject:** Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Project

For over 6 years we have been Members of the Advisory Group for Save LA Cougars .org and we are personally committed to raising funds to build the Wildlife Crossing at Liberty Canyon in Agoura Hills. This is an effort that certainly partners with the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Project . We thoroughly and enthusiastically support it. It is critical to preserving our environment as the third largest Mediterranean Climate in the world ;unique in flora and fauna. We are obligated to facilitate the movement of plants and animals through migration and to promote bio- diversity .....George and Kathi Colman 56 76 Colodny Drive, Agoura Hills ,Ca

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** prettycheapjewelry <prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2019 6:57 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** In Favor of wildlife corridor

Just add my voice to support the county wildlife corridor because vigorous steps are needed to protect the environment we keep damaging.

YES on the wildlife corridor zone.

Nina Danza  
Ventura, CA

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Barbara Dembo <barb1417@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 19, 2019 2:49 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Connection

Please consider this matter seriously. It is a vital part of saving native fauna in our mountains.

Barbara Dembo

Sent from my iPhone



***Temescal Canyon Association***  
*Since 1972 Dedicated to Preservation of the Santa Monica  
Mountains*

January 22, 2019

Ventura County,  
Resource Management Agency  
Planning Commission  
Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org

Subject: Support of the Wildlife Corridor overlay zone

At the most recent Board meeting of the Temescal Canyon Association in Pacific Palisades, our Board again reaffirmed its support of the Wildlife Corridor overlay zone being considered by the Ventura County Planning Commission.

As an environmental organization, we have followed with interest the progress of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing and updated our members by newsletter and public programs. Architect Clark Stevens spoke on wildlife passage projects at our annual meeting last December.

Please vote to adopt the first-of-its-kind Wildlife Corridor overlay zone to protect major wildlife corridors. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gil Dembo".

Gil Dembo  
President, Temescal Canyon Association

[www.temcanyon.org](http://www.temcanyon.org)  
[temcanyonassoc@gmail.com](mailto:temcanyonassoc@gmail.com)  
PO Box 1101, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Marty Langham <mklox@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 27, 2019 1:09 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridors

To whom it may concern:

We moved to the Conejo Valley BECAUSE of the open spaces, wildlife, and trails to run on. If we had wanted a high-density place to live, we would have stayed on the West side - Santa Monica, Venice, etc.....

Please help us to CO-EXIST with the beautiful animals and all the other animals that are not only a necessary part of our surrounding eco-system but who were here FIRST and are getting encroached upon and pushed out which causes a whole set of others problems such as in-breeding and unnecessary deaths trying to cross the freeways, just to mention a couple. Our wildlife deserves to have a voice for them as well having stewards look after their best interests.

I ask you to PLEASE BUILD the Wildlife Corridors on SOAR lands. Let's be the example for others to learn from.

With marijuana now legal and providing tons of money, use some of those funds!!

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Warm regards,  
Marty Edwards

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** James Friedl <jfriedl@crpd.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 25, 2019 3:12 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Conejo Recreation & Park District Letter in Support of Proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance  
**Attachments:** L CRPD to Wildlife Corridors Ventura County Planning.pdf

Please include the attached letter from the Conejo Recreation and Park District as part of the Planning Commission's (and BOS) deliberation on the Proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance. The Conejo Recreation and Park District Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the ordinance during its Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our input.

Sincerely,

Jim Friedl

**General Manager**

**Conejo Recreation & Park District**

403 W Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Phone: 805-381-1239 | Fax: 805-777-7391



**Recreation & Park District**



## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Shirley Haggstrom <shaggstrom58@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 12:14 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor project

Dear Ventura Planning Commission Members:

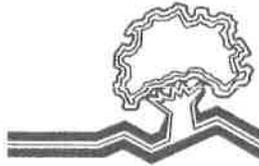
Thank you for looking forward and considering plans for the preservation of our wildlife. We know that wildlife corridors do work in other countries and areas. Those of us fortunate to live near wildlife have a mandate to preserve and protect every species.

The Temescal Canyon Association in Pacific Palisades has followed the process of the proposed wildlife corridors and has shared that information with our members through newsletters and programs. As a Board member of the Temescal Canyon Association participating in hikes in the Santa Monica Mountain, I am aware of the critical state of the wildlife population, especially the mountain lions.

Please vote to support the Wildlife Corridor overlay zone.

Thank you,

Shirley Haggstrom



# Conejo Recreation & Park District

**GENERAL MANAGER**  
Jim Friedl

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Chuck Huffer, Chair  
George M. Lange, Vice Chair  
Susan L. Holt, Director  
Nellie Cusworth, Director  
Doug Nickles, Director

**GENERAL MANAGER EMERITUS**  
Tex Ward

January 25, 2019

Ventura County Planning Commission  
Hall of Administration  
Ventura County Government Center  
800 South Victoria,  
Ventura, CA 93009  
SENT VIA EMAIL TO: [Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org](mailto:Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org)

**Subject: Conejo Recreation & Park District Supports  
Proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance**

To Ventura County Planning Commissioners:

Ventura County contains significant core natural resource areas that are primarily conserved within the Ventura and Santa Clara Rivers, the Los Padres National Forest, and the Santa Monica Mountains. However, the existing natural resource values within these areas will ultimately be compromised if the habitat linkages are not protected.

These linkages are important for many animal and plant populations to disperse and move to areas necessary for survival. In order that the diversity, health, and resilience of local wildlife and plant populations are preserved, it is essential that species are able to reach resources required for their survival. The loss of wildlife corridors and the subsequent negative impacts on the natural systems is of critical biological concern.

For more than 40 years, the Conejo Recreation and Park District and City of Thousand Oaks have worked together via its joint powers agency, the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA) to preserve nearly 15,000 acres as open space. A portion of these natural lands play a role in connecting the Santa Monica Mountains and the Los Padres National Forest – but, standing alone, these lands are just an island. For the long-term protection of all our lands and natural systems, reasonable regulation to preserve the wildlife linkages is a wise policy to protect the health of our environment.

In order to help maintain the health of the natural lands in and surrounding the Conejo Valley, and throughout Ventura County, the Conejo Recreation and Park District supports Ventura County's Proposed Ordinance Regulating Development Within the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors and the Critical Wildlife Passage Areas Overlay Zones as a reasonable and necessary means to maintain these wildlife linkages.

Sincerely,

Chuck Huffer,  
Chair

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Sussman, Shelley  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019 9:03 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: Santa Monica Mt. Wildlife Corridor

### Support letter

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**From:** gail hubbs <gilbyhubbs@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 10:24 PM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Santa Monica Mt. Wildlife Corridor

I'm writing to say I am one of many who feel strongly about the urgent need to complete a Wildlife Corridor to provide safe passage for the remaining animals who need a corridor in order to survive. As a resident of Thousand Oaks who travels the 101 Fwy., I have prayed over the area of Liberty Bell exit for years, in hopes that a way would be made for our treasured wildlife, who were roaming the area long before we came here. Thank you for your time, and may your voice be used to help reach this necessary goal!

Gail Hubbs

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard  
**Sent:** Friday, November 30, 2018 7:40 AM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley  
**Subject:** FW: Wildlife Corridor

Here is another comment letter

Lori

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

**From:** Liz Kirby <ekirby@vcnet.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 29, 2018 7:36 PM  
**To:** ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard <ClerkoftheBoard@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor

We totally support your efforts to create a wildlife corridor zone. It is forward thinking and compassionate. We must learn to co-exist with nature. It also represents how most Venturans view our beautiful County. We have preserved a way of life that is enviable. This wildlife corridor zone will be a part of it.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kirby

Fred Weniger

5434 Katherine St., Simi Valley, CA 93063

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Jim Little <Jim.Little@patagonia.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2019 11:00 AM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** aye for wildlife corridor zoning ordinance

Good Morning,

Just writing to endorse passage of a wildlife corridor zoning ordinance to facilitate safe passage of wild animals amid the warren of roads and other developments that threaten their survival.

Sincerely,

James R Little  
292 Avenida de la Vereda  
Ojai, CA 93023

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Sussman, Shelley  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 8:07 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: Wildlife Corridors

Support letter – As discussed, please add to all lists and exhibits.

Thanks,  
Shelley

**From:** Jim Merrill <merrilly@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 21, 2019 9:54 PM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Cc:** jim.merrill@verizon.net  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridors

Members of the Ventura County Planning Commission:

The California Grizzly, the California Condor, the Bald Eagle in California – what do these iconic animals have in common? All were pushed to extinction or its brink because of *human* activity.

Let's not let that happen to the limited number of mountain lions that remain wild and native to Ventura County. **Please support wildlife corridor zones.**

The California Grizzly Bear is extinct because of habitat loss and intentional hunting to extinction. It lives for Californians only on our flag. The California Condor was pushed to extinction in the wild due to poaching, lead poisoning, and habitat destruction. Our national symbol, the Bald Eagle, was extinct in southern California as a result of DDT and, on our own Channel Islands, the *human* introduction of non-native livestock, which allowed the Golden Eagle to out-compete the Bald Eagle. There are so many ways in which we *humans* blew it.

Sadly, the California Grizzly is biologically extinct because *humans* made it so. The California Condor is making a slow, tentative recovery because *people* made an extraordinary effort to capture, breed, train and reintroduce – at an expense that most agree has been well worth the effort. The same goes with the Bald Eagle: It required considered, intentional *human* action to bring our Bald Eagles back to the Channel Islands, and now they have their own eagle-cam.

We lost our Grizzlies, but we reversed course when we recognized that it was a *human* responsibility to repair *human* damage to our Condors and Bald Eagles.

Now we can count, on far too few fingers, the number of majestic mountain lions living wild in our county. These apex predators are necessary for the balance of our entire natural ecosystem, animals and plants. The barriers of freeways and development threaten their daily lives and their genetic diversity. Well planned wildlife corridors can balance the requirements of agriculture, housing, business, and transit so that we do not see our lions go the way of the Grizzly.

Again, please make the *human* decision to support wildlife corridor zones.

Sincerely,

James A. Merrill  
Oxnard, CA

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Sussman, Shelley  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2019 8:27 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: Wildlife Corridor

Support letter

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**From:** Kitty Merrill <kitty\_merrill@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019 8:08 PM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor

Dear Ms. Sussman:

I'm writing to express my support for the proposed wildlife corridor in Ventura County. The character of our county depends on its continued recognition of the value of our environment. Our county has expressed that through its support for the preservation of open lands, as mandated by the SOAR initiative.

But environment is more than trees and open fields. Through the proposed wildlife corridor, we now have an opportunity to extend our support for the environment to include our county's wildlife. From mountain lions, bobcats, deer, and on down the food chain, Ventura County is host to many species which depend on our acting responsibly so they may live. The wildlife corridor is a first step to demonstrate that we value the diversity of life here, as well as the open land.

Kitty Merrill  
4411 Beaumont Av.  
Oxnard, CA 93033

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** John & Bev Moistner <moist2149@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 9:38 AM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridors

Ventura County Planning Commission: Wonderful idea, especially after the fires and floods. Hopefully effective sooner rather than later. As a home owner in Bell Canyon I am all in. Thanks, Beverly Moistner

CITY OF  
  
AGOURA HILLS

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

January 24, 2019

Honorable Linda Parks, Supervisor  
County of Ventura Board of Supervisors  
District 2  
625 West Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks, CA. 91360

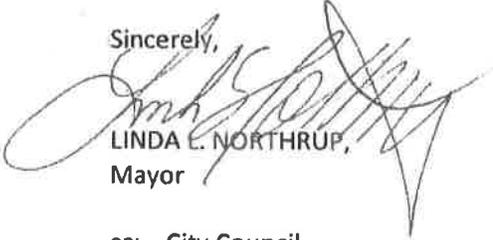
RE: Letter of Support – SOAR and Wildlife Preservation

Dear Supervisor Parks:

Historically, the City of Agoura Hills has been a staunch supporter of initiatives that enhance the protection of wildlife throughout our region. In addition, on multiple occasions, the City has supported the Liberty Canyon wildlife crossing, together with habitat linkage, at the US 101 Freeway and Agoura Road.

Moreover, the City has consistently supported grant applications and initiatives that would promote these and other efforts to create improvements that would benefit and protect the region's wildlife. SOAR and the County of Ventura's initiative furthers the goal of the protection of wildlife and the creation of wildlife linkages and the City is pleased to express its support.

Sincerely,

  
LINDA L. NORTHRUP,  
Mayor

cc: City Council

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Kathy Richards <richardsktr@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 26, 2019 11:31 AM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley; Uhlich, Kim; Bennett, Steve; Batinica, Meighan; Parks, Linda  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT THE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Hello VC Supervisors and Planners,

I'm a resident and voter in VC Supervisory District 1, and I want you to know that I **SUPPORT** the proposed **WILDLIFE CORRIDOR**.

This ordinance is essential if we are to protect the unique quality of life we enjoy here in Ventura County.

I so much enjoy living in harmony with the natural world, and want to preserve as much of it as possible here in our beautiful county.

**COUNT ME IN AS A SUPPORTER OF THE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR!**

Kathleen Richards  
1202 Ayers Ave  
Ojai, CA 93023

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Sussman, Shelley  
**Sent:** Friday, January 25, 2019 12:35 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: Wildlife corridor

Support letter.

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

**From:** Julie Schiowitz <alajuliego@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 25, 2019 11:28 AM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Wildlife corridor

I think the wildlife corridors are fantastic. This will not only save the wildlife population but it will also stop dangerous encounters with cars. Let's get this done!! Where can I donate to help make this happen!!

Thank you,

Julie Schiowitz

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Karen Schmidt <karenjschmidt@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 27, 2019 3:21 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Support Wildlife Corridor Overlay Zone

As a 19-year resident of Ventura County, a homeowner, and a conservation biologist, I wholeheartedly support adoption of the Ventura County Wildlife Corridor Overlay Zone and I urge the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to support it as well.

Thank you,  
Karen Schmidt  
916 E Matilija St  
Ojai, CA 93023

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 10:14 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: Wildlife Corridor Zone at Ventura County Planning Commission January 31, 8:30am

Support letter to be added.

**From:** Melina Watts <melinawatts@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 12:46 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors <Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor Zone at Ventura County Planning Commission January 31, 8:30am

Good afternoon,

I am writing in support of the Wildlife Corridor Zone. While mountain lions are our local charismatic megafauna, this effort will help maintain biodiversity for many species.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Melina Watts

Melina Watts

From *Tree*: "The underlying melody via every rock, plant, animal, sky and star, inside the water, from the dirt, through the light: only love lasts." by Melina Sempill Watts

(310) 383-9978

Via twitter: @melinaswatts

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/melinawatts>

And, from an email from Van Jones:

***"Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love."***

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1967 Speech, "Where Do We Go From Here?")

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Sussman, Shelley  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 27, 2019 9:45 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: Wildlife Corridor

Support letter.

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**From:** Doug Werner <tracks@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 27, 2019 9:32 AM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor

Dear Ms. Sussman,

It's been said that we are in the middle of a sixth extinction that is essentially of our own making. Will we allow this to happen in our own backyard? Your wildlife corridor zoning project gives me hope that the answer will be No! This project provides a rational step in the direction of protecting our local region's wildlife and plants and I, for one am glad to see it. This is something we can actually do to mitigate the progress of our devastation of the environment in the name of (unfettered) property rights or some other equally selfish and unthinking excuse for ignoring what is happening.

While most people wouldn't pull the trigger to shoot an innocent animal, many are simply allowing the unabated degradation of the biosphere through complacency and inaction. Thank you for providing us a means of changing that trajectory.

Sincerely,

Doug Werner

Ventura citizen

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Sussman, Shelley  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2019 5:00 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: Support for the Wildlife Corridor Zoning Project

Support letter

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

**From:** Joy Werner <joywerner14@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2019 4:54 PM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Support for the Wildlife Corridor Zoning Project

Dear Ms. Sussman,

Please add my voice of support for the wildlife corridor zoning project. It is time that we balance consideration of plants and animals with the overwhelming support that individual property rights already have, and at their expense.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joy Werner

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Sussman, Shelley  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 11:50 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: Citizen in support of Wildlife Corridor

Support letter

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**From:** Kathleen Wheeler <kawheeler100@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 10:49 AM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Citizen in support of Wildlife Corridor

Dear Ms. Sussman,

Your leadership of the Wildlife Corridors zoning project is crucially important and appreciated.

It is humans who caused the problem of habitat fragmentation and it is humans who will have to solve it. I wonder, however, what chance wildlife will have against those who will undoubtedly lobby the loudest for their own narrow interests.

It will be unfortunate indeed if those who are supportive of this project's aims, not to mention the creatures who cannot speak for themselves, are drowned out by those who have personal financial interest in the outcome.

How long can we allow business interests, greed and a knee-jerk anti-regulation stance to prevail over all other values?

Having heard some of the opposition's complaints, I believe they speak to an entitlement that we can no longer afford as we become more and more densely populated. Surely a long-term vision for our beloved Ventura County can include room for living side by side with the other, non-human inhabitants of our region.

This project is a wonderful step toward acknowledging and tackling the challenge of finding ways for our wildlife to thrive in a world where they are now so at risk. I'm hopeful that wildlife corridors will, just maybe, be a force for actualizing such a vision and preserving our precious and dwindling natural resources.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wheeler

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Teha Britt <brittteha1888@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 25, 2019 1:53 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Inclusion of property (APN #0020140245)

I am writing this response to let you know that I am thrilled to have my property included in this project. I have lived in this area for over 30 years and I am happy to contribute to the preservation of the plant and wildlife found in this area. It has been a privilege to live here and be able to see Red-tail hawks, a Golden eagle, Quail, Brown bears, Bobcats, Lynx, Cougars, Kit fox and Gray fox.

I know that my "contribution" is just a small one, but I am happy to be a part of it. Thank you for the chance to do so.

Sincerely,  
Gail Widmayer-Britt

Sent from my iPad

**Letters of Opposition**  
**Received after January 17, 2019**

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Beverly Bigger <brbigger@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 27, 2019 10:42 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor Ordinance - OPPOSITION

I am opposed to the passing of the Wildlife Corridor ordinance for a number of reasons.

The proposed wildlife corridor affects me in both my ranch operation and a rural residence that are located at least 20 miles apart. On a regular basis as a rancher and Santa Paula rural resident we see numerous wildlife, from bobcats, bears, deer and mountain lions. In the 57 years I have resided in a rural area and operated a cattle ranch I have never encountered an animal that was caught or injured in a barb wire fence. They move through these properties just fine. As a stakeholder I attended meetings regarding fencing however what I felt was agreed to in the meetings is not what is in the final draft ordinance.

After the Thomas, Hill and Woolsey fires one would think that limiting the amount of vegetation clearance should be a personal choice of the residents that live in fire prone areas not a regulation to suit the county. When the vegetation comes back in those areas, people rebuilt their homes, what kind of fire insurance coverage does the county think the residents can get with a limit of only 100 feet clearance in place?

In my opinion this over regulation limits my property rights and would devalue my property without any compensation from the county.

The problem lies with the state and county building roads without making any allowances for animal crossings. This problem should not be on the backs of property owners that are zoned Open Space or Agricultural.

Beverly Bigger

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Brushpoppers <brushpoppers@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 19, 2019 9:36 AM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** corridor

To whom it may concern:

Our family has been on the land in Simi Valley for well over 100 years. Nothing migrates in the lower county. Deer stay on the home ranch here and always have. We have the same badger families on the ranch for generations. They do not migrate. Nothing goes from point A (inland) to point B (the beach). NOTHING!! The wildlife have no fear of lights. They come in the yard with motion detector lights on with no problem. We have seen deer, lion, bear and the infamous coyote IN THE YARD. We also have fox, racoon and countless varmints. In the yard!!

If there would of been better fire clearance in the open areas that lion may still be alive. He had no cleared area to retreat to. Grazing prevents blazing! Arizona's motto. Our family along with several families around us all run cattle and have for many many years. It makes a huge difference in fire season.

Run some goats in the forest. The trash needs to be removed!

Ventura is a huge fire area and they are building more and more houses in the middle of it.

STOP the over development! Stop building in the middle of open areas and on the hillsides. Keep town in town. That would do more for the wildlife than any corridor that they will not use.

It's like the folks that think if you move the deer crossing sign the deer won't cross there.

I believe some brilliant well meaning individual thought the Gov. should not pay "cattle guards".

If this is the mentality we are dealing with, we are in trouble.

No group should not come to our county or state and tell us how things should be run when they have not a clue as to what they are speaking of.

We, along with all surrounding ranches will be at the upcoming meeting. We back up to Newhall Land and Development and they are not happy either.

See you there.

Boyle Family Ranch

Mine Rd.

Simi Valley, CA 93063

805-520-1573

John W. Newton & Associates, Inc.

*Professional Consultants*

159 Moonsong Court  
Post Office Box 471  
Moorpark, California 93021

Broker Lic. 00925471

Telephone (805) 529-3494

Fax No. (805) 529-7604

newtoncnslit@msn.com

January 24, 2019

Kim Prillhart  
Planning Director  
RMA – Planning Division  
County of Ventura  
800 So. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009-1740

**Re: Proposed Habitat Connectivity, Wildlife  
Corridors, Critical Wildlife Passage  
Areas Overlay Zone & Regulations;  
CEQA Exempt**

**Planning Commission hearing, January 31, 2019**

Dear Kim:

On behalf of Rick Brecunier, Tierra Rejada Farms and Craig Underwood, Underwood Family Farms, and as a follow-up to our meeting on Tuesday, please consider the following requests for changes/amendments to the above-referenced County initiated project:

**AGRICULTURAL PROMOTIONAL USES:** Request all agriculture operations, including accessory uses, be exempt. In addition, request that Events uses such as the Tierra Rejada Farms Walnut Grove weddings and community events site, whose sole purpose is to financially sustain agriculture operations, be exempt. Clarify that the proposed exemption for Agriculture Promotional Uses applies to the entire agriculture property for Underwood Family Farms, not just the approximately 6-acres containing agriculture promotion activities, and to the entire Tierra Rejada Farms agriculture property, not just the approximately 4-acre events activity area.

**NON-CONFORMING USES:** Request that the adoption of the proposed overlay zone & regulations do not render any existing use, structure or accessory use Non-Conforming and subject to the more than 50% destruction ordinance prohibiting rebuilding or reestablishment of the use. See the attached exhibit plot of the proposed 200' setbacks from the creek, eliminating

Kim Prillhart  
January 24, 2019  
Page 2

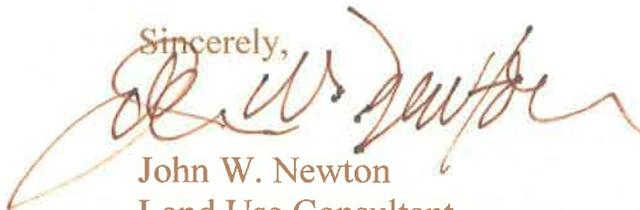
all of the existing uses within that boundary, including the Brecunier's home, farm worker dwellings, the events site; and, Underwood equipment storage, festivals parking; and, agriculture production area on both properties.

**CEQA ECONOMIC ANALYSIS:** Request that the proposed overlay zone and regulations be subject to an Economic Analysis of the effects upon the general welfare of the affected property owners, the citizens of Ventura County, and the County's General Fund Property Tax revenue, due to the reduction of property values for the 520,000 acres to be restricted.

**DISCRETIONARY vs. MINISTERIAL:** Request deletion of any change to the existing ministerial permit process, to discretionary, in the proposed overlay zone and regulations, requiring expensive biological studies, a CEQA analysis and determination, and increased fees.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the Habitat Connectivity and wildlife Corridors as amended, as an Informational Study only, to be utilized in future CEQA analyses for proposed discretionary uses in the mapped areas of Ventura County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Newton", written over the typed name.

John W. Newton  
Land Use Consultant  
Property Owners Representative

Attachment

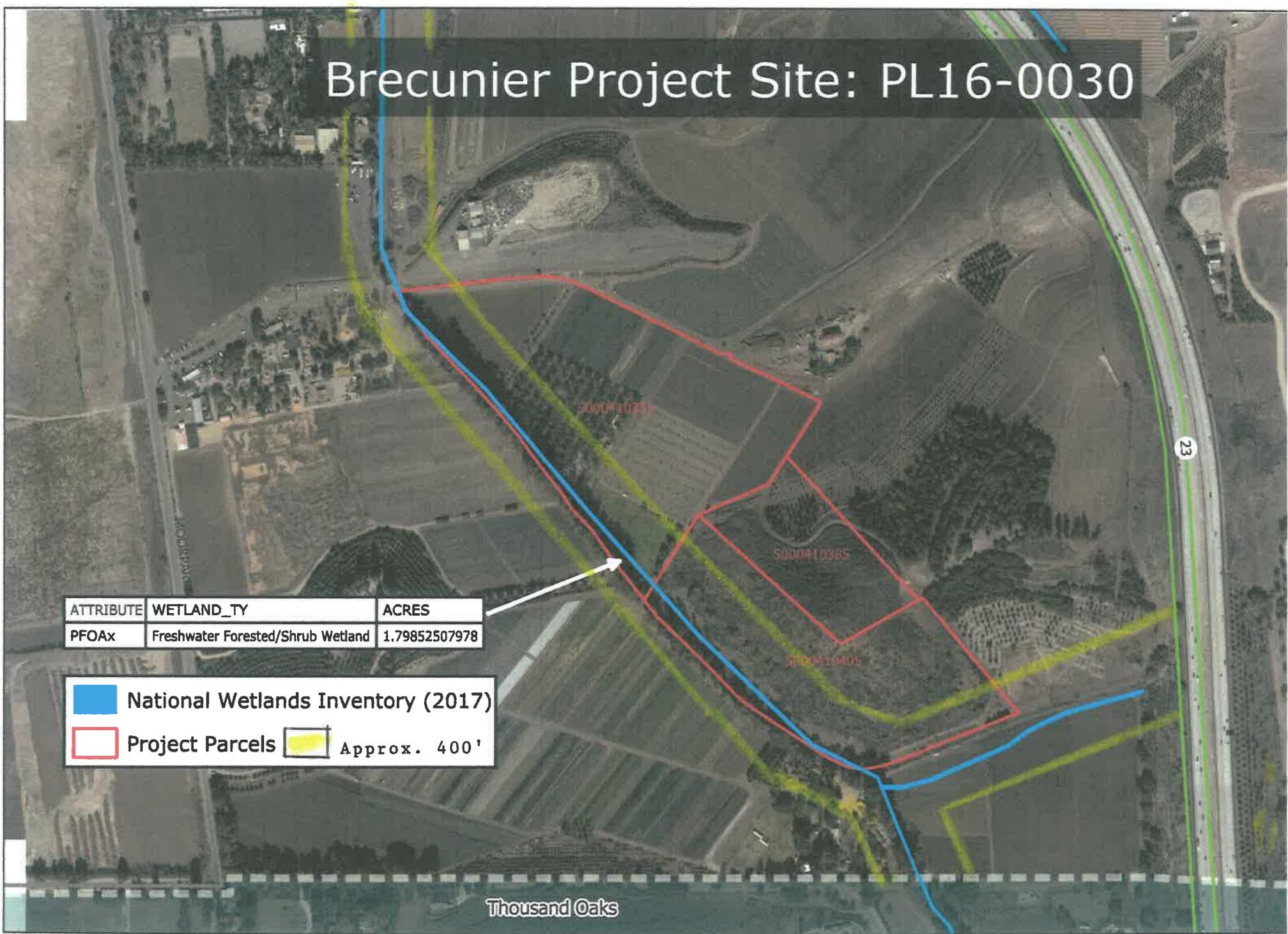
cc: Rick Brecunier, TRR  
Craig Underwood, UFF

# Brecunier Project Site: PL16-0030

ATTRIBUTE	WETLAND_TY	ACRES
PFOAx	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	1.79852507978

-  National Wetlands Inventory (2017)
-  Project Parcels
-  Approx. 400'

Thousand Oaks





## RANCHO TEMESCAL

January 27, 2019

Ms. Meighan Batinica  
County of Ventura  
Resource Management Agency  
Planning Division  
[meighan.batinica@ventura.org](mailto:meighan.batinica@ventura.org)

RE: Wildlife Corridors Proposed Ordinance

Dear Ms. Batinica,

Please accept the following comments for Planning Commission review of the proposed Ordinance.

### Section 8109-4.8.3.6 – Wildlife Impermeable Fencing

(b.) (1) No scientific basis has been provided for the percentage of impermeable fencing allowed. Can you provide the scientific basis of not allowing impermeable fencing on 90% of a gross lot area? What animals were studied that require 90% of a lot area for migration?

### Section 8109-4.9.4 Compact Development Siting Standard

(b.) No scientific basis has been provided for the percentage of the lot that is required to be set aside. Please advise what animals were studied that require 50% of a Lot to be void of structures, and use. The assumption that a Lot can simply be divided and that one half has no impact on the utility of the other half is erroneous.

## CEQA

The Draft Ordinance advises the project is Exempt from CEQA as it does not “result in the direct or indirect loss of agricultural soils or create any land use incompatibility issues with agricultural operations, as this projects does not include **any structures** or uses, and agricultural operations are generally excluded from the proposed regulations.”

Section 8109-4.9.4 advises that 50% of a Lot must be **void of structures**, which is not consistent with your Exemption statement above.

Additionally, CEQA section 15126.2 Consideration and Discussion of Significant Environmental Impacts advises: An EIR shall identify and focus on the significant environmental effects of the proposed project. In assessing the impact of a proposed project on the environment, the lead agency should normally limit its examination to changes in the existing physical conditions in the affected area as they exist at the time the notice of preparation is published, or where no notice of preparation is published, at the time environmental analysis is commenced. Direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the environment shall be clearly identified and described, giving due consideration to both the short-term and long-term effects. The discussion should include relevant specifics of the area, the resources involved, physical changes, alterations to ecological systems, and changes induced in population distribution, population concentration, **the human use of the land (including commercial and residential development)**, health and safety problems caused by the physical changes, and other aspects of the resource base such as water, historical resources, scenic quality, and public services....”

I do not see the appropriate consideration of the human use of the land, or adequate studies on wildlife needs that support the limitations of land use within this Ordinance. As such, I believe there should be a full CEQA analysis.

Thank you,

Tim C. Cohen  
Rancho Temescal

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** don duncan <dduncan@d2ge.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 26, 2019 6:26 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Cc:** dduncan@d2ge.com  
**Subject:** Proposed Wildlife Corridor

To : Ventura County Planning Commission,

I live in Ventura County and am a property owner near the Wilderness Area in the Los Padres National Forest. The current wildlife corridor is massive traveling from Malibu to the Los Padres National Forest. There is no need to compromise private property to increase the size of the current corridor. There is more than enough public acreage for the animals to travel safely. This proposed land grab does not make any sense and must be ended once and for all !

Donald P Duncan

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** David Jones <David.Jones@scouting.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 9:42 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan; ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard; County Planning Department:  
**Cc:** Long, Kelly  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor  
**Attachments:** VCCBSA Wildlife Corridor Ltr 9-12-18.pdf

Ventura County Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, and Planning Department:  
The Boy Scouts of America, Ventura County Council is concerned about the upcoming impact from the proposed Wildlife Corridor ordinance and regulations. The Boy Scouts have ran a Boy Scout Camp in the Lockwood Valley for 86 years (this year). In that time the Scouting has impacted the lives of over 100,000 youth that care about their environment. Preserving and caring about their environment has been a large part of what Scouting represents. Having the Wildlife Corridor being placed on any of Boy Scout Road (Lockwood Valley, northern Ventura County) would take-away conservation study and STEAM projects related to environmental study, fire prevention at the camp and preventive safety measures (lighting, shooting sports fencing, fire prevention) at Camp Three Falls. The attached document explains the concerns posed by the Wildlife Corridor related to Camp Three Falls.

Additionally, the proposed Wildlife Corridor would affect our 536 acre wilderness camp (Camp Willett) between Casitas Springs and Ojai. This is an prime area that Scouts have been able to use for service projects, Scout skill competition and outdoor skill development along with leadership development. The proposed guidelines would inhibit use of the camp as it was intended.

The Wildlife Corridor proposed area should be removed from the planned boundaries in both the Lockwood Valley (Scout Camp Three Falls) and south of Ojai (Camp Willett) as proposed in the attached letter related to Scout safety, lighting, fencing, program, conservation projects, skill development and brush fire prevention.

Sincerely,

David

**David J. Jones**  
Scout Executive & CEO

**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**  
**Ventura County Council**

509 East Daily Drive  
Camarillo, CA 93010

[www.vccbsa.org](http://www.vccbsa.org)

P 805.482.8938 | F 805.484.9172 | C 805-630-6176

**Prepared For Life**



This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. E-mail transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** R. Eric King <eric@laserinnovations.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019 12:44 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Cc:** Batinica, Meighan; ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard; rjm3146@yahoo.com; Rod Elliott  
**Subject:** Opposition to proposed Wildlife Corridor ordinance  
**Attachments:** 20180823 Oppose.pdf; 20190114 Notice Public Hearing 31st.pdf

**Importance:** High

As a property owner of record in Ventura County; I am **OPPOSED** to this "proposed" *Wildlife Corridor ordinance* !

This is an **Illegal Eminent Domain Action** [aka Illegal Taking of Private Land by a public entity] that interferes with my real property rights in and along the Federal Jurisdiction of the Santa Clara River.

Due to the medical & geographical conditions of my brother, I will be unable to voice my OPPOSITION at the public meeting to be held on January 31st, 2019; hence the reason why I am sending in my written opposition via email - FOR THE RECORD.

Sincerely disappointed by the needs of the few,

R. Eric King

The REAL #1 Issue in this County is to limit the drought, so the security of AGRICULTURE can be preserved ! Second to only oil production, AGRICULTURE is the main tax base for VENTURA COUNTY.

The continued growth of Arundo on properties owned & managed by "Non-Profit" CORPORATIONS [non-farming] who pay NO PROPERTY TAX; only deplete the County's watershed at a rate of **43 acre-feet for each single acre EACH YEAR**. These properties are held under RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS [i.e. 20090723-00124396-0, 20090714-00117147-0] imposed and recorded by the VENTURA COUNTY AS THE BENEFICIARY; whereby the COUNTY OF VENTURA has failed to enforce these deeds for **~10+ years...**

### **EQUALS 140,115,930 U.S. Gallons PER ACRE wasted on a NOXIOUS WEED:**

A Violation of at least these:

7 U.S.C. § 1581-1610. 1939. The Federal Seed Act, Title 7 United States Code §1581-1610.

7 U.S.C. § 7701-7786. 2000. Plant Protection Act, Title 7 United States Code §7701-7786.

California Food and Agricultural Code Section 7270

California Penal Code Section 424 PC

Supervisor Peter Foy  
Chair  
Ventura County Board of Supervisors  
800 S. Victoria Ave.  
Ventura, CA 93009

Commissioner Richard Rodriguez  
Chair  
Ventura County Planning Commission  
800 S. Victoria Ave.  
Ventura, CA 93009

**RE: Opposition to proposed Wildlife Corridor ordinance**

Dear Supervisor Foy and Commissioner Rodriguez,

I am signing this letter in opposition of the proposed Wildlife Corridor ordinance. The regulation as written is a dangerous and intrusive overreach by the county government that undermines the economic vitality of our county, threatens the safety of residents in the unincorporated areas and violates the rights of property owners to enjoy and use their property.

The draft ordinance subjects 164,000 acres of unincorporated county lands to a myriad of new regulations by turning regional wildlife corridors into an overlay zone. This places yet another layer of regulations and zoning requirements on land that is already some of the most restricted and regulated in the state. Locally owned, small businesses will have yet another hoop to jump through in order to perform even the most basic activities like lighting and securing their property.

By placing severe and restrictive limits on security fencing and lighting, including a lighting curfew after 10 pm, the County will be putting residents at risk during a time of increasing crime in the unincorporated areas of the county. What's more, the County will be denying residents their basic civil right of enjoying and being secure in their property after dark.

Most disturbingly, the County will require property owners in three areas designated as Critical Wildlife Passage Areas (Tierra Rejada Valley, Oak View and Simi Hills) to draw a line down the middle of their property and forbid them from building new structures, including a home or barn, or any new uses, like pools, corrals or even landscaping, on half of their property unless they perform an insanely expensive and time-consuming environmental review process.

This is essentially hijacking private property in order to accomplish the priorities of a small group of activists. A direct taking of people's property like this for a public benefit should only be done when absolutely necessary and even then should include appropriate compensation to the property owner.

Wildlife already pass through county, including through people's back yards. Instead of focusing on the real barriers to wildlife passage, namely freeways and busy roads, the County has chosen instead to further punish property owners who are just trying to live and work in the unincorporated areas of the county. This proposal, which will impact the economy, public safety and property rights for marginal gains, needs to be rejected and sent back to the drawing board.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

*Eric King*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

*King Ranch*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Company

*Santa Paula + Luis*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City

Cc: Meighan Batinica, meighan.batinica@ventura.org  
Rosa Gonzalez, clerkoftheboard@ventura.org

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Janice Kohles <jgkohles@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 26, 2019 11:11 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Proposed Wildlife Corridor

:

>

> Attention Ventura County Planning Commission:

>

> I oppose the revised wildlife corridor ordinance. There is no need for these extreme limitations on private property especially since there is an abundance of adjacent public lands.

>

> This infringement on the use and enjoyment of private property must NOT pass. We are property owners and tax paying citizens and these outrageous and unnecessary regulations must be stopped.

>

Janice Kohles

January 22, 2019

Ms. Kimberly Prillhart, Director  
Ventura County Planning Division: Attn: Wildlife Corridors  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009  
email: [Kin.Prillhart@ventura.org](mailto:Kin.Prillhart@ventura.org), tel: (805)654-2481 fax: (805)654-2509

RE: Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor  
Property Address: 463 Park Springs Court, Oak Park, CA 91377

Dear Ms. Prillhart:

We are in receipt of your letter dated January 14, 2019 regarding the potential amendments to the County General Plan and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance. We own the property located at 463 Park Springs Court, Oak Park, CA 91377.

The proposed regulations concern us for the following reasons:

- There are no surface water features or road crossings near the property. Therefore, we do not believe that the selection of our property makes sense in the first place.
- Although we support our wildlife, our property is in a residential area. Wildlife presents a safety threat to us as well as all children in our neighborhood. In the past, we have had rattlesnakes and coyotes in the neighborhood. These animals can hurt or even kill people and do not belong near our residences. We currently have some fencing installed that reduces the entry of snakes on our property. We believe fencing needs vary from property to property and, in the interest of safety, are best left to the property owner and the HOA to decide.
- Currently, our property includes outdoor night lighting. This lighting (including motion sensing light fixtures) was already approved by the Country Glen HOA and has been used for safety and security reasons. Since we are at the end of the cul-de-sac, the lighting is inadequate on the property, which necessitated the installation of such lighting.
- Recently, we have just planted some drought-resistant plants to maintain landscaping with reduced water usage in the hot summer months. Are there going to be limitations on the use of such plants?
- The proposed restrictions on our property rights are also unsettling. We greatly value our community and have and will continue to take care of our property. This may include making improvements to our property in the future (e.g. adding a swimming pool or possibly expanding the house with the addition of a new bedroom). Furthermore, possible restrictions imposed by the proposed regulation on such improvements can diminish the value of properties and thereby the desirability of living in our community.

We have brought up some specific concerns regarding the proposed regulation in the hope that they can be addressed and clarified. Please note, as we stated above, there are no surface water features or road crossings near our property and we do not believe the proposed regulation is actually applicable to our property. We appreciate your timely response and consideration of this matter. Please let us know if we can provide any further information.

Sincerely,



Kapriel V. Krikorian, Trustee  
Annig Krikorian 1993 Trust  
Mariam Krikorian 1993 Trust  
Mailing Address: 23212 Park Corniche, Calabasas, CA 91302  
Tel (818) 225-1085 Email: [kaprielkrikorian@aol.com](mailto:kaprielkrikorian@aol.com)

JAN 23 2019

To: Ventura County Planning Commission

From: Chuck Lech

490 Hillsborough St, Thousand Oaks, CA 91361

805-551-1162

Sub: Wildlife vs. Wildfires, Letter Sent to THE ACORN newspapers

January 16, 2019

I want to first commend the ACORN for not only reporting the news after it happens, but also reporting what is about to happen, mainly issues coming up for vote in the chambers of our various government buildings.

Most of us do not have the time to understand these issues until a vote comes to either to a City Council or a County Board of Supervisors meeting. Once we see an item that is very important to us, it is very helpful to have a full background and a recommendation from the editors of your newspaper. Such is the case with your Wildlife vs. Wildfires article.

Today is the anniversary of the mudslides in Montecito, a secondary result of the Thomas fire. 21 people died in the mudslides. It is probable some wildlife also died in the mudslides, but I suggest that 21 human deaths are far more important.

Ventura County, in two years, experienced the Thomas Fire that burned 281,000 acres, 18 people killed, and over 1,000 structures destroyed, and the Woolsey fire, with 96,000 acres burned, 3 people killed, and 1,452 structures destroyed. Ventura county has 1.2 million acres, so this year 31% of the county burned.

The Federal government is threatening to withhold FEMA funding because of a concern we have not properly managed our forests. Timing is everything. It seems our response is now to make that management worse by adding onerous planning restrictions that would make it easier for wildlife to move to other areas when wildfires destroy their habitat. By the way, that would also make it easier for wildfires to move to other areas, destroying even more habitat, not to mention the threat of additional thousands of homes destroyed, and more deaths.

Our environment is a balance of many things. Everything we do influences this balance. The best of intentions has consequences. These new regulations need to be thoroughly scrutinized.

We have always had wildfires, we will always have wildfires. But they need to be restricted in their ability to spread. That is good for both wildlife and humans who share this wonderful area we live in. We need to find a compromise between the ability of wildlife to roam and the ability of wildfires to spread.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Lech". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page.

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Larry Mosler <ojaiquarry@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 19, 2019 2:57 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** x

I think this is great, you having a picture of a mountain lion , standing on the top of my back yard wall. Gee, I think that is great. Every one should have a full grown mountain lion living in there back yard, just out side there kitchen window. So you can look out and treat it as a pet, before it eats one of your kids. You people are 'OUT OF CONTROL'. When are you people going to get some common sense? Oh I know, NEVER. This is the state of California, where all of the idiots live. These are wild animals that you think are pets. Is it going to take two or three kids being eaten alive by one of these animal's, before some one gets the message?

Larry Mosler

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Doug Off <doug@ojaioil.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 9:59 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife (fire) corridor

Dear Planning Commissioners:

Ojai Oil Company has operated owned property in Upper Ojai (APN 030 0 240 045 plus others) as oil production, farming, and homes since 1912. We survived two large wild fires in the past twenty years started in uncontrolled brushlands surrounding our property. We have cleared most of our 60 acres, and ask that we be allowed to remain outside of the proposed wildlife corridor.

Please take a better look at the homes and other parcels of land incorporated in the "wildlife corridor" to insure you are not jeopardizing residential and industrial present usage in maintaining the owner's livelihood.

Thank you

Douglas Off  
Ojai Oil Company  
400 W. Ventura Blvd., Ste 100  
Camarillo, CA 93010  
Wk: 805 388 5858  
Cell: 805 377 7713  
[doug@ojaioil.com](mailto:doug@ojaioil.com)

January 17, 2019

Ventura County Planning Commission  
[meighan.batinica@ventura.org](mailto:meighan.batinica@ventura.org)  
800 S. Victoria Rd.  
Ventura, CA 93003

Subject:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,  
AMENDING DIVISION 8, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLES 2, 3, 4, 5, AND 9  
OF THE VENTURA COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE, NON-COASTAL ZONING  
ORDINANCE TO REGULATE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE REGIONAL  
HABITAT LINKAGES AND THE CRITICAL WILDLIFE PASSAGE OVERLAY  
ZONES**

Dear Commissioners,

As the retired Fire Chief of the Ventura County Fire Protection District and resident of the County, I offer my comments to improve public safety as we are being challenged with climate change's adverse effects. Whether one believes in climate change or not, it is a fact that we have moved from traditional "fire seasons," to a year-round wildfire environment. This change is being heralded as the "New Normal" with extended droughts, pest infestation and abnormal fire conditions. This situation has caused six of the biggest California wildfires to occur during the past two years causing life loss (firefighter & public) and major property damage. Wildfire effects and property damage has resulted in major environmental and economic losses both to private property owners and government entities.

Within your draft ordinance, I'd like to comment on two sections:

Invasive Plant Species

I strongly support controlling invasive plant species that are not native to Ventura County. These species often compete with native species, require more water, and may increase the fire danger. Non-native plant species (i.e. Cheat Grass, Medusa Head & Russian Thistle) are often inedible by wildlife and animal grazing practices. They are also considered "fine fuels" which increase fire spread rates and resulting flooding. Eradication methods include species identification, manual/mechanical removal, grazing and chemical treatments.

Wildlife Corridors

I understand and support the idea of protecting wildlife corridors, but we need to understand the risks to our residents and ensure that we do not compromise new or existing public safety programs. For example, Ventura County Fire Department has a proven defensible space program that consistently yields lower property loss than most jurisdictions.

Wildlife corridors usually involve water drainage areas that afford water and canopy cover for wildlife travel. These topographic features are currently addressed during wildfires where bulldozer lines and fire retardant drops have restrictions.

We need to review these areas and understand the need to truly manage our landscape. Native Indians regularly introduced fire across the landscape to reduce vegetation and increase plant and wildlife production. This was done during non-extreme fire environments to protect the soil from high heat situations and ensure native plant species repopulation. Overtime as human development has occurred, we have excluded fire's benefits and now have older decadent landscapes that once ignited denude the landscape and cause various secondary issues like flooding and negative smoke effects. Ventura County now depends on aggressive fire suppression that is highly reliant upon the 100-foot defensible space ordinance for structures and fuel modification zones.

This proposed ordinance presents a crossroad in how to protect wildlife and human habitation at the same time. CAL FIRE maintains Fire Hazard Maps that are established in three danger ratings, yet all three zones are truly susceptible to wildfire as seen in the Thomas fire, 2017. We must truly manage our landscapes and conduct defensible space actions and fuel modification zones for success. Managing landscapes does not mean that vegetation needs to be completely eradicated. In fact, managed healthy landscapes allow plants and oak trees to survive a wildfire and protect the soil against erosion. Actions to accomplish this goal can be done via handwork, grazing practices (cows/goats), mechanical treatments and prescribed fire. Prescribed fire or controlled burns are one of the most cost effective ways to manage lands as they prevent emergency wildfire events by reducing fuel loads while enhancing the natural environment.

Within the draft ordinance under Sec. 8109-4.9.6 "Compact Development-Exemptions," Planting of crops and orchards that will be commercially sold are exempted actions, but cattle grazing is not. Ventura County has a viable cattle industry that can be better utilized to combat wildfires by creating fuel modification zones. Ranchers have a vested interest in protecting our landscape and they improve water sources, which also serve native wildlife without acknowledgement. There needs to be recognition of the cattle industry contributions and considerations in dealing with wildlife corridor setbacks and impermeable fencing.

The wildlife corridors have already been impacted by population growth and by allowing decadent fuels to accumulate. Also, because these corridors have areas located in water drainage areas or riparian areas, they also witness a decreased water supply for wildlife. In actual prescribe fire projects, there is a notable increase in surface water for wildlife following a fire. As the fuels increase in age and density, they also increase the intensity of wildland fire

spread rate and impact. Each of the three maps associated with the draft ordinance display the wildlife corridors, which contains varying population-housing densities. Population growth requires a successful defensible space program, which Ventura County is a leader in. In addition to defensible space, fuel modification zones/fuel breaks are essential to fire suppression. These zones enable more effective fire retardant drops from aircraft and can be accomplished without “moon-scaping” the landscape.

The draft ordinance proposes to address approximately 147,381 acres and to put that into perspective, the collective 115,656 acres burnt in the Thomas, Hill and Woolsey fires within Ventura County were adjacent and/or within the proposed wildlife corridors. We need to understand that by not actively managing the wildlife corridor fuels/landscapes, we may be contributing to future fire acres lost and the secondary impacts.

We need to balance the needs and how we manage wildlife corridors. Each parcel affected by the proposed wildlife corridor should be individually considered regarding how they contribute to the overall geographic area’s fire safety and wildlife migration. This give and take approach is the only realistic method to balance protecting wildlife and addressing the existing and emerging population fire safety impacts.

In the revised draft ordinance posted on January 14, 2019, a new definition was added addressing “Vegetation Modification” - Human-caused alteration of vegetation through direct actions including, but not limited to, complete removal, mowing, thinning, or chaining. I would assume that this definition would also include “prescribe fires” or “controlled burns.” Any reference against “Vegetation Modification” will certainly have adverse effects against protecting our communities.

I respectfully request that the final ordinance does not restrict the public’s ability to create defensible space, fuel modification zones and that the ordinance encourages enhanced landscape management.

I remain available to respond to any inquiries regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Roper". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Bob Roper  
806 Canada St.  
Ojai, CA 93023

## **Batinica, Meighan**

---

**From:** M Vanoni <mvanoni@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019 1:11 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor Ordinance

I STRONGLY oppose the Wildlife Corridor Ordinance. It is a direct threat the safety and security of Ventura County.

Mary Vanoni

Manger - Rancho Bella Vista

President - California Women for Agriculture, Ventura County

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Kelly Wilmer <kellywilmer@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 19, 2019 10:38 AM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Amendments to general plan - Jan 31st hearing

We live at 1673 Buena Vista St Ventura. We have had an untagged unmonitored mountain lion on our hill for over a month. Human safety should be the City & Counties first priority. No-one has resolved this issue. I have now notified the City and County of Ventura and Fish and Game of this danger to public safety.

I am AGAINST any restriction of lighting and fencing on Ventura hillsides that will assist preventing deer coming close to our properties and attracting mountain lions. This goes against human safety.

We also need barriers against mud slides etc.

Please do not add these restrictions above downtown/midtown Ventura.

Sincerely  
Kelly Wilmer

805 276 5939

Sent from my iPhone