

**Letters of Support**  
**Received January 30, 2019**

**County of Ventura**  
**Planning Commission Hearing**  
**PL16-0127**  
**Exhibit 27 – Comment Letters Received**  
**January 30, 2019**

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Kathy Bremer <kcbremer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 10:43 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Ventura County Wildlife Corridors

RE: January 31, 2019. Agenda Item 6. **PL16-0127**

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am unable to attend your meeting tomorrow, January 31st, due to a conflicting meeting, but wanted to go on the record as being in support of the creation of the proposed wildlife corridors. This recommendation derives from extensive study of Southern California's wildlife habitats. The proposed corridor routes comprise the smallest area compatible with the migration needs of our various wildlife populations to protect them from extinction due to inbreeding or fatal interactions with humans.

Please support the establishment of the recommended wildlife corridors in our county with appropriate regulations to protect both animal and human lives.

Sincerely  
Kathy Bremer  
450 Dorothy Ave.  
Ventura 93003  
Kcbremer@gmail.com

**Batinica, Meighan**

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**From:** Colleen Byrum <colleen.byrum@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 12:28 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Protecting wildlife corridors

I am writing to voice my support for planning and protecting wildlife corridors.

I am in strong support of measures that will protect creeks. It seems to me that planning measures that protect creeks are also in the best interest of people, not only by protecting the watershed, but to keep us from building in potential harms way. I always am very keen to reduce light pollution -- starlight was such a consoling feature of my childhood. I wonder today how many children ever have the experience of undiluted starlight?

Thank you,

Colleen Byrum  
430 Montana Circle  
Ojai, CA  
206.949.5018

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** ca.avoking@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 8:42 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** I support the Wildlife Corridor and Habitat Connectivity plan

Hello,

My wife and I are 23 year residents of a 40 year old house situated on 6.5 acres on the Presilla ridgeline in the Santa Rosa Valley. We've been following the wildlife corridor situation in Ventura County ever since the City of Thousand Oaks allowed a developer to build his mansion right in one of the narrow choke points on Mont Clef Ridge. We also followed for years the research and outreach performed to put together the final Rim of the Valley report with its associated corridor maps. The time is well past due to take action for the benefit of the animals and native plants that require the remaining acres of corridors for their survival. We are in full support of the necessary common sense land use restrictions required. I urge the Planning Commissioners and the Board of Supervisors to VOTE YES for approving the connectivity plan.

Sincerely,

Kevin & Linda Cannon  
11621 Presilla Road  
Santa Rosa Valley

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Brenda Christian <brenny1103@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 6:06 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Support for wild life

Thank you for this email! Yes, I support you. I am working at the time the meeting will be held.

I am not interested in donating money , but I am willing to support in other ways . Please keep me posted!

Thank you ,

Brenda Christian

Sent from my iPhone

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Sussman, Shelley  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 8:52 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: I support the Wildlife Corridor

Support letter

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

**From:** Janice Davis <jdavis56@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 6:53 AM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** I support the Wildlife Corridor

I am writing to express my support for the Wildlife Corridor proposal to be considered at Thursday's planning commission meeting. It is a well thought out proposal, which provides essential protections for healthy wildlife populations while considering the needs of agriculture and allowing for fire prevention measures.

Janice Davis

Sent from my iPad

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Rick Dow <richard.dow4@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 5:29 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife support

Please consider this message as me being in support of the Wildlife Corridor and Connectivity Plan.

Rick Dow, MS Zoology

Santa Rosa Valley, CA

## Batinica, Meighan

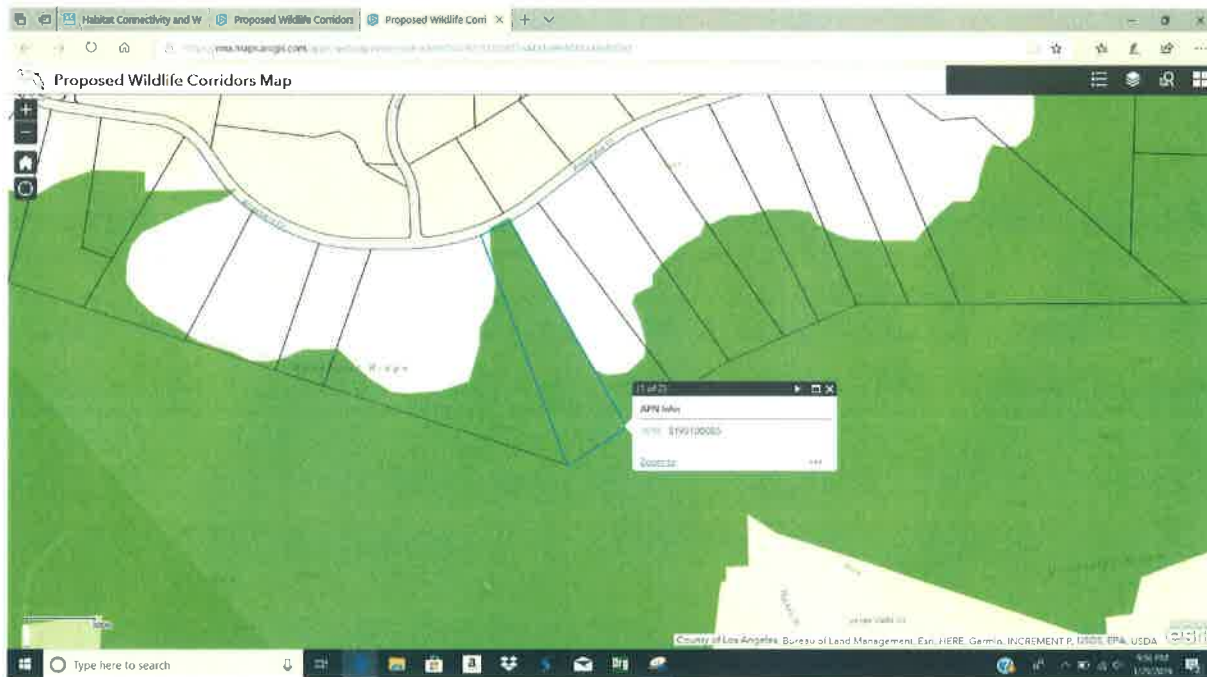
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**From:** Stephen Fox <foxorama@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 10:20 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor

Meighan,

I'm in favor of this project, however, I am trying to understand why my entire parcel is covered by the restrictions. We just moved in about 10 months ago, have horses on the property as well as a dog and there seems to be multiple proposed restrictions on what we can now do with our land. I'm trying to be supportive but this outline just does not make any sense. Our parcel appears to be the only one on the street that is covered in it's entirety. Why would there need to be a corridor that goes this deep into a residential area? And why would our parcel be singled out in this way? It almost appears that whoever drew the boundaries thought that our parcel was completely vacant. It's not!

Steve Fox





## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Sussman, Shelley  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 8:51 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: I support the wildlife corridor.

Support

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

**From:** Tamara Walker <thebodydefined@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 9:35 PM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** I support the wildlife corridor.

Hello Shelley,

I would like to add my support of the creation of wildlife corridors in Ventura county. Please help protect our wildlife and the beauty of this area.

Sincerely,

Tamara J. Frayssinet, MS, ATC, RYT  
Thousand Oaks Resident

Sent from my iPhone

*from the desk of*  
**JAMES E. HOFFMANN**

Telephone (818) 990-2370  
Facsimile (818) 876-8526

writer's e-mail:  
[jhoffmann@levinhoffmann.com](mailto:jhoffmann@levinhoffmann.com)

23622 CALABASAS ROAD  
SUITE 253  
CALABASAS, CA 91302  
(818) 990-2370

95 S. MARKET STREET  
SUITE 300  
SAN JOSE, CA 95113  
(408) 944-9806

425 MARKET STREET  
SUITE 2200  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105  
(415) 474-5121

REPLY TO: CALABASAS

January 30, 2019

**VIA FACSIMILE ONLY TO: (805) 480 0585**

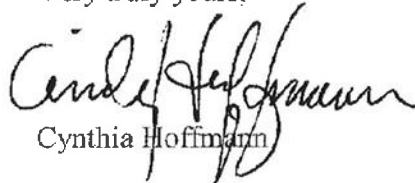
Linda Parks  
County of Ventura - District 2  
625 West Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Re: January 31st Public Meeting On New Wildlife Ordinance  
My addresses: 143 Bell Canyon Road, Bell Canyon, CA 91307  
147 Bell Canyon Road, Bell Canyon, CA 91307

Dear Ms. Parks:

I am a resident of Bell Canyon and I'm in 100% support of the wildlife corridor and our HOA Board hasn't surveyed residents for our opinion and doesn't speak for us in their opposition.

Very truly yours,

  
Cynthia Hoffmann

JEH:klm

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Eric Kentor <eskentor@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 1:14 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors

I am a resident and home owner in Bell Canyon, and am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the County General Plan and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance relating to wildlife corridors in the region. I support the adoption of reasonable, common sense environmental regulation. To me, that would require consideration of the unique characteristic of our local natural environment and be designed to help preserve the beauty and biodiversity of our surrounding community, while also recognizing and respecting private property rights.

Much of Ventura County is blessed with natural beauty and magnificent wildlife. This also invariably encourages development within our community. While individual property rights should be honored and respected, reasonable oversight and regulation is also necessary for the long-term public good. We need to be responsible stewards of our environment, in addition to supporting economic prosperity. I support the proposed efforts to further these objectives.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Eric Kentor  
105 Bell Canyon Road  
Bell Canyon, CA 91307

--  
Eric Kentor  
[eskentor@gmail.com](mailto:eskentor@gmail.com)  
818/807-6114 (cell)

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

Notice Regarding Confidentiality: This written message is intended only for the exclusive use of the addressee and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you have received this message in error, please call the sender, delete this material from the computer on which it was stored and destroy any printed copies.

--  
Eric Kentor  
[eskentor@gmail.com](mailto:eskentor@gmail.com)  
818/807-6114 (cell)

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

Notice Regarding Confidentiality: This written message is intended only for the exclusive use of the addressee and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you have received this message in error, please call the sender, delete this material from the computer on which it was stored and destroy any printed copies.

**Batinica, Meighan**

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**From:** Deidre Leonard <deidreisevil@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 5:07 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor and Habitat Connectivity plan

Dear Meighan,

As a long-time resident in Ventura County, I would like to voice my support of the Wildlife Corridor and Habitat Connectivity plan. It is so important to provide ways for wildlife to safely move across county land, mountains and waterways, so that they can find food, water and the biological diversity needed for various animal species to survive.

Thank you for taking my support into consideration.

Sincerely,

Deidre Leonard  
2275 Barbara Drive  
Camarillo, CA 93012

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Brooke Luke <ekulekoorb@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 6:29 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor

Hi I am emailing you to let you know that my husband and I support the wildlife corridor.  
Thanks!  
Brooke and Gary Luke  
Moorpark

Sent from my iPhone

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Sussman, Shelley  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 6:16 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: Habitat Connectivity Overlay Zone - Support Letter  
**Attachments:** Ventura Planning Commission HCOZ Ltr 012919.pdf

Support letter

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**From:** E.J. Remson <eremson@TNC.ORG>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 6:14 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors <Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org>  
**Cc:** Sussman, Shelley <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Habitat Connectivity Overlay Zone - Support Letter

Hi Shelley,

My email to the wildlife.corridors email address was returned so I am copying you directly.

Thanks,

E.J.

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**From:** E.J. Remson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 6:06 PM  
**To:** [Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org](mailto:Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org)  
**Subject:** Habitat Connectivity Overlay Zone - Support Letter

Hello Planning Department,

Please deliver the attached letter to the Planning Commissioners.

Thank you,

E.J.

E.J. Remson  
Senior Project Director  
[eremson@tnc.org](mailto:eremson@tnc.org)  
(626) 799-2445

**The Nature Conservancy**  
532 E Main St., Suite 200  
Ventura, CA 93001  
[nature.org](http://nature.org)





Ventura Office  
532 E. Main Street, Suite 200  
Ventura, CA 93001

tel 805- 642-0345  
fax 805- 642-3421  
nature.org

Sender's Direct Line 626-799-2445

January 29, 2019

Ventura County Planning Commission  
Via Email [Wildlife.Corrriors@ventura.org](mailto:Wildlife.Corrriors@ventura.org)

RE: Support for Habitat Connectivity Overlay Zone

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to express The Nature Conservancy's 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 Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District and The Nature Conservancy acquired nearly 400 acres of Alamos Canyon including a large wildlife crossing under the 118 Freeway in Simi Valley at a cost of nearly \$3,000,000. 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.

Your planning staff has done an excellent job of gaining valuable stakeholder input from landowners and interested parties. Several well attended public workshops were held, written input was solicited, experts were interviewed and other agencies with experience in preserving wildlife pathways were contacted. I believe that the resulting 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,

E.J. Remson  
Senior Project Director



## CFROG YOUR OIL & GAS WATCHDOG

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January 28, 2019

Richard Rodriguez, Chair  
Ventura County Planning Commission  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93030

*Submitted via email only*

**Re: Agenda item #6 PL16-0127 / Wildlife Corridors**

Dear Chair Rodriguez and Commissioners,

CFROG works in Ventura County to protect communities, wild places and open spaces from the negative impacts associated with oil and gas extraction and related activities.

In accordance with that mission we support efforts to protect wildlife from impacts associated with existing operations and expansion of oil and gas activities in wild places and open spaces in Ventura County.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Rivers  
Executive Director

Defending communities, wild places & open spaces from the negative impacts of oil & gas extraction.

PO BOX 114 | OJAI, CA 93024 | 805-556-4001 | [ED@CFROG.ORG](mailto:ED@CFROG.ORG) | [WWW.CFROG.ORG](http://WWW.CFROG.ORG)

*CFROG is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization*



## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Jeffrey Starkweather <jeffreystarkweather@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 3:23 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor project

Dear Planning Commissioners:

I strongly support the well-thought and research proposal of the county planning staff in developing wildlife corridors across the county.

As the planning staff pointed out these wildlife not only can mitigate the serious threat we have of critical species extinction but they aide in preserving the ecology of our natural areas to help withstand climate change heat waves and fire threats. Moreover they cite research supporting such corridors help mitigate impacts on pollinators needed for food production, help protect diversity in plant and animal population to needed to resist the onset and spread of disease and helps prevent loss of vegetation needed for the natural purification process for our air and water.

I have read the detailed planning staff report and I believe they have done an excellent jobs of balancing protecting these wildlife corridors and the needs of private property owners impacted by this project.

Thank you for your consideration of my input.

Jeffrey Starkweather  
255 So. Lomita,. Ojai

**Batinica, Meighan**

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**From:** Mike Sterling <mike.sterling@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 7:05 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor

As a resident of Bell Canyon I want let the County know that I approve of the project and the whole concept and believe special emphasis should be placed on down-lighting to minimize the harmful impact to nocturnal creatures. At my own home there are never any outside lights on with the rare exception when guests are over that are not familiar with the layout of our hillside home.

Some of my neighbors had bright lights on that illuminate an entire hillside and that has always bothered me. It is of no benefit to the homeowner but is detrimental to small creatures that for thousands of years made their survival dependent on darkness.

Please consider any other reasonable measures to assure that the native creatures in Ventura county have a dark safe area to live in.

Thank you.



January 30, 2019

*Sent via email and FedEx*

Ventura County Planning Commission  
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**

Dear Ventura County Planning Commission:

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity (the “Center”) regarding the proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance (“Ordinance”). The Center appreciates the work of the Commission and County Planning Staff in developing the Ordinance. The Ordinance as proposed is a major step forward in maintaining and enhancing wildlife connectivity within Ventura County and the region. At the same time, the Center recommends improvements to the Ordinance to further support its stated objectives, which are discussed in sections VI through VIII below.

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 (Ceia-Hasse et al., 2018; Cushman, 2006; Haddad et al., 2015; Trombulak & Frissell, 2000; van der Ree et al., 2011). 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*), least bell's vireos (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), 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.

#### **V. 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 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

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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>.

(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. 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 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 and drilling for geologic testing. Golf courses can fragment wildlife habitat while causing groundwater and surface water pollution arising from pesticides and fertilizers. They should not be exempt from the CWPA requirements and procedures.

## **VII. The Lighting Exemptions for 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 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.” It is possible that this exemption may have been included at the request of the Western States Petroleum Association, a fossil fuel interest group. (See Exh. 23 at PDF p. 126.) This exemption would allow 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.

## **VIII. The Center Supports Inclusion of Additional Overlay Zones.**

The Center notes that Save Open Space/Santa Monica Mountains (“SOS”) requested in January 2017 and September 2018 that the Lake Sherwood/Hidden Valley area be considered for inclusion in the overlay zone. (See Exh. 23 at PDF 189.) In addition, SOS urged the County to include the entire site of the former Santa Susana Field Laboratory in the overlay zone due to the importance of this habitat for mountain lions and other wildlife. (*Id.*) As SOS observes, multiple mountain lions have been known to use the undeveloped areas of Lake Sherwood such that this area meets the definition of a “Critical Wildlife Passage Area.” (*Id.*) The Center joins SOS in requesting that these areas be considered for inclusion in the overlay zone. Moreover, the Center recommends that Ventura County continue to study other areas for future inclusion in the overlay zones in collaboration with local agencies and nonprofit organizations.



## **IX. Conclusion**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Ordinance. 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 connectivity. Please add the Center to your notice list for all future updates regarding the Ordinance, and 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  
Center for Biological Diversity  
1212 Broadway, Suite 800  
Oakland, California 94612  
[tyap@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:tyap@biologicaldiversity.org)



J.P. Rose  
Urban Wildlands Staff Attorney  
Center for Biological Diversity  
660 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1000  
Los Angeles, California 90017  
[jrose@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:jrose@biologicaldiversity.org)

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(included on CD)

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**Letters of Opposition**  
**Received January 30, 2019**

**County of Ventura**  
**Planning Commission Hearing**  
**PL16-0127**  
**Exhibit 27 – Comment Letters Received**  
**January 30, 2019**

January 30. 2019

Resource Management Agency  
Ventura Planning Division:

My name is Bruce Abbott.

For 18 years my wife Kathleen and I have owned 100 acres at the eastern most finger of Lake Casitas on the north side of Santa Ana Rd.

My entire property has been mapped in the Critical Wildlife Passage Area of the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor.

We are writing to express our staunch disapproval of this proposed ordinance. While we recognize the ordinances good intentions, we find the study's science antiquated, and its application tantamount to a land grab. It is impractical, illogical, and illegal.

The RMA says thorough research was done 13 years ago in this mapping of the corridors. However, it does not recognize the obvious environmental shaping of the drought or the fire events of the past few years. In the 18 years we have lived here we have not had one request or visit by anyone associated with or representing this study.

Indeed the real environmental research this study should be based on, will be done by the biologist we will have to hire at great expense should this ordinance pass.

It does not take a biological report to identify the biggest body of surface water in this area is Lake Casitas, but that giant source is of water for wildlife mysteriously finds itself outside of the CWPA. One can only conclude these stifling restrictions being thrust on private land owners could never be enforced on a federally owned land.

For the record, we built a 1200 sq. ft. guest house in the hopes of someday building a main residence. We have developed less than one acre of the one hundred acres with the desire to leave the smallest possible footprint so as not to disturb this majestic open space. If this ordinance passes and I choose to build a home, I will be penalized with unfair financial burdens coupled with the loss of property use and value. Penalized for doing the very same thing this ordinance aims to do. Penalized, when we should be rewarded.

Perhaps most alarming is the fact that this is the third proposed overlay in the 18 years we have lived here. In 2006 the Scenic Resource Protection effectively took many acres of our property and in the following years tried to expand the SRP to take more. This latest proposal will severely restrict every inch of my property with yet another overlay. It exposes the Resource Managements Agency's relentless encroachment of private property owners rights.

At the very least, the board should examine each individual property in this corridor assessment and evaluate how to encourage rather than strangle those already commensurate with open space and the wildlife movement within it.

This ordinance as it stands, is an invitation to litigation.

Sincerely,

Bruce Abbott and Kathleen Quinlan



## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Bryant Baker <bryant@lpfw.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 12:33 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Support for Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance (PL16-0127) Item #6, Planning Commission Hearing, January 31, 2019  
**Attachments:** 20190130\_Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors Support\_Sign-on Letter.pdf

Hi Meighan,

Please find attached a letter to the Planning Commission supporting the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance and signed by seven local organizations.

Thank you,

**Bryant Baker, Conservation Director**

**Los Padres ForestWatch**

PO Box 831, Santa Barbara, CA 93102

805.617.4610 x3 • Direct: 805.770.7456

*Protecting the Los Padres National Forest,  
the Carrizo Plain National Monument, and  
other public lands along California's  
Central Coast. Join us today at [LPFW.org](http://LPFW.org).*



**LOS PADRES FORESTWATCH • CALIFORNIA CHAPARRAL INSTITUTE  
CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY • DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE  
KEEP SESPE WILD COMMITTEE • SIERRA CLUB, LOS PADRES CHAPTER  
VENTURA AUDUBON SOCIETY**

January 30, 2019

Ventura County Planning Commission  
800 S. Victoria Ave.  
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Support for Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance (PL16-0127) Item #6, Planning Commission Hearing, January 31, 2019

Dear Chair Aidukas and Members of the Planning Commission:

Ventura County Planning staff's proposed amendments to the Ventura County General Plan and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance would protect areas throughout the county that are critical for the movement of local wildlife between important habitat areas such as the Los Padres National Forest and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

These protections would establish Ventura County as a regional leader in ensuring the long-term viability of important species, proper ecosystem functioning, and the area's natural heritage. It would ensure that our region's wildlife are able to survive amidst an increasingly fragmented landscape and ensure that their populations remain healthy long into the future.

Well-documented declines of many local wildlife species have been attributed to habitat loss and fragmentation. Animals that exemplify the rich natural history of Ventura County—such as the iconic mountain lion, black bears, and deer—are threatened by population isolation due to an ever-expanding network of roads and developments. Scientists have pointed to the need for wildlife corridor protection in order for local and often keystone species to continue existing in our region.

The proposed amendments were developed through a robust public input process, one that incorporated the concerns of agricultural producers and other landowners in the county during three stakeholder meetings and multiple site visits. Planning staff made several changes to the proposal to address these concerns, such as numerous exemptions to restrictions on outdoor lighting, fencing, and

vegetation modification that give landowners flexibility without compromising the wildlife and habitat protection goals of the proposal.

For example, these exemptions allow for landowners to continue creating and maintaining defensible space around their structures to protect them from wildfire, and the County Fire Chief stated in a letter dated January 8, 2019 that “there are sufficient accommodations and exemptions in the ordinance to allow the Ventura County Fire Department the ability to maintain vegetation management and fuel treatments in the proposed wildlife corridors.”

This proposal is an important first step toward protecting the many mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and native plants that rely on the habitat within the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors delineated in large part by a large, collaborative effort of scientists and local, state, and federal agencies. Not only will these species benefit from the proposal, but the people who live in and travel through Ventura County will benefit due to increased safety from collisions with animals on roadways and conservation of local ecosystems that provide us with drinking water, clean air, and places to recreate.

We the undersigned organizations therefore urge you to adopt a resolution recommending that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed amendments to the General Plan and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Bryant Baker  
Conservation Director  
Los Padres ForestWatch  
[bryant@lpfw.org](mailto:bryant@lpfw.org)

Richard Halsey  
Director  
California Chaparral Institute  
[rwh@californiachaparral.org](mailto:rwh@californiachaparral.org)

Frank DeMartino  
President  
Conejo Valley Audubon Society  
[president@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:president@conejovalleyaudubon.org)

Kim Delfino  
California Program Director  
Defenders of Wildlife  
[kdelfino@defenders.org](mailto:kdelfino@defenders.org)

Alasdair Coyne  
Conservation Director  
Keep Sespe Wild Committee  
[sespecoyne@gmail.com](mailto:sespecoyne@gmail.com)

Katie Davis  
Chair  
Sierra Club, Los Padres Chapter  
[kdavis2468@gmail.com](mailto:kdavis2468@gmail.com)

Bruce Schoppe  
President  
Ventura Audubon Society  
[bschoppe6698@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bschoppe6698@sbcglobal.net)

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Brushpoppers <brushpoppers@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 7:46 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Cc:** chris@rinconstrategies.com  
**Subject:** Do not pass the dangerous Wildlife Corridor Ordinance

January 29, 2017

To: Ventura County Planning Commission  
Commissioner Richard Rodriguez  
Commissioner Jim King  
Commissioner Maggie Kestly  
Commissioner Phil White  
Commissioner Nora Aidukas

SUBJECT: Do not pass the dangerous Wildlife Corridor Ordinance

Commissioners:

As a Ventura County resident, I have concerns about the implementation of the Wildlife Corridor Ordinance.

Because the Ordinance was based on studies and models that were done over 13 years ago, they are no longer accurate, and no longer reflect what is needed to create and protect valid wildlife corridors. The corridor pathway through the fully developed Bell Canyon subdivision is evidence of the model's faulty assumptions.

The ordinance imposes an arbitrary 200' buffer to "surface water features" shown on a flawed and outdated U.S. Fish and Wildlife map. Brush clearance, structures, fencing and many uses are restricted within the buffer. There are no biological studies to support the need for doubling the 100' buffer required in the existing Ventura County General Plan.

Due to the County's legally deficient determination that the Ordinance is exempt from CEQA, the County's proposal is rife with potentially significant environmental impacts, unintended consequences, and negative effects to property owners.

The County is rushing this ordinance forward, notifying landowners merely a week before a Planning Commission decision with an inadequate notification letter understating the impact to property owners.

I support reasonable efforts to minimize impacts to wildlife movement within the County. However, many of the regulations in the proposed ordinance are legally flawed and scientifically unsupported, unwarranted, and unnecessary

I respectfully ask that you send this ordinance back to Planning staff for further consideration.

Sincerely,

Signature:Ed Boyle

Name:\_Ed Boyle

Address:5313 Mine Rd. Simi Valley Ca 93063

Bradley Ranch Co-Owners  
3052 E. Telegraph Road  
Fillmore, CA 93015  
January 29, 2017

To: Ventura County Planning Commission  
Commissioner Richard Rodriguez  
Commissioner Jim King  
Commissioner Maggie Kestly  
Commissioner Phil White  
Commissioner Nora Aidukas

SUBJECT: Do not pass the dangerous Wildlife Corridor Ordinance

Dear Commissioners:

As Ventura County property owners and farmers on our property for over 115 years, we have concerns about the implementation of the Wildlife Corridor Ordinance. The proposed ordinance places extreme restrictions on fencing, lighting, brush clearance and structures that will compromise the security of families and prevent them from reasonable use of their land.

The expansion of stream buffers from 100' to 200' and the ban on clearing or even thinning flammable brush in these areas is dangerous. The buffer areas include 140,000 acres within the proposed wildlife corridors, directly adjacent to cities and unincorporated communities.

Over 147,000 acres or 35% of the proposed corridors are in State Fire Hazard zones, turning these areas into dangerous *WildFire* corridors.

Over 115,000 acres of this proposed corridor burned in the Thomas, Hill and Woolsey fires. All three of the tragic recent fires started in or directly adjacent to the proposed corridors. These fires scorched over 383,000 acres and burned 3180 structures in three Counties.

These fires devastated wildlife populations and their habitat. Mountain lions and bobcats were lost in the Woolsey Fire. The Santa Monica Mountains lost half of its wildlife habitat in the fire.

The County is rushing this ordinance forward, notifying landowners merely a week before a Planning Commission decision with an inadequate notification letter understating the impact to property owners. Many landowners have no idea this is happening.

We support reasonable efforts to minimize impacts to wildlife movement within the County. However, many of the regulations in the proposed ordinance are legally flawed, scientifically unsupported, unwarranted, and unnecessary

We respectfully ask that you send this ordinance back to Planning staff for further consideration.

Sincerely,

*John F. Bradley, Sr.*  
John F. Bradley, Sr., Co-owner

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Amie Chessmore <a\_chessmore@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 2:27 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife corridor ordinance revision

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.

Amie Chessmore

January 30, 2019

**Ventura County CoLAB  
Board of Directors & Officers**

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Tony Skinner, IBEW Local 952  
*Director*

Alex Teague, Limoneira  
*Director*

Andy Waters, Waters Family Farms  
*Director*

TO: Ventura County Planning Commissioners:

Commissioner Nora Aidukas

Commissioner Maggie Kestly

Commissioner Jim King

Commissioner Richard Rodriguez

Commissioner Phil White

Sent via Email to [meighan.batinica@ventura.org](mailto:meighan.batinica@ventura.org)

**Re: Comments on the Wildlife Corridor Ordinance Overlay Zones**

Dear Commissioners,

VC CoLAB represents over 500 members in Ventura County who live in all five supervisor districts and in each of the ten cities. They are business owners, farmers, ranchers, and producers, hard-working people connected to the land who provide products and services to our community.

As our attorney letter stated: "CoLAB supports reasonable efforts to minimize impacts to wildlife movement within the County. However, many of the regulations in the proposed ordinance are legally flawed and scientifically unsupported, unwarranted, and unnecessary."

**Exhibit 1** shows proposed wildlife corridors (hatched) across the South Half of the County). The ordinance will rezone 420,000 acres of land within the identified corridors including huge swaths across the Los Padres National Forest through the sparsely populated Lockwood Valley (**Exhibit 2**). The mapping of these corridors are based on a regional study by South Coast Wildlands in 2005 and 2006, over 13 years ago.

VC CoLAB contracted with biological firm ECORP to assess the scientific basis of the regional linkage studies by South Coast Wildlands (SCW). We were concerned about such maps being adopted in a regulatory ordinance. The analysis showed that the County increased the area, adding 25,690 acres to the South Coast Wildlands corridors.

ECORP found many concerns with the modeling, particularly with inaccuracies in the vegetation and land use/cover analyses as compared to current conditions on the ground. They recommended that the models be re-run with updated technology including new imagery and ground truthing.

In addition, they found many errors in the surface water features from National Wetlands Inventory maps that the County has applied a new 200' buffer to. The buffer would limit vegetation clearance, security fencing and structures.



CoLAB recommends decreasing the surface water feature buffers to 100' to conform to the County General Plan.

## **MAPPING ERRORS AND ANOMALIES**

In CoLAB's analysis of the proposed Wildlife Corridor (HCWC zone) maps, we found many anomalies that will impact private properties in the mapped corridors. **Exhibit 3** shows an example in the Happy Camp Canyon area with a pixelated boundary randomly through agricultural land. This area needs to be coordinated with the landowner to find a more prudent pathway.

**Exhibit 4** shows a pixelated boundary through houses in a neighborhood in Oak Park. These boundaries need to be coordinated with the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council to determine a balance between wildlife corridors and neighborhood issues. Based on posted agenda and minutes from the MAC, this issue was not discussed at a public meeting.

These imprudent mapping boundaries are found in many parts of the proposed overlay zone that are inappropriate for a regulatory map. We recommend that these areas be corrected and the maps be shared with all affected Municipal Advisory Councils and Neighborhood Councils in the County prior to moving forward with the ordinance.

## **CONSEQUENCES TO FIRE PREVENTION AND WILDLIFE**

In our analysis, CoLAB also found a close association between the recent burn areas of the Thomas, Hill and Woolsey Fires and the mapped corridors. **Exhibit 5** shows the correlation of these recent burn areas with the wildlife corridors. This exhibit also shows the structures that were burned in the Woolsey fire from data available from CalFire.

**Exhibit 6** shows the perimeter of the Hill fire with respect to the corridor in green. This area has burned several times in history. The eastern perimeter of this fire was dangerously close to the Leisure Village Community and Camarillo Springs, both of which were evacuated. With this ordinance, stream channels in the hills above these communities would be restricted from brush clearance which is irresponsible.

Over 147,000 acres or 35% of the proposed corridors are in State Fire Hazard zones. The ordinance limits the clearance (or even thinning) of flammable brush within 200' of the mapped surface water features on 140,000 acres within the mapped corridors. Much of this acreage is within these fire hazard zones that are also directly adjacent to cities and unincorporated communities. This shows the County's complete lack of consideration for the health and safety of their residents.

Over 115,000 acres of this proposed corridor burned in the Thomas, Hill and Woolsey fires. All three of the tragic recent fires started in or directly adjacent to the proposed corridors. These fires scorched over 383,000 acres and burned 3180 structures in three Counties.

The recent fires devastated wildlife populations and their habitat. Mountain lions and bobcats were lost in the Woolsey Fire. The National Park Service estimates that the Santa Monica Mountains lost half of its habitat in the fire, burning 100,000 acres or 88 percent of the area's federal parkland (cnn.com 12-7-2018).

While we thank our local Ventura County Fire Protection District for their efforts in fighting the fires, these are fire suppression efforts. This ordinance will severely limit fire prevention activity in our County as was described in detail in the District's **2009 Fire Management Plan, Attachment 1** to this letter. Fuel beds that were programmed for vegetation management in this report include those that burned in the

recent fires. Very little of the prescribed fire prevention work was ever accomplished and this ordinance will make it even more unlikely.

Considering the number of acres scorched in three Counties and the number of houses burned in these recent fires, it is hard to call the fire suppression and prevention activities in our County a success. These activities support each other and without more attention to prevention through vegetation management, history will surely repeat itself.

### **IMPACTS TO PROPERTY OWNERS**

In general, the proposed ordinance places extreme restrictions on fencing, walls, lighting, and structures that will compromise the security of families and prevent property owners from reasonable use of their land.

VC CoLAB's counsel position is that the proposed ordinance constitutes a regulatory taking of private land that would require just compensation and violates the Equal Protection and Due Process rights of property owners

The ordinance is more akin to a "conservation easement" than to an overlay zone. The forced conservation easement provides no compensation, has no negotiated conditions and does not provide any allowances for the individual needs of families who own and pay taxes on the properties.

Because the Ordinance was based on studies and models that were done over 13 years ago, they are no longer accurate, and no longer reflect what is needed to create and protect valid wildlife corridors. The corridor pathway through the fully developed Bell Canyon subdivision is evidence of the model's faulty assumptions.

The ordinance imposes an arbitrary 200' buffer to "surface water features" shown on a flawed and outdated U.S. Fish and Wildlife map. Brush clearance, structures, fencing and many uses are restricted within the buffer. There are no biological studies to support the need for doubling the 100' buffer required in the existing Ventura County General Plan.

Thousands of existing, legally permitted structures and fencing, approved according to the 100' General Plan buffer, will be caught in this reckless 200' expansion. These structures will become non-conforming uses if the ordinance is adopted. County Planners have admitted that these once-legal structures cannot be replaced if destroyed in a fire or other disaster.

The County has rightly exempted human-made ponds, lakes, etc. from the buffer requirement. However, the flawed map includes these features and landowners will be responsible to pay County planners and consultant biologists to clean up the County's map to remove the restrictions on their own land.

All properties in the National Forest, including the Lockwood Valley should be exempt from this ordinance. These communities are small and remote and do not hinder wildlife passage.

### **DESIGNATION OF "CRITICAL" WILDLIFE PASSAGE AREAS WITH NO STUDIES**

Within the corridors, the County arbitrarily designated 9,311 acres in three "Critical Wildlife Passage Areas". Instead of honoring their original intent presented to stakeholders to identify narrow critical connections, the County crafted a broad criteria that allowed selection of private properties they long desired to restrict.

Without the burden of biological modeling or analysis, the County grabbed a ridge next to Lake Casitas that they previously targeted for a Scenic Resource Protection Overlay Zone in 2007. The Oakview “Critical Wildlife Passage Area” is 1,138 acres of mainly agricultural zoning, with a premier winery that will face an uncertain future if this ordinance passes.

The second CWPA grabs the entire 3,146 acres of the Tierra Rejada agricultural valley. The valley ranges from 1 to 2.5 miles wide, hardly a restriction for wildlife passage. The valley includes a golf course, wedding venue and premier agricultural event center, all concerned about future permits.

The most absurd of the selections is the Simi Hills CWPA consisting of 5,027 acres including the largely developed Bell Canyon Community. Even though there are ample conservation lands west of Bell Canyon that could easily accommodate wildlife movement, this neighborhood that was ravaged in the Woolsey fire was selected to be zoned for critical wildlife passage.

All parcels in the CWPAs are subject to lighting, fencing, stream buffers and vegetation management restrictions as in the rest of the corridors. They are also subject to SOAR.

On top of that, landowners must give up half of their properties for a simple new structure or use like a house, garage, barn, pool bathroom, septic system, or fencing, OR face prohibitive environmental permitting and a public hearing.

## **CEQA**

Due to the County’s legally deficient determination that the Ordinance is exempt from CEQA, the County’s proposal is rife with potentially significant environmental impacts, unintended consequences, and negative effects to property owners.

## **CONCLUSION**

The County is rushing this ordinance forward, notifying landowners by mail merely a week before a Planning Commission hearing. There were no stakeholder workshops after the draft ordinance was released even though there were many major changes to the document. Our members have many important unanswered questions.

In addition, these overlay zones were never brought to the affected Municipal Advisory Councils or Neighborhood Councils for their input. The maps would be greatly improved with this process.

CoLAB supports reasonable efforts to minimize impacts to wildlife movement within the County. However, many of the regulations in the proposed ordinance are legally flawed and scientifically unsupported, unwarranted, and unnecessary.

There is much more work to do to make this ordinance balanced and effective in protecting residents from crime and fires and enabling wildlife to continue to roam in our County.

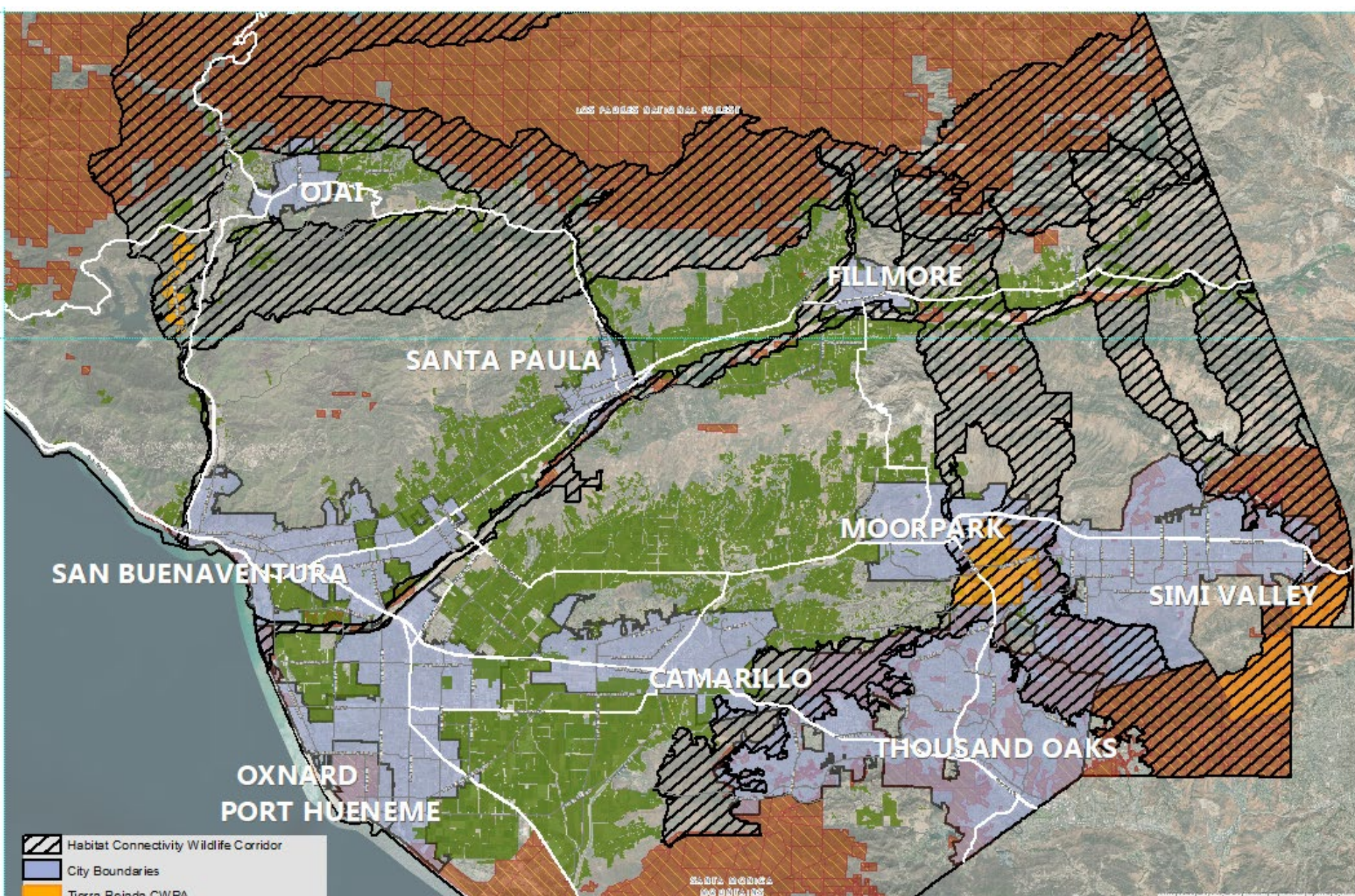
Sincerely,



Lynn Gray Jensen

Executive Director



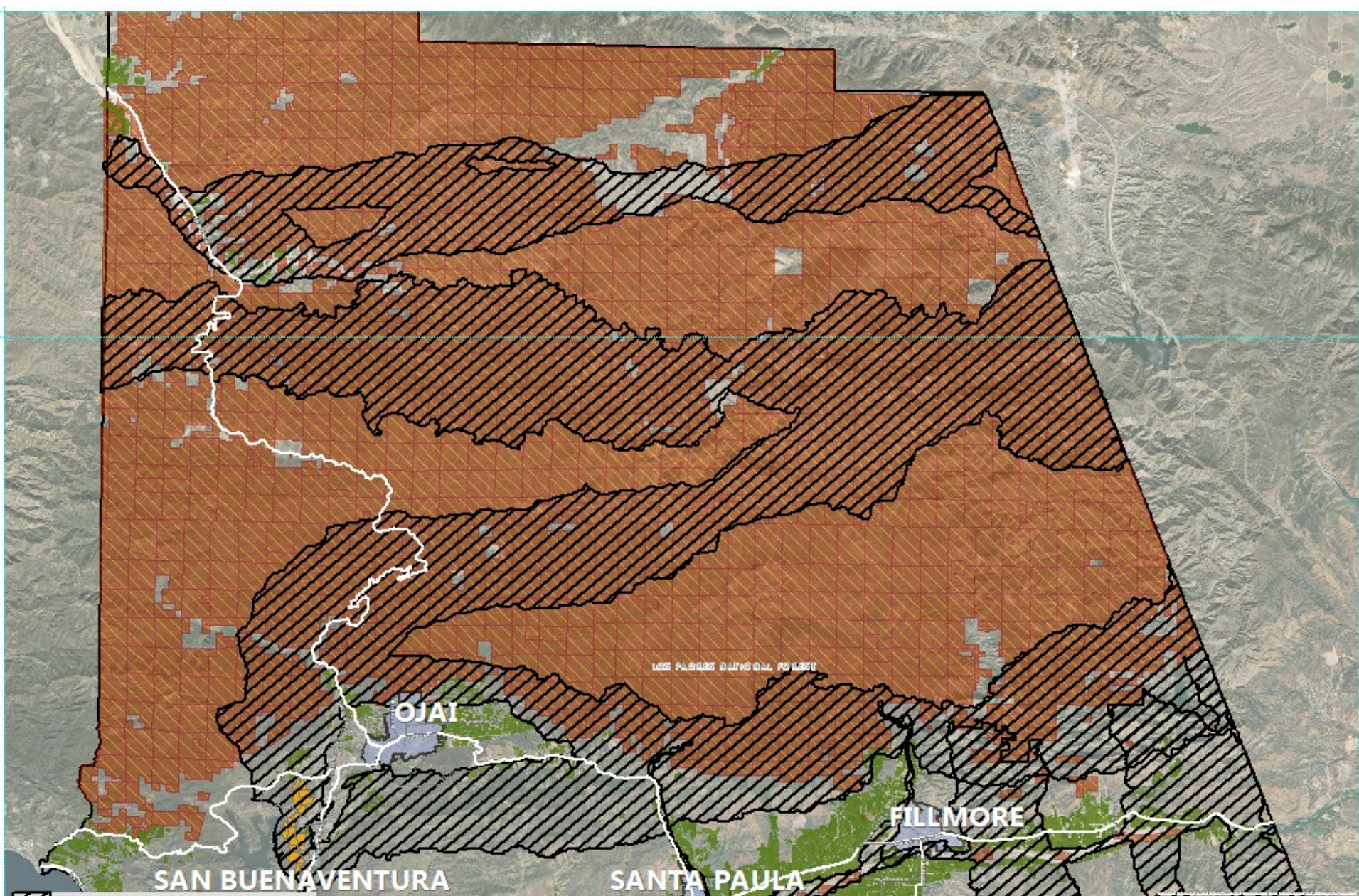


## Exhibit #1

1 inch = 5,000 feet

REGIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR | VENTURA COUNTY SOUTH HALF





## Exhibit #2

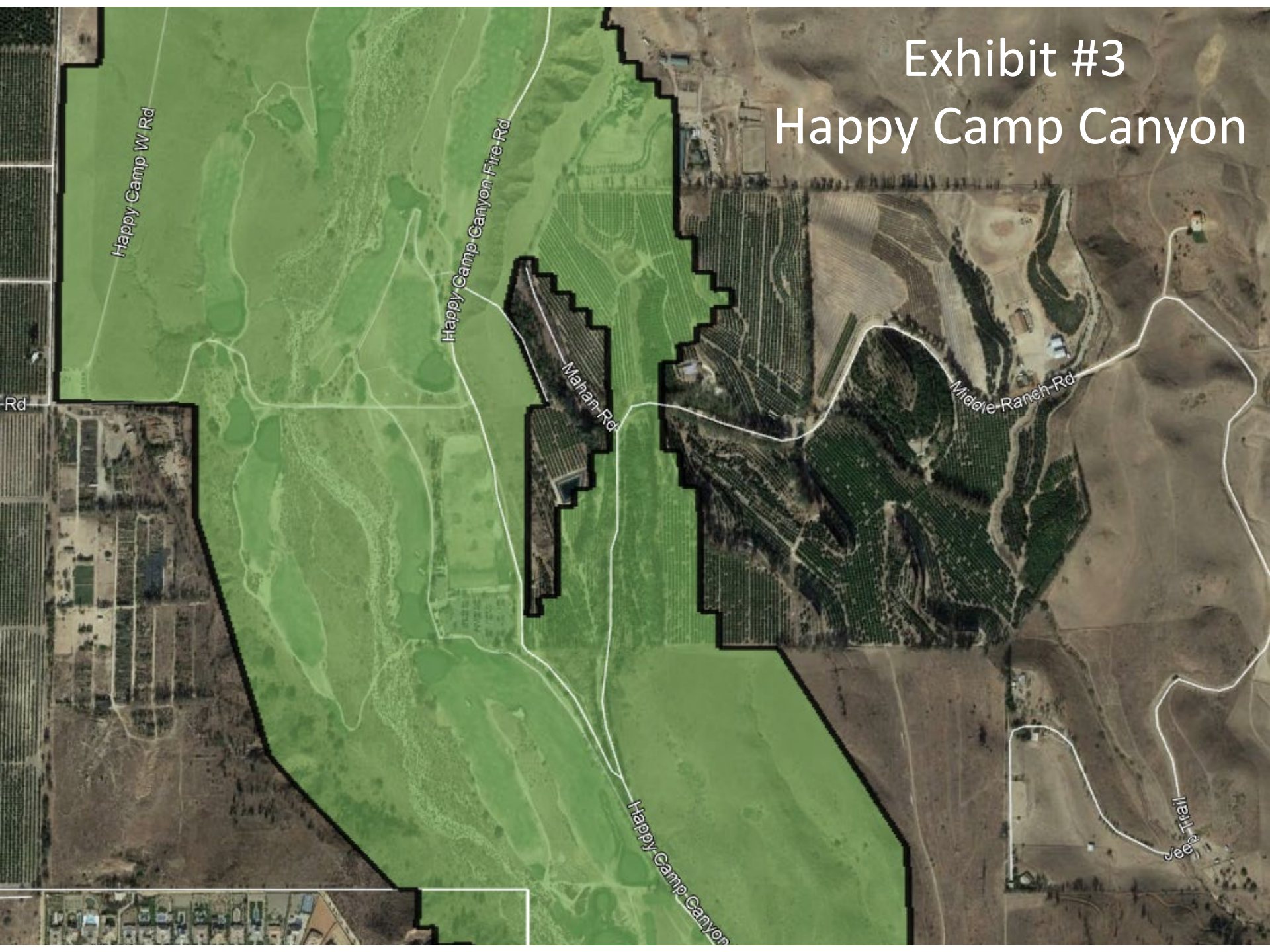
1 inch = 5,500 feet

REGIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR | VENTURA COUNTY NORTH HALF



# Exhibit #3

## Happy Camp Canyon





# Exhibit #4

## Marquis Court, Oak Park





THOMAS

Castaic

Carpinteria

Ojai

33  
150

Ventura

Santa Paula

Fillmore

Ventura

Moorpark

Simi Valley

27

HILL

Camarillo

Oxnard

Thousand Oaks

23

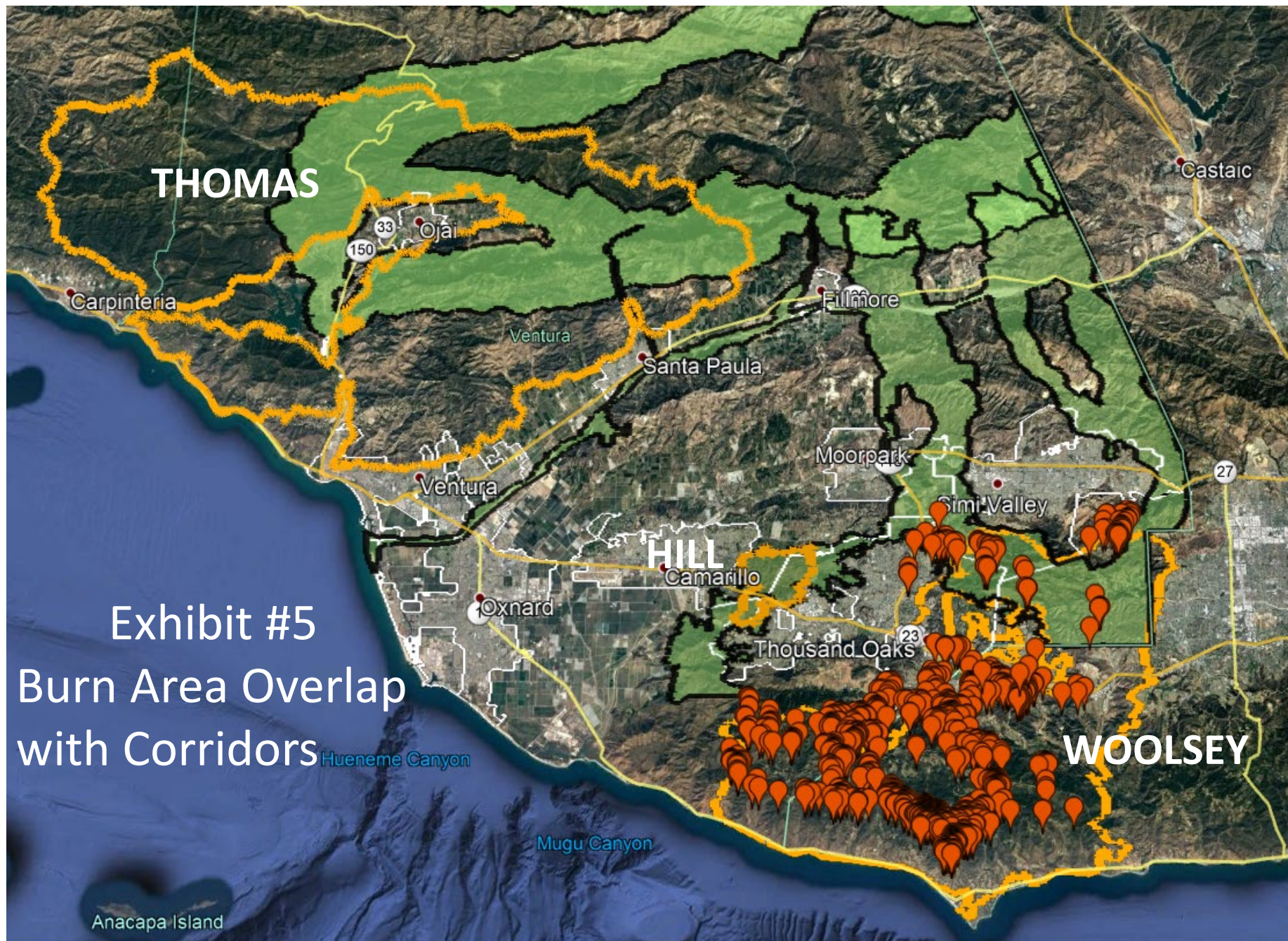
WOOLSEY

Exhibit #5  
Burn Area Overlap  
with Corridors

Hueneme Canyon

Mugu Canyon

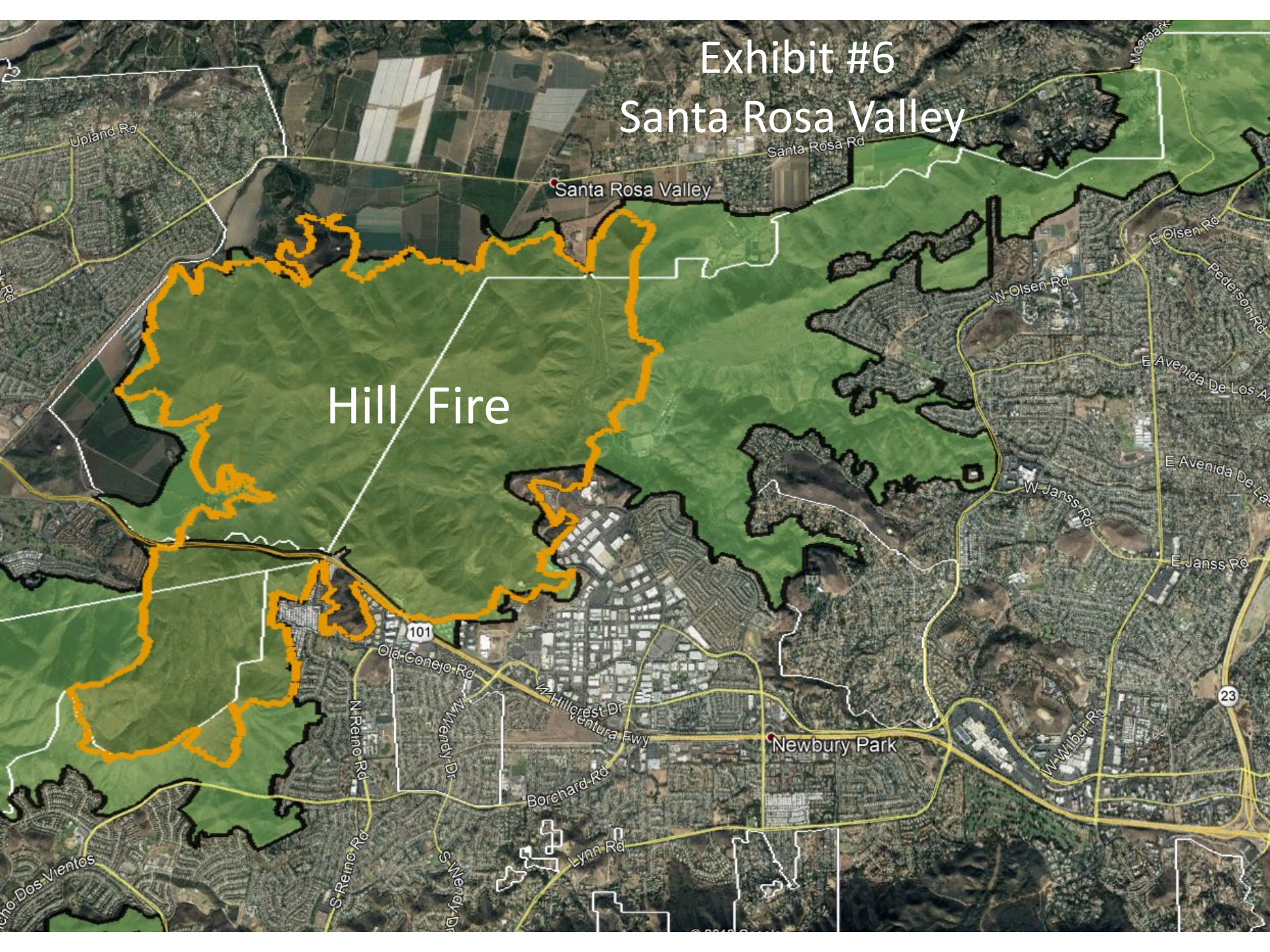
Anacapa Island





# Exhibit #6 Santa Rosa Valley

Hill Fire





## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Wendy Cox <wendyrcox25@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 2:38 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor- OPPOSE

January 29, 2019

To: Ventura County Planning Commission  
Commissioner Richard Rodriguez  
Commissioner Jim King  
Commissioner Maggie Kestly  
Commissioner Phil White  
Commissioner Nora Aidukas

SUBJECT: Do not pass the dangerous Wildlife Corridor Ordinance

Commissioners:

As a Ventura County resident, I have concerns about the implementation of the Wildlife Corridor Ordinance. The proposed ordinance places extreme restrictions on fencing, lighting, brush clearance and structures that will compromise the security of families and prevent them from reasonable use of their land.

The expansion of stream buffers from 100' to 200' and the ban on clearing or even thinning flammable brush in these areas is dangerous. The buffer areas include 140,000 acres within the proposed wildlife corridors, directly adjacent to cities and unincorporated communities.

Over 147,000 acres or 35% of the proposed corridors are in State Fire Hazard zones, turning these areas into dangerous *WildFire* corridors.

Over 115,000 acres of this proposed corridor burned in the Thomas, Hill and Woolsey fires. All three of the tragic recent fires started in or directly adjacent to the proposed corridors. These fires scorched over 383,000 acres and burned 3180 structures in three Counties.

These fires devastated wildlife populations and their habitat. Mountain lions and bobcats were lost in the Woolsey Fire. The Santa Monica Mountains lost half of its wildlife habitat in the fire.

The County is rushing this ordinance forward, notifying landowners merely a week before a Planning Commission decision with an inadequate notification letter understating the impact to property owners. Many landowners have no idea this is happening.

I support reasonable efforts to minimize impacts to wildlife movement within the County. However, many of the regulations in the proposed ordinance are legally flawed, scientifically unsupported, unwarranted, and unnecessary

I respectfully ask that you send this ordinance back to Planning staff for further consideration.

Sincerely,

Dana and Wendy Cox  
Unincorporated Fillmore

Sent from my iPhone

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Sussman, Shelley  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 11:22 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** FW: Ventura County Habitat Connectivity & Wildlife Movement Corridors

Oppose, though as Lori says, it might already be in your pile.

---

**From:** ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 11:00 AM  
**To:** Sussman, Shelley <Shelley.Sussman@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Ventura County Habitat Connectivity & Wildlife Movement Corridors

Hi, I think you have this already.

*Lori*

**From:** Pete Croft <[croft.pete@gmail.com](mailto:croft.pete@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 10:58 AM  
**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)>; Supervisor Huber <[Supervisor.Huber@ventura.org](mailto:Supervisor.Huber@ventura.org)>; Zaragoza, John <[John.Zaragoza@ventura.org](mailto:John.Zaragoza@ventura.org)>; Batinica, Meighan <[Meighan.Batinica@ventura.org](mailto:Meighan.Batinica@ventura.org)>; ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard <[ClerkoftheBoard@ventura.org](mailto:ClerkoftheBoard@ventura.org)>; [pc@cityofventura.ca.gov](mailto:pc@cityofventura.ca.gov); Wildlife Corridors <[Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org](mailto:Wildlife.Corridors@ventura.org)>  
**Subject:** Ventura County Habitat Connectivity & Wildlife Movement Corridors

To Whom it May Concern, (all e-mails for the <https://vcrma.org/habitat-connectivity-and-wildlife-movement-corridors>)

We have the privilege to be associated with Green / LaMonte families and as property owners within Ventura County CA, have used extensively over the years the property the family has in the Lockwood valley and Mutau river valley in Ventura County. We are opposed to the proposed wildlife corridor regulations that will impact our ability to access the property and we urge you to vote NO on these impending regulations. Our relationship with both the Green & LaMonte families has enabled our family to enjoy the property which has been continuously owned by their families in the Lockwood Valley and as a private in-holding within the Los Padres National Forest before it was a forest, since the 1870s. Our concerns are specific to the impact of these proposed regulations will have on our ability to continue to have use of the property and feel due consideration should be given to private property holders within the proposed area. The property is an active cattle ranch and are concerned about the fencing regulations and most importantly, the potential implications of eminent domain that this proposal leaves us vulnerable to. We have experienced and are well aware of the wildlife with which the land is shared and observe them migrating freely without the apparent need for restrictions on how the property is used.

I request you place the rights of longtime property tax payers, voters and friends who use the property while you evaluate and vote upon this proposal.

**Peter & Karen Croft** - CELL (714) 580-7369  
[Croft.Pete@gmail.com](mailto:Croft.Pete@gmail.com)

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Long, Kelly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 8:00 PM  
**To:** ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard  
**Subject:** Fwd: Wildlife Corridor

Best regards,  
Kelly

Kelly Long  
Ventura County Supervisor  
District 3  
1203 Flynn Rd, Suite 220  
Camarillo, CA 93012  
(805) 654-2276

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** don duncan <[dduncan@d2ge.com](mailto:dduncan@d2ge.com)>  
**Date:** January 29, 2019 at 7:36:32 PM PST  
**To:** [kelly.long@ventura.org](mailto:kelly.long@ventura.org)  
**Cc:** [dduncan@d2ge.com](mailto:dduncan@d2ge.com)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Wildlife Corridor

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** don duncan <[dduncan@d2ge.com](mailto:dduncan@d2ge.com)>  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor  
**Date:** January 29, 2019 at 7:33:55 PM PST  
**To:** [kelly.long@ventura.com](mailto:kelly.long@ventura.com), [steve.bennett@ventura.org](mailto:steve.bennett@ventura.org),  
[linda.parks@ventura.org](mailto:linda.parks@ventura.org)  
**Cc:** [dduncan@d2ge.com](mailto:dduncan@d2ge.com)

My name is Don Duncan and I live in Ventura County. I want to let you know that I strongly oppose the expansion of the Wildlife Corridor and consider it a land grab. My family owns 160+ acres in the Los Padres National Forest and 100% of this private property (that has been in my family since after the Gold Rush era) is in the proposed corridor. It is absurd to think that animals need corridors this massive. This property is already wide open with no fences or anything that would limit migration. Putting my property in the proposed corridor won't change anything except that it gives the government rights to tell me how to enjoy this property. I hope I can count on you to represent the private property owners and protect our rights to enjoy our property without government intervention that serves no purpose.

Regards, Don Duncan  
805-910-9324

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Laura <Lggriffin5@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 8:00 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Opposed to impact on private property by Wildlife Corridor regulations - Vote NO

Ventura County leader,

My family has owned property continuously in the Lockwood Valley and as a private in-holding within the Los Padres National Forest since the 1870's. We are opposed to unnecessary restrictions and regulations that limit the use of our property.

We are respectful toward the wildlife with which we share the land and observe them regularly migrating freely without any apparent need for additional restrictions on how we use our private property.

I am opposed to the extent the proposed wildlife corridor regulations encroach on private, property-tax generating land. I urge you to vote NO on the regulations as they are currently proposed.

Laura Green Hanley

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Kim Hansen <kimhansen310@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 8:32 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** oppose the revised wildlife corridor ordinance

*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.*

- Kim Hansen

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Christy Hoyne <christyhoyne@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 10:14 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** 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.*



## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Margaret K <kimball58@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 10:37 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor Ordinance

I OPPOSE this poorly prepared ordinance. The ordinance places extreme restrictions on fencing, walls, lighting, and structures that will compromise security and safety of property owners and their families. This is a means to prevent property owners from reasonable use of their land and violates the rights of those property owners.

To proceed with an ordinance that uses out of date studies, flawed data, does not acknowledge the three major wildfires which have devastated Ventura County in the last two years, and is legally questionable is outrageous and frankly a waste of tax payers money.

Reasonable efforts to mitigate impacts on wildlife movement - YES, but this ordinance NO.

Margaret Kimball  
County property owner

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Carol Knowles <caknowles2013@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 8:29 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor and Habitat Connectivity Plan

Hello Meighan —

I may not be able to attend the forthcoming meeting regarding the Wildlife Corridor and Habitat Connectivity Plan. For that reason, I am writing to express my strong support for any and all efforts that help protect our wildlife while accommodating inevitable urban growth. That includes the wildlife sanctuary that abuts the Villa del Arroyo Mobile Home Park in which I live. Commercial developments along the arroyo, I fear, are increasingly threatening the vitality of that protected space. If we want it to continue to thrive, let alone survive, I feel greater effort needs to be made to prevent pollutant runoff, excessive artificial light, etc.

Your efforts on behalf of all citizens concerned about these matters, of which I am one, is greatly appreciated. Many thanks!

Carol Knowles  
15750 Arroyo Drive, #140  
Moorpark, CA 93021

805.405.2589 (cell)

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Erin LaMonte <eglamonte@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 6:47 AM  
**To:** Bennett, Steve; Parks, Linda; Long, Kelly; Supervisor Huber; Zaragoza, John; Batinica, Meighan; ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard; pc@cityofventura.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Concerns regarding proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor

Dear Ventura County Planning Commission and County Supervisors,

As a property owner in Ventura County, I am opposed to the extent the proposed wildlife corridor regulations encroach on private, property-tax generating land. I urge you to vote NO on the regulations as they are currently proposed.

My family has owned property continuously in the Lockwood Valley and as a private in-holding within the Los Padres National Forest before it was a forest, since the 1870s. We are concerned about the impact of the proposed restrictions and regulations that limit the use of our property. We believe there should be due consideration given to the private property holders within the proposed area. We are an active cattle ranch and are concerned about the fencing regulations and most importantly, the potential implications of eminent domain that this proposal leaves us vulnerable to. We are well aware of the wildlife with which we share the land and observe them migrating freely without the apparent need for restrictions on how we use our property.

I respectfully request you place the rights of longtime property tax payers and voters while you evaluate and vote upon this proposal.

Erin Green LaMonte  
Property Owner  
cell 310-213-8331

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Matt Limburg <mattlimburg@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 9:53 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor Ordinance

*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. Thank you so much.*

Matt Limburg  
[mattlimburg@mac.com](mailto:mattlimburg@mac.com)  
480-717-6580

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Chuck Lech <chuck.lech@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 9:49 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridors - OPPOSE

Good evening.

I write in opposition to the overlay for Wildlife Corridors for the following reasons:

The idea that having no firebreaks, no controlled burns, and expanded pathways for wildlife to travel may help wildlife to roam, but also provides the same pathways for wildfires to spread, with more fuel. In the past two years, two major wildfires have destroyed 31% of the entire acreage that makes up Ventura County. If current fire department leadership is assuring us that having uncontrolled growth in our open areas does not hamper their ability to protect homes, they should explain that to the thousands of homeowners whose homes were lost to these fires.

The passage of SOAR has severely restricted the ability of cities to widen their boundaries. Developers will have to spend millions of dollars to develop plans that then will face an expensive ballot battle. This presents too big a risk for developers, who will move to other counties because it is so expensive and risky to attempt development in Ventura County. This overlay attempts to make that situation even worse. Being allowed to develop only 50% of a property is basically taking away 50% of the ownership of the property without any payment in return. Officially called a taking, it can also be described as stealing land. There are laws against the taking of property, and the passage of this overlay will result in expensive and embarrassing lawsuits against the county. There are strict requirements for the conversion of private land to public land, and an overlay does not qualify.

I have been give lengthy letters that cite supposedly scientific studies that the removal of fuel will not affect wildfires. That is inherently ridiculous. The safest places to be after a wildfire is in the area that was just burned. There is no more fuel, therefore no risk of fire. Removing the ability to manage our open space will only guarantee more fuel and more frequent fires.

Lastly, Ventura County is having major economic problems compared to its neighboring counties. We are not attracting the jobs and the population growth. Those in the government that exist due to taxes should realize that they are killing the tax base of this county. This type of measure will be viewed as both dangerous and expensive by the insurance industry. It will lead to the inability to get insurance, the degradation of the quality of insurance available to us, and huge increases in the amount of money it will cost every homeowner to purchase insurance of lower protective quality. This will cause home values to plummet because insurance is an absolute necessary requirement for the ownership of homes.

Nature does not have a right and wrong, nature is best when balanced. And our government is best when it balances the needs of wildlife with the needs of the two-legged animals that also live in this county, the people who live her. Look out for the animals, but look out for all the animals, two legged and four legged, and balance what we need to protect wildlife and what we need to protect homes.

Charles Lech

490 Hillsborough St.  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91361  
805-551-1162

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Heather Lomax <heather@hksafetyconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 7:03 AM  
**To:** ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard; Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor

To: Ventura County Planning Commission  
Commissioner Richard Rodriguez  
Commissioner Jim King  
Commissioner Maggie Kestly  
Commissioner Phil White  
Commissioner Nora Aidukas

**SUBJECT:** Do not pass the dangerous Wildlife Corridor Ordinance

Commissioners:

As a Ventura County resident, I have concerns about the implementation of the Wildlife Corridor Ordinance.

Because the Ordinance was based on studies and models that were done over 13 years ago, they are no longer accurate, and no longer reflect what is needed to create and protect valid wildlife corridors. The corridor pathway through the fully developed Bell Canyon subdivision is evidence of the model's faulty assumptions.

The ordinance imposes an arbitrary 200' buffer to "surface water features" shown on a flawed and outdated U.S. Fish and Wildlife map. Brush clearance, structures, fencing and many uses are restricted within the buffer. There are no biological studies to support the need for doubling the 100' buffer required in the existing Ventura County General Plan.

Due to the County's legally deficient determination that the Ordinance is exempt from CEQA, the County's proposal is rife with potentially significant environmental impacts, unintended consequences, and negative effects to property owners.

The County is rushing this ordinance forward, notifying landowners merely a week before a Planning Commission decision with an inadequate notification letter understating the impact to property owners.

I support reasonable efforts to minimize impacts to wildlife movement within the County. However, many of the regulations in the proposed ordinance are legally flawed and scientifically unsupported, unwarranted, and unnecessary

I respectfully ask that you send this ordinance back to Planning staff for further consideration.

Sincerely,

Heather Lomax  
343 Lockwood Valley Road  
Maricopa, CA 93252  
HK Safety Consulting LLC  
heather@hksafetyconsulting.com  
www.hksafetyconsulting.com  
cell 661.319.2644

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** Jennifer McColm <jennifermccolm@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 9:27 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Subject:** Bell canyon wildlife ordinance

My name is Jennifer McColm and I live at 23 Corral Rd. in Bell Canyon. I have lived there for 29 years.

Over the years I have watched other developments such as hidden Hills appreciate and increase in value. Simultaneously, I have watched property values in bell canyon remain very low and this has been extremely frustrating for me as a homeowner.

I am opposed to this new wildlife ordinance and do not wish for it to be passed by any means! The ordinance will negatively impact Bell Canyon property values.

Peace and light,

Jennifer McColm

Sent from my iPhone



## Batinica, Meighan

---

**From:** John Munn <john\_delaire@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 9:17 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Ventura Planning 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 are unnecessary and unfair.*

John Munn  
Owner/Broker  
San Pedro Real Estate Co.  
310 721-2167

Sent from my iPhone

## Batinica, Meighan

---

**To:** Brushpoppers  
**Subject:** RE: Wildlife Corridors – Oppose

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

From: Brushpoppers <brushpoppers@earthlink.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 7:42 PM  
To: Batinica, Meighan <Meighan.Batinica@ventura.org>  
Cc: chris@rinconstrategies.com  
Subject: Wildlife Corridors – Oppose

January 29, 2017

To: Ventura County Planning Commission  
Commissioner Richard Rodriguez  
Commissioner Jim King  
Commissioner Maggie Kestly  
Commissioner Phil White  
Commissioner Nora Aidukas

**SUBJECT: Do not pass the dangerous Wildlife Corridor Ordinance**

Commissioners:

As a Ventura County resident, I have concerns about the implementation of the Wildlife Corridor Ordinance. The proposed ordinance places extreme restrictions on fencing, lighting, brush clearance and structures that will compromise the security of families and prevent them from reasonable use of their land.

The expansion of stream buffers from 100' to 200' and the ban on clearing or even thinning flammable brush in these areas is dangerous. The buffer areas include 140,000 acres within the proposed wildlife corridors, directly adjacent to cities and unincorporated communities.

Over 147,000 acres or 35% of the proposed corridors are in State Fire Hazard zones, turning these areas into dangerous WildFire corridors.

Over 115,000 acres of this proposed corridor burned in the Thomas, Hill and Woolsey fires. All three of the tragic recent fires started in or directly adjacent to the proposed corridors. These fires scorched over 383,000 acres and burned 3180 structures in three Counties.

These fires devastated wildlife populations and their habitat. Mountain lions and bobcats were lost in the Woolsey Fire. The Santa Monica Mountains lost half of its wildlife habitat in the fire.

The County is rushing this ordinance forward, notifying landowners merely a week before a Planning Commission decision with an inadequate notification letter understating the impact to property owners. Many landowners have no idea this is happening.

I support reasonable efforts to minimize impacts to wildlife movement within the County. However, many of the regulations in the proposed ordinance are legally flawed, scientifically unsupported, unwarranted, and unnecessary

I respectfully ask that you send this ordinance back to Planning staff for further consideration.

Sincerely,

Signature: \_\_Jo Pavlina

Name: Jo Pavlina \_

Address: 5313 Mine Rd. \_Simi Valley, Ca 93063

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** sheree ryan <5rwayranch@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 9:51 PM  
**To:** ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor

Hello ,I'm writing this on behalf of my household and my neighbors ,we were not given much warning about this proposal and all it intails! There is truly no valid reason why we cant continue to co exist with wildlife here in our Valley as we have for many years now! The proposal would bring detrimental and unnecessary consequences to long time residents and ranch owners .We would be put at risk by many of the restrictions, burdening us with crime ,increased fees,fire hazard and loss of protected grazing and farm land.Along with that we would face significantly lower property values causing financial hardship to home and landowners! We strongly believe that this issues needs to be considered and the rights of property owners be protected! There are options that do not impose on private lands !Please reconsider this proposal now! Thank you for your time and please share with supervisors of each affected area prior to the Jan 31st board meeting! Sincerely Tim and Sheree Ryan 16191 Mt.Lilac Tr. 661 245 3884

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Donna Read <donnareadsemail@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 3:27 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan; Long, Kelly  
**Subject:** Wildlife corridor AGAINST  
**Attachments:** Wildlife Regulations in the Wildlife Corridor.pages

Hi

Please see attached comment I am devastated at what the planning commission is proposing. The restriction are so great it makes it impossible to have a home in the zone.

Donna Read  
Mile High Properties  
661-496-6817

Cal BRE #01744632

January 29, 2017

To: Ventura County Planning Commission  
Commissioner Richard Rodriguez  
Commissioner Jim King  
Commissioner Maggie Kestly  
Commissioner Phil White  
Commissioner Nora Aidukas

SUBJECT: Do not pass the dangerous Wildlife Corridor Ordinance

Commissioners:

As a Ventura County property owner, I have serious concerns about the implementation of the Wildlife Corridor Ordinance. The proposed ordinance places extreme restrictions on fencing, lighting, brush clearance and structures that will compromise the security of families and prevent them from reasonable use of their land. There has not even been a study done to demonstrate that the recommended measures will produce the results for which the Ordinances are intended!

The expansion of stream buffers from 100' to 200' and the ban on clearing or even thinning flammable brush in these areas is dangerous. The buffer areas include 140,000 acres within the proposed wildlife corridors, directly adjacent to cities and unincorporated communities. It is poor Public Policy to make situations worse, rather measures to improve them.

Over 147,000 acres or 35% of the proposed corridors are in State Fire Hazard zones, turning these areas into dangerous *WildFire* corridors. In light of the recent devastating fires, does this make any sense at all?

Over 115,000 acres of this proposed corridor burned in the Thomas, Hill and Woolsey fires. All three of the tragic recent fires started in or directly adjacent to the proposed corridors. These fires scorched over 383,000 acres and burned 3180 structures in three Counties.

These fires devastated wildlife populations and their habitat. Mountain lions and bobcats were lost in the Woolsey Fire. The Santa Monica Mountains lost half of its wildlife habitat in the fire. This doesn't even include the bird and small animal populations that are required as a food source for the larger animals....and their natural habitats have been completely destroyed.

The County is rushing this ordinance forward, notifying landowners merely a week before a Planning Commission decision with an inadequate notification letter understating the impact to property owners. Many landowners have no idea this is happening. I have owned my 40 acres on Tierra Rejada Road since 1999, and just very recently became aware of the County's planned Ordinance.

I support reasonable efforts to minimize impacts to wildlife movement within the County. However, many of the regulations in the proposed ordinance are legally flawed, scientifically unsupported, unwarranted, and unnecessary

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Sandy Seth <sandy@medtek.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 12:42 PM  
**To:** Wildlife Corridors  
**Cc:** Christine Seth  
**Subject:** Wildlife Corridor Ordinance - Bell Canyon

Dear Kim Prillhart,

I received the proposed regulations in the mail, and since I will be unable to attend the hearing, I wanted to voice my concerns.

Let me start by saying that we have lived in Bell Canyon for 27 years, and like most of the residents here, we are wildlife and animal friendly – it's one of the main charming characteristics of Bell Canyon. That said, I find it interesting that you have consulted nobody from our community in proposing regulations that will impact our way of life – why is that?

We love our environment – but do not need it to rule us entirely. And you simply cannot put the concerns of wildlife above the safety of ourselves, our children and our pets.

The regulations I am most concerned about are:

1. Fencing:  
We require mesh fencing to keep wildlife – primarily snakes, coyotes and rats - out of our backyards. And to keep our own pets in. Snakes and coyotes are a danger to pets and children. Additionally, it keeps other wildlife away too. Our fences were burnt in recent fires, and we have a lot of poop from various critters in our backyard – hardly the most healthy of environments. And keeping wildlife out of our backyards is hardly hindering anything – as you may know, there are vast open spaces in Bell Canyon for them to roam.
2. Exterior Lighting:  
Really?? Bell Canyon has been developed for several decades, and the wildlife has adjusted to us, just as we have to them. This is an unnecessary regulation that will cause huge inconveniences for residents, with probably zero impact on wildlife. Additionally, eliminating landscape lighting would have devastating consequences on the aesthetics of the community, which would negatively impact our property values.
3. Building Permits:  
Bell Canyon is almost fully developed, with very few vacant lots left to be built (I believe around 50). Adding a costly environmental study to the permitting process doesn't achieve anything, and just makes it less desirable to build.

In summary, while I appreciate the County's efforts to preserve our wildlife, we cannot put this above the safety and way of life of human beings. Additionally, any proposed regulations should be discussed with the communities they will effect before it reaches this stage. I would hazard a guess that nobody involved in this process is effected in any way by these regulations – because anyone effected would easily see that they are detrimental to their own safety and environment, and will almost certainly result in reduced property values. I therefore urge you to withdraw this proposal and involve our community in any future proposal that may affect us.

Thank you,

Sandy & Christine Seth  
19 Colt Lane

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Anna Sudeth <anna.sudeth@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 2:22 PM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Proposed Wildlife Corridor

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

I am opposed to the extent the proposed wildlife corridor regulations encroach on private, property-tax generating land. I urge you to vote NO on the regulations as they are currently proposed.

My family has owned property continuously in the Lockwood Valley and within the Los Padres National Forest before it was a forest, since the 1870's. We are opposed to unnecessary restrictions and regulations that limit the use of our property. We are well aware of and respect the wildlife with which we share the land. We often observe them migrating freely without the apparent need for restrictions on how we use our property.

I respectfully request you seriously consider the rights of longtime property tax payers and voters while you evaluate and vote upon this proposal.

Sincerely,  
Anna Sudeth



## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Maureen Truxler <movree@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 9:00 AM  
**To:** Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** PC- Fire letter.docx  
**Attachments:** PC- Fire letter.docx

Hello,

My name is Maureen Truxler. Please see the attached letter. I do not support the wildlife corridor.

Thank you,

Maureen Truxler

12469 Telegraph Road

Santa Paula , Calif.

93060

Sent from my iPhone

January 29, 2017

To: Ventura County Planning Commission  
Commissioner Richard Rodriguez  
Commissioner Jim King  
Commissioner Maggie Kestly  
Commissioner Phil White  
Commissioner Nora Aidukas

SUBJECT: Do not pass the dangerous Wildlife Corridor Ordinance

Commissioners:

As a Ventura County resident, I have concerns about the implementation of the Wildlife Corridor Ordinance. The proposed ordinance places extreme restrictions on fencing, lighting, brush clearance and structures that will compromise the security of families and prevent them from reasonable use of their land.

The expansion of stream buffers from 100' to 200' and the ban on clearing or even thinning flammable brush in these areas is dangerous. The buffer areas include 140,000 acres within the proposed wildlife corridors, directly adjacent to cities and unincorporated communities.

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These fires devastated wildlife populations and their habitat. Mountain lions and bobcats were lost in the Woolsey Fire. The Santa Monica Mountains lost half of its wildlife habitat in the fire.

The County is rushing this ordinance forward, notifying landowners merely a week before a Planning Commission decision with an inadequate notification letter understating the impact to property owners. Many landowners have no idea this is happening.

I support reasonable efforts to minimize impacts to wildlife movement within the County. However, many of the regulations in the proposed ordinance are legally flawed, scientifically unsupported, unwarranted, and unnecessary

I respectfully ask that you send this ordinance back to Planning staff for further consideration.

Sincerely,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Batinica, Meighan

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**From:** Tony Virgilio <reyescreekbng@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 7:23 AM  
**To:** heather@hksafetyconsulting.com; ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard; Batinica, Meighan  
**Subject:** Re: Wildlife Corridor

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

From: Heather Lomax <heather@hksafetyconsulting.com>  
To: Clerkoftheboard <Clerkoftheboard@ventura.org>; meighan.batinica <meighan.batinica@ventura.org>  
Sent: Wed, Jan 30, 2019 8:03 am  
Subject: Wildlife Corridor

To: Ventura County Planning Commission  
Commissioner Richard Rodriguez  
Commissioner Jim King  
Commissioner Maggie Kestly  
Commissioner Phil White  
Commissioner Nora Aidukas

SUBJECT: Do not pass the dangerous Wildlife Corridor Ordinance

Commissioners:

As a Ventura County resident, I have concerns about the implementation of the Wildlife Corridor Ordinance.

Because the Ordinance was based on studies and models that were done over 13 years ago, they are no longer accurate, and no longer reflect what is needed to create and protect valid wildlife corridors. The corridor pathway through the fully developed Bell Canyon subdivision is evidence of the model's faulty assumptions.

The ordinance imposes an arbitrary 200' buffer to "surface water features" shown on a flawed and outdated U.S. Fish and Wildlife map. Brush clearance, structures, fencing and many uses are restricted within the buffer. There are no biological studies to support the need for doubling the 100' buffer required in the existing Ventura County General Plan.

Due to the County's legally deficient determination that the Ordinance is exempt from CEQA, the County's proposal is rife with potentially significant environmental impacts, unintended consequences, and negative effects to property owners.

The County is rushing this ordinance forward, notifying landowners merely a week before a Planning Commission decision with an inadequate notification letter understating the impact to property owners.

I support reasonable efforts to minimize impacts to wildlife movement within the County. However, many of the regulations in the proposed ordinance are legally flawed and scientifically unsupported, unwarranted, and unnecessary

I respectfully ask that you send this ordinance back to Planning staff for further consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony Virgilio  
1986 Lockwood valley rd  
Maricopa Ca 93252

661 599 8836  
Reyescreekbng@aol.com

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 email. Please notify the sender immediately by email if you have received this email by mistake and delete this email from your system. Email transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or contain viruses. The sender therefore does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message, which arise as a result of email transmission. If verification is required please request a hard-copy version.