



## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

March 6, 2019

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California 93009

### **Amendments to the General Plan and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to Establish a Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors Overlay Zone, a Critical Wildlife Passage Areas Overlay Zone, and Related Regulations**

Hon. Chairperson Bennett and Supervisors:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) expresses its strong support for the proposed Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors Overlay Zone, Critical Wildlife Passage Areas Overlay Zone, and accompanying Ordinance and regulations.

Habitat connectivity cannot realistically ever be replaced once it is gone or degraded. Some regulation is essential to ensure long-term wildlife movement through scores of private properties. The alternative of no long-term connectivity is unacceptable to virtually all parties concerned. The proposed legislative package bends over backwards to address the concerns of both homeowners and agricultural interests. Any delay just makes this objective harder and more expensive to achieve.

Spatially, the location most in need of this regulation is the Tierra Rejada Valley which the Planning Commission was pressured to remove as a Critical Wildlife Passage Area (CWPA). Biologists have recognized the Tierra Rejada Valley as a regional habitat linkage hub for over thirty years. Last year, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy adopted a *Tierra Rejada Valley Habitat Linkage Hub Planning Map* to help guide land use efforts in this constricted area. The science supports adding the valley back as a CWPA.

In addition, if it causes no delay, please add the entire Boeing, Santa Susana Field Lab land into the HCWC overlay zone with Boeing's requested exemptions. As a compromise, please expand the required set back from waterways to 150 feet to ensure that riparian areas contains suitable habitat in addition to being temporal wildlife movement corridors.

Sincerely,

George Lange  
Chairperson

