



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: April 1, 2020

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing sponsorship of Senate Bill 1372 regarding wildlife corridors.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing sponsorship of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority of Senate Bill 1372 regarding wildlife corridors.

Background: Senate Bill 1372, the Wildlife and Biodiversity Protection and Movement Act of 2020 is a bill co-sponsored by Senators Monning and Stern.

Important elements of the bill include:

- 1) Additional study and identification of impacts to wildlife corridors from state infrastructure projects, including transportation and water projects, large-scale development projects not covered by an existing natural community conservation plan or habitat conservation plan, and planned or potential land conversions.
- 2) The enactment of the Wildlife and Biodiversity Protection and Movement Act of 2020 which would require the state to build off of existing programs and plans, including the State Wildlife Action Plan, to proactively protect and enhance wildlife corridors and design infrastructure to maximize wildlife connectivity
- 3) Require the State Wildlife Action Plan to be updated every 5 years.
- 4) Require the establishment of the Ira Ruskin Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Advance Mitigation Pilot Program to create compensatory mitigation credits that can be used to address existing barriers identified in the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project and offset significant California Environmental Quality Act impacts of future transportation and water projects that impact wildlife connectivity.
- 5) Require that the Advance Mitigation funds to be used to modify or remove

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wildlife connectivity barriers not covered by existing regulatory programs.

This is not a fiscal item.