

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

Date: July 13, 2005

To: The Governing Board Members

From:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

Subject: **Agenda Item XI: Special recognition of former Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority Advisory Committee Members Sherry Bray, Dexter MacBride, and Cheryl Swift for extraordinary accomplishments.**

Background: These three members, Sherry Bray, Dexter MacBride, and Cheryl Swift, have resigned from the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) Advisory Committee. Staff would like to recognize the contributions of these members to the Advisory Committee, particularly the fact that they have volunteered their time to participate in WCCA and for their insights and contributions at the WCCA meetings.

This staff report includes some specific accomplishments of these three members, which is by no means a complete list of their accomplishments and contributions. Governing Board members may want to verbally add any additional accomplishments of these three members. Staff can no longer provide plaques to outgoing members due to the cost. However, staff will provide cards at the meeting for members to sign.

In her long-time involvement with WCCA, Cheryl offered her expertise regarding ecological issues in the wildlife corridor. Cheryl involved many students and helped set up the scientific conference 11 years ago that eventually led to the formation of WCCA. She participated in the review of biological studies for the wildlife corridor. She has been very committed to her research projects and mentoring students at Whittier College. Cheryl was also very interested in science outreach and has made an impact on younger students as well. She volunteered as a scientist at an Ask-A-Scientist night event at Hillview Middle School which Lydia Ceballos (another Advisory Committee member) organized with the PTA. Twenty-one scientists from U.C. Irvine, Cal State Los Angeles, and Whittier College volunteered in the evening to speak to the students and their parent. Over 1,000 members of the community attended that event.

Cheryl was also interested in the recruitment of underserved minority students in ecological research. She served on a panel for the Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate graduate and undergraduate proposals for their Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Program and has made an impact on increasing the

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numbers of minorities in ecological research. Cheryl is also intensely interested and knowledgeable in all things ecological and botanical—from the Native American use of acorns to the spread and collection of mycorrhizal spores on the Channel Islands.

Also a long-time member of WCCA, Dexter consistently shared his insights regarding other efforts he had seen.

Sherry can be recognized for among other things, her volunteer work at various events, outside of WCCA, but in pursuit of saving the hills.