

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 30, 2006

To: The Governing Board Members

From: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

Subject: **Agenda Item XVII: Consideration of resolution supporting Orange County's Measure M.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution supporting Orange County's Measure M.

Background: Measure M will renew Orange County's ½ cent sales tax for transportation and has been placed on the November ballot. The existing 20-year measure is set to expire in 2011. The renewal of Measure M would be a 30-year extension and totals over \$11.8 billion. Working in partnership with the resource agencies, a team representing many environmental groups were able to call out mitigation money that was already included in the freeway component of the measure.

This includes \$243.5 million for Programmatic Mitigation. Programmatic Mitigation allows for acquisition, restoration, and management of habitat on a large-scale and biologically meaningful basis. If habitat impacts were to occur at Coal Canyon and Tonner Canyon from the widening of the 91 and 57 freeways, perhaps mitigation could include securing land at Tonner Canyon. An existing support letter is attached.

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

August 30, 2006 — Agenda Item XVII
Resolution No. 06-08

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY SUPPORTING ORANGE COUNTY'S MEASURE M

Whereas, there exists a wildlife corridor comprised of undeveloped wildlife habitat and open space between the Whittier-Puente Hills and the Cleveland National Forest in the Santa Ana Mountains; and

Whereas, this wildlife corridor serves wildlife migration and also functions as an essential environmental, scientific, educational, and recreational resource which should be held in trust for present and future generations; and

Whereas, that as the last major natural open space resource connecting Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties, it provides essential relief from the urban environment; and

Whereas, the preservation and protection of this resource is of Statewide significance; and

Whereas, the Puente-Chino Hills wildlife corridor exists as a single ecosystem in which changes that affect one part may also affect all other parts; and

Whereas, Measure M has been placed on the November 2006 ballot as an extension of the ½ cent sales tax to fund transportation projects; and

Whereas, Measure M includes Programmatic Mitigation that may be used for acquisition, restoration, and management of habitat; and

Whereas, transportation impacts may impact the wildlife corridor; and

Whereas, Programmatic Mitigation money in Measure M may be used for mitigation in the wildlife corridor;

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority:

1. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendation dated August 30, 2006; and
2. SUPPORTS Orange County's Measure M.

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Chairperson

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a special meeting of the Governing Board of the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 30th day of August, 2006.

Dated:

Executive Officer

Environmental Groups in Support of Measure M

July 24, 2006

Via Email and Hand Delivery

Chairman Art Brown and OCTA Board of Directors
Orange County Transportation Authority
550 S. Main Street
Orange, CA 92863-1584

Re: Support for Renewed Measure M Transportation Investment Plan

Dear Chairman Brown and Members of the Board:

The purpose of this letter is to express the support of 27 Orange County environmental and community organizations for the Renewed Measure M Transportation Investment Plan.

On April 24th, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) approved the Renewed Measure M Transportation Investment Plan (hereinafter "Measure"), which includes approximately \$11.8 billion for specific projects. At that time, 22 community and environmental groups supported the Measure conditioned on the concepts related to innovative environmental mitigation, context sensitive design and environmental cleanup, as outlined in our submittal dated April 23, 2006, being included in the Measure or its Ordinance. Since that time, OCTA has been developing Ordinance No. 3, which includes additional details concerning implementation of the Measure of interest to the environmental community. We are pleased to say that our conditions have all been met and applaud OCTA's inclusion in the Measure and its implementing ordinance significant funding for innovative environmental mitigation and environmental cleanup. Specifically, as of July 23rd, the environmental and community organizations whose Boards have passed resolutions or are in continued in support of Measure M and Ordinance No. 3 include:

Acorn Naturalists
Amigos de Bolsa Chica
California Cultural Resource Preservation Alliance
California Oaks Foundation
Canyon Land Conservation Fund
Earth Resource Foundation
Endangered Habitats League
Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks
Friends of Coyote Hills
Friends of Newport Coast
Hills For Everyone
Inland Empire Waterkeeper
Inter Canyon League
Laguna Canyon Foundation

Laguna Greenbelt Inc.
Latino Health Access
Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends
Orange County Coastkeeper
OC Interfaith Coalition for the Environment
Planning and Conservation League
Saddleback Canyons Conservancy
Silverado-Modjeska Recreation & Park District
Stop Polluting Our Newport
The Conservation Fund
The Trust for Public Land
Wild Heritage Planners
Women For: Orange County

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to work with you in advancing a Transportation Measure that will result in net environmental benefits to the Orange County community. We look forward to supporting the campaign to renew Measure M.

Sincerely,

Acorn Naturalists, Amigos de Bolsa Chica, California Cultural Resource Preservation Alliance, California Oaks Foundation, Canyon Land Conservation Fund, Earth Resource Foundation, Endangered Habitats League, Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks, Friends of Coyote Hills, Friends of Newport Coast, Hills For Everyone, Inland Empire Waterkeeper, Inter Canyon League, Laguna Canyon Foundation, Laguna Greenbelt Inc., Latino Health Access, Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends, Orange County Coastkeeper, Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment, Planning and Conservation League, Saddleback Canyons Conservancy, Silverado-Modjeska Recreation & Park District, Stop Polluting Our Newport, The Conservation Fund, The Trust for Public Land, Wild Heritage Planners, and Women For: Orange County.