WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

407 W. IMPERIAL HIGHWAY, SUITE H, PMB #230, BREA, CALIFORNIA 92821
TELEPHONE: (310) 589-3230
FAX: (310) 589-2408

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 13, 2005

To: The Governing Board Members

From: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

Subject: **Agenda Item XV: Update and discussion regarding National Park Service's Special Resource Study for San Gabriel River watershed.**

Staff Recommendation: This is an informational item, and staff is not recommending any action of the Governing Board.

Background: The National Park Service (NPS) is conducting a special resource study of the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains. Their study area includes much of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor. The legislation was sponsored by Congresswoman Solis, and co-sponsored by twenty Congressional representatives. The San Gabriel River Watershed Study Act directed the NPS to conduct this study, to consult with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and other appropriate government entities, and to consider regional flood control and drainage needs and publicly owned infrastructure such as wastewater treatment facilities. More information can be found at www.nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel.

This study may identify new ideas or lend support to ongoing efforts; it may recommend some involvement by the NPS in some part of the study area. At this point it is too early to tell what alternatives or ideas might be considered in the study. The study process will determine whether any further NPS involvement in the area will be appropriate or feasible. Over the last 20 years, only about 20-25% of special resource studies have found that the area under study is eligible for inclusion in the national park system. Many studies determine that existing management, technical or financial assistance, or local, state or private initiatives are preferable to the establishment of a new national park unit.

A Notice of Scoping was published in the Federal Register, public meetings were held, and the comment period has ended. The next steps include: resource analysis–significance and suitability, development of alternatives, feasibility analysis, analysis of alternatives, draft report, and final report. The status of several of these steps will be reported in a newsletter. The draft report, in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment, is scheduled to be prepared in 2007.