

Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority
Advisory Committee Bullet Minutes
May 27, 2009
Submitted by: Sona McCoy

- Item I: Call to order. The special meeting of the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority Advisory Committee was called to order by Claire Schlotterbeck, Acting Chairperson at 5:30 p.m. on Wed. May 27, 2009, in the Council Chambers, Whittier City Hall, 13230 E. Penn Street, Whittier, California.
- Item II: Roll Call.
- Item III: Comments by members of the public. No comments were made. Rick Rogers is our newly elected member from Diamond Bar.
- Item IV: Advisory Committee and staff response to public comment. None.
- Item V: Approval of minutes from the meeting of Dec. 17, 2008. Minutes approved.
- Item VI: Update on Governing Board meeting held Dec. 17, 2008. An update was given by Ms. Tamasi.
- Item VII: Comments and announcements from Advisory Committee Members.
 - a. Discussion of Conservation Easement.
 - b. Alissa Ing reports on Land Trust Alliance.
 - c. Discussion of Trust for Public Land.
 - d. Comments were made by Ms. Schlotterbeck on the current efforts to eradicate
 - e. Arundo. Questions were propounded by Roland vom Dorp regarding Arundo discovered in a creek on East Rd., La Habra Heights. Comments were made by Ms. Schlotterbeck regarding county funds to stop Arundo.
- Item VIII: Discussion of development projects in the wildlife corridor area. Comments were made by Mr. Yann regarding 150 acres of land near Schabarum Park, the Pacific Heights project. Request to donate land to Habitat Authority. Questions were propounded by Mr. Vom Dorp. Could this be a tax write off? Comments were made by Mr. Yann. Developer has held on to this land for 15 years. Comments were made by Ms. Ing regarding Santa Ana Receptor Interceptor and major sewer trunk. Pipe was exposed. State Parks involved. Repair will involve tunneling and much excavation. Critical service points are not positioned at "T". Comments made by Ms. Schlotterbeck regarding Coal Canyon. Comments about Canyon Crest burn. Comment by Ms. Schlotterbeck that building houses near protected lands threatens State Parks with ornamental vegetation and other non-fire retardant vegetation. Comments by Ms. Ing that people's houses burn quickly from pine trees, redwood decks and palm trees. Comments by Ms. Schlotterbeck on Aera Project. It is for sale. The Aera Project developers have no interest in making an ecologically friendly development. Comment regarding the purchase of Aera by WCCA. Comment that Prop 84 makes money available for purchase. Comments by Ms. Rahder regarding San Gabriel River Discovery Center. Discussion by Mr. Yann about the San Gabriel River Discovery Center. There is conflict with the public regarding the building of this structure. Neighbors are opposed because of the size and groups wonder why people are building in open space. Comments that there will be a big draw for school kids in this lower economic area. Comments by Mr. Yann that this is not natural land or native habitat for shrubs and trees. It is disturbed land. Discussion about parking area in preserve. Comments that WCCA will respond to an EIR request on the Center. Comments by Mr. vom Dorp regarding the open space available beside Fullerton Road in La Habra Heights. It is near the Aera project. This is a six acre parcel.
- Item IX: Oral report from staff on status of Los Angeles Defense Nike 29 Parcel 2, Los Angeles County. Discussion of Nike Parcel. WCCA applied to acquire it. L.A. Sheriff's Department interested. Currently, the Federal government will transfer the land to the Sheriff's Department. Comment that the land is needed for a communications site.
- Item X: Consideration of resolution recommending that the Governing Board authorize a comment letter to City of Montebello Hills on Draft Environmental Impact Report for Montebello Hills Specific Plan. Comments by Mr. Yann regarding 76 breeding pairs of gnatcatchers in the Montebello Development. Mr. Yann proposes to keep the Montebello development area open space. Grading will destroy the nests. Sierra Club has been involved and concerned about this

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problem since 2001. Comments regarding cluster condos and sage surrounding condos and the fire danger Comments from Claire Schlotterbeck regarding the Orange County fire. The fire covered 14 football fields in a minute. Yorba Linda people got stuck in their communities with no way out. Comments by Mr. Yann. Comments by Claire Schlotterbeck to add to the letter "Urban edge effects and dangers of wildland urban interface." Comments by Ms. Ing that fire storms are so hot houses catch fire from the inside out. Comments by Mr. vom Dorp that he moves the proposal in the WCCA letter be approved.

- Item XI: Consideration of resolution recommending that the Governing Board authorize a comment letter to California Public Utilities Commission and Southern California Edison on Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (Application No. 07-06-031) and alternative alignments proposed by City of Chino Hills. Comments by Ms. Schlotterbeck regarding a letter sent from Hills for Everyone to Southern California Edison. Comments by Ms. Ing regarding WCCA proposal for positioning of Edison power lines and poles. Discussion regarding different positions that Hills for Everyone and WCCA propose. It is moved and seconded to abstain from sending the WCCA letter as it is written, to Edison.
- Item XII: Consideration of resolution recommending that the Governing Board adopt a position on the general fund budget for California State Parks. Ms. Schlotterbeck suggested adding to the letter that State Parks are an economic pump, not an economic drain to both State and local communities. Letter to the California Governor appealing for funds is adopted and amended.
- Item XIII: Reports from Advisory sub-committees. No comments were made.
- Item XIV: Statements, responses, questions, or directions to staff. No comments were made.
- Item XV: Announcement of next meeting and adjournment.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.