

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

570 WEST AVENUE 26, SUITE 100, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90065

TELEPHONE: (310) 589-3230

FAX: (310) 589-2408

GLENN PARKER
CHAIR
PUBLIC MEMBER
ORANGE COUNTY

MICHAEL HUGHES
VICE-CHAIR
PUBLIC MEMBER
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

BOB HENDERSON
CITY OF WHITTIER

RON KRUEPER
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

CHRISTINE MARICK
CITY OF BREA

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY

DICKIE SIMMONS
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JACK TANAKA
CITY OF DIAMOND BAR

JANE L. WILLIAMS
CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS

January 31, 2013

George Gentry, Executive Officer
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, California 94244-2460

Re: Draft Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Gentry and Board Members:

The Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) provides the following comments on the Draft Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report (VTPEIR). WCCA was created to provide for the proper planning, conservation, environmental protection and maintenance of the habitat and wildlife corridor between the Whittier-Puente Hills, Chino Hills, and the Cleveland National Forest in the Santa Ana Mountains. To preserve the value of the public investment made toward the protection of this corridor, any fire safety and fuel modification program must be custom-tailored to this unique and sensitive habitat area.

The California Chapparral Institute has written a comprehensive letter dated January 25, 2013 regarding the VTPEIR. We incorporate that letter by reference in our comments.

The VTPEIR does not include any information on the specific regions or habitat areas to be included in subject program. Our agency's area of concern is included under the very general "South Coast Bioregion" shown in Figure 4.1.11.

If the overly broad vegetation clearance program described in the VTPEIR were applied to the Whittier-Puente Hills, Chino Hills and Cleveland National Forest areas, it would significantly degrade the habitat quality of this wildlife corridor and negate the value of a substantial public investment. We urge the Department of Forestry and CalFire to consult with local agencies to create an alternative fire prevention program that accurately accounts for specific, regional differences and assets at risk.

Should you have any questions or clarifications, please contact Judi Tamasi at 310-589-3230, ext. 121. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

George Gentry, Executive Officer
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Re: Draft Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report
January 31, 2013
Page 2

Sincerely,

Glenn Parker
Chairperson