



Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

Agenda Item XI
WCCA
8/14/13

August 1, 2013

The Honorable Senator Kevin de León, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

Support Assembly Bill 1213 (The Bobcat Protection Act)

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) supports the proposed Assembly Bill (AB) 1213 (The Bobcat Protection Act) which would prohibit unauthorized trapping of bobcats on lands adjacent to public conservation areas such as that managed by the Habitat Authority if designated for protection by the Fish and Game Commission.

The Habitat Authority is a joint powers authority established pursuant to California Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.* with a Board of Directors consisting of the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association. According to its mission, the Habitat Authority is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, and management of open space in the Puente Hills (Puente Hills Preserve) for preservation of the land in perpetuity, with the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally, the agency endeavors to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation. The Habitat Authority owns and or manages over 3,800 acres in the Puente Hills in which no hunting is allowed. The Puente Hills Preserve is an integral part of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor, an unbroken zone of natural habitat extending nearly 31 miles from the Cleveland National Forest in Orange County to the west end of the Puente Hills and Whittier Narrows.

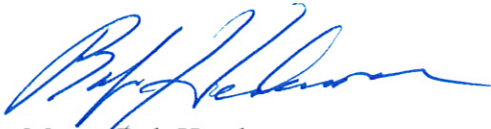
Despite the fact that the Preserve is almost surrounded by urbanization, it supports a bobcat population. Bobcats are one of the umbrella species in this ecosystem, and their health and well-being directly affects the health of the Preserve by controlling rodent and small mammal populations, for example. Trapping of bobcats for commercial benefit or perceived nuisance reasons on lands adjacent to and near the Preserve could negatively impact the bobcat population as well as upset the balance of the ecosystem. However, trapping for appropriate scientific purposes is supported as allowed for in AB 1213.



Page 2
Support AB 1213
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Thank you for your consideration of approving this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Mayor Bob Henderson
Chairman of the Board of Directors

- C: Habitat Authority Board of Directors
- Assembly Member Bloom
- Committee Member, Senator Mimi Walters (Vice Chair)
- Committee Member, Senator Ted Gaines
- Committee Member, Senator Jerry Hill
- Committee Member, Senator Ricardo Lara
- Committee Member, Senator Alex Padilla
- Committee Member, Senator Darrell Steinberg