

## Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: January 27, 2014

From :   
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution adopting Elephant Hill, Monterey Hills, South Pasadena Baseline Wildlife Corridor Map.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached map and resolution for the Elephant Hill, Monterey Hills, South Pasadena Baseline Wildlife Corridor Map.

Background: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy staff has identified wildlife corridors and habitat blocks in the densely populated northeast Los Angeles area located in the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor zone. In order to protect these habitat linkages, city planning officials need these wildlife corridors to be identified, and for such identification to be then a government adopted planning document. In order for city staff to make any exactions for planning permits or CEQA review for wildlife corridors there must be an adopted plan. The Conservancy is the principal state planning agency for the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor zone.

Ultimately the Conservancy would create a wildlife corridor map for its whole jurisdiction. The map was produced 100 percent using aerial photography - no ground truthing has been conducted. Northeast Los Angeles is one sub-area staff has decided to do first.

Habitat blocks and wildlife corridors were modeled after bobcat, coyote, and ground squirrel habitat and movement needs. Through the use of remote cameras, a bobcat photograph was recently taken at Ernest E. Debs Regional Park. This photographic evidence shows the importance of urban habitat blocks and wildlife corridors. The size and quality habitat found at Ernest E. Debs Regional Park is an exception in the area. Currently, open space found in northeast Los Angeles is curtailed by brush clearance and ongoing habitat maintenance. By identifying corridors, planning staff can potentially expand corridors through habitat restoration to upgrade the ecological system found within northeast Los Angeles.

The intentions of this wildlife corridor map are that it be a dynamic document that allows itself to be edited and updated over the course of time.