

January 23, 2017; Agenda Item No. 13

Resolution No. 17-01

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY ADOPTING
EASTERN SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS HABITAT LINKAGE PLANNING MAP,
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

WHEREAS, the eastern Santa Monica Mountains habitat linkage between the San Diego (405) freeway and Griffith Park is of regional scientific significance; and

WHEREAS, the subject habitat linkage system and the Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor are a cultural treasure for the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, the efficacy of the subject habitat linkage system could be severed by new fencing on just one or two residential parcels; and

WHEREAS, the subject habitat linkage system has never been comprehensively mapped and such mapping is essential to adequately assess the impacts of proposed development projects; and

WHEREAS, a Habitat Linkage Planning Map for the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as the principal State planning agency for the area is beneficial to the City of Los Angeles Department of Planning's efforts to maintain habitat connectivity; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles City Council (Koretz) adopted a motion to designate the subject area as a Regional Wildlife Habitat Linkage Zone in the Municipal Code and for the Planning Department to work in consultation with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mulholland Design Review Board, and Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) to prepare an ordinance to create a Wildlife Corridor in the eastern area of the Santa Monica Mountains; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Habitat Linkage Planning Map represents an initial comprehensive step to delineate the majority of habitat blocks and connecting wildlife corridors between the 405 and 101 freeways for planning, conservation, and environmental impact analysis purposes; and

WHEREAS, the aerial photography and conditions that provide background for the habitat linkage mapping represent a slice in time and limited ground truthing, hence the subject map is an iterative work that is designed to be shaped, corrected, and modified at least annually to provide the most accurate and up to date information possible; and

WHEREAS, the staff report dated January 23, 2017 further describes the project; and

WHEREAS, The proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); Now

Therefore Be It Resolved, That the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy hereby:

1. FINDS that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
2. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendation dated January 23, 2017.
3. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*.
4. ADOPTS the proposed Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Habitat Linkage Planning Map (Version January 2017).
5. FURTHER AUTHORIZES the Executive Director, or his assignee, to perform any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution.

~ End of Resolution ~

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 23rd day of January, 2017 at Los Angeles, California.

Dated: 1/23/17

Executive Director