

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: December 11, 2017

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 23: Consideration of resolution adopting Griffith Park Area Habitat Linkage Planning Map, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution adopting a Griffith Park Area Habitat Linkage Planning Map, City of Los Angeles.

Legislative Authority: Public Resources Code Section 33211(c)

Background: At its January 2017 meeting the Conservancy adopted an Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Habitat Linkage Planning Map for the area just west of the 405 freeway in the Sepulveda Pass to just east of 101 freeway in the Cahuenga Pass. That map shows sequentially numbered habitat blocks and identified habitat linkages. The proposed Griffith Park Area Habitat Linkage Planning Map extends this habitat block and linkage mapping resource to I5 at the eastern edge of Griffith Park and into the Los Angeles River. The City of Los Angeles Planning Department requested this expansion of the mapping.

The City of Los Angeles Planning Department does not conduct independent research for any proposed development projects on habitat connectivity, and it relies on public agency and citizen comments for input on potential wildlife corridor impacts from development. The Department staff has long requested comprehensive maps of known and potential wildlife corridors in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains and other parts of the City. The adopted Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Habitat Linkage Planning Map and proposed Griffith Park Area Habitat Linkage Planning Map do, and will, provide that tool to the City Planning Department, other public agencies, developers, and homeowners.

The mapping model includes outlined habitat blocks and lines depicting both known, and potentially functional, wildlife corridors between them. Many habitat block boundaries and connections located on difficult to reach private lands were not ground-truthed. The map delineations are based on the best available Google Earth aerial and street view photography combined with accumulated staff knowledge. The map is meant to be instructive to clue all parties into potential constraints and opportunities both to protect habitat connections and land within all sized habitat blocks. On the ground conditions are fluid because fences can come and go and new construction occurs in almost every neighborhood. Each distinct habitat

Agenda Item 23
December 11, 2017
Page 2

block polygon is sequentially numbered to establish baseline nomenclature for easy reference to all parties.

It is impossible to provide a perfect map in time and hence this mapping effort is meant to be an iterative process that includes input from all available sources. The attached Resolution calls for the map to be updated no less than annually.

The key factor is to provide a timely baseline habitat linkage map adopted for the Griffith Park Area by the most pertinent State planning agency available to guide environmental impact analysis by the City and to give landowners (existing and prospective) a heads up about sensitive wildlife corridor areas and the location of habitat blocks and patches that are all integral to a functional habitat linkage system.