

**Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority
Advisory Committee Bullet Minutes
March 1, 2006
Submitted by L.C. Yoshida**

- Item I: The WCCA Advisory Board session began at 5:42 PM in Whittier Council Chambers.
- Item II: Roll call was taken by Members.
- Item III: Comments from members of public, introductions of audience
- Item IV: Members of the Advisory Committee, no response to public introductions.
- Item V: Approval of minutes from July 13, 2005. moved by Claire Schlotterbeck, seconded by Michael Hughes
- Item VI: Update on Governing Board meeting: not available
- Item VII: Comments by Bob Kanne on happenings in Yorba Linda: the redevelopment plan was voted down. Alyssa Ing mentioned the new ecologist Ken Keetzer, environmental scientist. The CHSP restoration is going well, other projects in the pipeline. Wilbur Smith: commented on a meeting he watched last night where draft EIR was approved by City of Diamond Bar on development project on ridgeline to Tonner Canyon. Comments and questions by Claire Schlotterbeck and Bill Herrick. Question by Claire to Alyssa on status of Chappell land, near preserve part of the CHSP. There was discussion on other threats to state parks: a toll road through San Onofre State Park Buffer: zones are easily threatened.
- Item VIII: Special recognition of Jim Hartl, AICP, Los Angeles County Director of Regional Planning and former Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority Governing Board Member.
- Item IX: Update on Sierra fire. The fire was almost 11,000 acres, started by a change in wind sparked up by small fire from prescribed burn. (fire can linger underground for days). Controversy over timing of prescribed burning. Fire suppression causes problems. In this area, there are many sensitive species. Ideal fire frequency is between 35-65 years. With humans, it's burning every 3 years. This may lead to wipe out of trees and regeneration of vegetation community. CSS type changing from scrub to nonnative grasses. Fires originating from equipment operation, fireworks, plane crashes. Problem is when prescribed burns can be done. Santa Ana events can stir up fire. Also, since 2003 fires, there is a huge push to do more to lessen unburned fuels near homes (by fire suppression agencies). CHSP staff was able to have influence to keep fire agencies from lighting up Coal Canyon. They were successful and getting them to black line the old fire and saved a community of *Tecates*, thus did not lose oak woodland. This protected Coal Canyon. Alyssa was able to let them know of the value of Coal Canyon as \$10 million worth of mitigation working to design to protect sensitive habitat. The *Tecate* Cypress preserve was burned badly. Staff was able to prevent little more from burning. This is important for social purposes. Gnatcatchers in gypsum canyon were wiped out, possibly the ones in the south end of the canyon. OC authority did a flyover to look over hills. Gypsum Canyon had lots of erosion. So far CHSP had little Erosion. Gnatcatchers do not fly fast enough so they likely burned in a fast moving fire. Claire added that 2200 firefighters had to be doing something, i.e., bulldozing, creating black lines, etc. We need to adopt strong guidelines and a plan in place to prevent something like the Sierra fire from happening again, or we will lose biodiversity. Comment was made that state parks was familiar with fires to provide an option to save endangered habitat. There was no dialogue between agencies on the other side of the ridge. Different vegetation communities have different fire frequency regimes and it needs to be managed.
- Item X: Update on activities of the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority, given by Michael Hughes. Found many species of bats, rodents, plants, etc. amazingly alive.

Survey of people supported conservation over recreation and would support trail closure for temporary conservation. PHLNHP has many users. Many volunteer trails will be closed. Good support from community. Lots of mountain lion sightings, every 2 weeks, many deer. People are feeding the deer. There needs to be more education of residents: there is a problem with resident feeding the deer. A mountain lion was sighted nearby. Underpass under Harbor Blvd. will be open in April. Vegetation will be adjusted to be visible to animals. The Pacific Heights development deal was arrived at and then suddenly owner sold off part of it to family members (located south of Colima near Schabarum Park). Questions on mountain lion: how many. This one is a female. There have been reported sightings of mountain lion in CHSP.

- Item XI: Consideration of resolution recommending that the Governing Board authorize a comment letter to City of Brea on Draft Supplemental EIR for Carbon Canyon General Plan Amendment and Zone Change. Moved by Claire and seconded by Alyssa for discussion on draft supplemental EIR. Motion to recommend that the Governing Board send the letter. Vote was taken, there were 2 abstentions.
- Item XII: Consideration of resolution recommending that the Governing Board authorize a comment letter to Rio Hondo College on Draft Master EIR for Rio Hondo College Master Plan. Moved by Claire seconded by Anne Coté. Helen Rahder mentioned some changes to salutation on letter. During discussion mentioned habitat improvement in Puente-Chino Hills. Addition of walnut trees. Suggestion to put a link to EIR so that members can view them before the meeting. Clarification of our role regarding drafts. Vote all ayes, one no.
- Item XIII: Consideration of resolution recommending that the Governing Board request the Governor and Legislature provide adequate parks and open space funding to acquire key properties in the Puente-Chino Hills Corridor. Moved by Helen, seconded by Roland von Dorp. Vote was taken. 1 abstention.
- Item XIV: Presentation by Eric Dugan, graduate student at Loma Linda University on rattlesnakes, red diamond and southern pacific blue diamond in Southern California.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM