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Planning and Land Use Management Committee City Hall, Room 395 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

July 27, 2014

Re: CF #14-0518 Paul Koretz' Wildlife Corridor motion

Dear Councilmembers:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc., founded in 1952, represents 44 homeowner and residents associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains, from Pacific Palisades to Mt. Washington. The Federation's mission is to protect the property and quality of life of its over 200,000 constituents and to conserve the natural habitat and appearance of the hillside and mountain areas in which they live. At its meeting on June 4, 2014, the Federation unanimously voted to support Councilmember Paul Koretz' wildlife corridor motion CF #14-0518.

Wildlife corridors are vital to aid movement so that animals can move freely without getting killed and to help maintain genetic diversity. P-22 is an example of a mountain lion that crossed the freeway successfully and survived ingesting rodenticide thanks to swift treatment by National Park Service biologists. Another mountain lion was recently killed crossing the 101. We need wildlife corridors and this motion will ensure that the City of Los Angeles takes wildlife corridors into account during the planning process. The motion would protect wildlife movement from the I-405 to Griffith Park. The City would require that all hillside properties within the boundaries of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO) are reviewed prior to any approval to look at ways to ensure valuable wildlife connectivity be preserved. Each project would have to demonstrate that it would not negatively impact wildlife connectivity and if impacted, mitigation would be required. This would lead to permanent habitat protection.

To facilitate the implementation of this ordinance, the Federation recommends the creation of a separate category in ZIMAS such a "Wildlife Corridor Easement" to identify those properties that would be covered by the ordinance. All properties currently designated as BHO would also have a Wildlife Corridor designation.

The Federation urges PLUM to approve Councilmember Paul Koretz' motion CF #14-0518 to preserve and enhance wildlife connectivity in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Sincerely,

Marían Dodge-Marian Dodge