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Douglas Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

January 19, 2015

Re: Support for SCC Grant for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at
US 101

Dear Mr. Bosco:

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.

The Federation supports the funding requested by Caltrans and the National Wildlife Federation from the State Coastal Conservancy for the planning, design, and environmental compliance for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing at US 101.

This project will provide significant wildlife and habitat linkage at US 101 and Liberty Canyon. This connectivity is needed to support the ongoing efforts of groups like the Resource Conservation District, the National Park Service, Caltrans, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority, local cities and elected officials, and adjacent land owners to facilitate safe wildlife passage in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners
Bel Air Ridge Association
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills Homeowners
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners
Canyon Back Alliance
CASM-SFV
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.
Lake Hollywood HOA
Laurel Canyon Assn.
Lookout Mountain Alliance
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.
Nichols Canyon Assn.
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.
Oaks Homeowners Assn.
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Pacific Palisades Residents Assn.
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Assn.
Save Sunset Blvd.
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks HO Assn.
Studio City Residents Assn.
Sunset Hills Homeowners Assn.
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
Torreyson Flynn Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Upper Nichols Canyon NA
Upper Riviera Homeowners Assn.
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

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The natural and urban barriers hindering wildlife from dispersing to new territory limits the genetic diversity and increases the possibility of death by territorial disputes and freeway crossings. The dangers were uniquely highlighted in October 2013 when a genetically desirable male mountain lion — previously unknown to area researchers — was killed crossing US 101 at this location. The unique genetic code from this male is sorely needed in the Santa Monica Mountains, where recent instances of inbreeding have occurred in what is already the least genetically diverse population of mountain lions outside of Florida.

The National Park Service Carnivore Study, which has collected data for almost 20 years from 26 radio collared mountain lions, show resident mountain lions approaching the Ventura Freeway (US 101) and turning around, demonstrating the urgent need for wildlife crossings. The prime location for these enhancements in the immediate future is the US 101 at Liberty Canyon, where one mountain lion (and many other animals) appears to have successfully used the crossing. The wildlife crossing at Liberty Canyon will increase the likelihood of wildlife usage and promote safe passage from the Santa Monica Mountains to the Simi Hills. Additionally, this crossing will increase recreational and outdoor opportunities for local residents and visitors to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

On behalf of our hillside constituency, we urge you to support the application before you.

Sincerely,

Marian Dodge

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