



Board of Supervisors

Memorandum

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CLERK OF THE BOARD
COUNTY OF ORANGE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Date: 12/16/2025
To: Robin Stieler, Clerk of the Board
From: Vice Chair Katrina Foley, Fifth District
Re: Supplemental Item for the 12/16/2025 Meeting of the Board of Supervisors

S28E

Supplemental Agenda Item Title: Request the Chair of the Board of Supervisors sign the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor Partner Charter, signifying the County of Orange's support for implementing the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor (Wildlife Corridor).

Summary: Vice Chair Foley requests that the Board of Supervisors approve the County of Orange's participation in the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor Partner Charter. The Charter provides a voluntary framework for collaboration among local governments, nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders to support the implementation of the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor.

The Corridor is a critical linkage between the coastal parks and preserves of South Orange County and the Cleveland National Forest. It encompasses 22,000 acres of protected wilderness habitat within the Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) and connects to more than 450,000 acres of inland wilderness. Decades of urbanization have fragmented this landscape, impeding wildlife movement and threatening ecosystem health.

Recommended Action Items:

1. Request the Chair of the Board of Supervisors sign the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor Partner Charter to signify the County of Orange as a partner agency to the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor.



Protecting Open Space in Orange County since 1968
P.O. Box 860, Laguna Beach 92652
lagunagreenbelt.org
wildlifecorridor.org

Partner Charter

Support for a Functional, Sustainable Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor

Purpose of the Charter: This Partner Charter provides a voluntary avenue for partner organizations and government entities to signify collaboration in implementing the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor (Wildlife Corridor).

The Project: The coastal portion of the south Orange County Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) encompasses 22,000 acres of protected wilderness habitat offering multiple benefits to wildlife and people. This portion of the NCCP/HCP is a gateway into more than 450,000 acres of wilderness habitat in the Cleveland National Forest that is a regionally important ecosystem. These two areas are separated by decades of ongoing urbanization which has caused fragmentation of the landscape making it difficult for many animals to move between the coastal and inland reserves.

Upon successful completion, the Wildlife Corridor will facilitate wildlife movement between the coastal parks and preserves and the Cleveland National Forest. Wildlife corridors in general, and this Corridor in particular, are an essential tool for mitigating the effects of urbanization and landscape fragmentation by preserving a pathway for wildlife movement between landscapes. Connectivity fosters genetic diversity and wildlife movement critical for ecosystem health. Furthermore, as a designated 'climate change corridor' (Olsen, et al 2009), this last available Corridor is essential for maintaining resiliency in the face of climate change. Without this vital connection, the coastal ecosystem will continue to degrade over time due to genetic isolation.

Completed in 2019, the Irvine Wildlife Camera Monitoring Study showed both the lack of targeted species – deer, bobcats, coyotes, and other small mammals -- using the Corridor, and the negative impacts of high human intrusion. The Study underscored the importance of a functional, sustainable wildlife corridor connecting the coastal and inland wilderness areas and made specific recommendations for improving Corridor function. Since the completion of the Study, the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor Working Group has researched possible opportunities for the funding and implementation of improvements that address the barriers identified in the Study (e.g., riprap and sediment removal, vegetation management and fencing, among other solutions).

Partners: The Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. is committed to bringing the vision of a completed and functional Corridor to reality by empowering the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor Working Group to collaborate with local stakeholders and Partners. Partners will be supporting the Corridor by actively participating in upcoming conversations and convening and other activities focused on honing, planning, and implementing specific remediations. By signing this Partner Charter, the organizations and government entities essential to success, signify collaboration in implementing the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor.

Signed:

Dated:

Current Partners:

City of Aliso Viejo
City of Irvine
City of Laguna Beach
City of Laguna Woods
Aliso Viejo Community Association (AVCA)
California Cultural Resources Preservation Alliance Inc. (CCRPA)
California Native Plant Society
Chino Hill State Park Interpretive Association
Coastal Corridor Alliance
Coastal Greenbelt Authority
Crystal Cove Conservancy
Endangered Habitats League (EHL)
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks (FHBP)
Hills for Everyone
Laguna Beach Canyon Alliance of Neighborhoods Defense Organization (CANDO)
Laguna Canyon Conservancy (LCC)
Laguna Canyon Foundation (LCF)
OC Habitats
Pomona Valley Audubon
Still Protecting Our Newport (SPON)
Village Laguna

Partner Charter Supporters:

City of Aliso Viejo

City of Irvine

City of Laguna Beach

City of Laguna Woods

California Cultural Resources Preservation Alliance Inc. (CCRPA)

California Native Plant Society

Chino Hill State Park Interpretive Association

Coastal Corridor Alliance

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