



# Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor

Connecting Habitats  
from Mountains to Coast

A Project of the Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.



## P-22 Day Celebrates Urban Wildlife; Goes Virtual Again

P-22 Day is an annual celebration of urban wildlife, typically held at Griffith Park in Los Angeles. P-22 refers to one famous mountain lion living in Griffith Park with a territory of 9 square miles, who is hemmed in on all sides by urban development. Mountain lions are known to have territories of 150 square miles, so P-22 is putting up with a very small area!

The festival, which featured wildlife-oriented organizations, presentations, art, and music performances occurred on October 23. However, the 'stalls' and some videos are still available to view online for the 2021 event as well as 2020. Check it out to see your favorite organizations featured, or meet some new ones!

Please visit the website at <https://savelacougars.org/p-22-day/>.



## **Gigantic Wildlife Freeway Overpass Becomes a Reality for Southern California**

For the past decade, the project of a large wildlife bridge over the 101 freeway in North Los Angeles County/Ventura County seemed an impossible dream for conservation supporters hoping to give mountain lions a genetic leg up. The project gained supporters over the last decade, including local residents, CalTrans, and local elected officials. 2021 proved to be an important year in the story of this project, culminating in two big announcements - the bridge will be named the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing in honor of one of the most important donors, and construction will begin in January 2022.

Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. is happy to congratulate wildlife advocates, activists, conservationists, philanthropists, and the myriad of folks behind the scenes whose work supported this remarkable project. Scientific research has shown these projects are invaluable to ecosystem health of local habitats and also broad regions, and we look forward to seeing the fruit it brings in helping mountain lions and many other species survive and thrive.

Read more on the latest developments at [LA Times](#).

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Tracking Notification:

**SB-790**: Wildlife connectivity actions: compensatory mitigation credits.

On 08-OCT-21 the following history action was applied:

"Approved by the Governor."

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## Legislative Spotlight: SB 790 - Signed!

### ***SB 790: Wildlife Protection and Movement Act***

A few months ago, we wrote to you with our support of legislation that would encourage more connectivity projects throughout the state. Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. and its statewide-coalition partners are now pleased to announce that we have some news.

**We are here to say thank you for your advocacy!**

**On October 8, 2021, this bill was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom.**

### ***Why the bill is important:***

- SB 790 encourages Caltrans to implement wildlife crossing projects – such as bridges, underpasses, and fencing – that prevent animals from being killed and humans from being injured by vehicle-wildlife collisions.
- Not only saves individual animals, but also promotes the health of the entire species because it gives animals like mountain lion access to potential mates and prevents isolated islands that force inbreeding. It also allows animals to access higher altitudes and cooler habitat, which scientists say is essential to species' ability to cope with climate change.

### ***What the bill does:***

- The bill gives the Department of Fish and Wildlife the authority to give Caltrans compensatory mitigation credits for doing crossing projects. The credits will be flexible enough that Caltrans will want to earn them.

### ***Why the bill is needed:***

- There are other state programs that can facilitate wildlife crossing projects, but they have some important limitations. The intent of the bill is not to replace these tools, but to give the departments another option to facilitate corridors.



- Overall, this mitigation credit will help facilitate wildlife crossings and protect biodiversity of species.

## Hiking + Friends = Happiness

John Foley, a Boardmember here at Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. and an avid hiker and wildlife watcher, shared these amazing photos of his hike this week. He traveled with friends Dawn Hayes and Stan Reese. Have you ever hiked up to Mt. Islip in the San Gabriel Mountains, altitude 8,250 feet?

*If you have hikes you enjoy, and would like to share your photos with us, you may see them featured on our social media or in our newsletter! Send them to [lagunagreenbeltmedia@gmail.com](mailto:lagunagreenbeltmedia@gmail.com) or on Instagram or Facebook @lagunagreenbelt.*













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