



Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor

Connecting Habitats
from Mountains to Coast

A Project of the Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.



Mary Fegraus (LGB), Norm Grossman (LGB), Scott Smith (Irvine), Casey Gnadt (Irvine), Mayor Farrah Khan (Irvine), and Lance Vallery (LGB) braved the heat to view the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor in September.

Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan Tours the Corridor

Earlier this month, we had the privilege of viewing portions of the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor with Mayor Farrah Khan and a few Irvine city staff. Mary Fegraus, Norm Grossman and Lance Vallery of the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor Working Group shared the Corridor story with the group, eager to continue an essential partnership in the progress of constructing, planting, and



remediating portions of the Corridor.

Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. has long worked to bring partners into the work of completing this unique wildlife corridor. We hope this is yet another milestone in strengthening the community's commitment to wildlife conservation in Orange County.

The City of Irvine has been instrumental in establishing portions of the wildlife corridor that function to move animals between the Orange County Coastal wilderness ecosystem and the inland ecosystem in the Santa Ana mountains.

Thank you, Mayor Khan, for joining us in championing this Corridor!

For more on the history and milestones of the Corridor, please visit:

<https://wildlifecorridor.org/successes/>.



Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. Welcomes New Interns

This month, Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. is featuring the interns who are learning more about the work done at LGB. This fall, interns have worked with Gabriela Worrel, Outreach Coordinator, to continue to build a robust online presence through social media. The goal of social media is to engage a diverse audience that understands the ecosystems in the region, can advocate for them, and enjoy them. Interns also have access to additional projects, training, lectures, and relationships within the organization and environmental community that will help them explore their interests in the field. Interns are a huge asset to the organization, bring a fresh perspective to the work, and contribute creative ideas to the Board and Working Groups. Welcome, interns!



Lilie Kulber is a current senior at Laguna Beach High School. She is a competitive surfer on the USA national Olympic junior team. As a result of spending a substantial amount of time in the ocean, she has become aware of the repercussions of human activity as well as climate change on our



Miguel Tapia is a student at Irvine Valley College who is pursuing a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He has always loved the outdoors, but really began to fall in love with the



Yuwa Tennen is a current senior at Laguna Beach High school. In her free time, she runs cross-country and is part of the high school dance team. She hopes to make an impact in

planet's ecosystems. She wanted to help combat these negative effects on local ecosystems but wasn't sure how. Through a friend, fellow surfer, and past intern at Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. (Tess Booth), she was introduced to the internship program. Lilie is so thankful to be interning at Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. This has been such a great learning opportunity and introduction to positive local changes to ensure the maintenance of our Greenbelt.

environment in high school through an environmental science course. He believes that the world is meant for exploring, so we must practice sustainability, and he wants to play a part in it. Miguel found out about LGB while doing a research project and was eager to volunteer after becoming fascinated by the organization's work. It has been a great experiencing working with LGB and Miguel is looking forward to future achievements of the organization.

preserving nature through her work with Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. and is interested to learn about the world behind media and targeting audiences.

Legislative Spotlight: SB 790 - Passed!

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 SB790 passed through both houses of California State Legislature, and is awaiting Governor Gavin Newsom's Signature. The governor has until October 10, 2021 to approve.

Action Item

If you want to support this bill, you can send a message to Governor Newsom [here](#), or Tweet [@GavinNewsom](#).

You can also help us say a big Thank You to California State Senator Henry Stern, the bill's sponsor, by tweeting [@HenrySternCA](#).

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.

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