

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026 — 3:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Fegraus, Vice Chair McCary, and Members Clark, Osborne, Norton, and Felder were present. Members Lee, Conners, Orgill, Jones, and Foley were absent.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may address the Authority on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Authority and are not contained in today's agenda.

No comments were received from the public.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A)

The following item on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless an Authority Member requests to pull a specific item.

A. APPROVE AUTHORITY MINUTES FOR THE MAY 13, 2026 MEETING.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Norton

Unanimous vote to approve

IV. AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES (ITEM(S) A–H)

A. LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (LCF) UPDATE

Scott Thomas, LCF Executive Director, shared the following: Concluded the 2025–26 school year for 2–5 grades for Title I schools, more than 3,600 students received field trips, also Laguna Beach school students with field trips funded by SchoolPower; Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on June 26th attended by 100 volunteers with 11,000 hours of volunteer service in restoration, trail remediation and park events; Park Ambassador program during the summer at Alta Laguna Park from 3 hours before sunset to help visitors respect the wilderness; June 6th was a well-attended National Trails Day event; received a \$50,000 grant from the OC Parks Foundation to help decommission unauthorized trails; Laurel Canyon 3.5-acre three-year restoration project has been completed; new conservation project at the Water Tank Trail for the 5-acre Pocket Mouse site and birding assessments; OC Board of Supervisors' approval is needed for the Parcel 5, 71-acre habitat project in order to submit the grant request and is anticipated for an August OC Board of Supervisors meeting.

B. LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

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C. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION (NCC) UPDATE

Darin Loughrey, NCC Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, shared the following: The purpose of the Natural Communities Coalition is to coordinate the land management, monitoring, and research, with partners across the nearly 38,000-acre Habitat Preserve System known as the Nature Reserve of Orange County. These lands remain under a 75-year permit issued by the CDFW and USFWS, as permanently protected open space, managed for the benefit of plants and wildlife that define the character, uniqueness and natural diversity of Orange County.

One of the interesting projects NCC is currently implementing is the 2026 Early Detection and Rapid Response Survey Report. The purpose of this work is to detect and confirm new and existing populations of emergent invasive species within the NCCP/HCP boundaries. The theory is Early Detection and Rapid Response identifies and addresses new problems before they have a chance to spread and become significant threats to species, habitats, and fire cycles.

As part of the work, weed populations are carefully mapped and submitted to the Calflora database, where they can be accessed by land managers throughout the region. The NCC led project is largely completed by Botanist James Bailey, who conducts his surveys on foot over a six-month period on all authorized trails within the Reserve. James spends 7–9 hours a day on the trails, and hikes hundreds of miles each year as part of the survey. It is common for James to record up to 1500 separate data points, which are charted from approximately 90 different priority emergent invasive plant species.

A few of the invasive species to note, particularly in the Aliso and Wood Canyon and Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, include:

- 1. Arundo Donax, which is a giant reed which grows predominantly in riparian waterways. Throughout the span of Aliso Creek and particularly within Aliso and Wood Canyon Wilderness Park, Arundo Donax has taken hold. Our friends at LCF and OC Parks will let you know the difficult process of exacting its removal.*
- 2. Himalayan Blackberry was discovered at several sites within the Aliso Canyon area. This species is highly invasive and noxious. One of the issues with Himalayan Blackberry is that it's known to hybridize with Trailing Blackberry, which is native to California. Inter-species hybrids involving invasive and native species have the potential to contaminate the gene pool while spreading and in extreme cases may lead to local extinction of native species. Thus, the Himalayan Blackberry is now being monitored closely.*
- 3. On the positive side, everybody's favorite invasive yellow flowering plant, the Sahara Mustard, has lost some of its stronghold on disturbed open spaces,*

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and this is largely due to rigorous control efforts taking shape over the past few years throughout the County.

Contact NCC for copies of the 2025 and upcoming 2026 Early Detection and Rapid Response Survey reports.

D. IRVINE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

E. NEWPORT BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

F. ALISO VIEJO OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

G. LAGUNA NIGUEL OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Jeff Kirby, City of Laguna Niguel Recreation Superintendent, shared the following: City of Laguna Niguel is working on GIS mapping to help the residents with safety on the trails.

H. CRYSTAL COVE CONSERVANCY UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–H.

Motion: Member Osborne

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to receive and file Agenda Items IV.A–H.

V. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATES (ITEM(S) A–B)

A. PARK OPERATIONS — ALL DEPARTMENTS UPDATE

Ev Mena, OC Parks Parks Division Manager, shared the following: Park Ranger Academy starts with 12 recruits with graduation November 19th, then six weeks field training. If all 12 recruits finish OC Parks should be able to fill all positions.

Staff review of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Historical Update document continuing through Planning & Design, then to the Director. Authority members

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noted that before continuing on to the next update (Nix Nature Center) it would be helpful if this document was approved.

Regarding Alpine & Nestall area of Top of the World – involves multiple jurisdictions. OC Parks met with the Laguna Beach Unified School District earlier this year. OC Parks will continue to monitor issues on OC Parks land and keep Authority informed. Authority members inquired about the appropriate time for Authority to have an agenda item addressing this unauthorized access into OC Parks.

B. LAGUNA COAST WILDERNESS PARK (LCWP) AND ALISO AND WOOD CANYONS WILDERNESS PARK (AWCWP) SPOTLIGHT

1. AWCWP Update

Nikki Chambers, Supervising Park Ranger I, shared the following: search & rescue volunteers have contacted over 100 visitors with educational and park information; OC Parks Ranger Reserve program very helpful with educating visitors, trail maintenance and graffiti removal; seven unauthorized trail areas remediated; fuel modification activities in final stages; July 4th – hundreds of visitors, Laguna Beach Fire and Police departments helped with monitoring of the Alta Laguna Park area during the fireworks and closure process.

2. LCWP Update

Brad Barker, OC Parks Supervising Ranger II, shared the following: July 4th – staff started at 6 p.m. monitoring the trails at Dartmoor, Laguna Bowl, Water Tank with no problems; shade sail at the Nix Nature Center Education area construction underway; Monday, July 13 CALTRANS will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new section of 133 between El Toro Road and the 73.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items V.A–B.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Norton

Unanimous vote to receive and file Agenda Items V.A–B.

VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–D)

A. CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION REGARDING IRVINE BOWL DECIBEL OUTPUT ADJUSTMENTS

The City of Laguna Beach is considering an item regarding a potential regulation of the Irvine Bowl's decibel output at concerts and events outside of the festival

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period. If available, the Authority will receive any new information and the potential impacts to LCWP.

No representative from the City of Laguna Beach was present to give an update.

Member Norton shared notes from the June Coastal Film Festival meeting regarding future concerts and the proposed decibel level.

Penelope Milne commented on her concern about the proposed sound measurement not including the open space lands and description of 650 Laguna Canyon Road.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion to receive and file and continue the item: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to approve.

B. CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE ENROLLMENT IN NATURE RESERVE OF ORANGE COUNTY UPDATE

City of Laguna Beach staff, if available, will provide an update on the enrollment status of its open space lands not managed by OC Parks in the Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan.

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

Authority members agreed that it's important to keep persisting that the City of Laguna Beach completes the enrollment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to approve.

C. IRVINE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR UPDATE

Receive information about the Science Advisors Series, Partner Charter, and other activities.

Member Clark noted that applications for camera study grants are under review. Collaboration meeting with many agencies, county, state, and federal, which was

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well attended. Agreement to hold quarterly meetings to share the progress of the Irvine Laguna Wildlife Corridor. Future meetings will include Partner Charter members. The wildlife corridor team is in Sacramento today presenting information to the California Wildlife Conservation Board.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Norton

Unanimous vote to approve.

D. REVIEW OF THE 1998 LCWP GENERAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Authority Members reviewing the LCWP General Development and Resource Management Plans will present the schedule for completing an update for the Nix Nature Center and the final document of the References.

Members working on the updates indicated that the update for the Nix Nature Center and collection of final Reference documents are still in progress. No completion date at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Motion: Member Osborne

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to approve.

VII. AUTHORITY COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Authority Members may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Members may also suggest items for the September 9, 2026 meeting agenda.

Member Clark thanked the NCC for the field trip to the “Clarkson Farms”. Very informative about the uses of cattle to help fight invasive vegetation.

Member Felder shared that the Top of World Neighborhood Association had sent a letter to Southern California Edison reminding them of their promise to restore the bull-dozed area west of Park Avenue.

Chair Fegraus reviewed the remaining 2026 meeting dates and possible sites for the meetings.

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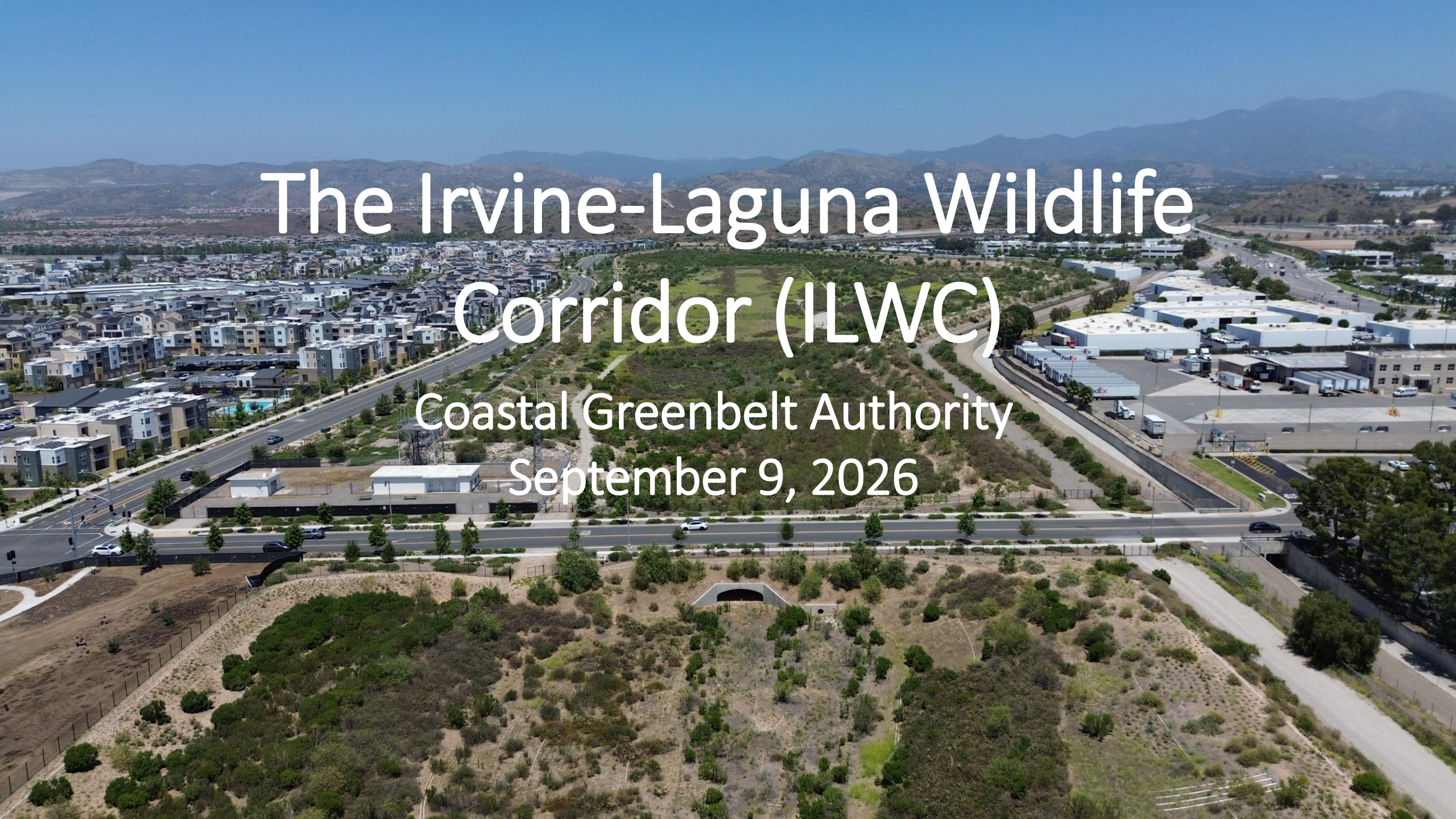
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VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 MEETING 4:24 p.m.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Member Osborne

Unanimous vote to adjourn to the September 9, 2026 Meeting.

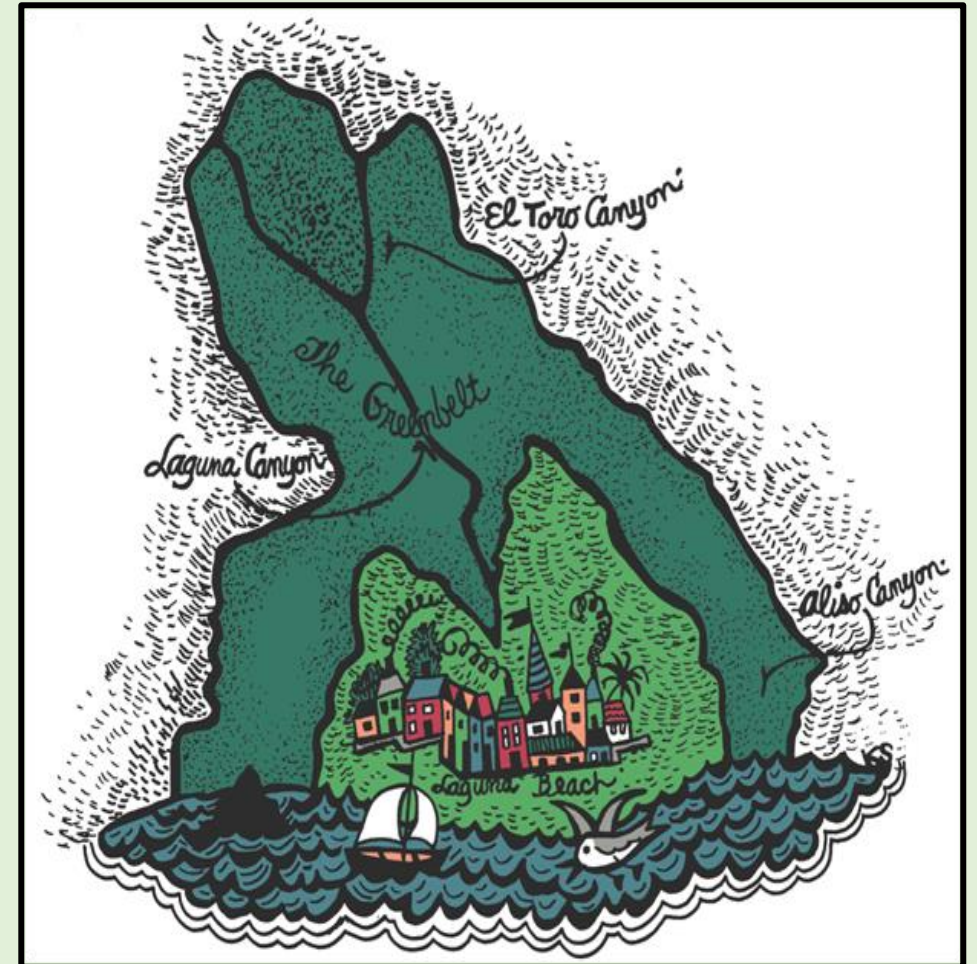


The Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor (ILWC)

Coastal Greenbelt Authority
September 9, 2026

Laguna Greenbelt – A Very Brief History

- Started in 1968 as Citizens for the Greenbelt by local bookseller Jim Dilley.
- Incorporated in 1970 as Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. a 501(c)(3) non-profit.
- Works with other environmental groups, the public, landowners, and government for preservation of open spaces throughout Orange County.



Original Greenbelt Map - 1968

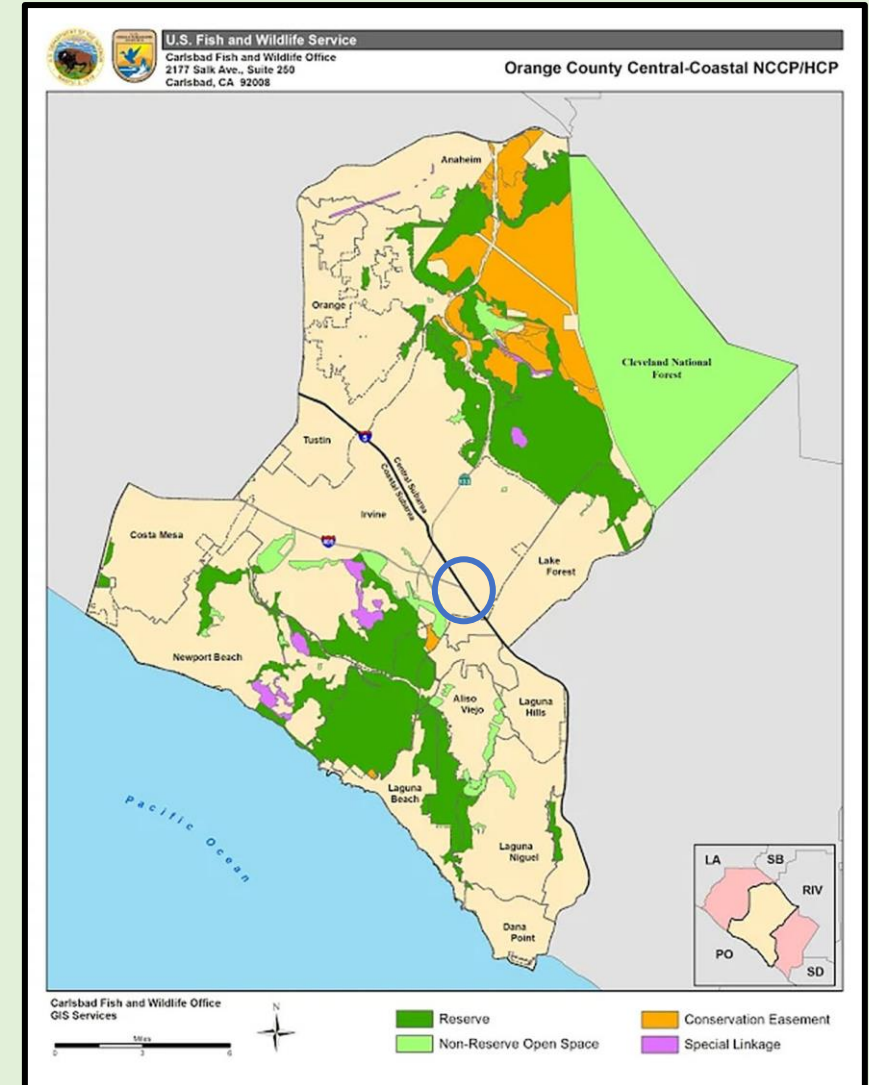
How the Coastal Open Space Was Acquired

1. Crystal Cove State Park – State purchased.
 2. Bommer Shady Canyon Open Space – Irvine initiative.
 3. Laguna Coast Wilderness Park – Combination of Newport Coast mitigation, donation, and Laguna Beach purchase.
 4. Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park – Mitigation for Aliso Viejo.
- Total preserved open space = 22,000 acres.



Central-Coastal NCCP/HCP

- The Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Program (NCCP/HCP) created to ensure ecosystem conservation.
- Central-Coastal NCCP/HCP adopted in 1996, first one in California.
- ~38,000 acres combined.
- Separation of two portions noted as a problem for success.



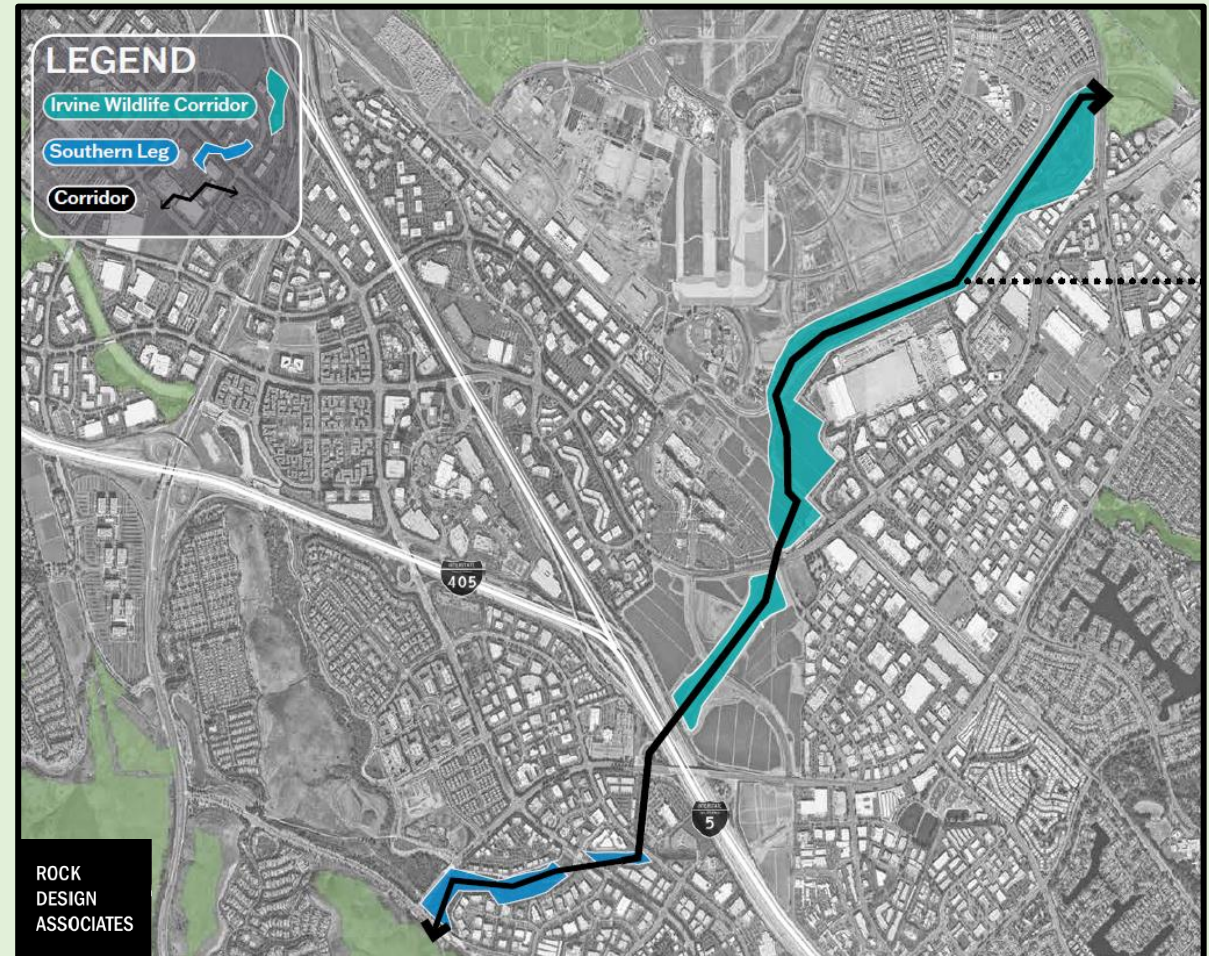
What is the ILWC?

- A hybrid corridor incorporating improvements to existing infrastructure and creation of a new wildlife pathway.
- Connects Coastal and Central NCCP/HCP areas.
- Total length 5 – 6 miles.
- Southland 30x30 primary project for climate resiliency.



The Great Park Segment

- Key ILWC component.
- Connects natural trails north of Irvine Blvd. to natural trails south of I-5.
- Designed to also serve as a water conveyance.
- Total length 2.5 miles, 600 to 800 feet wide.
- Completion 2027.



The Great Park Segment Today

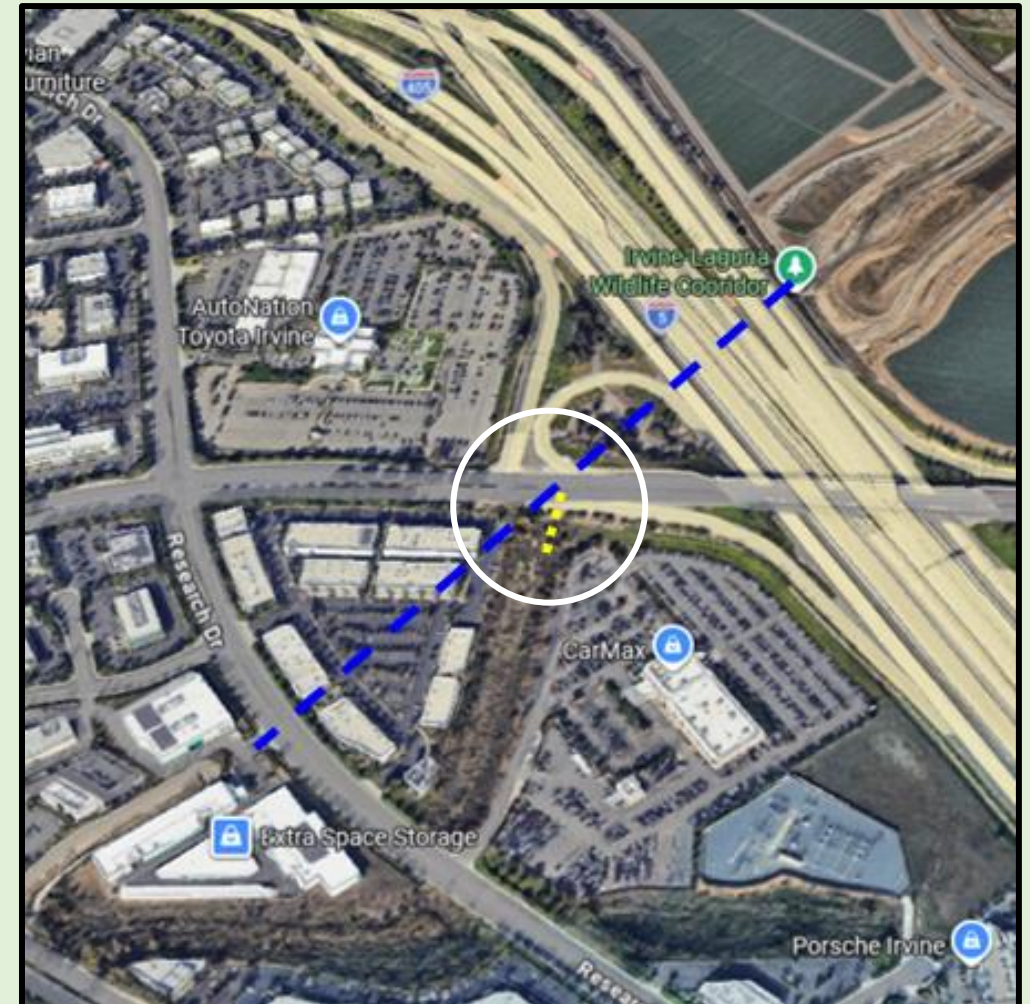
- Entire segment will be completely fenced.
- Fencing designed to keep animals in and humans out.
- Extensive use of native vegetation, irrigated and maintained to remove invasives.



View from Astor Looking Southwest

I-5 Crossing - The Serrano Creek Tunnel

- Initially developed as a flood control channel (blue dashed line).
- 25 feet wide by 15 feet high.
- 2,400 feet long, 1,100 feet to spur.
- Spur (yellow dotted line) added to facilitate movement of wildlife.



The Serrano Creek Tunnel under the I-5



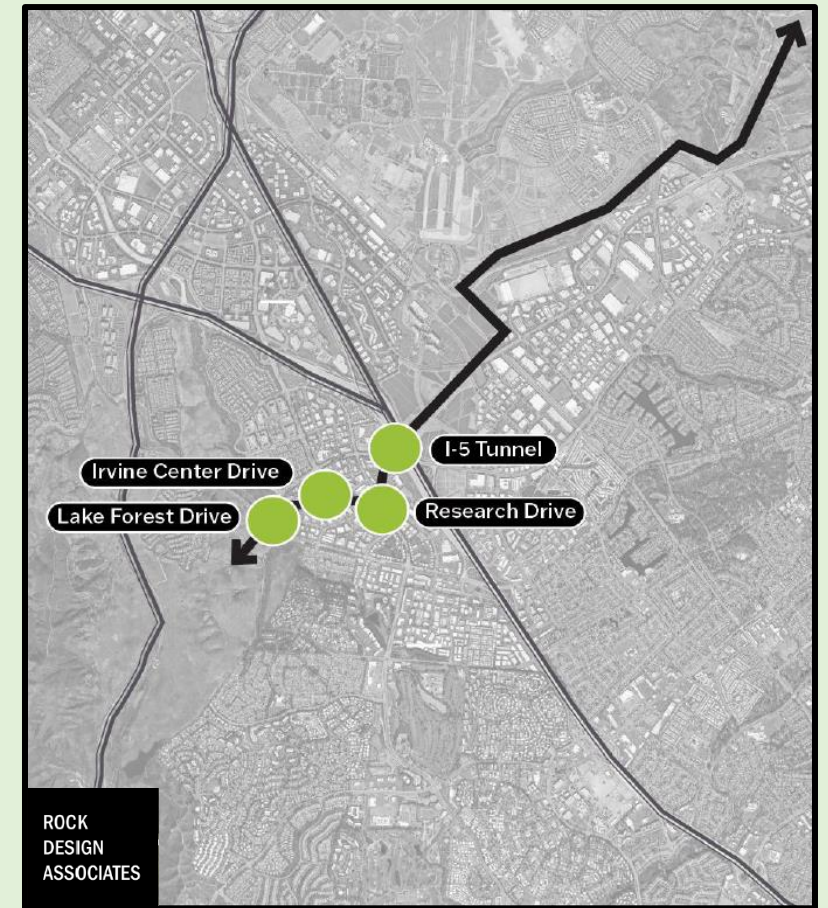
Spur (Southwest) Entrance



Northeast Entrance

Inefficiency of the Serrano Creek Tunnel

- *“Irvine Spectrum Wildlife Corridor Camera Monitoring Project”; Kevin Clark, Kim Ferree, and Ellen Michels, San Diego Natural History Museum, 2019*
- Laguna Greenbelt camera study.
- 21 cameras at 11 stations.
- Cameras operated 156 – 552 days.
- No animal use of the Serrano Creek Tunnel recorded.



2017-2018 Irvine Spectrum
Camera Study Locations

Serrano Creek Tunnel Barriers

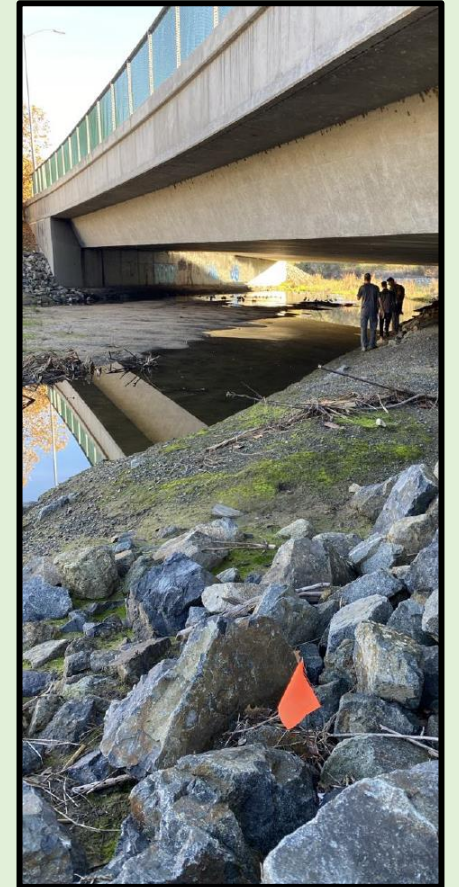
- Human activity.
- Standing water for portions of the year.
- Suggested remedies include:
 - Directional fencing,
 - Critter shelves,
 - Rodent tubes, and
 - Methods to discourage people.



Serrano Creek Tunnel – Note Standing Water and Graffiti

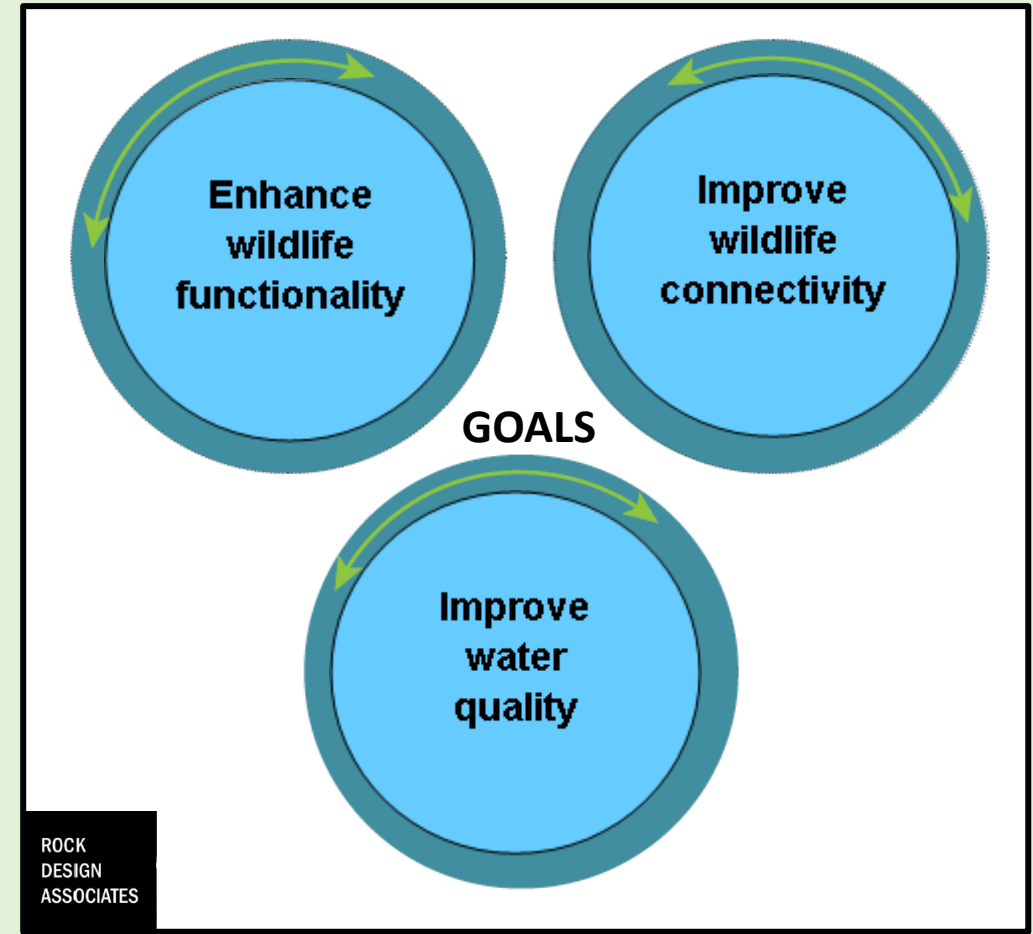
Wildlife Undercrossing Observations – May 2025

- Observations with Rock Design Associates (RDA) and Pathways for Wildlife.
- 10 sites studied, including underpasses on the SR-73 and Laguna Canyon Road (SR-133).
- Analysis of tracks and feathers showed use by deer, bobcats, coyotes, racoons, gray foxes, and multiple avian species.
- Study identified optimum locations for new camera studies.



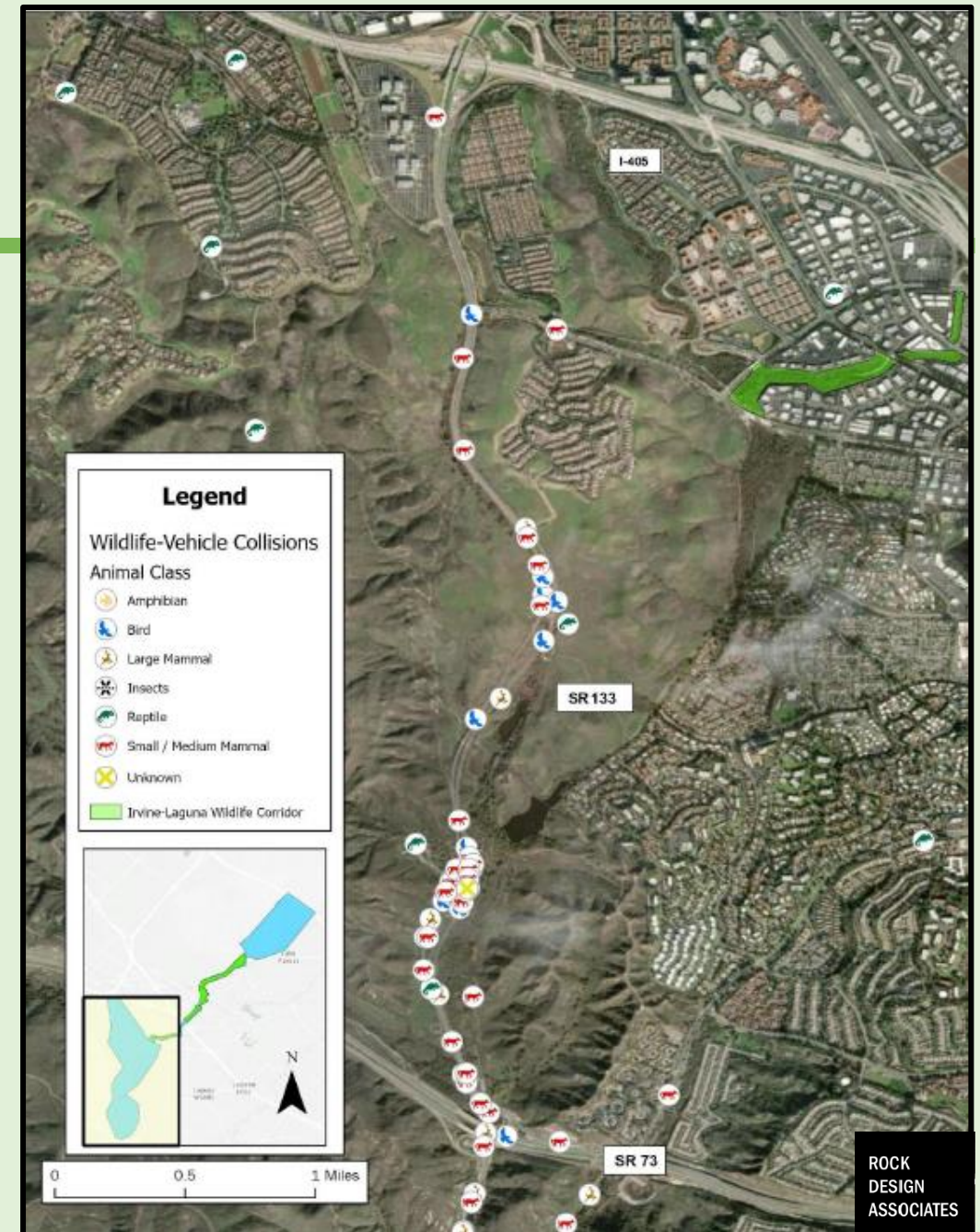
Current Efforts – Defining the Current Ecology

- Developed in conjunction with RDA and Pathways for Wildlife.
- Assess the functionality of the existing structures in the ILWC.
- Assess local wildlife species population/movement patterns adjacent to the ILWC.
- Analyze and model habitat suitability and pathways for wildlife.



Current Efforts – Roadkill

- Datasets from Caltrans D12, Laguna Greenbelt, and iNaturalist
- Conducted Getis-Ord kernel density analysis to identify significant wildlife-vehicle collisions
- Additional data required recording:
 - Location
 - Date and Time
 - Species
 - Condition



Preliminary Data as of June 2026

ROCK
DESIGN
ASSOCIATES

Current Efforts – Camera Study

- Camera study with 11 stations and 44 cameras to capture wildlife behavior and movements between the SR-241 and the SR-73.
- Mix of still and video recordings.
- Projected start October 2026.
- Planned as a five-year project, the budget is expected to exceed \$1 million.



ILWC Collaborators

- Entities, institutional, governmental, private, and non-profit engaged in improving connectivity in Orange County.
- Inputs required to guarantee efficient implementation of projects to implement a successful ILWC.
- Quarterly Collaborator Meeting to ensure timely participation.

County of Orange

City of Aliso Viejo

City of Irvine

City of Laguna Beach

City of Laguna Woods

FivePoint

Irvine Company

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Fish and Game Commission

Caltrans District 12

Natural Communities Coalition

Orange County Parks

Orange County Public Works

Partial List of Collaborators



ILWC Supporters

- “By signing this Support letter, the individual, organization, or government entity, signifies their backing of implementing the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor.”
- Currently with 24 signatories, including county, city, and environmental groups.

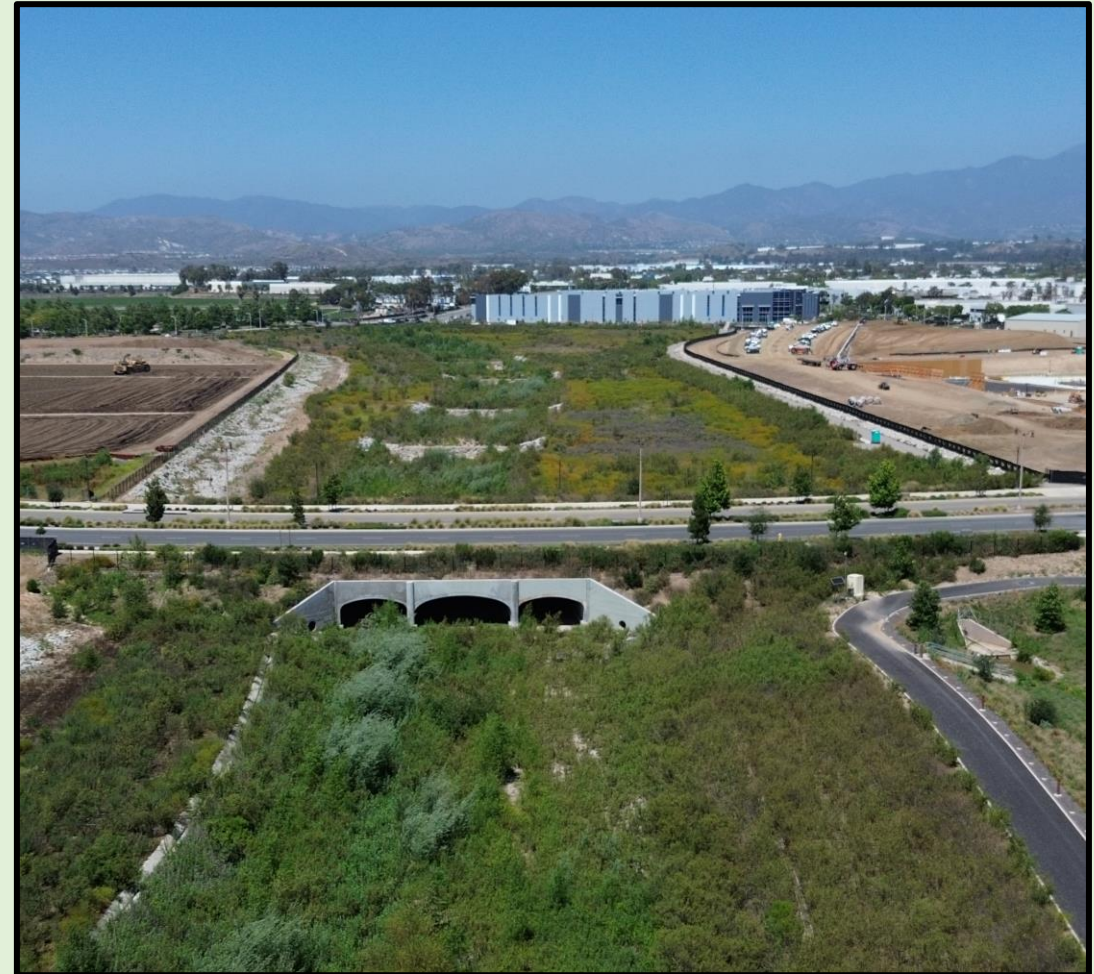
City of Laguna Niguel
California Native Plant Society
Coastal Corridor Alliance
Coastal Greenbelt Authority
Crystal Cove Conservancy
Endangered Habitats League (EHL)
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks (FHBP)
Hills for Everyone
OC Habitats
Laguna Canyon Foundation (LCF)
Laguna Greenbelt
OC Habitats
Still Protecting Our Newport (SPON)
UNITED HERE Local 11

Partial List of Supporters



Next Steps – Pending Additional Funding

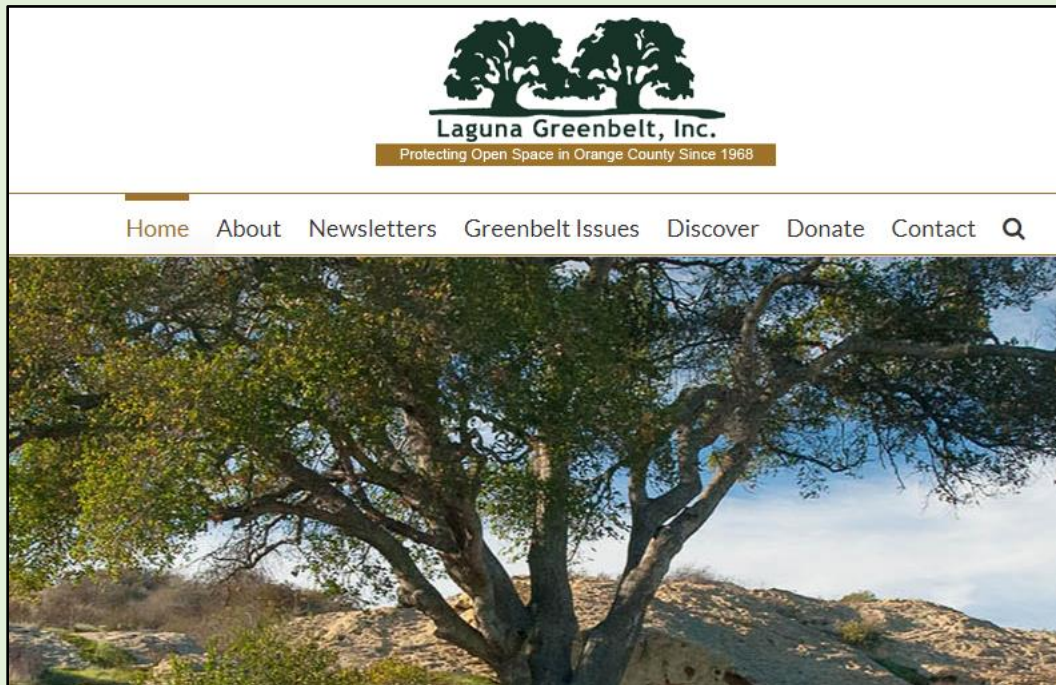
- Add camera sites, e.g. SR-73 underpasses.
- Initiate bobcat collar study.
- Initiate scat collection and analysis.
- Identify and prioritize solutions to improve functionality of existing structures in the ILWC and/or plan new structures.



View of the Great Park Segment from the I-5

Wildlife Corridor Additional Information

lagunagreenbelt.org



wildlifecorridor.org

