

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7

100 MAIN STREET, MS16A

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

PHONE (213) 897-0703

FAX (213) 897-0685

TTY (213) 897-4937

*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

August 20, 2008

Jim Moore, President
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
31830 Firecrest Road
Agua Dulce, CA 91390-2762

File: LA-405/101
EA 199610
s/b I-405 to US-101
Connector Project

Dear Mr. Moore,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is in receipt of your letter on behalf of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS) dated August 13, 2008. Caltrans welcomed the SFVAS's support for Alternative 1 in a comment letter dated May 26, 2008, and wants to take the opportunity to recommit itself to protecting the biological resources of the Sepulveda Basin.

Caltrans welcomes the SFVAS's mitigation suggestions and the opportunity to work closely with the SFVAS to ensure success in this endeavor. We anticipate further refinement to our project and anticipate that environmentally sensitive changes will occur. As you may know, we have eliminated the following flood capacity loss mitigation proposals:

- 1) Widening of Haskell Creek
- 2) Acquisition of residential private properties at the southeast corner of the basin, on McLellan Avenue and Burbank Boulevard.

Based on the information provided in your letter, Caltrans would also be open to rejecting/eliminating other flood loss mitigation proposals which are opposed by the SFVAS, such as the proposed extension of the Burbank Boulevard Overcrossing that spans over the I-405. Caltrans is interested in learning more, and possibly pursuing excavation at one or more of the SFVAS recommended areas where excavation to increase flood holding capacity could yield benefits to the natural and recreational values of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve.

Your letter also pointed out that Caltrans wetland impact mitigation funds could possibly best be used for habitat enhancement along the east bank of Haskell Creek, and the weedy field along the east bank and north of Wildlife Way. Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to pursue and tap into one or more of the above-mentioned enhancement options, and also welcomes the opportunity to work with the SFVAS and other members of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Steering Committee, to design the most beneficial mitigation.

At this time, we request written information about these enhancement efforts, their funding status and requirements, and possible mechanisms by which Caltrans could tap into them

"Caltrans improves mobility across California"

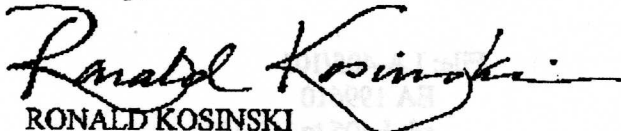
Jim Moore, SFVAS President

August 20, 2008

Page 2 of 2

At this time, we request written information about these enhancement efforts, their funding status and requirements, and possible mechanisms by which Caltrans could tap into them once the design and construction phases of the project are funded. Caltrans very much appreciates your interest and involvement in this project. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



RONALD KOSINSKI

Deputy District Director

Caltrans Division of Environmental Planning

(213) 897-0703

Cc: Colonel Thomas H. Magness, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
General Manager Jon Kirk Mukri, Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Muriel S. Kotin, Past President of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society