MOTION PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

The Girard Tract Specific Plan area contains many unimproved City-owned paper streets and walkways that provide considerable value for both public access and wildlife movement facilitating connections between habitat areas of all sizes. The walkways were designed to enable direct pedestrian access between narrow mountain streets separated by considerable distances at various, often steep contour elevations. The accessways are an integral part of the Girard Tract design, and are significant as they provide narrow, but effective passageways for wildlife to navigate between residences. Undeveloped paper street sections provide the same benefits.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and State of California have mapped multiple habitat linkages and habitat blocks in the Girard Tract. Many portions of the Girard Tract are traversed by larger sized mammals including mountain lions, bobcats, grey fox, and mule deer. The aforementioned City-owned accessways contribute to the movement potential of these and many other wildlife species.

Before the City gives up any rights to, or development of any kind is permitted within, any section of either a paper street or a walkway in the Girard Tract, the ecological and recreational value should be analyzed and potentially mitigated in order to maintain the intended access corridors for the benefit of both public and wildlife.

If the Specific Plan is amended to require such future analysis when any portion(s) of said accessways are officially considered for improvements, vacation (all or in part), or conversion to any other uses, a current inventory and status of unimproved Girard Tract accessways would not be necessary to maintain existing public benefits.

To ensure the existence of public recreational and ecological benefits of City-owned, undeveloped walkways and paper streets, the Girard Tract Specific Plan should be amended to require that all unimproved City-owned paper streets and walkways (or portions thereof) with widths of 22 feet or less shall be analyzed for their wildlife habitat linkage and recreational value prior to consideration for improvement, vacation, or conversion to other uses.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Planning Department, with the assistance of the Bureau of Engineering and the City Attorney, to prepare and present a proposed ordinance to amend the Girard Tract Specific Plan or develop appropriate land use policies to require an analysis of wildlife habitat linkage and recreational value for all unimproved City-owned paper streets and walkways (or portions thereof) with widths of 22 feet or less when those paper streets and walkways are being improved, vacated or converted to any other uses.

PRESENTED BY: _____
for **BOB BLUMENFIELD**
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: _____

ORIGINAL

OCT 30 2026