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Preserving natural habitats, watershed resources, and trails

April 7, 2008

Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez
ATTN: Thomas Street
NOAA Office of General Counsel for Ocean Services
1305 East-West Highway, Room 6111
Silver Spring, MD 20910

re: SR-241 Foothill-South Toll Road – Request to deny appeal; Request for public hearing

Dear Secretary Gutierrez:

The board and stakeholders of Antelope Valley Conservancy respectfully request your office to deny the appeal filed with your office by the Transportation Corridor Agency, in regard to the SR-241 Foothill-South toll road or, in the alternative, to ensure that any reconsideration of the California Coastal Commission's decision to deny consistency certification for this project is conducted in a public hearing.

Indeed, the Toll Road is not consistent with Coastal Act goals, as the project:

- Fails to protect listed species' habitat
- Threatens water quality
- Destabilizes coastal bluffs, and
- Bisects a State Park and an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA)

The Toll Road would run through Donna O'Neill Conservancy lands established as compensatory mitigation. If compensatory mitigations are not respected or sustained, where is our compliance with state and federal environmental protection laws?

Please ensure that stakeholders can make their voices heard on this critical issue by granting the request of Rep. Susan Davis and others for a public hearing on this important matter.

ANTELOPE VALLEY CONSERVANCY

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by Wendy Reed
President