

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR WILD NEIGHBORS

On the Edge invites the public to attend a free program to learn more about their wild neighbors who live in communities on the urban/wilderness edge on Thursday April 7th at 7 pm at the East Whittier Middle School Auditorium, 14421 East Whittier Boulevard, Whittier, CA 90605. The event will feature wild animals native to the Mountains of Southern California including owls, a hawk, opossum, raccoons, a lion and others. Participants may take home original publications specifically designed to offer informed lifestyle choices for residents who live in communities next to wilderness areas.

Why care about wildlife and habitat? A healthy ecosystem that sustains wildlife reduces incidence of disease, provides clean air and water and lessens the probability of wildlife conflicts. With information and action, homeowners can help ensure the safety of families, pets and livestock. People can enjoy living next to wilderness without having nature move into their homes. And residents can maintain a community's wilderness character for many years and generations to come.

On the Edge is a collaboration of existing organizations and agencies with goals to promote public understanding about the value of wildlife and habitat, to offer ways to reduce the human-wildlife conflicts, and to encourage lifestyle changes that foster stewardship of our natural heritage.

This event is being sponsored locally by the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority), established to acquire, restore and maintain open space in the Puente Hills as a permanent protection for the native habitat. To date, the Habitat Authority manages approximately

3,814 acres of preserved public natural lands. Learn more at www.habitatauthority.org.

Participating On the Edge organizations include:

- **California Wildlife Center** rescues, rehabilitates and release sick, injured or orphaned wildlife found in the mountains, beaches and neighborhoods of Southern California.
- **Mountains Restoration Trust** acquires habitat in the Santa Monica Mountains while working with individuals, communities, agencies and elected officials to help preserve, restore and maintain healthy natural wilderness environments and to conserve community character in rural/wilderness interfaces.
- **Mountain Lion Foundation** is dedicated to protecting the mountain lion, its wild habitat and wildlife that share habitat throughout California and the West with conservation and education.
- **Nature of Wildworks** provides lifetime quality care for non-releasable wild animals and gives educational programs that foster respect and concern for the fragile status of Southern California's wildlife.
- **Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area** is a cooperative effort by the National Park Service, California State Parks and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to preserve the scenic, natural and historic resources of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Other Contacts:

Mountain Lions – Michelle Cullens, Mountains Lion Foundation 916.442.2666 x107

Wildlife Biology – Ray Savaujot, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area 805.370.2339

Program Animals – Mollie Hogan, Nature of Wildworks 310.455.0550

Habitat Conservation – Steve Harris, Mountains Restoration Trust 818.591.1701 x 104

Wild Animal Rescue – Dana Murray, California Wildlife Center 818.222.2658

Event Sponsor – Andrea Gullo, Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority 562-945-9003