



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**2019 VENTURA COUNTY EARTH DAY AWARDS**

*Board of Supervisors honors environmental champions in Ventura County  
at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting at 10:00 am.*

**April 19, 2019-** Earth Day was established in 1970 as an annual observance on April 22nd to remind people of their shared responsibility to be good environmental stewards of the Earth. Since then a global effort has been put forth each year to spark enthusiasm, conversation and festivities about the natural world in which we live. In celebration of Earth Day, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors honors individuals and organizations that go above and beyond to support sustainable living and environmentally sound practices in Ventura County.

**District 2 Earth Day Champion (Supervisor Linda Parks)**  
**Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Zone - Ventura County Planning Division and Ventura County Counsel**

The Ventura County's Planning Division and County Counsel staff are being recognized as Earth Day champions for their superb work that led to the successful and heralded adoption of a first-of-its-kind zoning for wildlife preservation, the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor zone. One of the greatest threats to wildlife in our region is development and roadways that cutoff wildlife from the large areas of open space they need to survive. Preserving wildlife corridors that link the Santa Monica Mountains to the Los Padres Forest is cited by experts as a vital component to the survival of wildlife in our region. Ventura County is fortunate to have a great diversity of biological resources, and the protections afforded by the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor zone will help ensure the health of such species as mountain lions, bears, lynx, deer, badgers, raccoons, eagles, and condors. Staff in Ventura County's Planning Division and County Counsel's office were instrumental in securing this precedent-setting ordinance that incentivizes adherence to fencing, lighting, and setbacks from waterways to protect and enhance wildlife movement. Thanks to the many hours of hard work by Kim Prillhart, Shelley Sussman, Kim Uhlich, Jeff Barnes, and Charmaine Buehner for their robust stakeholder input and land use expertise that culminated in a new zoning tool for Ventura County, which is also a model for other local governments. We are fortunate to have an abundance of native species in Ventura County, an enlightened citizenry that values natural resources, and excellent staff who created an award-winning way to further Ventura County's natural resource goals.