



**Media Contact:**

Andy Lowe

Landis Communications, Inc. for POST

Phone: (425) 213-2142

[lowe@landispr.com](mailto:lowe@landispr.com)

[www.landispr.com](http://www.landispr.com)

**Peninsula Open Space Trust, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County  
and National Wildlife Federation Present  
“Tails of Two Cities: Wildlife Connectivity from the Bay to LA”  
on January 19, 2023**

***Free webinar with California environmental leaders discussing mountain lions,  
bobcats and wildlife crossings***

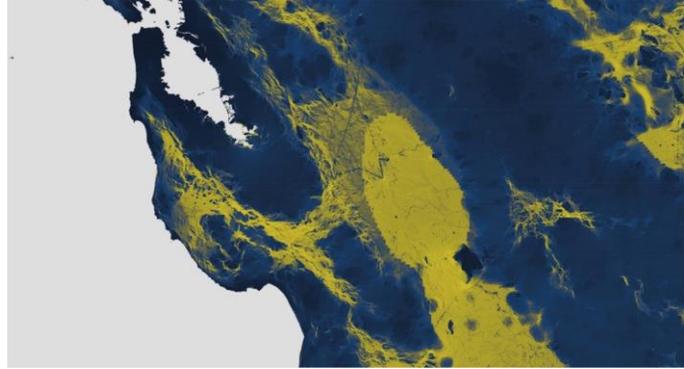


**Palo Alto, Calif. – December 6, 2022** – Why did the cougar cross the road? It probably didn’t have a choice and was lucky to make it to the other side. On Thursday, January 19, at 7 p.m. PST, [Peninsula Open Space Trust \(POST\)](#), [Land Trust of Santa Cruz County \(LTSCC\)](#) and [National Wildlife Federation \(NWF\)](#) will host a free webinar with environmental leaders from Northern and Southern California to discuss wildlife linkages and land conservation: [“Tails of Two Cities: Wildlife Connectivity from the Bay to LA.”](#)

Panelists will discuss habitat conservation for wildlife, including mountain lions and bobcats, and wildlife linkages, including the Laurel Curve wildlife crossing under Highway 17 between San Jose and Santa Cruz and other projects to improve linkages in Coyote Valley and across the South Bay with a variety of local partners. The panel will also discuss the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing at Liberty Canyon on the 101 freeway, plus a forthcoming second crossing near Aromas, both in Central California.

**Panelists for the event are:**

- **Beth Pratt – California Regional Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation:** Pratt has worked in environmental leadership roles for over 25 years in two of the country's largest national parks, Yosemite and Yellowstone. She leads the #SaveLACougars campaign to build the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, which broke ground in 2022.
- **Marian Vernon – Wildlife Linkages Program Manager, POST:** Vernon works to protect and enhance connectivity for wildlife through land transactions, restoration and wildlife crossing infrastructure projects in partnership with public agencies and other organizations.
- **Sarah Newkirk – Executive Director, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County:** An energetic conservation strategist with a passion for innovation, collaboration, and communication, Newkirk finds joy in bringing nature into communities by uncovering the myriad values that the land has for people. Newkirk and LTSCC are in the process of finalizing plans for a new wildlife crossing on the 101 freeway east of Monterey, Calif., to increase wildlife access to the Gabilan mountain range.



*"Flow of Life" this map shows the areas of highest wildlife flow across the Santa Cruz Mountains to the West, Coyote Valley and into Diablo mountains to the East. Photo courtesy of POST.*

Attendees must register and are **encouraged to submit questions in advance** at <https://openspacetrust.org/events/>. A recording of the webinar will be available online after the event.

The event is also supported by [Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District](#) (Midpen), [Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority](#) (SCVOSA) and [Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency](#) (SCVHA).

**Note to Media:** For additional photos, please visit the event [media kit](#). For interviews, please contact Andy Lowe at [POST@landispr.com](mailto:POST@landispr.com).

\*\*\*

**About the Peninsula Open Space Trust**

POST protects open space on the Peninsula and in the South Bay for the benefit of all. As a private nonprofit land trust, POST has been responsible for saving more than 80,000 acres since 1977. POST works with private landowners and public agencies to connect people and nature. Visit [openspacetrust.org](https://openspacetrust.org) for more information.

**About the National Wildlife Federation**

[National Wildlife Federation](#) works across the country to unite Americans from all walks of life in giving wildlife a voice. The organization has been on the front lines for wildlife since 1936, fighting for the conservation values that are woven into the fabric of our nation's collective heritage.

**About Land Trust of Santa Cruz County**

The mission of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County is to protect, care for, and connect people to the extraordinary lands that make this area special. For more information, visit [LandTrustSantaCruz.org](http://LandTrustSantaCruz.org).

\*\*\*

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**\*\*CALENDAR LISTING\*\***

**Peninsula Open Space Trust, National Wildlife Federation, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County,  
Present "Tails of Two Cities: Wildlife Connectivity from the Bay to LA" on January 19**

***Free webinar with California environmental leaders discussing mountain lions, bobcats and  
wildlife crossings***

**WHAT:** [Peninsula Open Space Trust](#), [National Wildlife Federation](#) and [Land Trust of Santa Cruz County](#) are pleased to host an interactive panel, "Tails of Two Cities," exploring the importance of California's connected landscapes and their importance to wildlife, including mountain lions, bobcats and many other animals. The panelists will discuss habitat conservation for wildlife and wildlife linkages, including the Laurel Curve wildlife crossing under Highway 17 between San Jose and Santa Cruz and other projects to improve linkages in Coyote Valley and across the South Bay with a variety of local partners. The panel will also discuss Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing at Liberty Canyon on the 101 freeway in Southern California, as well as broader efforts to support more connected wildlands across California.

**WHO:** Sarah Newkirk – Executive Director, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County  
Marian Vernon – Wildlife Linkages Program Manager, POST  
Beth Pratt – California Regional Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation

**WHEN:** Thursday, January 19, at 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Pacific Time

**WHERE:** Online

**TICKETS:** Free; registration is required at: [https://openspacetrust.org/event/tails-of-two-cities-wildlife-connectivity-from-the-bay-to-la/?utm\\_campaign=events&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_source=listings](https://openspacetrust.org/event/tails-of-two-cities-wildlife-connectivity-from-the-bay-to-la/?utm_campaign=events&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=listings)

