



# Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor

Connecting Habitats  
from Mountains to Coast



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## UCI STUDENT TOUR

By Anthony Falcone

On Thursday, February 6th, the Laguna Greenbelt hosted the fourth annual tour of the Irvine Laguna Wildlife Corridor (ILWC) for Professor Jessica Pratt of the University of California Irvine and her class of twenty graduate students in the Conservation & Restoration Science Program. Led by Board Members John Foley, Ann Larson, and Lance Vallery, the students were shown key sections of the ILWC. Additional attendees included Anthony Falcone and Tony Capitelli, Directors of Strategy and External Affairs for the Laguna Greenbelt. The purpose of the tour was to brief the students on the ILWC while providing them with an opportunity to learn about and discuss the unique challenges facing an urban wildlife corridor.

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During the tour, students were presented with the history and status along different sites of the ILWC. Following the presentations, the students shared their observations and asked questions. These discussions highlighted the importance of finding solutions to the I-5 freeway barrier, the limitations of the existing tunnel under I-5, and the impacts on native vegetation and wildfires near urban development. Students then shared their input in an open discussion, providing their ideas for solutions, while learning more about the barriers to improvements. We would like to extend a special thank you to Professor Jessica Pratt of UCI for including the ILWC in her curriculum.



# LAURA'S PHOTO CORNER

Photos by Laura Cohen



Spring has sprung in the ILWC highlighted by fresh growth in the sycamore trees with mistletoe still on full display.



The Bush Monkey/Sticky Monkey Flower *Diplacus aurantiacus* is in full bloom, among some of the earliest bloomers this season.



# CORRIDOR UPDATES

## Teaming up with Rock Design Associates

We've teamed up with Rock Design Associates, led by Robert Rock, to spearhead a stakeholder-engaged process aimed at identifying innovative and responsible design strategies for the ILWC. Robert Rock and his team have recently been in the news because of their ongoing collaboration with Caltrans District 7 to design and build the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing over 10 lanes of the 101 Freeway in Agoura Hills, north of Los Angeles.



Photo of the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing in Ventura County in March 2025 when construction crews first began laying soil.

# Social Media

## We're Now on Bluesky!

We're excited to share that you can now find us on Bluesky! As part of our mission to raise awareness for the ILWC, we're expanding to new platforms—starting with Bluesky. To stay in the loop on our latest work, follow us at:

[@lagunagreenbelt.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@lagunagreenbelt.bsky.social)

## Check out our latest post on Bluesky



## Find us On





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wildlife that depends on local habitats to thrive.**

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