CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGULATION
111 EAST FIRST STREET

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Immediate Release

A wildlife drinking hole fed constantly by fresh water has been established in the interest of wildlife preservation in the rugged Santa Monica Mountain range.

The pilot project was implemented by the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation and the Department of Water and Power in conjunction with Lila H. Brooks, a local humane leader and president of California Wildlife Defenders. The need for animal watering projects in Southern California hillside areas initially was proposed by Miss Brooks.

City Councilman Marvin Braude, in whose Eleventh District the new water hole is located, said the installation is a welcome adjunct to the mountainous environment.

"Our wildlife sanctuaries are in jeopardy," he said. "Any moves we can make to preserve our wilderness and the wildlife involved are welcomed."

The watering station guzzler has been constructed at the East Ridge water tank site in the Santa Monica Mountains west of the San Diego Freeway. Water, necessary to wildlife survival, and sometimes nonexistant in a natural state in the precipitous mountainous areas, will now be available for animals and birds in

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their natural habitat rather than in the adjacent urban communities.

The artificial water hole has been developed by piping the water runoff from the storage tanks to a guzzler dispenser at the guzzler pump. The fresh flow at the water station is controlled by a small concrete dyke which assures a constant and adequate water level for such animals as fox, raccoon, opossum, deer, coyotes and various types of wild birds.

A similar facility for bird life is in operation in the Mount Washington area at another Department of Water and Power tank site in Los Angeles. Additional wildlife watering stations may be contemplated if the Santa Monica Mountains installation proves meaningful.

The wildlife watering activity becomes part of the wildlife conservation program conducted by the City Department of Animal Regulation. Since 1969, the Department has conducted its Animal Airlift service wherein small wild animals, humanely trapped in the City, are flown by helicopter to Angeles National Forest and relocated. More than 2,250 small wild creatures have been afforded a second chance for survival in this unique airlift.

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