Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan & Community Standards District Update

October 25, 2018
Community Open House

Background

- Kick-off meeting in August 2017 at Malibou Lake Mountain Club
  - Meetings with a variety of community groups/organizations
  - Conducted habitat mapping
- August 21, 2018 – EIR Scoping meeting at Calabasas field office
- October 1, 2018 – First draft of Plan and CSD released
- Tonight's meeting is the first of two community meetings, next meeting 11/14 at Topanga Library

Meeting format - Open House Setting

- County Presentation – 20 minutes
- Open House - until 7:30pm
  - Five Stations will include:
    - Biological Resources
    - Equestrian
    - Special Events
    - Trees
    - General Inquiries

Tonight's Meeting Goals

- Receive comments on the Plan and CSD
- Answer individual questions
- Clarify any areas in the Plan or CSD that seem unclear
- Take suggestions for improvement

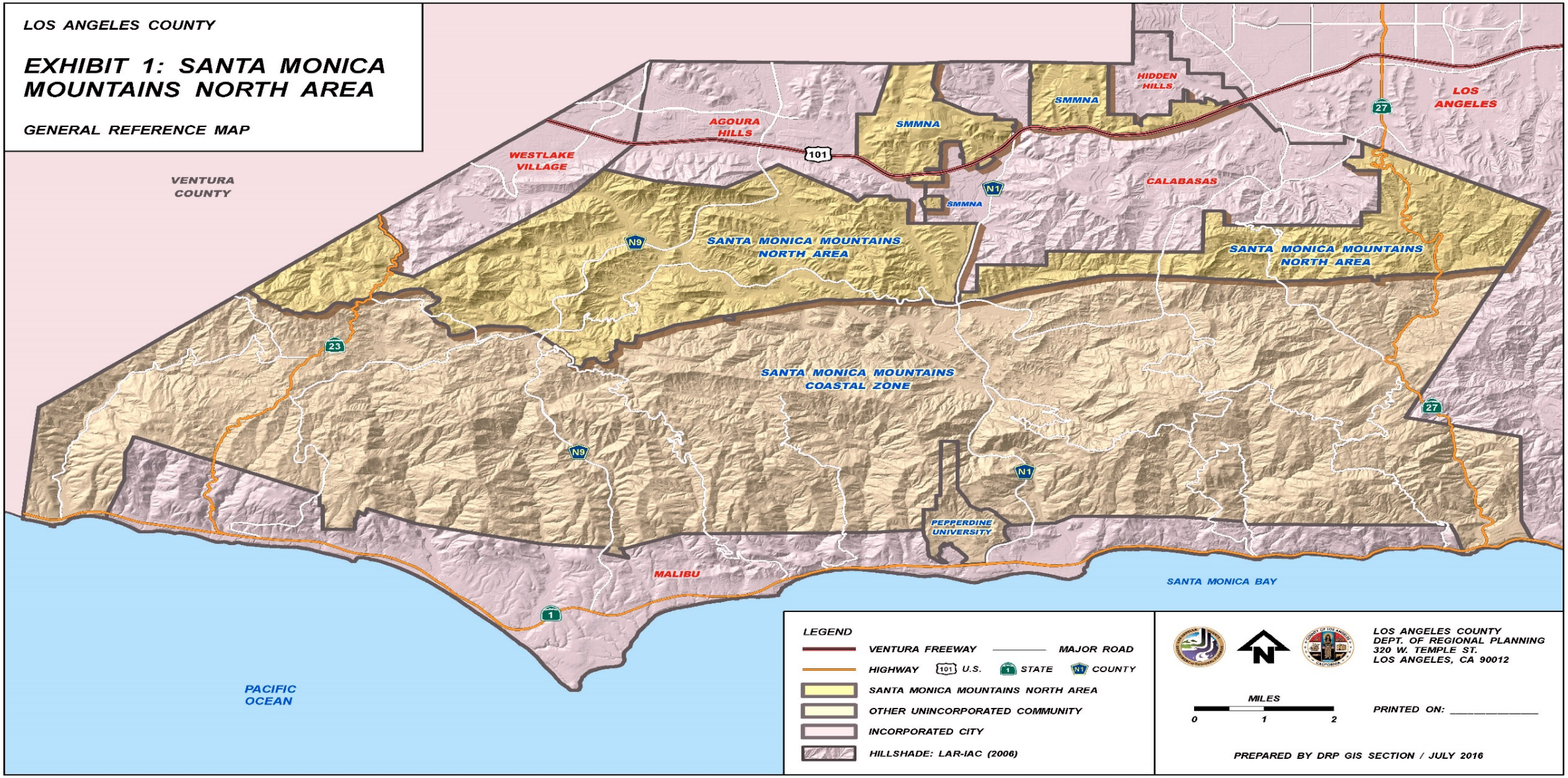
Project Timeline

- October 2018: Draft Plan & CSD Released
  - (comments being accepted through November 2018)
- January 2019: Draft EIR
- Spring 2019: Final EIR/Public Hearing at Regional Planning Commission
- Late spring/early summer 2019: Public Hearing at Board of Supervisors

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

EXHIBIT 1: SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH AREA

GENERAL REFERENCE MAP



\DRP_ADVANCE_PLANNING\community_studies\map_documents\SMMNA\smmna_general_reference_rev4.mxd

Goals/Objectives of SMM North Area Update

Guiding principle "Let the land dictate the type and intensity of use"

- Protect sensitive wildlife/wildlife corridors
- Support open space conservation
- Protect biodiversity and riparian ecosystems throughout the SMM
- Increase tree protection
- Map sensitive habitats
- Retain rural/ agricultural character within neighborhoods
- Preserve the natural beauty of the SMM for all who use them
- Provide for recreational opportunities and experiences

Biological Habitat Categories

- Include a tiered system with four sensitivity categories (S1, S2, S3, and S4)
  - Each category defines habitat sensitivity and provides recommendations on the allowable uses within each category
- Direct development to the most appropriate areas while preserving and protecting the most sensitive resources
- Provide landowners a planning tool to understand the requirements for development in the North Area

Biological Habitat Categories

- **S1 Habitat: Habitat of Limited Distribution, Rarity, or Important Habitat Function**
  - Restrict to the most unique or rare habitat or habitat that provides important functions (i.e., riparian and oak woodlands, rock outcrops, seeps and springs) for sensitive plants and wildlife
  - ***Development Restrictions***: Most restrictive development standards; *little to no development should occur in S1 habitat*
- **S2 Habitat: Native Scrub and Chaparral Communities**
  - Include any native scrub or chaparral community and non-native annual grasslands
  - ***Development Restrictions***: May be subject to development after consideration of site-specific conditions; development should avoid sensitive resources if detected

Lyon's Pentachaeta

Biological Habitat Categories

- **S3 Habitat: Disturbed, Exotic, and Cleared Communities**
  - Include areas supporting ruderal or disturbed plant communities, non-native vegetation, legally-cleared areas, and fuel-modification zones
  - ***Development Restrictions*:** May be subject to development after consideration of site-specific conditions
- **S4 Habitat: Developed Land and Agricultural Communities**
  - Include areas supporting legally-authorized residential, commercial, or agricultural development; include low-density rural residences
  - ***Development Restrictions*:** Focus of development, where possible, and after consideration of site-specific conditions

Biological Review Requirements

- Biological inventory
  - Lower level of review that is required with ministerial review within S2 and S3
  - May be upgraded to biological assessment
- Biological Assessment
  - Higher level of review required for all projects in S1, discretionary projects within S2-S3, or projects that the Director has determined to require further review of biological resources
  - Requires a more comprehensive report of biological resources, including biota report

- ☑ Consult with County Biologist
- ☑ Map on-site habitat
- ☑ SEATAC Review

Scenic Resource Areas

- Scenic Elements
- Scenic Routes
- Significant Ridgelines

Trees

- Currently Protected Trees: Oak Trees
- Proposed Protected Trees: Native, Heritage & Historic Trees
  - **Native Trees**
    - Protect tree species native to the North Area
  - **Heritage Trees**
    - Native trees with a trunk diameter greater than 36 inches
  - **Historic Trees**
    - Protected due to historic or cultural value
- There are different levels of permits for various impacts to trees that you can learn more about at the Protected Trees Station

Equestrian Uses

- Accessory horse boarding permitted by-right (up to 20 horses)
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) that all equestrian uses must meet
- Brings standards into compliance with Public Health requirements

Special Events

- Primary and Accessory Special Event Facilities require Conditional Use Permit (CUP)
- No amplified noise after 8:00 p.m.
- Must not exceed new L90 ambient noise level of 40 dBA
- Noise reduction/mitigation requirements

Getting involved

Los Angeles County Regional Planning wants to hear from you!

Get in contact with LA County Regional Planning to submit feedback:

- Email: SMMNorthArea@planning.lacounty.gov
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LACDRP/
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/LACDRP
- Web: http://planning.lacounty.gov/smmnap
- Phone: Anita Gutierrez, AICP (213) 974-6422,
  Luis Duran (213) 974-6465 or Alyssa Netto, AICP (213) 974-0307

All photographs courtesy of the National Park Service