

California Native Plant Society

Los Angeles Santa Monica Mountains Chapter
15811 Leadwell St., Van Nuys, CA 91406
August 1, 2014

Esther L. Valadez, Chair
Regional Planning Commission
300 West Temple St., 13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
RE: Item 6d, August 6, 2014: Significant Ecological Areas Program—SUPPORT

Dear Chairperson Valadez and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the California Native Plant Society, Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter, I ask you to protect the irreplaceable natural heritage of Los Angeles County through expanded Significant Ecological Area (SEA) boundaries. The SEAs are potentially among the few remaining preserves for native plants and the wildlife upon which they depend. They also provide the open, natural spaces that offer beauty and enjoyment for humans. The expanded SEAs have been developed through a sound scientific process and are needed to balance the major growth called for in the new General Plan. Besides expansion, in order to make SEAs stronger, connectivity should be added as a defining factor.

We also need a revised SEA Ordinance that is both efficient for applicants and effective for resource protection. Finally, please look to innovative implementation mechanisms such as density transfers and comprehensive agreements with landowners. Please take the long view and make sure that nature is able to survive climate change and the other challenges it faces. Expanded SEAs are our best and only hope.

The California Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization of over 9,000 laypersons and professional botanists with 33 statewide chapters. Our mission is to increase the understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through education, science, advocacy, horticulture and stewardship. We are concerned that native plants are highly threatened by the potential impacts of development and have long been involved in providing input to the ecological implications of planning and development in the County of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,



Snowdy Dodson, Chapter President
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Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

