



PALMDALE

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July 23, 2014

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upon 72 hours notice and request.

Ms. Emma Howard
County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Proposed Revision of the Significant Ecological Areas Ordinance (SEA)

Dear Ms. Howard:

Thank you for providing the City of Palmdale with the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned proposed revision to the Significant Ecological Areas Ordinance within the Los Angeles County. The City of Palmdale provides the following comment on the proposed revision of the Ordinance:

The City appreciates the attention placed on the Significant Ecological Areas within the Antelope Valley. Protecting our environment is one of the City's priorities. However, the City of Palmdale must balance this with concerns over potential impacts to existing and future aggregate operations not only within City limits but within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Local mineral resources are of significant value to any community. Aggregate material, such as gravel and sand, are essential to the construction industry, the future development of our State, and it is a vital commodity to improve our roadway infrastructure. Time and time again, even at the national level, we hear that our roads and bridges need to be upgraded. The material to improve our local infrastructure should come from our local communities; after all aggregate material industries provide: reduced construction cost, a reduction in road pavement deterioration, reduced greenhouse gas emissions over imported aggregate, and local jobs, a very important component of a healthy community.

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Existing environmental clearances, in cooperation with other agencies, such as Fish and Wildlife, have been successful in protecting not only SEA's but other areas at risk of environmental impacts associated with any project, including extraction of aggregate materials. With the continued shared efforts between local State and federal agencies, SEA's can continue to thrive without putting at risk the development of local jurisdictions and the existing working relationship between local governments and aggregate industries. The City of Palmdale recommends that consideration be given to existing and future extraction of aggregate material within SEA's due to the local, State and national importance.

Once again, the City of Palmdale appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed revision of the SEA Ordinance and looks forward to working with the Los Angeles County Regional Planning in addressing the future of aggregate material. Should you have any questions please contact Juan Carrillo or me at (661) 267-5200.

Sincerely,



Susan Koleda, AICP
Acting Planning Manager

SK:jc