



July 30, 2014

Esther L. Valadez, Chair
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission
300 W Temple St, 13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Agenda Item 6d, August 6, 2014: Significant Ecological Areas Program
—SUPPORT**

Dear Chairperson Valadez and Members of the Commission:

The Endangered Habitats League (EHL) asks you to protect the irreplaceable natural heritage of Los Angeles County through *expanded* Significant Ecological Area (SEA) boundaries. For your reference, EHL is Southern California's only regional conservation group.

The SEAs are the only home left for our remaining wildlife and provide beauty and enjoyment for people. 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.¹

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.

Yours truly,

Dan Silver
Executive Director

¹ In the special case of the Tejon Ranch Land-Use and Conservation Agreement, where a landowner has committed to dedicate lands of high resource value for permanent conservation both within SEAs and adjacent to SEAs but not in them solely by virtue of jurisdictional boundaries, these circumstances should be considered positively when assessing whether SEA objectives are met.