

From: Gary Patton
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 5:23 PM
To: Rosie Ruiz; Emma Howard
Subject: Item 6d, August 6, 2014 / Significant Ecological Areas Program—SUPPORT

Esther L. Valadez, Chair

Regional Planning Commission

300 West Temple Street, 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:

I am writing you as a non-resident who cares deeply about the protection and preservation of remaining natural areas throughout California – including in Los Angeles County. I was a County Supervisor in Santa Cruz County for twenty years, and so I am familiar with the kind of land use regulations that will accomplish habitat preservation.

I am asking that you vote to protect the irreplaceable natural heritage of Los Angeles County through expanded Significant Ecological Area (SEA) boundaries. The SEAs are really the only home left for wildlife in Los Angeles County, and provide both 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 Los Angeles County General Plan. Besides expansion, connectivity should be added as a defining factor for SEAs.

I also urge your Commission to recommend that the Board adopt 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.

Thank you for taking the long view, and for helping to make sure that nature is able to survive climate change and the other challenges it faces. Expanded SEAs are our best hope. As a member of the Endangered Habitats League, I urge you to adopt the recommendations that EHL is making. I am confident that they are the best possible prescription for the future - for endangered habitats and for we human beings!!

Yours truly,

/s/ Gary A. Patton

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