

**From:** Emma Howard  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 31, 2014 9:10 AM  
**To:** 'gaboon'  
**Subject:** RE: Where have the SEA profile photos gone? Where is County Public Outreach to Altadena Re: its SEA?

Lori,

Thank you for your email. I will forward your comments along to the Regional Planning Commission and make sure my supervisor is aware of them. I am aware of the photo library pages that Julie Lowry made for the webpage, which were online. The individual SEA pages became challenging to maintain as we moved forward with updates after 2011. We have tried to simplify the webpage as much as we can to make sure that we can update it in a timely fashion. However you make a good point and I will look into what can be done to better profile the individual SEAs, or make the information load faster.

We will also make sure we put you back on the contact list. The formatting for these lists has changed over time, so thank you for letting us know that you need to be returned to the list. If there are other members of your community whose names I should have, please refer them to me. We've been working mostly through email notice, so email addresses would be the best contact information.

The meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> is specifically to discuss certain specific requests for adjustments made by a few groups and individuals and clarify what our process is as a department as we evaluate any requests. We will not be finalizing the SEA Program on that date and there is still time to work on any additional issues. We anticipate that we will return to public hearing to finalize the Commission hearings on the SEA program on October 8<sup>th</sup> at the earliest, and following that there will need to be hearings at the Board of Supervisors. In the meantime, we'd be happy to talk with you further or meet to go over what changes have happened with SEA Program after Julie.

So far no one had requested any changes be made to the Altadena Foothills and Arroyos SEAs and we have not made any either. I look forward to speaking with you. I'll be busy up till the date of the hearing, but if you have time to schedule a phone chat anytime after you come back from your travels, I work Monday through Thursday and I can schedule a phone call anytime between 8am and 5:30 pm.

Regards,  
Emma Howard

*Emma Howard  
Regional Planner  
Community Studies North Section  
Department of Regional Planning  
<http://planning.lacounty.gov/sea>  
Telephone: 213-974-6476*

**From:** gaboon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 30, 2014 9:15 PM  
**To:** Emma Howard  
**Cc:** Sussy Nemer; Mitch Glaser  
**Subject:** Re: Where have the SEA profile photos gone? Where is County Public Outreach to Altadena Re: its SEA?

To:

[ehoward@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:ehoward@planning.lacounty.gov)

**Emma Howard**

Regional Planning Department, SEATAC Coordinator  
320 W. Temple Street, Room 1354  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Emma,

Many of us have worked hard since 2000 to establish and assure an **Altadena Foothills & Arroyos Significant Ecological Area (SEA)**. I wrote the nomination for the Altadena Foothills Conservancy (AFC) shortly after the organization was founded and I subsequently contributed many photos (along with neighbors) at substantial personal effort to illustrate the rich biodiversity of our region in the San Gabriel Mountain foothills that provides an east to west wildlife corridor adjacent to Angeles National Forest. That was at the request of Julie Lowry, Principal Planner for the SEAs at that time.

At one time, there was a lovely County SEA website that posted those photos (per an e-mail from Julie L. back in 2011, see excerpt below). Now I cannot find those web pages. What happened to those SEA profile pages that demonstrated to others the natural resources we hope to protect in our area? Other SEA photos were posted as well? The .pdf downloads for each SEA are inconvenient for many whose computer systems cannot handle large map or image files. Web-based pages are far more broadly accessible, but those appear to be missing? I could not even find the Altadena Foothills & Arroyos SEA page via Google search. Can you tell us where they've gone?

How can these last critical reviews of the SEAs be complete without posting native habitat and wildlife images from the proposed SEA sites?

For some reason, I apparently fell off the County SEA planning mailing list. I was just forwarded an alert today about the upcoming Planning Commission meeting on 6 August that I, unfortunately, cannot attend. I am very concerned that special interests such as hillside developers will be given undue weight while local residents that support the SEAs and preserving habitat and wildlife corridors are largely ignorant of the review schedule, partly because the General Plan / SEA process has literally dragged on for over a decade... and the web pages with easy to understand descriptions and images are no longer posted.

What public outreach in the proposed SEA areas has been implemented by the County to be sure that the review and public input re: proposed SEAs is fair and broad within our community?

I will be out of town during the upcoming 6 August Commission meeting, yet I was deeply involved in the proposal for the Altadena Foothills & Arroyos Significant Ecological Area (SEA). If I can fall off the e-mail notifications, anyone can. If it were not for the Endangered Habitats League alert (copied below), I would not know about the important SEA meeting next week. I hope the County will give high weight to our prior commitment and neighborhood

efforts to see this region's natural resources and very special wildlife habitat and corridors protected! I know our neighborhood is overwhelmingly unaware of the upcoming commission meeting and decision process after all the *years* of waiting for action on our own Altadena Foothills & Arroyos SEA.

Though I will post the following alert on our neighborhood website, I fear the notice is too little and too late for most local residents and conservation advocates to educate themselves re: the current status of the SEA proposals and to attend any critical planning hearings. Also, the so-called "public hearings" are scheduled at 9:00am on a work day and at a location that prevents many interested parties in Altadena, La Canada Flintridge and Pasadena from attending.

Thank you for your information and consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,  
Lori

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Lori Paul  
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153 Jaxine Drive  
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**From:** Julie Lowry <[jlowry@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:jlowry@planning.lacounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** LA County Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) Website  
**Date:** July 29, 2011 4:39:13 PM PDT

The Proposed Significant Ecological Area Program website is now LIVE! <http://planning.lacounty.gov/sea/>

[http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/sea/SEA\\_adopted\\_proposed\\_2014.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/sea/SEA_adopted_proposed_2014.pdf)

The SEA Website is a public education outreach tool, which acts as a hub of SEA information. It provides details about the proposed SEA Program, summarizes the Program's 40-year history, and describes the County's biotic diversity and conservation planning principles, which underscore why the County is proposing large connected habitat and wildlife linkages as SEAs. Each SEA has a dedicated page that features a photo gallery of biological resources within that SEA, a detailed description of the area, and a PDF copy of the SEA Map with embedded biological resource data that can be turned on and off, downloaded and printed out by the user. Supporting biological studies, materials, and links related to each SEA are located at the bottom of each page. The Altadena Foothills and Arroyos SEA, San Andreas SEA, and Santa Monica Mountains SEA pages have the type of visually dramatic photo-documentation I am hoping will emerge for each SEA. A page is also dedicated to the draft SEA Ordinance (coming soon for public review) and identifies additional regulatory constraints within SEA boundaries, such as steep slopes and FEMA floodplains.

Thank you for the resources and input you have provided over the last decade...

As most of you know, I am leaving my position on August 1<sup>st</sup> to spend more time with my children, but know I am leaving the SEA Program in the capable hands of Emma Howard [ehoward@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:ehoward@planning.lacounty.gov), under the leadership of Mitch Glaser [mglaser@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:mglaser@planning.lacounty.gov). After August 1<sup>st</sup>, please direct any questions or comments to Emma and Mitch.

Best Wishes,  
Julie

Julie Lowry  
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General Plan Section  
Department of Regional Planning  
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213-974-6423



Where are the photos?

**ALTADENA FOOTHILLS & ARROYOS SEA**  
[DOWNLOAD the Altadena Foothills & Arroyos SEA Description \(2012\)](#)



*click image to enlarge*  
Existing SEAs inside the Proposed SEA boundary: none, new SEA  
Supervisory District (s): 5  
Incorporated Cities: La Canada Flintridge, Pasadena  
Unincorporated Communities: Altadena, Angeles National Forest  
[Download Altadena Foothills & Arroyos Criteria Table](#)

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On Jul 30, 2014, at 5:07 PM, Ross Heckmann [arcadiawoodlands] wrote:

FYI.

Ross S. Heckmann

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Endangered Habitats News** <[dsilverla@me.com](mailto:dsilverla@me.com)>

Date: Wed, Jul 30, 2014 at 4:59 PM

Subject: URGENT: Help save Significant Ecological Areas - With date correction

To: [RossS.Heckmann@gmail.com](mailto:RossS.Heckmann@gmail.com)

<jpeg.jpeg>2014 Alert #7

<jpeg.jpeg> <jpeg.jpeg>

## ***URGENT ACTION ALERT***

### **Save Los Angeles County**

### **Significant Ecological Areas**

#### **Background**

Unlike neighboring counties, Los Angeles has no comprehensive habitat preserve system. But for decades, it has depended upon a series of mapped “Significant Ecological Areas” in which development proposals are given special technical and planning scrutiny. SEAs range from oak woodlands to Joshua tree woodlands, from desert to chaparral.

With the current “2035 Update” of its General Plan, the Regional Planning Department is recommending a number of changes to the SEA system. First and foremost is a major expansion of the SEAs, as a result of a structured scientific review. While boundary revisions are needed in some locations, and there should be greater emphasis on connectivity, the expansion well reflects biological imperatives. Very importantly, the County is proposing to reduce housing densities within SEAs, which is crucial to limit the damage to natural resources.

Finally, through a revised ordinance that implements SEA protections, the County is seeking to clarify and streamline project approvals, with standardized procedures and

mitigation ratios. EHL has commented on ways to improve this ordinance. With major employment and residential growth envisioned in the new General Plan, especially in the Antelope Valley, SEA expansion and protection is an essential balance. See <<http://planning.lacounty.gov/sea/>> for further information.

Of note is that the comprehensive agreement negotiated by Endangered Habitats League and other groups for the Tejon Ranch in northern Los Angeles and Kern Counties has already advanced conservation goals and set much important habitat aside in association with limited development.

### **The threat**

SEA expansion and the new ordinance are being vigorously opposed by the building industry and industrial interests. Misinformation in terms of scientific validity and scare tactics in regard to the effects of SEAs on proposed development are being utilized. There is a divided Board of Supervisors. *With an upcoming hearing on August 6, 2014 at the Planning Commission, it is vital to show support for this program.*

### **Action requested**

We are asking people from all regions to respond and help Los Angeles County wildlife. Please write or email the Planning Commission and, if you can, testify at the hearing. *The conservation community must show it cares!* Here is a sample for letters and testimony. Please personalize.

*If possible, please send an email by **Thursday, July 31, 2014**.* In that case, your message will be provided *in advance* to the Commission. Otherwise, comments received up until August 5 will be distributed the day of the hearing.

Address correspondence to both: [rruiz@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:rruiz@planning.lacounty.gov),  
[ehoward@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:ehoward@planning.lacounty.gov)

*Thank you*