

**From:** Mark Rockwell  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 31, 2014 11:11 AM  
**To:** Rosie Ruiz; Emma Howard  
**Subject:** Item 6d, August 6, 2014: Significant Ecological Areas Program—SUPPORT

July 31, 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:

I'm writing as the state of California representative of the Endangered Species Coalition. I represent 53 different state groups with more than 1.5 million members who are concerned about protections for suitable habitats for both wildlife and people to enjoy. We all ask you to take the appropriate actions that leaves the Los Angeles area with continued opportunity to both protect wildlife and provide the habitats they need for survival. Your actions will negatively or positively impact what is left in Los Angeles, and we ask you to think beyond development and business to the long term relationship between people and wildlife.

I ask you to protect the irreplaceable natural heritage of Los Angeles County through expanded Significant Ecological Area (SEA) boundaries. 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.

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. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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*Forty years ago, Congress passed (and President Nixon signed) the Endangered Species Act—America's safety net for fish, plants and wildlife on the brink of extinction.*

*Join us in 2013, as we celebrate 40 years of protecting endangered species and the special places they call home. <http://www.endangered.org>*