

From: Pam Nelson

Sent: Saturday, August 02, 2014 4:14 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 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:

We Southern Californians have methodically removed wildlife corridors and suitable habitat for our native species. Now we must try to replace or recover what is possible.

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,

Pam Nelson
chair, Santa Margarita group/San Gorgonio Chapt/Sierra Club