



DRAFT SEA CONNECTIVITY AND CONSTRICTION AREAS MAP

APRIL 23 2014

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC REVIEW:

The April Draft SEA Connectivity and Constriction Areas Map has been released for public review and comment. Department staff will be using these comments and internal refinements to create a final draft of the SEA Connectivity and Constriction Map that will be presented when the SEA Program Update returns to the Regional Planning Commission on June 25th. To ensure time for review, comments on specific map lines are due by Monday June 2nd. Methods of commenting on the map are explained on the last page of this document.

PURPOSE

The SEA Connectivity and Constriction Areas Map is an implementing tool for the SEA Ordinance intended to assist in to preserving SEA sustainability. The boundaries of the SEAs are designed to “embrace habitats, linkages and corridors and are of sufficient size to support sustainable populations of their component species.”¹

The SEA Ordinance aims to achieve this objective by promoting sensitive design within SEAs. As the SEAs are a mix of private and publicly owned lands and preserved open space, property owners retain the right to develop on their parcels. Certain development standards are imposed on new development, particularly new development in previously natural portions of the SEA are intended to ensure that habitats, linkages, and corridors remain of sufficient size within the SEA as a whole. The Connectivity and Constriction Map is one of the primary development tools to ensure this sufficiency. Within SEAs these areas serve to highlight where new development, if designed without taking into account the surrounding area, has the potential to isolate large “core” habitat areas from other portions of the SEA. Keeping the cores connected is vital to the health of the SEAs. Development within Connectivity and Constriction Areas is not prohibited, but it is subject to discretionary permitting that will allow the County to set appropriate conditions and standards that will retain the linkages and movement necessary to support the biological diversity of the SEAs.

The SEA Connectivity and Constriction Map was generated using the base information in the SEA Development Map to generate maps of the most undeveloped portions of the SEAs (“cores”). The Connectivity and Constriction Map will serve to maintain linkages between those cores.

Connectivity Areas and Constriction Areas will have different widths. As given in [Draft 5 of the SEA Ordinance](#) the widths for each will be:

¹ Background Report of the Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Area Update Study 2000, pg 7

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- Connectivity Areas are 700 feet to 1,500 feet in width.
- Constriction Areas are less than 700 feet in width.

The April Draft 1 SEA Connectivity and Constriction Areas Map does not assign a category of Connectivity or Constriction to the mapped lines, which will be assigned in the final draft.

NUMBERING:

Each line indicating a Constriction or Connectivity Area on the map gets a unique ID. The IDs are given based on the three letter code for each SEA and each line's given number.

Each SEA has a 3 letter code to indicate location. For each line within the SEA the three letter code is followed by three digits. 1 is expressed as 001, 10 as 010 and so on.

SEA Letter Codes:

ALT- Altadena
AVY - Antelope Valley
CMV - Cruzan Mesa Vernal Pools
ESG - East San Gabriel Valley
JTW - Joshua Tree Woodlands
PUH - Puente Hills
SAN - San Andreas
SDC - San Dimas Canyon and San Antonio Wash
SGC- San Gabriel Canyon
SFE- Santa Felicia
SSU- Santa Susana
SCR- Santa Clara River
SMM- Santa Monica Mountains

For each line within the SEA the three letter code is followed by three digits. 1 is expressed as 001, 10 as 010 and so on. Thus the 26th line located within the Antelope Valley SEA will be designated AVY026.

LINE DECISIONS

In order to place each line staff used a series of factors to consider where the line would go best. Each line is tagged with numbers that indicate which factors allowed the line to be added. Any line may contain any combination of factors, provided that they connect two cores. There are 10 factors that are used and given below. Please note that factor 6 is reserved and has not been used on any line. The table for the lines gives

Connection that prevents fragmentation:

01. The line is placed to align with two cores that are at or higher than the median size for the cores within the SEA. These alignments connect largest natural areas to other largest natural areas.

Property constraints:

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02. The line avoids a smaller parcel in favor of larger adjacent parcels, or is centered between two parcel lines to reduce the amount on one property alone. As smaller lots may be only able to site new development in one location, the location of a Connectivity and Constriction area solely on a small lot may not allow applicants to design around the area. In such cases, where a neighboring lot is larger and would offer an opportunity for greater potential design options to locate new development outside Constriction and Connectivity areas, this area will be chosen.

Linkage Alignment:

03. The line aligns with the South Coast Wildlands Missing Linkages Map.

04. The line will help form the shortest connection point between the largest cores running across the SEA in overall direction of the linkages- as given for each SEA; i.e. if an SEA goal is to connect north to south, this line will create the shortest and most direct path through those cores that are at or above the SEA median core size, in that direction.

05. The line alignment would meet a SEA specific linkage goal which is given in the individual SEA methodology. [Note there are currently no given SEA specific linkage goals]

06. The line aligns with a contextual linkage outside the SEA, or within an incorporated portion of the SEA (i.e., there is a preserved open space directly outside the SEA).

Passable areas:

07. The line is at the location of a bridge, culvert, under or overpass which is the only passable area in the location.

08. The line represents the final remaining connection between two areas of existing development.

Preserved Lands:

09. The line passes through an already preserved open space area such as a preserve, conservation lands, etc.

Natural Features:

10. The line follows natural topography, such as streambeds or ridgelines

HOW TO COMMENT ON THE LINES:

1. Open the PDFs of the [SEA Connectivity and Constriction Areas Map Draft April 2014](#) which are online at:

You may comment directly on these maps if you like- by marking with comments or editing tools. Please send the maps back to ehoward@planning.lacounty.gov

2. Open the PDF titled "[SEA Connectivity and Constriction Map Line ID & Factors](#)" if you wish to review the information for individual lines.

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3. Download the PDF titled "[SEA Connectivity and Constriction Map Comments Form](#)" and fill out comments for specific lines.

Map recommendations may be emailed to:

Emma Howard: ehoward@planning.lacounty.gov

Or mailed to:

Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
Community Studies North Section
320 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012