

Transition Habitat Conservancy
PO Box 720026
Pinon Hills, CA 92372-0026

March 27, 2012

To: The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
Subject Regarding: Draft SEA Ordinance

We applaud LA Counties efforts to strengthen and expand the SEAs in the Antelope Valley. As you know we had focused conservation plans in the works for several years in the Portal Ridge area and landscape linkage plans that would provide connectivity between the CA Poppy Reserve and Ripley's Woodland State Park to the US Forest Service lands to the south. This landscape linkage conservation project is still ongoing.

We believe that in addition to the measures you have provided in the Draft Ordinance you should provide a mechanism for conservation of these identified treasures. Now you have an unprecedented opportunity to use the utility scale renewable development that is occurring in the Antelope Valley to direct mitigation towards your SEAs so that conservation funds could be used to purchase and preserve in perpetuity the lands you have worked so hard to identify. We also urge you to provide written comments to the DRECP that they should NOT direct utility scale renewable development into your SEAs and make your SEA's part of their Reserve Design where conservation dollars should be spent.

There are a number of very large projects out there in the AV- both those that have been already permitted and those that are in process of being permitted- that require thousands of acres of mitigation in order to meet their conditions of certification. These projects and future projects should be directed **to the greatest extent possible** to provide their mitigation acquisitions and conservation easements inside the SEAs and to perform their utility scale development **outside** the SEAs. With some specific language, direction and intent you could encourage mitigation performance into your SEAs. This single measure would impact and accelerate the pace and quality of conservation into your most sensitive areas.

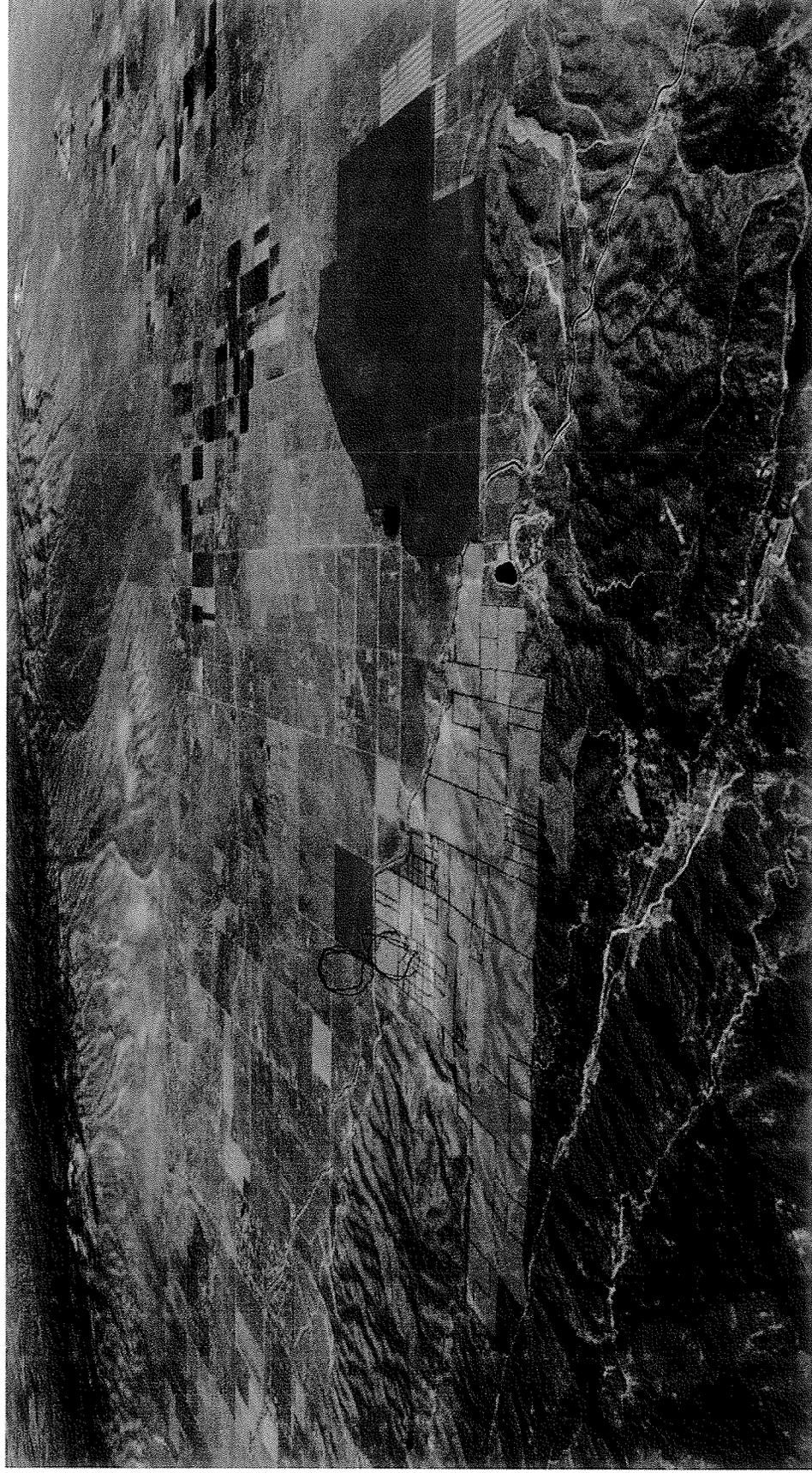
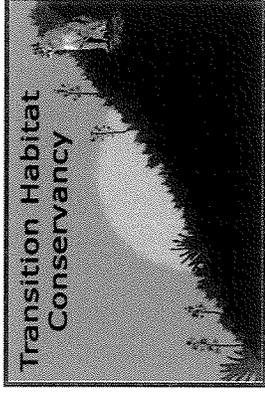
We hope to be bringing forth real world examples of using this "renewable gold rush" to accomplish some significant and lasting conservation to your SEAs and your help in doing this would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Bays". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jill Bays, President
Transition Habitat Conservancy, 760 868 5136

Kings Canyon Project



Transition Habitat Conservancy