



Preserving Everyone's Heritage for all Generations

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July 30, 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 Valdez and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the Western Alliance for Nature, I am asking you to protect the natural heritage of Los Angeles County by expanding the Significant Ecological Area (SEA) boundaries to more closely approach the actual natural areas of LA County. These areas need increased protection as they are the only areas remaining of much larger and ecologically important habitat areas. LA County is still lucky enough to have areas where, in spite of the urbanization of the County, wildlife still exists. These areas not only are home to an amazing array of wildlife, but provide important places where people can go to enjoy their beauty and escape from the pressures of urban life. The biological diversity of the natural areas of LA County is one of the greatest in the Continental United States but that diversity will continue to degrade unless the SEAs are expanded to provide protection for sufficient area necessary for this wildlife to exist and to create wildlife linkages, so critical to maintaining healthy populations.

We ask you to be certain to make the expanded SEAs and connectivity of these areas a major emphasis of your planning during the new General Plan process.

Yours truly,

Sara Wan
Executive Director