The Los Angeles County General Plan Update ("General Plan") was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on October 6, 2015. The General Plan provides the policy framework and establishes the long-range vision for how and where the unincorporated area will grow, and establishes goals, policies, and programs to foster healthy, livable, and sustainable communities.

The Conceptual SEAs Update is an amendment to the General Plan to remove all text references to "Conceptual SEAs" and amend the Significant Ecological Areas and Coastal Resource Areas Policy Map (Figure 9.3) to designate the Altadena Foothills and Arroyos and the Puente Hills "Conceptual SEAs" as official "SEAs" and subject to the SEA Ordinance.

Section 15164 of the California Environmental Quality Act authorizes Lead Agencies to prepare an Addendum to a previously Certified EIR if changes or additions to the document are necessary and none of the conditions described in Section 15162 are present.

Section 15162 of the CEQA guidelines states:

(a) When an EIR has been certified or a negative declaration adopted for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

(1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;

(2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or

(3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:
(A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;

(B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;

(C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or

(D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

(b) If changes to a project or its circumstances occur or new information becomes available after adoption of a negative declaration, the lead agency shall prepare a subsequent EIR if required under subdivision (a). Otherwise the lead agency shall determine whether to prepare a subsequent negative declaration, an addendum, or no further documentation.

(c) Once a project has been approved, the lead agency's role in project approval is completed, unless further discretionary approval on that project is required. Information appearing after an approval does not require reopening of that approval. If after the project is approved, any of the conditions described in subdivision (a) occurs, a subsequent EIR or negative declaration shall only be prepared by the public agency which grants the next discretionary approval for the project, if any. In this situation no other responsible agency shall grant an approval for the project until the subsequent EIR has been certified or subsequent negative declaration adopted.

(d) A subsequent EIR or subsequent negative declaration shall be given the same notice and public review as required under Section 15087 or Section 15072. A subsequent EIR or negative declaration shall state where the previous document is available and can be reviewed.

The Department of Regional Planning has determined that none of the conditions described in Section 15162 are present. No major revisions of the Certified EIR are required as no new significant environmental effects have been identified, nor has a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects been identified, nor have any substantial changes occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project was undertaken.

The project does not propose to change the impacts previously analyzed within the Certified EIR. The proposed amendments to the General Plan are consistent
with the Certified EIR analyses. The Certified EIR did not make any specific mention of Conceptual SEAs or analyze the Conceptual SEAs in a different manner from the other SEAs. The Certified EIR fully analyzed the areas categorized as Conceptual SEAs as the Altadena Foothills and Arroyos and Puente Hills SEAs that was proposed in the General Plan Update. A Modified Environmental Checklist Form (Initial Study) was not created for this project nor was a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 prepared since there are no potential project impacts that would require revisions to the Certified Final EIR.

Therefore, an Addendum to the Certified Final EIR for the General Plan Update, adopted on October 6, 2015, was prepared in compliance with Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Certified Final EIR for the General Plan Update can be found at http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan/eir.

Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines states:

(a) The lead agency or responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.

(b) An addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.

(c) An addendum need not be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the final EIR or adopted negative declaration.

(d) The decision-making body shall consider the addendum with the final EIR or adopted negative declaration prior to making a decision on the project.

(e) A brief explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 should be included in an addendum to an EIR, the lead agency’s findings on the project, or elsewhere in the record. The explanation must be supported by substantial evidence.