SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREAS PROGRAM UPDATE

On September 26, 2018, the Los Angeles County (County) Regional Planning Commission (Commission) conducted a duly-noticed public hearing on the Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) Ordinance and Conceptual SEA updates.

Nine members of the public testified at this hearing on the SEA Ordinance update and Conceptual SEA update. Testifiers were concerned with the single-family residence exemptions for the Antelope Valley, how the SEA Ordinance will affect existing water hauling businesses and/or Conditional Use Permits (CUP), applicability of the Ordinance to already submitted applications, and notifications of approved Ministerial SEA Reviews.

The Commission took the matter off calendar to allow for staff to make the requested changes and address issues raised by the Commission and members of the public.

On February 27, 2019, the Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on the SEA Ordinance and Conceptual SEA updates. Staff presented the changes and clarifications requested by the Commission on heritage trees, performance standards for mitigation trees, and cost estimates for additional staffing.

Seven members of the public testified at this hearing. The testimonies included support for the Conceptual SEA update, support and opposition for the Antelope Valley exemptions, and concerns regarding the open space preservation ratios.

After hearing all testimony on February 27, 2019, the Commission closed the public hearing and recommended approval of the project to the County Board of Supervisors.

Commissioners Smith, Louie, Moon, and Modugno voted aye. Commissioner Shell was absent.