

APPENDIX F

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) PROCESS AND SUMMARY OF INPUT

Purpose and Role of the Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was convened, to provide technical review and subject-matter input in support of the scientific rigor of the SEA Study. The TAC functioned in an advisory capacity only and was intended to supplement the analysis by contributing expert perspectives on ecological conditions, species distributions, data sources, and landscape-scale processes relevant to Los Angeles County.

The roles of the TAC included:

- **Data Input:** Sharing additional or unpublished sources of data, such as records of special-status or rare species, bat colonies, reptile overwintering sites, spawning areas, or other important wildlife movement and/or congregation sites.
- **Methodology Review:** Providing feedback on the analytical approach for habitat, species, and connectivity modeling.
- **Results Verification:** Reviewing draft map layers and results to verify data accuracy.

The TAC was not a decision-making body. TAC members did not review or provide recommendations on SEA boundary adjustments, proposed policy changes, ordinance interpretation, or final study conclusions. Final determinations regarding SEA boundaries, methodology, and study outcomes remain solely within the authority of Los Angeles County.

TAC Membership and Expertise

A total of 27 individuals were invited to participate in the TAC. Members were drawn from across Los Angeles County and surrounding counties and represented a broad range of disciplines and expertise, including but not limited to:

- Taxonomic specialists (flora and fauna)
- General ecologists and biologists
- Conservation practitioners

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- Researchers with long-term familiarity with County ecosystems
- Tribal-affiliated biologists and cultural resource practitioners

To ensure comprehensive disciplinary and geographic coverage, prospective TAC members were encouraged to recommend additional experts where gaps were identified. Invitations were extended on a rolling basis as the TAC process progressed.

Twenty-one subject matter experts ultimately participated in the TAC through virtual meeting attendance, emails, and commenting on draft materials and the webmap. A complete list of participating TAC members and affiliations is provided in **Table F-1**.

Table F-1. List of TAC Members Who Attended Meetings and Provided Input and Resources for the Study

<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Ileene	Anderson	Center for Biological Diversity
Claudia	Arends	USFS - ANF
Anthony	Baniaga	UCLA
Jill	Bays	THC
Jill	Carpenter	UCLA
Mary	Crawford	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (incl. Ventura and Carlsbad offices)
Tracy	Drake	n/a (retired, City of Torrance)
Paul	Edelman	SMMC/MRCA
Belinda	Faustinos	Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
Robert	Fisher	USGS
Devlin	Gandy	n/a (private consultant)
Lauren	Kershek	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (incl. Ventura and Carlsbad offices)
Mickey	Long	LA Co Natural Areas (retired)
Kenneth	Niessen	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (incl. Ventura and Carlsbad offices)
Kristeen	Penrod	South Coast Wildlands
Drew	Ready	Council for Watershed Health
Seth	Riley	National Park Service - SAMO
Matt	Smith	n/a (private consultant)
Krista	Smith	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (incl. Ventura and Carlsbad offices)
Kat	Superfisky	City of Los Angeles - Environmental
Matthew	Teutimez	Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation

TAC Engagement and Review Process

The TAC process was structured to provide technical input at key stages of the SEA Study while maintaining clarity regarding advisory versus decision-making roles.

Orientation and Kickoff Meetings

Two introductory virtual meetings were held to orient TAC members to the SEA Program and the scope of the current study:

- **November 13, 2025** – TAC Kickoff Meeting
- **December 2, 2025** – Methodology Overview and Webmap Orientation

These meetings were led by the consultant team, with participation from County staff, and focused on:

- Overview of the SEA Program and ordinance framework
- Scope and objectives of the SEA Study update
- Analytical approach and data sources
- Review process, schedule, and expectations for TAC input

Written Review and Digital Tools

Following the second TAC meeting, subsequent engagement occurred primarily through written correspondence and shared digital resources. TAC members were provided access to a project-specific web-based mapping application, which displayed the primary spatial datasets used in the study alongside existing SEA boundaries and contextual base layers. The web application allowed members to explore data interactively and submit comments directly through the platform. While only a limited number of comments were submitted via the mapping interface, feedback indicated that the tool was useful for understanding the scope and structure of the analysis.

TAC members were provided access to:

- Full species lists in spreadsheet format
- References List
- A compiled Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) technical document repository
- A list of publicly available GIS datasets used in the analysis
- A project-specific web-based mapping application displaying key spatial datasets and existing SEA boundaries

- A preliminary draft of the SEA Study report focused on process and methodology

Draft Review Period

On December 8, 2025, the draft report and supporting materials were distributed to TAC members for review. Materials provided included the draft report, full species lists in spreadsheet format, the literature cited, the compiled Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) technical document repository, and a list of publicly available GIS layers used in the analysis. TAC members were invited to submit comments, data, or clarifications via email, shared documents and folders, or the web mapping application. The initial comment deadline was December 22, 2025; however, some comments were received after this date and were incorporated into the SEA Study Report.

Consideration and Disposition of TAC Comments

All comments received from TAC members were compiled into a centralized tracking matrix and reviewed. Comments were evaluated for relevance to the scope of the SEA Study and synthesized to identify recurring themes, data contributions, and technical observations.

Where appropriate and consistent with the study scope, TAC input was used to:

- Refine narrative descriptions and technical explanations
- Supplement species lists and background context
- Clarify methodological assumptions or limitations
- Identify areas where additional documentation or references would improve transparency

Not all comments resulted in direct changes to the report. In some cases, comments addressed topics outside the scope of the SEA Study, reflected differing professional interpretations, or related to policy considerations.

Relationship to SEA Study Recommendations

The TAC process was intended to inform and strengthen the technical foundation of the SEA Study but did not determine the recommendations. Input from TAC members was advisory in nature and considered alongside other data sources, analytical results, and professional judgment.