



# Regional Habitat Conservation Taskforce

## Taskforce Charter

### Purpose

The *TransNet* Extension Ordinance and Expenditure Plan, approved countywide by voters in November 2004, includes an Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) which funds mitigation of habitat impacts for regional transportation projects. The EMP is a unique component of the *TransNet* Extension Ordinance in that it goes beyond traditional mitigation for transportation projects by funding habitat acquisition, management, and monitoring activities as needed to support implementation of the Multiple Species Conservation Program and the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program.

The purpose of the Regional Habitat Conservation Taskforce is to provide technical expertise, background knowledge and cross-agency coordination on regional habitat conservation issues, including input on issues related to coordination and implementation of the EMP.

### Responsibilities

This group will serve as a body of subject-matter expertise in regional habitat conservation issues. The Taskforce provides an institutional forum and structure for regional stakeholders to: (1) collaborate, coordinate and peer exchange solutions to address issues related to regional habitat conservation; (2) provide a regional collaboration among the jurisdictions and stakeholders on regional habitat conservation policy and projects; and (3) promote best practices and provide scientific data that helps local jurisdictions and land managers implement regional habitat conservation strategies. The Taskforce also provides a forum for stakeholder outreach on preparation and implementation of the Regional Habitat Conservation Vision included in the Sustainable Communities Strategy of the Regional Plan.

### Membership

By “taskforce” we mean a broad range of Staff representatives of the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, and the four SANDAG subregions (North County Coastal, North County Inland, East County and South County). The staff representatives from each SANDAG subregion will be from local jurisdictions with an adopted, or in development, habitat conservation plan. Additionally, the Taskforce will include staff representatives of federal agencies, state agencies, and tribal governments that are directly involved in implementation of habitat conservation plans in the San Diego region (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Wildlife Conservation Board, Caltrans, and the Southern California Tribal representative). Last, the Taskforce will include staff representatives of the following organizations, representing disciplines and interests involved in implementation of regional habitat conservation plans: the Nature Conservancy (Land Acquisition), San Diego Conservation Network (Land Management), U.S. Geological Survey (Science and Technology), Endangered Habitats League (Environmental Policy), Building Industry Association (Business), San Diego Foundation (Land Acquisition and Endowments), Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (Land Management), Natural History Museum (Science), Alliance for Habitat Conservation (Business).

Taskforce member agencies are asked to designate an alternate representative when the primary representative is unable to attend to promote participation in meetings. The Chair of the Taskforce will be an elected official who will serve for a minimum of one-year. If the Chair is absent, the SANDAG liaison will serve as the Chair.

### **Commitment / Duration of Existence**

Taskforce participants are asked to attend and participate in taskforce meetings to share information and give feedback on regional habitat conservation issues, including input on issues related to coordination and implementation of the EMP. The level of commitment is expected to be 120 minutes per quarterly.

The Taskforce will meet for the duration of SANDAG implementation of the TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program.