



WORKING GROUP CHARTER

Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

PURPOSE

The Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) advises the Regional Planning Committee (RPC) and the SANDAG Board on issues related to the coordination and implementation of the Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP), a component of the *TransNet* program approved by the voters in November 2004.

LINE OF REPORTING

The EMPWG reports to the RPC, which reports directly to the SANDAG Board of Directors.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The EMPWG provides advice on the implementation of the Environmental Mitigation Program. In particular, the EMPWG is responsible for making recommendations on allocation of the Regional Habitat Conservation Fund (RHCF) of the EMP. In this regard, the EMPWG will participate in the preparation of a "needs assessment" that will identify the short-term and long-term activities necessary to implement the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) and Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP), such as biological monitoring, land management coordination, and supplemental land acquisitions. The EMPWG also will help to identify organizations to perform the monitoring, management, and acquisition activities identified in the needs assessment. Based on this analysis, the EMPWG will develop criteria and recommend priorities for allocation of RHCF funds. The EMPWG will provide input into the development of the Transportation Project Mitigation Fund program and procedures. In addition, the EMPWG will assist with the development of a regional funding measure (a ballot measure and/or other secure funding commitments) to meet the long-term requirements for implementing habitat conservation plans in the San Diego region.

MEMBERSHIP

An elected official appointed by the Regional Planning Committee will serve as chair of the EMPWG. The members of the EMPWG will include:

- Staff representatives from 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),
- Staff representatives of federal and state agencies that are directly involved in environmental permitting of transportation projects and implementation of the MSCP and MHCP (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Game, California Wildlife Conservation Board, and Caltrans), and

- Staff representatives of the following organizations, representing disciplines and interests involved in the implementation of the EMP:
 - The Nature Conservancy (Land Acquisition)
 - Conservation Resource Network (Land Management)
 - U.S. Geological Survey (Science & Technology)
 - Endangered Habitats League (Environmental Policy)
 - Building Industry Association (Business)
 - San Diego Foundation (Land Acquisition)
 - California Coastal Conservancy (Land Acquisition and Management)
 - Alliance for Habitat Conservation (Business)

If the organization can no longer serve, the RPC will appoint a replacement that can represent the specific discipline. In addition, the RPC can place additional members on the EMPWG by amending this charter.

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

Meeting times and locations will be determined by the EMPWG.

SELECTION OF THE CHAIR

The Chair of the EMPWG will be selected by the Regional Planning Committee. The Vice Chair will be selected by the EMPWG from among its members.

DURATION OF EXISTENCE

The EMPWG will continue throughout the duration of the implementation of the *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program.