AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL HABITAT PRESERVATION

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San Diego Association of Governments · 401 B Street, Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101-4231
(619) 699-1900 · Fax (619) 699-1905 · www.sandag.org
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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS POLICY AGENDA

Friday, July 13, 2007

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ITEM #</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATION</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS</td>
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Members of the public shall have the opportunity to address the Board on any issue within the jurisdiction of SANDAG. Anyone desiring to speak shall reserve time by completing a “Request to Speak” form and giving it to the Clerk of the Board prior to speaking. Public speakers should notify the Clerk of the Board if they have a handout for distribution to Board members. Speakers are limited to three minutes. Board members also may provide information and announcements under this agenda item.

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At the January 12, 2007, Board Policy meeting, staff presented an overview of the Integrated Regional Infrastructure Strategy (IRIS) and provided the Board with updated costs for implementing three elements of the IRIS: Stormwater Management, Beach Sand Replenishment, and Habitat Preservation. Today’s Policy Board meeting will continue the discussion on Habitat Preservation, including an overview of the habitat preservation plans, past SANDAG efforts and commitments, the impact on local jurisdictions and stakeholders, a scientific perspective on long-term habitat preservation, and what the region needs to accomplish habitat preservation.

3. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Friday, July 27, 2007, at 9 a.m.

4. ADJOURNMENT

+next to an agenda item indicates an attachment
WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL HABITAT PRESERVATION

Introduction

At the January 2007 Policy meeting, the Board of Directors began discussing three infrastructure areas that were identified for further evaluation in the Integrated Regional Infrastructure Strategy (IRIS) of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). The IRIS concluded that these three infrastructure areas (stormwater management, beach sand replenishment, and habitat preservation) did not have adequate mechanisms in place to address their long-term funding needs. The IRIS recommended the development of regional funding strategies for each of these three areas.

Today's Board of Directors Policy meeting is the third forum that has been scheduled to discuss these issues in more detail. It will focus on regional habitat preservation. The Board of Directors will be provided an overview of the status of regional habitat conservation plans that have been approved or are in process of completion in the region. A panel of experts (Attachment 1) will provide their perspectives on the challenges facing these regional habitat conservation planning efforts, and Coronado Mayor Pro Tem Carrie Downey, Chair of the Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) Working Group, will offer insight into how the jurisdictions in the region could work together to meet future needs.

Discussion

More than 15 years ago the San Diego region, faced with continued conflicts over land use and endangered species protection, embarked on a new vision for maintaining the economic prosperity of the region and protecting natural open space. This effort evolved into the subregional habitat conservation programs (HCPs) that have been approved or are in process of approval: the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) South (approved in 1997), the Multiple Habitat Conservation program (approved in 2003), and the North and East County MSCPs which are currently being developed.

These plans fall under the umbrella of the State of California Natural Communities Conservation Planning Program, enacted as law in 1991, which provides a method to proactively identify areas necessary for species conservation and those areas more suitable for development. This approach was designed to provide greater certainty in the local land use planning process through proactive habitat preservation that is consistent with the requirements of the federal and state endangered species acts. Upon approval of local subarea plans and implementing agreements consistent with the corresponding subregional habitat conservation plan (e.g. MSCP South), local jurisdictions are authorized to permit development of certain sensitive habitat areas occupied by endangered species. This in turn breaks the cycle of piecemeal habitat conservation planning, reduces the number of listed species, and provides certainty in the local land use decision-making process.

Each habitat conservation plan in the San Diego region envisions the need for a certain level and configuration of habitat preservation. The plans also specify regulatory requirements for projects that impact endangered species, and long-term monitoring and management to assess the condition of the preserved lands. Each of these habitat conservation plans also includes an overall...
funding program for plan implementation, a portion of which would be covered through a future “regional funding source.” A white paper is provided that provides a detailed background of the program, the status of the various plans, and the funding requirements to complete the regional habitat conservation plans (Attachment 2).

The SANDAG RCP, which was adopted by the Board of Directors in July 2004, includes a description of these HCPs, and sets forth policy objectives and recommended actions to help implement these plans. Additionally, the IRIS chapter of the RCP contains a list that identifies how much land has been conserved (by plan area), conservation goals of each plan, and estimated cost for full plan implementation (acquisition, management, and monitoring) by subregional plan area. This information was updated in December 2006 and presented to the Board of Directors on January 12, 2007.

In November 2004, the voters adopted the TransNet Extension Ordinance which included an environmental mitigation program (EMP) to mitigate impacts of future transportation projects identified in the Regional Transportation Plan. The TransNet EMP was a significant step towards successful long-term implementation of the habitat conservation plans, but it was recognized that additional funding would be required for the region to successfully complete the plans. To this end, the TransNet Extension Ordinance includes a provision that states:

SANDAG agrees to act on additional regional funding measures (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, within the timeframe necessary to allow a ballot measure to be considered by the voters no later than four years after passage of the TransNet Extension. In the event that such future funding measures generate funding to fully meet regional habitat acquisition and management requirements, SANDAG is authorized to reallocate excess funds included in the “Regional Habitat Conservation Fund” to local transportation projects.

(TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program Principle 10.)

As discussed above, three policy forums were held with the goal of ensuring all Board members are informed on the status of planning and implementation efforts for these three infrastructure types, and to provide direction on how, or if, SANDAG should be involved with future planning and implementation activities in these areas. The specific discussion on each of the three infrastructure areas will address:

- What is currently being done to address the issue?
- What past commitments has SANDAG made?
- What should be the future involvement of SANDAG?

GARY L. GALLEGOS
Executive Director

Attachments: 1. Presentation on Regional Habitat Preservation
              2. Draft Regional Habitat Conservation White Paper

Key Staff Contact: Keith Greer, (619) 699-7390, kgr@sandag.org

No Budget Impact
# PRESENTATION ON REGIONAL HABITAT PRESERVATION

Friday, July 13, 2007

## A. INTRODUCTION - FIRST VICE CHAIR MAYOR LORI HOLT PFIEILER

5 min.

The Regional Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2004, gave recommendations for how to address non-transportation regional infrastructure needs, including: Stormwater Management (discussed on May 11, 2007), Regional Shoreline Management and Beach Sand Replenishment (discussed on June 8, 2007), and Habitat Preservation.

Today we will discuss Regional Habitat Preservation and will hear from a panel of involved jurisdictions and stakeholders.

## B. BACKGROUND ON EXISTING HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS

(Keith Greer and Marney Cox)

15 min.

- Historical perspective on regional habitat conservation plans – Why they were started
- Current status of regional habitat conservation plans – challenges and opportunities
- Overall approach to obtaining funding for implementation of existing and future habitat conservation plans.
- Relationship of TransNet Extension Ordinance and TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) to regional funding needs for habitat conservation programs (HCPs)
- Economic prosperity and regional habitat conservation plans

## C. THE STAKEHOLDERS PERSPECTIVE

25 min

(5-7 each)

- Matt Adams, Building Industry Association (building industry perspective)
- Michael Beck, Endangered Habitat League (environmental perspective)
- Jerre Ann Stallcup, Conservation Biology Institute (scientific perspective)
- Chandra Wallar, County of San Diego (local jurisdiction perspective)

## D. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

(Coronado Mayor Pro Tem Carrie Downey, Chair of EMP Working Group)

10 min.

- Future efforts needed for completing regional habitat preservation
- The need to move forward as a region

## E. BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS


## F. PUBLIC COMMENTS


## G. BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

- Is habitat preservation a regional issue?
- How do the past commitments of SANDAG relate to the regional needs?
- What is the future role of SANDAG in habitat preservation?

## H. NEXT STEPS


3
Introduction

San Diego County is recognized nationally for its unique climate, proximity to the border with Mexico, its beaches, and quality of life. The region also is recognized for its overall biodiversity as well as the associated high number of endangered and threatened species. Its 2,000 plant species, 700 bird species, and dozens of mammal, reptile, and amphibian species is arguably greater than any other location in the United States. The region’s geographic diversity of coastlines, foothills, and deserts all contribute to this biodiversity. A study in the journal *Science* \(^1\) found that San Diego County was one of two counties in the United States with the greatest number of species listed as rare or endangered, and the greatest potential for future listing of species as endangered. Each new species that is listed creates an additional conflict between local land use plans to accommodate growth and economic prosperity, and the regulations for the protection of endangered species. The struggle to get ahead of future listing of endangered species and retain local land use control requires a different approach toward habitat conservation than the project-by-project, piecemeal conservation that characterized past efforts. The San Diego region represents the perfect area to address the conservation of multiple species together in a comprehensive, proactive manner.

Since the initial work on habitat conservation plans in the early 1990s, considerable investment and progress have occurred in the region. This white paper describes efforts in the region to meet the need of growth and development, while developing a strategic plan to protect natural open space and native species, and identifies the future challenges facing this program, which has been identified as a national model.

Discussion

Background on Habitat Conservation Planning

More than 15 years ago, the jurisdictions and stakeholders in the San Diego region, faced with the looming conflicts over land use and endangered species, embarked on a new vision for maintaining the economic prosperity of the region and protecting the natural open space. This effort evolved into the various habitat conservation plans that have been approved or are in process of approval. Habitat conservation plans are seen as a way to balance the biological, economic, and social needs of a region in a strategic approach that creates greater economic and environmental certainty.

A detailed economic analysis prepared by SourcePoint\(^2\) (the SANDAG Service Bureau) for the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) South (the first adopted regional habitat conservation plan), determined that the San Diego region's economy would fare much better under regional habitat conservation plans (HCPs) resulting in more property and sales tax, higher personal

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income, and higher retail sales due to increases in land use certainty and development permit streamlining. Habitat preservation may be viewed as an investment, a way to ensure the opportunity for uninterrupted economic growth. In practice, these plans are the most efficient and effective means for expediting appropriate development, as well as preserving the necessary habitat to protect the region's native species. The certainty provided by these plans assist in the timely and cost-effective development of critical regional infrastructure, local public infrastructure, and private development.

**Development of Habitat Conservation Plans**

During the early development of the MSCP South, a 29-member working group was chartered in 1991, chaired by a deputy chief of staff of former Mayor Susan Golding, to vet issues and develop solutions. Other alternatives were evaluated which included: continuation without habitat conservation plans (business-as-usual), conservation plans that focused just on the needs of a single endangered species, and placing the entire implementation costs of a multiple species plan on new development. These solutions were evaluated through a series of white papers and discarded because they did not meet the fundamental tenets established by the working group. While the details of the various regional HCPs differ, a consensus was reached that the regional HCPs be based on three fundamental tenets:

1. Developing a proactive strategy to preserve, maintain, and periodically monitor a network of habitat and open space. These plans are designed to preserve habitat that meets the needs of multiple species, rather than focusing efforts on one species at a time;

2. Enhancing the economy by reducing constraints on future development and decreasing the costs to comply with federal and state laws protecting biological resources. This is to be accomplished by identifying priority areas for conservation and streamlining permitting for development projects outside these priority areas; and

3. Forming partnerships among various governmental jurisdictions, regulatory agencies, property owners, development industry, and environmental groups. The cost of implementation of these plans was agreed to be equitably shared among the local jurisdictions, state and federal wildlife agencies, and private developers, and to respect the property rights of private land owners.

The regional habitat conservation plans represent San Diego’s “green infrastructure,” key areas of habitat necessary for the protection of endangered species and those species that could become endangered without protection. Just like other regional infrastructure, habitat conservation requires a multi-jurisdictional collaborative approach, capital cost for the conservation lands, and long-term management to maintain the biological resources and periodic monitoring to assure the infrastructure investment is performing as expected.

**Current Status of Regional Habitat Conservation Plans**

Under the State’s Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act of 1991, San Diego was a pilot region for habitat conservation planning. All portions of San Diego County are included in one of four HCPs: the MSCP South, approved in 1998; the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP), approved by SANDAG in 2003; the North County MSCP Plan, anticipated completion fall 2008; and the East County MSCP Plan, anticipated completion summer 2009 (see Figure 1). The military bases have similar approved plans adopted for MCAS Miramar and Camp Pendleton.
The cities of San Diego, Chula Vista, Poway, Carlsbad, La Mesa, and the County of San Diego have approved agreements and are implementing their various “subarea” plans which define how the jurisdictions will implement these regional HCPs at the local level. It is expected that the City of Santee also will adopt its subarea plan this year. The North County cities of Escondido, Oceanside, San Marcos, Vista, and Encinitas are currently working with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game to determine the next steps toward the local implementation of their regional habitat conservation plan. The adoption and implementation of the HCPs, and the various subarea plans, have been identified in the SANDAG Regional Comprehensive Plan as an important policy objective to maintain the region’s environment health.3

**Implementation of Regional Habitat Conservation Plans**

Each of the regional habitat conservation plans is based upon the premise that the future cost of implementing the regional habitat conservation plans would be shared by the state and federal wildlife agencies, private development, and local jurisdictions. Within each HCP, a target conservation area has been established. The conservation will be achieved through preservation of existing public lands (e.g., Torrey Pines State Park), public acquisition of private lands (e.g., San Diego National Wildlife Refuge), and conservation of private land through the land use entitlement process (e.g., mitigation and dedication). The amount of conservation from each method is estimated in the various HCPs.

Of the private land that is to be acquired by the public under the HCPs, the state and federal governments have committed to acquire one-half of the land with the local jurisdictions acquiring the other half. The state, federal, and local jurisdictions will fund the long-term management and monitoring on lands they own or for which they accept ownership. Private development will contribute land through the development entitlement process. Each one of these groups benefits from the certainty established under these plans, while the general public benefits through the economic stability and preservation of habitat as a visual, recreational, and open space amenity.

Overall, the acquisitions in the San Diego region have occurred faster than the regional HCPs had anticipated in the first ten years of plan implementation. This has been a result of close collaboration with the federal and state wildlife agencies to successfully compete for state bond funding and federal Endangered Species Act (Section 6) funds. A recent analysis of the MSCP South has shown that more than 130,000 acres have been conserved or have been obligated for conservation in the City and County of San Diego. The remaining land acquisitions necessary to meet the goals established by these jurisdictional subarea plans are currently approximately 7.5 percent (3,950 acres) and 20 percent (18,653 acres), respectively. This represents a significant investment by the federal, state, and local governments, and private developments through land use exactions and mitigation.

As the MSCP South matures and completes the obligated target for land conservation, a shift from land acquisition to long-term management and monitoring will be necessary. The remaining regional plans (MHCP, North County MSCP, and East County MSCP) will require land acquisition as well as long-term management and monitoring.

Local jurisdictions continue to acquire and manage land through state and federal grants and general fund contributions. While this has been successful for some jurisdictions, more habitat conservation planning is occurring throughout the state, decreasing the amount of potential grants,

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and thereby increasing the burden on those jurisdictions’ general funds. In addition, the more land that is acquired by a jurisdiction results in an increase in long-term management and monitoring costs. This has resulted in the reluctance of some jurisdictions to adopt their subarea plans due to concerns about long-term financial obligations for management and monitoring conserved lands.

The Requirement to Manage and Monitoring Conserved Land

Similar to other regional infrastructure, without a program to monitor the system and manage the preservation of this green infrastructure, there can be no assurance that it will successfully function as expected. Each of the regional habitat conservation plans are required to develop a management plans and directives, as well as a monitoring program to assess the effectiveness of the plans in conserving the sensitive species. Biologically, the need for monitoring and management of the habitat preserve areas are elevated due to the close proximity of existing and future development.

The HCPs are based upon the premise that there will be less habitat in the future, but the habitat will be better managed and therefore be able to continue to support San Diego’s sensitive species. Catastrophic wildfires, droughts, invasion by exotic species, impacts by increased recreation, disease, long-term changes in rainfall are some affects that could impact the persistence and viability of the sensitive species included in these plans. While these plans are designed to capture the natural ecosystem process, they require monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the habitat conservation plans for protecting sensitive species and management actions to respond to unforeseen events. Some general types of management under these plans include signage and fencing of sensitive resource areas, rerouting trails, invasive species control, and reintroduction and enhancement of species populations, where necessary. In light of the 2003 wildfires and the mounting evidence of the pending effects of climate change, monitoring and management is critical for effectively implementing the regional HCPs.

Long-Term Funding

Pursuant to the federal and state Endangered Species Acts, each participating jurisdiction must ensure that adequate funding will be allocated to meet their obligations under the HCPs. The Implementing Agreement sets forth the funding obligations of the jurisdiction and wildlife agencies. Upon signing an Implementing Agreement contract, the jurisdiction receives a permit from state and federal governments, which allows for the local authorization to impact endangered species under the conditions set forth in their Implementing Agreement. Given the size, complexity, and biological extent of the species covered in the various regional HCPs, it was agreed that no one jurisdiction could adequately sustain a long-term funding source on its own. Every Implementing Agreement includes a provision to work cooperatively with the other local jurisdictions to secure a long-term funding source.

It was recognized that the jurisdictions would enter into Implementing Agreements at various times allowing for flexibility on the timing of a long-term funding source provided that “good faith efforts to secure long-term regional funding requires additional time.” Currently, no long-term regional funding source exists, but as described below a commitment was included in the TransNet Extension Ordinance to act on a funding measure in the future. Participating jurisdictions are operating using a mixture of general funds and state and federal grants to implement their plans.
**Estimated Costs**

An analysis of the updated costs for the local jurisdiction’s contribution was evaluated and presented to the SANDAG Board of Directors on January 12, 2007. It was estimated that that a total of $1.5 billion (2006 dollars) would be required over 40 years to complete the necessary local acquisition, management and monitoring, and establish an endowment to perpetually fund the region’s four HCPs. It is acknowledged that this number needs refinement; it represents a close approximation of the comprehensive regional needs of the HCPs based on the costs identified in the various HCPs. Of note is the establishment of a permanent endowment over 40 years, which would provide future funding for the management and monitoring of these conserved lands without the need for additional funding measures.

**TransNet Extension Ordinance**

Building on the habitat conservation planning efforts in the region, the voters in 2004 adopted the Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) within the TransNet Extension Ordinance. The intent of the EMP is to “establish a program to provide for the large-scale acquisition and management of critical habitat areas and to create a reliable approach for funding required mitigation for future transportation improvements thereby reducing future costs and accelerating project delivery.” Simply stated, the EMP would secure land today to satisfy tomorrow’s required mitigation of transportation projects to be built over 30 years under the Regional Transportation Plan. If land is purchased in advance of need, with mitigation ratios held constant over time, an economic benefit is derived because the mitigation obligation is known and the land is purchased at today’s prices.

While the EMP includes an allocation for the estimated direct costs for mitigation of upland and wetland habitat impacts for regional and local transportation projects, it also includes funding for regional habitat acquisition, management, and monitoring activities to help implement the regional HCPs.

The EMP is a significant first step toward successful long-term implementation of the HCPs, but it was always recognized that additional funding would be required for the region to complete these plans. How much contribution the EMP provides toward the regional funding source is still being debated by the stakeholders. Since nearly half of the estimated EMP funding will be required to restore wetlands and uplands for mitigation required by federal and state environmental permits, SANDAG staff has estimated that between $200 million and $400 million could be considered as contributing to the regional costs of implementing the HCPs thereby reducing the long-term regional funding need to a range between $1.1 billion to $1.3 billion.

To provide an opportunity for the region to help close this gap in funding, the SANDAG Board included the following provision in the TransNet Extension Ordinance:

> “SANDAG agrees to act on additional regional funding measures (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, within the timeframe necessary to allow a ballot measure to be considered by the voters no later than four years after passage of the TransNet Extension. In the event that such future funding measures generate funding to fully meet regional habitat acquisition and

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management requirements, SANDAG is authorized to reallocate excess funds included in the “Regional Habitat Conservation Fund” to local transportation projects.”

(TransNet Extension EMP Principle D)

The specific type of measure, or measures, was not determined at the time the TransNet Extension Ordinance was developed, but a range of options was covered in the SANDAG January 12, 2007, report. While the Ordinance indicates an action no later than four years from the adoption of the TransNet Extension (November 2004), a general consensus among the members of the EMP Working Group has indicated a willingness to extend this timeline to a date more conducive to gain successful approval of a measure or measures.

Conclusions and Next Steps

Significant work has already occurred to complete and implement the regional habitat conservation plans. Numerous studies have evaluated the regional acquisition needs and monitoring and management requirements. Habitat preservation in the San Diego region has a long history with established plans in place or being completed, detailed analysis on the requirements and program needs, an estimated funding gap based upon the identified needs, a motivated, well-established stakeholder group working on an established SANDAG EMP Working Group, and a voter-approved provision to take action on additional funding through the TransNet Extension Ordinance.

If it is agreed by the SANDAG Policy Board that implementation of the HCPs is a regional issue and that SANDAG should continue its involvement, the next steps could include working with the local jurisdictions to:

1. Refine the cost estimate for completion (acquisition, and perpetual management and monitoring) of the habitat conservation plans.

2. Evaluate the gaps in funding based on this refined cost estimate to the complete regional HCPs, and the current available funding through other sources (e.g., TransNet) which would offset some of the regional funding needs.

3. Further evaluate a variety of funding options for a regional funding source and the timing to present to the SANDAG Board.

4. Develop a strategy and timeline to engage the public on this issue and possible funding options.

These next steps will be further evaluated and presented at the SANDAG Policy Board meeting in October.
**Figure 1:**
Status of Regional Habitat Conservation Plans as of July 2007

![Map of Southern California with highlighted regions for different conservation programs.]

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1 Subarea Plan Approved.

2 Subarea Plan in Process.

3 Jurisdictions not pursuing subarea plans because of limited acreage of habitat.

4 Source: 2006 Annual Reports for areas with approved subarea plans and lands obligated for dedication in City and County of San Diego.

5 Source: Baseline estimates from MHCP, Table 4-1.
July 10, 2007

Chairman Alan D. Bersin  
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority  
P.O. Box 82776  
San Diego, CA 92138

Dear Chairman Bersin:

SUBJECT: Advisory Membership to San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Board of Directors

I am in receipt of your letter requesting a seat on the SANDAG Board of Directors as an advisory member. The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority's (SDCRAA) position as a voting member on the Transportation Committee has been very helpful. As this region attempts to further the coordination of aviation and transportation planning, the SDCRAA's position on that committee will become even more vital.

You inquired as to the process to become an advisory member of the SANDAG Board. We currently have no official process. However, an ad hoc committee chaired by Mayor Cafagna is reviewing our current policies on seating new advisory members. When that review is completed and presented to the Executive Committee I will be able to give you further guidance.

In the meantime, if there is anything SANDAG can do to assist in the dialogue efforts between our respective agencies, our mutual partners, and stakeholders, please feel free to call upon us.

Sincerely,

MARY TERESA SESSOM  
Chair, SANDAG Board of Directors

MTS/taw

Cc: Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler  
Deputy Mayor Jerome Stocks  
Gary Gallegos  
Thella Bowens  
SANDAG Board of Directors
Regional Habitat Preservation Workshop

Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act (1991)

Map showing regions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, and San Diego counties.
Habitat Conservation Planning Areas in the San Diego Region

Regional Habitat Preservation Workshop

Regional Habitat Preserve Planning Area

- Habitat Preserve Planning Area
- Natural Habitats
- Developed, Disturbed, and Agricultural Land
- Military
Fundamental Tenets of HCPs

- Develop strategy to preserve, manage and monitor network of interconnected open space
- Enhance economy by increasing certainty in development entitlement
- Foster collaboration amongst stakeholders
- Equitably share the cost of implementation

Alternative Solutions Examined

- No Habitat Conservation Plan
- Single Species Habitat Conservation Plan
- Multiple Species HCP with implementation costs borne solely by new development
HCP Implementation by Jurisdictions

- Signed Implementing Agreement
- Conservation of an identified acreage
- Management
- Monitoring
- Secure Funding

Status of HCPs in San Diego

- Approved Plans
- Pursuing Plans
- Not Pursuing Plans
- Military
Regional Funding

- Endangered Species Act requirement
- Regional funding required by HCP
- Included in the Implementing Agreements contract

Contribution Sources for Land Conservation

1/3 = Private Land Contribution

1/2 Local Jurisdictions
1/2 Federal and State
Existing Public Lands
Acquisition
2/3 = Public Land Contribution
# Regional Habitat Preservation Workshop

## Estimate of Regional Need

**(In millions - as of December 2006)**

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<th></th>
<th>MHCP</th>
<th>MSCP South</th>
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</table>
| **Total one-time cost**  
(repeating acquisitions) | $48  | $180       | $222       | $101      | $551   |
| **Recurring cost**  
(manage & monitor for first 40 years) | $55  | $248       | $155       | $70       | $528   |
| **Payment to Endowment**  
(manage & monitor after 40 years) | $44  | $200       | $125       | $57       | $426   |
| **TOTAL**       | $147 | $628       | $502       | $228      | $1,505 |
TransNet Extension Ordinance

“SANDAG agrees to act on additional regional funding measures (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, within the timeframe necessary to allow a ballot measure to be considered by the voters no later than four years after passage of the TransNet Extension.”

TransNet Extension EMP Principle #10

Outstanding Regional Issues

- Ability of jurisdictions continue to implement and pursue HCPs without regional funding
- Refinement of cost estimate for regional HCP implementation
- Evaluation of existing funding sources (e.g., TransNet EMP, other Cities and County funding) that could reduce regional funding need
- Evaluation of funding options available for future regional funding
Regional Habitat Preservation

Policy Discussion

- Is habitat preservation a regional issue?
- How do past SANDAG commitments on the TransNet Extension relate to the regional needs?
- What is the future role of SANDAG in regional funding for HCPs?
Regional Habitat Preservation through Management and Monitoring

Jerre Ann Stallcup
Conservation Biologist
Conservation Biology Institute

Ecosystem Management Planning—Conservation—Management

• Integrates science-based conservation planning with land use planning
• Protects listed species and prevent species from becoming listed
• Embraced by state / federal agencies
• San Diego region is at the forefront of ecosystem management.
Role of Science

• Develop conservation goals.
• Prioritize conservation areas.
• Determine threats and reasons for decline.
• Develop management actions to address threats.
• Monitor how resource is responding to management—*Adaptive Management*.

Primary Threats to Conserved Lands

• Habitat fragmentation
• Invasive species
• Increasing recreational demand
• Altered fire cycles and hydrologic regimes
Impact—habitat fragmentation
Action—monitoring wildlife movement corridors

Impact—invasive species: artichoke thistle in our grasslands
Impact—invasive species: pepperweed in riparian woodlands

Action—multi-year removal and control
Action—restore with native species

Impact—increased recreational demand
Action—create trails for public use

Action—maintain trails for public use
Impact—altered hydrologic regime resulting in trail erosion

Impact—increased urban runoff resulting in erosion and sedimentation
Action—install straw wattles to fortify banks

Management requires a physical presence on the land—
Regional Habitat Preservation

County of San Diego
Land Use and Environment Group

July 13, 2007

What is MSCP? County Perspective

- Green infrastructure
- Balances development needs with habitat preservation
- The Vision
Implementing MSCP
County Perspective

- Identifying Preserve and future development
- Consistency with General Plan update
- Rough Step (acquisition & private development)
- Ongoing management & monitoring

County MSCP Program

- South County MSCP – 1997
- North County MSCP – 2008
- East County MSCP - 2009
Next Steps
County Perspective

- Refine Cost Estimates
  - Acquisition
  - Management & Monitoring
- Determine funding gap
  - Analyze possible funding sources

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