



401 B Street, Suite 800
 San Diego, CA 92101-4231
 (619) 699-1900
 Fax (619) 699-1905
 www.sandag.org

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

MEMBER AGENCIES

- Cities of
- Carlsbad
- Chula Vista
- Coronado
- Del Mar
- El Cajon
- Encinitas
- Escondido
- Imperial Beach
- La Mesa
- Lemon Grove
- National City
- Oceanside
- Poway
- San Diego
- San Marcos
- Santee
- Solana Beach
- Vista
- and
- County of San Diego

ADVISORY MEMBERS

- Imperial County
- California Department of Transportation
- Metropolitan Transit System
- North County Transit District
- United States Department of Defense
- San Diego Unified Port District
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association
- Mexico

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP

The Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group may take action on any item appearing on this agenda.

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **(LAND MANAGEMENT CRITERIA)**

1 to 3 p.m. **(FIRE FORUM)**

SANDAG, SANDAG Board Room
 401 B Street, 7th Floor
 San Diego, CA 92101-4231

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

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- LAND MANAGEMENT ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA (11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)
- FIRE FORUM: HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND FIRE SAFETY (1 to 3 p.m.)

SANDAG offices are accessible by public transit. Phone 1-800-COMMUTE or see www.sdcommute.com for route information.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), SANDAG will accommodate persons who require assistance in order to participate in SANDAG meetings. If such assistance is required, please contact SANDAG at (619) 699-1900 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

To request this document or related reports in an alternative format, please call (619) 699-1900, (619) 699-1904 (TTY), or fax (619) 699-1905.

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

ITEM #		RECOMMENDATION
1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Chair, Mayor Pro Tem Carrie Downey, City of Coronado)	
2.	PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Working Group. Speakers are limited to three minutes each.	COMMENT
+3.	SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 12, 2008, MEETING Review and approve the meeting summary of the February 12, 2008, meeting.	APPROVE
+4.	FY 2008 LAND MANAGEMENT GRANTS: ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA (Keith Greer, SANDAG) 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On February 22, 2008, the SANDAG Board approved \$2.9 million for land management activities. The Working Group will review the eligibility and prioritization criteria used for the FY 2006 land management Call for Projects and evaluate if any changes are needed. In addition, the Working Group will establish a selection committee of members not seeking funding to evaluate proposals received during the Call for Projects.	DISCUSSION/ POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION
+5.	FIRE FORUM: HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND FIRE SAFETY (Panel Presentation) 1 to 3 p.m. At the request of the SANDAG Board, a public forum is to be held on regional habitat management and fire safety. The Working Group will learn about pending state legislation to address wildland fire safety in Southern California and the provisions under the regional habitat conservation plans for managing habitat for fire safety. This will be followed by a panel of expert fire science and fire safety officials who will address the lessons learned from the 2003 and 2007 wildfires. The forum will provide information to the Working Group about effective ways to minimize fire risk along the urban interface with native habitat in order to make an informed recommendation(s) to the Regional Planning Committee on this topic.	DISCUSSION/ POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION
6.	ADJOURN The next EMPWG meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2008, from 1 to 3 p.m.	INFORMATION

+ next to an item indicates an attachment

San Diego Association of Governments
ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
WORKING GROUP

March 11, 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **3**

Action Requested: APPROVE

SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 12, 2008, MEETING

File Number 3002700

Members in Attendance:

Carrie Downey (Chair), City of Coronado
Tom Oberbauer (Vice Chair), County of San Diego
Craig Adams, San Diego Conservation Network
Bruce April, Caltrans
Michael Beck, Endangered Habitats League
Patti Brindle, City of Poway, North County Inland
Robert Fisher, USGS
Bill Gallup, (Alternate) Wildlife Conservation Board
Mike Grim, City of Carlsbad, North County Coastal
Jeanne Krosch, City of San Diego
David Mayer, Department of Fish and Game
Mary Small, (Alternate) California Coastal Conservancy
Kathy Viatella, Nature Conservancy
Jim Whalen, Alliance for Habitat Conservation
Susan Wynn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Emily Young, San Diego Foundation

SANDAG Staff in Attendance:

Keith Greer
Kevin Wood
Sue Carnevale
C. Muggs Stoll
Rob Rundle
John Kirk
Shelby Tucker

Others in Attendance:

Jeremy Buegge, County of San Diego
Susan Carter, San Dieguito River Park
Joshua Garcia, City of San Diego
Shelby Howard, Helix Environmental
Megan Johnson, California Coastal Conservancy
Dahvia Lynch, County of San Diego
Carlton Rochester, USGS

1. Welcome and Introductions

Carrie Downey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., welcomed the group, noting alternates in attendance.

2. February 12, 2008, Meeting Summary

Michael Beck, Endangered Habitats League, asked Susan Wynn if her statement that we could not take any action for the cactus wren until habitat mapping was finished was accurate. She said that USFWS was actively working on the wren, but that mapping of its habitat was the first necessary step. Mr. Beck asked if there was a timeline to begin work and if there was an effort to create habitat for the cactus wren. Ms. Wynn said that there was already money earmarked and preparation work was being done so that monitoring could proceed as soon as the SANDAG Board approved the funds under the *TransNet* Extension Ordinance. A comprehensive habitat assessment will have to be done before any habitat can be created, but there are people actively working on it.

Carlton Rochester, USGS noted that he was incorrectly identified as Carlton Fisher on page 7 of the minutes.

Craig Adams, San Diego Conservation Network, motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Jim Whalen, Alliance for Habitat Conservation, seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Public Comments and Communications

Members of the public had the opportunity to address the Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Working Group.

Keith Greer, SANDAG, told members that they would need to fill out a Form 700 for the new year and SANDAG Counsel, John Kirk, would be present later in the meeting to review conflict of interest law. Some agenda items may be moved to make time for Mr. Kirk and for members who have to leave early.

Kevin Wood, SANDAG, informed the group that SANDAG is developing a Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan to better utilize the region's sediment resources. Information packets were made available and interested parties were encouraged to review the materials and submit comments to SANDAG.

No other public comments were made.

4. Status Update on the *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), Regional Funding, and Related Actions

Keith Greer updated the group on recent SANDAG Board and committee actions relating to the EMP. The Regional Planning Committee (RPC) considered the MOA at their February 8, 2008, meeting and unanimously recommended it to the Board for approval. The Board of Directors was scheduled to approve the MOA along with the FY 2008 funding for land management and monitoring at their February 22, 2008, meeting (*Note: these items were unanimously approved at their meeting*). The MOA had been previously approved by ITOC without opposition and he

thanked members who attended the meetings. The *TransNet* Plan of Finance was adopted by the Board on January 25, 2008, and included the provisions for funding as outlined in the EMP MOA. SANDAG recently received AAA bond rating and will be issuing bonds in April. Funds will be available then for land acquisitions pursuant to the MOA.

The RPC also has tasked the EMPWG with a new effort. The March 11, 2008, EMPWG meeting will be a forum on habitat management and fire safety. Members of the EMPWG, along with members invited from the SANDAG Board, the RPC, fire officials, and members of the public will discuss issues relating to fire safety along the interface of the habitat preserves and urban development. The Working Group has been asked by the RPC to make recommendations on how to minimize fire risk while ensuring proper habitat conservation. This meeting will be held in the Board Room to accommodate everyone who is interested in this sensitive subject. The Working Group was specifically asked to address the issue of brush clearance along the urban-open space interface and its affect on the habitat conservation plans.

Mr. Greer gave a summary of the recent Board retreat, noting that it focused on the quality-of-life issues with sessions dedicated to water quality, habitat management, beach sand replenishment, and public transit. It also included speakers from other regions who had passed similar quality-of-life measures. SANDAG's next steps include polling and focus groups, the formation of an ad-hoc working group of elected officials, analysis of California Environmental Quality Act requirements, and possible legislative clarification on SANDAG's taxing authority. Board members also thought that the measure should consider fire prevention and public access as part of habitat management. The Board also thought that although habitat management and monitoring was important to a quality-of-life measure, an endowment should not be included until we can demonstrate success.

Mr. Beck said that he understood that the ad-hoc working group of elected officials was just being formed but that he wanted to make sure that stakeholders would be deeply involved in the development of the quality-of-life initiative. The structure of the group will be critically important in the eventual success or failure of the initiative, since its members will shape the final language. It would be best to look at all the groups needed to pass an initiative in the future and make sure they are involved from day one.

Mr. Adams asked for clarification on the MOA, specifically, who was responsible for identification of conservation opportunities as discussed in Attachment A. Mr. Greer said that the wildlife agencies along with SANDAG and Caltrans would determine what opportunities meet regional transportation needs. There may be a process for providing input on opportunities, but it is up to the wildlife agencies to make the determination if a piece of property is suitable for mitigation. Except for \$4 million annually for land management and monitoring, acquisition, restoration and habitat creation is specifically for *TransNet* transportation project mitigation under the MOA for the first ten years.

5. Post-Wildfire Assessments

Mr. Greer said that the recent fires had major impacts across the region and he hoped that the different presenters would help to shed light on the diverse challenges and responses to fire in the region.

Jeremy Buegge, County of San Diego, presented his analysis of fire history in San Diego County. He examined fire records dating back nearly a century in an attempt to place the recent fires in their historical context. He aggregated a number of different datasets to develop a regional picture of fires and impacts to vegetation. There has been an average (mean) of ten fires a year over the last half century, although there is no "average" fire as the actual number of fires and amount burned varies widely year to year. A timeline shows a number of years with a small amount of acres burned punctuated by very large events.

Overlaying vegetation maps with burn data, we can see that different types of vegetation have different burn frequencies, with chaparral burning the most frequently and coniferous forests burning less frequently. The data reflects vegetations types within a burn perimeter and not all vegetation may have actually burned in that perimeter. Using data about unburned vegetation, topography, and wind patterns, one can make a general prediction of where fires would be likely to occur. The Witch Creek Fire occurred in one of these areas.

----- Interruption for John Kirk to discuss Conflict of Interest -----

Mr. Greer introduced John Kirk, Deputy General Counsel at SANDAG, to give members an overview of conflict of interest codes. He hoped it would help clarify what is, and is not, a conflict and to allow those who may be conflicted to recuse themselves from the discussion of allocation criteria for EMP funds (Item 6). Mr. Kirk said a detailed examination conflict of interest law would be impossible in a short time period, but he hoped to acquaint members with the basics and answer any questions.

There are two types of conflicts, those under Government Code §1090 and those covered by the Political Reform Act. Under §1090, public officers and employees cannot have financial interest in contracts made by them on behalf of the public entity. All members of the EMPWG are considered public officials and by participating in discussions about selection criteria, are involved with making the contract and thus are subject to both Government Code §1090 and those covered by the Political Reform Act.

Section 1090 involves the making of contracts. Case law is clear that development of criteria as to be discussed in Item 6 on the agenda is the start of the making of a contract. Public officials having a financial interest in the outcome of a contract are prohibited from discussing the item. There are exceptions: where an official may be deemed to have a non-interest, such as government employees and non-compensated officers of non-profit corporations. Non-profits whose primary purpose is conservation or historical resources for the public benefit are in general considered to have a non-interest under §1090, but Political Reform Act is still applicable. Employees of public agencies who are not applying through their department are also considered to have a non-interest. If the decision affects a member's immediate family or real property, may also be a conflict. In summary, Mr. Kirk encouraged members to think prospectively about their potential conflicts. If there is a conflict, declare it on public record and remove themselves from the discussion.

The Political Reform Act has slightly different requirements. No public official at any level of government may use or attempt to use his or her position to influence a decision which he or she may have a conflict of interest. A conflict occurs when the public official is involved with a decision that has a reasonably foreseeable material financial effect one or more of the individual's economic

interests unless that effect is indistinguishable from the effect on the public generally. Under the Political Reform Act, there is a process to retain the minimum number of members needed for quorum.

There was some discussion as to whether certain members of the Working Group had conflicts. Individual members unsure of their conflicts were encouraged to schedule a private consultation with Mr. Kirk.

Due to time restrictions and remaining uncertainty over possible conflicts, it was decided to table Agenda Item 6, FY 2008 Land Management Grants: Eligibility and Prioritization Criteria until a future meeting. Since the regular March 11, 2008, Working Group meeting will be the forum on fires, the Working Group decided to extend the March 11 meeting and start the meeting at 11 a.m. on the same day. Lunch will be provided.

----- Return to Item 5 -----

Susan Carter from the San Dieguito River Valley Park Joint Powers Agency (JPA) gave a presentation on issues that the park has faced from the Witch Creek Fire. The park's planning area stretches from Volcan Mountain, north of Julian, to the beach near Del Mar; 62 percent of this area was touched by the fires. The park faced impacts to habitat, structures, and public facilities including, bridges, fences, signs, and benches. The park contains all type of habitat including riparian, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral and there were significant losses to all of these.

Ms. Carter said she has worked extensively with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and has learned a lot about their policies and procedures - which are often quite complex. The Park lost its offices and most of its equipment in addition to the damage done to trails and other public facilities. Losses included an excavator that was purchased with EMP grant funds. The JPA's insurance will cover some of the material losses including the historic farmhouse and equipment. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will cover 93.25 percent of the cost of the structures. In previous disasters, the state has paid the difference, but due to the current state of the budget, this might not happen. The Federal Emergency Management Agency does not pay for habitat management, revegetation, or erosion control areas in which the park has major needs. Although all the trails were closed after the fires, the closure is hard to enforce. Off-trail use has increased causing increased problems with erosion, as well as inhibiting the regrowth of natural vegetation. The JPA lost its GIS capabilities but hoped to get them back in place as soon as possible. This will include giving rangers hand held tools to allow them to monitor and record in the field. There also is a need for species monitoring, since the park provides habit for rare species such as the cactus wren and the California gnatcatcher.

Emily Young gave a brief summary of the San Diego Foundation's role in fire recovery. After September 11, 2001, the foundation set up a community disaster fund in order to proactively address future disasters in the area. The San Diego Regional Disaster Fund was established as a separate 501(c)3 organization with a separate Board, so funds are received and kept separately. The fund is not focused on immediate response, but long-term recovery and rebuilding, as well as preparedness for future disasters. The fund began its work by completing a community assessment, which included habitat information from the county. Based on the needs identified in the assessment, the foundation is establishing community recovery teams to work in specific areas and help direct services to the where there are needs. The San Diego Regional Disaster Fund's

environmental work will focus on four areas: debris removal and erosion control, environmental health monitoring and abatement, environmental monitoring and rehabilitation of sensitive species and habitats, and restoration of recreational amenities in parks and open space areas. There are grants open now for all areas, and there are over \$20 million in grants from a number of different organizations available for fire recovery.

6. FY 2008 Land Management Grants: Eligibility and Prioritization Criteria

Due to uncertainty over possible conflicts, this item was moved to the March 11, 2008, meeting.

7. Conserved Land Database Status

Due to time constraints, this item was moved to a future agenda.

8. Adjourn

Vice Chair Oberbauer adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2008 from 11 to 3 p.m. The focus from 11 to 12:30 p.m. will be on the land management grant criteria and from 1 to 3 p.m. the focus will be the forum on habitat management and fire safety.

San Diego Association of Governments
ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
WORKING GROUP

March 11, 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **4**

Action Requested: DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION

FY 2008 LAND MANAGEMENT GRANTS:
ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

File Number 3002700

On February 22, 2008, the SANDAG Board will take action on a set of recommendations from the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) on land management and monitoring activities for FY 2008. This includes, if approved, \$2.9 million for land management activities related to “invasive control, post-fire recovery, restoration, and access control.” In FY 2006, an allocation of \$750,000 was approved by the SANDAG Board for land management activities using established eligibility and prioritization criteria. A select group of Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) members who were not seeking funding on behalf of their organization and SANDAG staff, reviewed and ranked the proposals. The list of ranked projects were recommended by the EMPWG and the RPC, and ratified by the Board of Directors.

The EMPWG is requested to review the FY 2006 Call for Land Management Projects (Attachment 1) and determine: (1) if they would like to recommend any changes to the eligibility or prioritization criteria, (2) select an ad hoc group of EMPWG members who were not seeking funding to work with SANDAG staff on ranking the proposals, and (3) determine if the Call for Projects should be limited to the proposed FY 2008 funding (\$2.9 million), or also be used for any FY 2009 funding for land management funding approved by the SANDAG Board. The later approach would develop a ranked list of projects for funds allocated in FYs 2008 and 2009. This would avoid the need for a Call for Projects in FY 2009.

The SANDAG Board will need to approve any eligibility or prioritization criteria prior to a Call for Projects. The SANDAG Board also would need to ratify the list of prioritized projects.

Attachment: 1. FY 2006 Funding for Onsite Land Management Projects

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



401 B Street, Suite 800
 San Diego, CA 92101-4231
 (619) 699-1900
 Fax (619) 699-1905
 www.sandag.org

December 19, 2005

TO: Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) Working Group
 Members & SANDAG Member Jurisdictions

FROM: Councilmember Carrie Downey, Chair EMP Working Group

SUBJECT: FY 06 FUNDING FOR ON-SITE LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

MEMBER AGENCIES

Cities of
 Carlsbad
 Chula Vista
 Coronado
 Del Mar
 El Cajon
 Encinitas
 Escondido
 Imperial Beach
 La Mesa
 Lemon Grove
 National City
 Oceanside
 Poway
 San Diego
 San Marcos
 Santee
 Solana Beach
 Vista
 and
 County of San Diego

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Imperial County
 California Department
 of Transportation
 Metropolitan
 Transit System
 North San Diego County
 Transit Development Board
 United States
 Department of Defense
 San Diego
 Unified Port District
 San Diego County
 Water Authority
 Mexico

On December 16, 2005, the SANDAG Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Regional Planning Committee and the EMP Working Group to allocate up to \$750,000 on key components of the regional preserve system in need of land management. The funds are part of the *TransNet Extension Ordinance and Expenditure Plan* approved by the voters on November 2, 2004. This expenditure is in keeping with guidelines developed for the implementation of the EMP and approved by the SANDAG Board on September 24, 2004.

The Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) and the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP) require that the habitat preserve system be managed in order to sustain biological resources. Land management activities are determined based on the needs of each property within the preserve. Land management activities can include: removing exotic species, picking up trash, maintaining trails, building and repairing fences, weeding vernal pools, and erosion control.

Attached to this memo are the program description, eligible activities, process for allocating funds, schedule, eligibility criteria, weighting criteria, and application form. **The application form is due to SANDAG at the close of business on January 19, 2006.** The application form must be signed by a City Manager, the County's Chief Administrative Officer (or his designee), or, for non-governmental members of the working group, the Director of the organization represented on the working group.

Please submit the application form to Janet Fairbanks at SANDAG, 401 B Street, Suite 800, San Diego, California, 92101.

**ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM FY 06 EXPENDITURES –
PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND INSTRUCTIONS**

Program Description

The *TransNet Extension* Ordinance and Expenditure Plan, as approved by the voters on November 2, 2004, includes an Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) which is a funding allocation category for the costs to mitigate habitat impacts for regional transportation projects. The EMP is a unique component of the *TransNet Extension* in that it goes beyond traditional mitigation for transportation projects by including a funding allocation for habitat acquisition, management and monitoring activities as needed to help implement the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) and the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP). This funding allocation is tied to mitigation requirements and the environmental clearance approval process for projects outlined in the Regional Transportation Plan (Mobility 2030).

On September 24, 2004, the SANDAG Board of Directors approved EMP implementation guidelines. These guidelines serve as the initial steps in the process for preparing the required agreements with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game.

One of the guidelines provides that \$1 million for management and monitoring implementation activities should be allocated in FY 2006.

Eligible Activities

SANDAG is calling for projects for on-site land management activities. Activities can include (but are not limited to): removing exotic species, picking up trash, maintaining trails, building and repairing fences, weeding vernal pools, and erosion control. Land management activities are determined based on the needs of each property within the preserve.

How Much Funding Is Available?

On December 16, 2005, the SANDAG Board of Directors approved the following budget for FY 2006 EMP funds:

TOTAL FY 2006 EMP BUDGET:	
A. Develop a database of conserved lands for the San Diego Region	\$100,000 - \$125,000
B. Conduct post wildfire monitoring in response to the 2003 wildfires	\$100,000 - \$150,000
C. Fund on-site land management	Up to \$750,000
TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED:	\$1,000,000

SANDAG Board of Directors determined that up to \$750,000 would be available for land management activities. The remaining funds will be spent to develop a conserved lands database and conduct post wildfire monitoring. These two projects will be developed through agreements with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Geological Survey.

Process for Allocating the Funds

The SANDAG Board of Directors is requesting that members of the EMP Working Group and the cities and the county complete the attached application form for land management projects that meet the eligibility criteria.

Applications will be accepted from members of the working group and member jurisdictions of SANDAG (the County of San Diego and the eighteen incorporated cities). Applications must be signed by City Managers, the County's Chief Administrative Officer (or his designee), or, for non-governmental members of the working group, the Director of the organization represented on the working group.

Please note that the applicant must be willing and authorized to enter into a three-way agreement with SANDAG and the USFWS. The applicant will agree to prepare a scope of work based on the land management tasks identified in the application, and the USFWS will agree to monitor the work and provide assurance to SANDAG that the terms of the agreement have been adhered to prior to payment for performance.

The applicant must own the land, or be designated to manage the land by the land owner. The land owner and land manager must be identified on the application form.

Who Will Score The Projects?

A selection committee made up of EMP Working Group members and/or other qualified individuals who do not have an affiliation with any proposed project. The selection committee may include people with knowledge of the regional preserve system and the MSCP and the MHCP.

Proposed Schedule

January 19, 2006 – Applications are due to SANDAG.

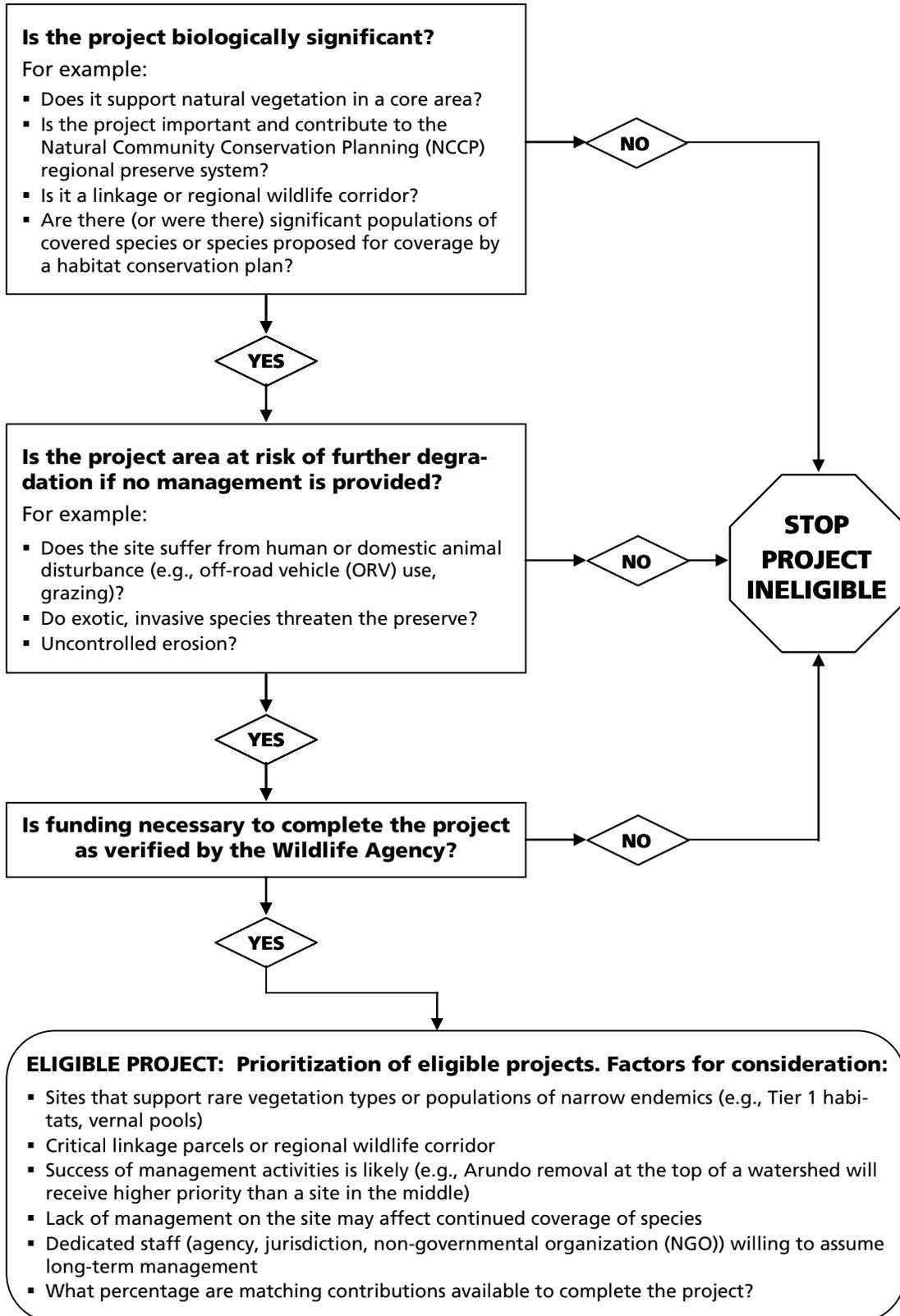
January 10, 2006 – The EMP Working Group appoints a selection committee following the qualifications listed above.

February 14, 2006 – The EMP working group meets to review the selection committee's recommendation and forward a recommendation on to the Regional Planning Committee.

March 3, 2006 – The Regional Planning Committee will be asked to approve a list of land management projects.

March 24, 2006 – The SANDAG Board of Directors will be asked to ratify the list of projects.

EMP Criteria For Eligible Management Projects (FY 06 Funding)



Criteria for Project Eligibility

Biological Significance

1. Does the property support natural vegetation in a core area? **Yes or** **No**
If yes, list the habitats contained on the property:
2. Does the property contribute to the NCCP regional preserve system? **Yes or** **No**
3. Is the property a linkage or regional wildlife corridor? **Yes or** **No**
4. Are there or were there significant populations of covered species or species proposed for coverage by a habitat conservation plan? **Yes or** **No**
If yes, please list the species:

Risk

1. Does the site suffer from natural, human, or domestic animal disturbance (e.g., off-road vehicle use, grazing, fire, flooding, and/or feral cats)? **Yes or** **No**
If yes, list the type(s) of disturbance:
2. Do exotic, invasive species threaten the preserve? **Yes or** **No**
If yes, list the species:
3. Is there uncontrolled erosion? **Yes or** **No**
If yes, identify the source if possible:

Project Eligibility Evaluation and Ranking

Note: Do not fill out this section. This section is to be used by the project evaluation committee

Name of Property: _____

Name of Reviewer: _____

Project Evaluation Criteria	Point Range	Weight	Maximum Score Possible	Total Score
Site supports rare vegetation types or populations of narrow endemics (e.g., Tier 1 habitats, vernal pools).	0-5	4	20	
Critical linkage parcels or in regional wildlife corridor.	0-5	4	20	
Long term success of management activities is likely.	0-5	4	20	
Lack of management on site may affect coverage of species.	0-5	5	25	
Dedicated staff (agency, jurisdiction, NGO) willing to assume long-term management.	0-5	3	15	
Sufficient matching funds available to complete the project?	0-5	2	10	
Total			110	

San Diego Association of Governments
ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
WORKING GROUP

March 11, 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **5**

Action Requested: DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION

FIRE FORUM: HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND FIRE SAFETY

File Number 3002700

At their January meeting, the SANDAG Board requested that Regional Planning Committee (RPC) address the issue of fire safety along the urban interface with the regional habitat open space areas. The RPC on February 2, 2008, requested that this matter be deferred to the Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group and that a public forum be held on regional habitat management and fire safety. The public forum was to include interested SANDAG Board members, members from the RPC, fire safety officials, environmental interest groups, and other interested stakeholders.

The public forum will address: (1) pending state legislation to address wildland fire safety in Southern California, (2) the existing requirements under the regional habitat conservation plans for managing habitat for fire safety, and (3) panel discussion of expert fire science and fire safety officials who will address the lessons learned from the 2003 and 2007 wildfires.

The forum will provide information to the Working Group about effective ways to minimize fire risk along the urban interface with native habitat in order to make an informed recommendation(s) to the Regional Planning Committee on this topic.

Attachment: 1. Fire Forum Agenda

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

**MARCH 11, 2008, ENVIRONMENT MITIGATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP
FIRE FORUM AGENDA**

Outline of Presentation

Introduction: Honorable Mickey Cafagna, Mayor Poway (invited)

1. **Legislative Actions:** Deanna Spehn, Senior Policy Advisor for Senator Kehoe – Summary of proposed Senator Christine Kehoe bill and other legislative actions.
2. **Habitat Conservation Plans:** Susan Wynn, USFWS – Summary of the requirements of the regional habitat conservation plans and fire management.

Panel Presentation: (5 to 10 minutes each)

3. **Fire Science:** Rick Halsey, California Chaparral Institute – Fire ecology and effective fuel management.
4. **Fire Safety:** George Lucia, Sr., Fire Marshal, Valley Center Fire Protection District - Fire safety, defensible space, and what can be done around structures to reduce fire risk and protect fire safety personnel.
5. **Fire Safe Structures:** Brad Remp, Assistant Director/Deputy Building Official of Planning and Building, Chula Vista - Fire safety for existing and new buildings and structures.
6. **Summary:** Dr. Anne Fege, San Diego Fire Recovery Network – Unifying themes for habitat management and fire safety.

Discussion/Questions and Answers (60 minutes)