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MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP

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

November 13, 2008

1 to 2 p.m.

SANDAG, 8th Floor Conference Room A
 401 B Street, Suite 800
 San Diego, CA 92101-4231

Staff Contact: Keith Greer
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AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- **CONSERVED LANDS DATABASE STAKEHOLDER REVIEW**
- **REGIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

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ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP

November 13, 2008

ITEM #		RECOMMENDATION
1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Chair, Mayor Pro Tem Carrie Downey, City of Coronado)	
+2.	MEETING SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2008 Review and approve the meeting summary of the September 9, 2008.	APPROVE
3.	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
+4.	STATUS OF EMPWG ACTIVITIES (Keith Greer, SANDAG) On September 26, 2008, the SANDAG Board of Directors approved 13 land management grants, an updated five-year funding strategy and FY 09 funding, and criteria and process for advance mitigation. Mr. Greer will provide a status of these activities to the Working Group.	INFORMATION
5.	CONSERVED LANDS DATABASE STAKEHOLDER REVIEW (Grace Chung, SANDAG) SANDAG has developed a database of conserved lands in the San Diego region and is requesting review by stakeholders to help correct, revise, and update the database. A web-based application has been developed to assist stakeholders in the review process. Ms. Chung will present how the database will be made available for review and how to provide SANDAG with corrections and updates.	INFORMATION
+6.	RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP (EMPWG) AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION FUNDING (Keith Greer, SANDAG) A request was made to the EMP Working Group at its September 9, 2008, meeting to review the range of options for the habitat conservation component of a potential regional funding measure. The Working Group asked a subcommittee to review the options and make a recommendation for consideration by the Working Group. Vice Chair Oberbauer will present the recommendations of the subcommittee.	DISCUSSION/ POSSIBLE ACTION

ITEM #

RECOMMENDATION

7. ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURN

INFORMATION

+ next to an item indicates an attachment

NOTE: THE EMP WORKING GROUP MEETING WILL BE ADJOURNED AT 2 P.M.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORKING GROUP MEETING, MR. RON REMPEL (REGIONAL ENTITY PROGRAM DEVELOPER) WILL BE HOSTING A WORKSHOP TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL ENTITY FOR MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING.

San Diego Association of Governments
ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
WORKING GROUP

November 13, 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **2**

Action Requested: APPROVE

MEETING SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

File Number 3002700

Members in Attendance:

Hon. Carrie Downey, (Chair), City of Coronado
Tom Oberbauer (Vice Chair), County of San Diego
Anne Harvey, San Diego Conservation Network
Matt Adams, Building Industry Association
Bruce April, Caltrans
Michael Beck, Endangered Habitats League
Jim Whalen, Alliance for Habitat Conservation
Debbie Townsend, Wildlife Conservation Board
Robert Fisher, USGS
Betsy Miller, (alternate) City of San Diego
Mike Grim, City of Carlsbad, North County Coastal
David Mayer, California Department of Fish and Game
Mary Small, California Coastal Conservancy
Kathy Viatella, the Nature Conservancy
Marisa Lundstedt, City of Chula Vista, South County
Susan Wynn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Diane Rosenberg (alternate), The San Diego Foundation

SANDAG Staff in Attendance:

Rob Rundle
Keith Greer
Sue Carnevale
Grace Chung
Muggs Stoll

Others in Attendance:

Anne Fege, San Diego Natural History Museum
Shirley Innecker, SCWRP
Jeff Lincer
Greg Mason, Helix Environmental
Steve Juarez, California Department of Fish and Game
Jason Giessow
Bruce Hanson, EDAW

Clark Winchell, USFWS
Ron Rempel
Brenda Johnson, California Department of Fish and Game
Steve Newton-Reed, California Department of Fish and Game
Tony McKinney, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Trish Boaz, County of San Diego, Parks and Recreation
Ed Pert, California Department of Fish and Game
LeAnn Carmichael, County of San Diego, DPLU
Carlton Rochester, USGS
Ken Devore, California Department of Fish and Game
Elise Watson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jennifer Pollock, USGS
Tom Lupo, California Department of Fish and Game
Libby Lucus, California Department of Fish and Game

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Hon. Carrie Downey, City of Coronado, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., and welcomed the group.

2. July 8 Meeting Summary

The meeting minutes were changed to reflect that Working Group members who submitted grant applications recused themselves from voting and left the meeting. Michael Beck indicated that he was missing from the ad hoc subcommittee on management plans and would like to be added.

Mike Grim, City of Carlsbad, motioned to approve the summary. Kathy Viatella, The Nature Conservancy, seconded the motioned, which carried without opposition.

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. There were no public comments.

4. Status of *TransNet* EMPWG's July Recommendations

Mr. Greer provided the status of recommendations made by the EMPWG at its July meeting regarding (1) Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 land management grants, (2) an updated five-year funding strategy and FY 09 funding, and (3) criteria and process for advance mitigation.

Mr. Greer indicated that these items were unanimously approved by the Regional Planning Committee in August and the FY 2008 land management grants were supported by ITOC on September 10, 2008. The SANDAG Board of Directors will review and take action on these items at its September 26, 2008 meeting.

5. Regional Coordinating Entity for Management and Monitoring

Mr. Ron Rempel was introduced to the EMPWG. Mr. Rempel was hired through a competitive selection process by SANDAG to serve as the Program Developer for the creation of a potential Regional Management and Monitoring Entity. Mr. Rempel is in the information gathering stage and will be making recommendations to an Executive Oversight Committee and the EMP Working Group over the next 12 months. Mr. Rempel indicated that he has met with many members of the Working Group and stakeholders, and is setting up meetings with others. He envisions future workshops on focused topics related to the management and monitoring entity. Mr. Rempel provided his contact e-mail rrempel@msn.com.

6. Quality Of Life Funding Activities

Mr. Rob Rundle of SANDAG provided an update on the Quality of Life Investments effort. Mr. Rundle provided a background on the various infrastructures that are being considered in the Quality of Life Investments effort and how they are related to the Regional Comprehensive Plan. In 2006, the SANDAG Board of Directors started to address regional infrastructure included in the Regional Comprehensive Plan that was not being addressed by another entity. The SANDAG Board of Directors identified that stormwater, beach sand replenishment, and habitat conservation were three areas that did not have an identified funding source. Transit operations was another area that the Board of Directors wanted to address the lack of full funding.

The SANDAG Board of Directors wants to look at a comprehensive strategy to address these infrastructure investments. In July 2008, Senate Bill 1685 passed providing the legal authority to place a measure on a future ballot to fund these infrastructure investments, if a ballot measure was determined to be the most appropriate funding strategy.

Rob reminded the EMPWG of its effort to identify a range of alternative investments for habitat conservation that ranged from \$1.6 billion to \$3.8 billion. This range was provided to the SANDAG Board at its retreat in January 2008. Rob requested that the EMPWG discuss these options and funding levels, with the goal of providing a recommendation by consensus to the Board on the necessary investment level for habitat conservation. This is being requested for all the proposed infrastructure investments.

The SANDAG Board has established an ad hoc policy steering committee that will meet monthly. The policy steering committee has identified the need for a stakeholder committee. The ad hoc committee meeting schedule can be viewed at: <http://www.sandag.org/index.asp?committeeid=91&fuseaction=committees.detail>.

Questions were asked about when public polling was going to take place. Polling would take place after the stakeholder committee was formed so they would have a chance to review and shape the polling efforts. Mr. Whalen indicated that during the 2004 *TransNet* effort, \$1.2 million was needed to help develop the campaign to educate and generate public support. This funding must come from private, not public, sources.

Rob indicated that the Executive Director wants to have a successful measure. This will require all the stakeholders to formulate a strategy (timing and content) with the best chance for success.

The EMPWG asked the ad hoc subcommittee on management plans to address the necessary funding level for habitat conservation during October and report back to the full committee in November.

7. State and Regional Biological Database Coordination

Mr. Tom Lupo of the California Department of Fish and Game presented the Biogeographical Information and Observation System (BIOS) to the Working Group. The promotion of integrated regional, state, and federal database systems is one of the work elements in the EMPWG Work Plan. Mr. Lupo described the multi-party effort to develop a coordinate effort to obtain, manage, and warehouse biological resource data.

Goals of the project are to:

1. Establish single long-term data warehouse;
2. Create an organized unified system for analysis purposes;
3. Provide a mechanism for public distribution; and
4. Create single database design.

In addition to new data, historical biological data (legacy data) has been and is being collected. The public can view the data through the BIOS website www.BIOS.dfg.gov. Different levels of access to data are available depending on the user's security. Tom walked through the BIOS viewer application and customized bookmarks. He showed the CALFISH site (<http://www.calfish.org>) as a way to go to a Web site that has a portal to view BIOS data preloaded for the specific interest of the user. A similar "front page" could be done for the San Diego regional NCCPs.

Future work includes creating a process to download data (if the data contributor has indicated it is available for public distribution). A future big challenge is the creation of a single multi-tax database (Goal 4), which creates a standardized database structure without losing data from the contributors. An operational database has been developed and is being tested. What is missing is an online tool for working to upload data to the database.

Robert Fisher indicated the need to have data collected in the future that has consistent metadata and a standardized format. It was clarified that BIOS would be used for data storage and data management. Data collection and analysis would be done outside of BIOS, but collected consistent with the structure for inclusion into BIOS. It is possible that the proposed regional entity could utilize BIOS for analysis. It was stressed that agreed-upon monitoring protocols was critical, but outside of the BIOS effort.

8. Agenda for September 9, 2008, Meeting and Adjourn

The EMP Working Group decided not to meet in October and allow the ad hoc subcommittee to meet to develop a recommendation on habitat conservation funding.

Chair Downey adjourned the meeting at 2:46 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2008, from 1 to 3 pm.

STATUS OF EMP CONSERVATION FUND PROJECTS

November 13, 2008

Regional Habitat Conservation Fund Grants FY 2006				
Contractor	Project	Funding Encumbered	General Land Management/Monitoring Activities	Status
SANDAG/USFWS	Conserved Lands Database	125,000	Development of a parcel-level database of lands conserved in the region for the protection of natural resources, habitats, and open space.	Draft Database to be distributed to stakeholder over next month
USGS	Post Fire Monitoring	125,000	Monitoring of flora and faunal changes as a result of the October 2003 wildfires.	Completed
City and County of San Diego	Land Management Grants	264,006	Vernal Pools - invasive control, dethatching, fencing, reshaping vernal pools, reintroduction	Initial report complete. Restoration will start over next year
County of San Diego	Land Management Grants	70,750	Lakeside Linkages - fencing, access control, trash removal, signage	Completed
US Fish and Wildlife Refuge System	Land Management Grants	108,000	USFWS Refuge - invasive control, dethatching, seed collection, reshaping vernal pools, reintroduction	Completed
City of Encinitas/CNLM	Land Management Grants	52,744	Manchester Mitigation Bank - erosion control, hydrology study	Completed
San Dieguito River Park JPA	Land Management Grants	50,000	Lake Hodges, Bernardo Mnt - habitat rehabilitation, invasive and erosion control, bio surveys, trail maint.	Completed
Back Country Land Trust	Land Management Grants	39,000	Wrights Field - fencing and access control	Completed
City of San Diego	Land Management Grants	23,000	Crest Canyon - access control to protect sensitive resources	In progress
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy	Land Management Grants	142,500	Indian Head Canyon/ Rancho Carrillo - invasive control, re-vegetation	Completed
Regional Habitat Conservation Fund Grants FY 2007				
USFWS	Calif Gnatcatcher Monitoring	295,000	Conduct a regional survey of the California gnatcatcher to estimate population size.	Completed
USGS	Post Fire Monitoring	399,970	Continued monitoring of flora and faunal changes as a result of the October 2003 and 2007 wildfires.	Completed
USFWS	Calif Gnatcatcher Monitoring	440,000	Conduct a regional survey of the California gnatcatcher to estimate population size.	Contract executed
USGS	Post Fire Monitoring	649,399	Continued monitoring of flora and faunal changes as a result of the October 2003 and 2007 wildfires.	Contract executed
R.D. Remple	Program Developer	150,000	Hire a contractor to lead the development of a regional entity for regional land management and monitoring.	Contract executed
USFWS	Cactus Wren Monitoring	150,000	Map and monitoring the status of the remaining coastal cactus wren habitat in San Diego Cty.	Contract executed
USGS	Rare Plant Monitoring	100,000	Complete protocols for monitoring rare plants per past recommendations of USGS as part of the revisions to rare plant monitoring protocols.	Contract executed
RFP	Invasive Species Mapping	200,000	Development of detailed GIS database of invasive plant species in San Diego Co.	Scope of work to be developed.
TBD	Burrowing Owl Distribution	65,000	Map distribution of burrowing owls in San Diego Co.	Scope of work being developed.
TBD	Rare Butterfly Survey	50,000	Regional surveys for one or more rare butterfly species.	Scope of work being developed.
TBD	Management Coordinator	150,000	Contractor to coordinate regional land management activities.	Program Developer is scoped to propose how to hire this contractor.
TBD	Monitoring Coordinator	150,000	Contractor to coordinate regional land monitoring activities.	Program Developer is scoped to propose how to hire this contractor.
TBD	Vegetation Mapping	150,000	Update outdated regional vegetation mapping with new vegetation classification system.	Oversight Committee has met twice to scope out project and budget
SDSU	Vegetation Monitoring	145,000	Continue with regional vegetation monitoring protocols.	Contract executed
Mission Resource Conservation District	Land Management Grants	354,300	Invasive control project in two large watersheds. Proven success. Fund for four years.	Contract is being processed
San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority	Land Management Grants	347,090	Important regional corridor and linkage. Submitted a line item budget for invasive control, restoration and access management. Fund select items.	Contract is being processed
City San Diego Water Department Proctor Valley Access Control	Land Management Grants	325,754	Key access area for unauthorized off-highway vehicle (OHV) access. Needed to protect vernal pools and access to federal and state refuge land.	Contract is being processed

Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association	Land Management Grants	149,437	Important area but large funding request. Proven success. Large funds requested for one year. Funding reduced with recommendation to submit for future years.	Contract is being processed
San Elijo Lagoon Foundation Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit	Land Management Grants	279,950	Invasive control project. Large area. Proven success. Fund for three years.	Contract is being processed
United States Geological Survey (USGS) Pond Turtles Restoration	Land Management Grants	151,463	Key declining covered species. Request the USGS work with tribes to gain access to additional enhancement areas.	Contract is being processed
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (SDNWR) Cactus Wren Recovery	Land Management Grants	180,070	Coastal cactus wren project. High priority area.	Contract is being processed
City of Chula Vista Cactus Wren Restoration	Land Management Grants	373,048	Coastal cactus wren project. High priority area.	Contract is being processed
County San Diego Salt Creek Recovery	Land Management Grants	125,000	Coastal cactus wren project. High priority area.	Contract is being processed
Fallbrook Land Conservancy Margarita Peak Preserve	Land Management Grants	19,950	Small funding request. Very cost effective project to control OHV use.	Contract is being processed
San Pasqual River Restoration	Land Management Grants	45,000	Small requested amount. 300% of matching funds. Critical corridor. Need funds to complete project.	Contract is being processed
Ground Works Chollas Creek Cactus Wren	Land Management Grants	240,700	Coastal cactus wren project. High priority area - extent populations.	Contract is being processed
SDNWR Shinohara Vernal Pools	Land Management Grants	308,238	Continuation of existing vernal pool project. Needs continued weeding to keep weeds from invading created vernal pools. Thirty new pools to be created.	Contract is being processed
Regional Habitat Conservation Fund Grants FY 2009				
USGS	Post Fire Monitoring	550,000	Continued monitoring of flora and faunal changes as a result of the Oct 2003 & 2007 wildfires.	Contract amendment would be processed
R.D. Remple	Program Developer	150,000	Continuation of Program Developer contract.	Contract extension would be processed
USFWS	Cactus Wren Monitoring	150,000	Continuation of Cactus Wren Monitoring	Contract amendment would be processed
USGS	Rare Plant Monitoring	200,000	Continuation of rare plant monitoring	Contract amendment would be processed
TBD	Invasive Species Mapping	50,000	Continuation of invasive species mapping	Contract amendment would be processed
TBD	Burrowing Owl Distribution	80,000	Continuation of burrowing owl work	Contract amendment would be processed
TBD	Rare Butterfly Survey	120,000	Regional surveys for one or more rare butterfly species.	Scope of work to be developed.
TBD	Management Coordinator	150,000	Continuation of Management Coordinator contract.	Contract extension would be processed
TBD	Monitoring Coordinator	150,000	Continuation of Monitoring Coordinator contract.	Contract extension would be processed
TBD	Vegetation Mapping	150,000	Continuation of Vegetation Mapping effort	Oversight Committee has met twice to scope out project and budget
SDSU	Vegetation Monitoring	150,000	Continue of regional vegetation monitoring contract	Contract amendment would be processed
TBD	GIS Specialist	150,000	Hire of a GIS specialist to work with regional entity	Scope of work to be developed.
TBD	Enforcement	220,000	Seed money to assist with enforcement on open space lands.	Scope of work to be developed.
TBD	Wildlife Corridor Monitoring	100,000	Funding to assist in wildlife corridor monitoring	Scope of work to be developed.
RFP	Land Management Grants	1,630,000	Land Management Grants	RFP out in November

San Diego Association of Governments
ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
WORKING GROUP

November 13, 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **6**

Action Requested: DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION
PROGRAM WORKING GROUP (EMPWG) AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE
ON REGIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION FUNDING

File Number 3002700

Introduction

At the September 9, 2008, Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) meeting a request was made by SANDAG staff to have the Working Group review the range of investment options for habitat conservation presented to the SANDAG Board at its 2008 retreat and make a recommendation to refine the necessary funding requirements. The EMPWG selected an ad hoc subcommittee to review the options and the associated cost and make a recommendation to the EMPWG at its November meeting. The ad hoc subcommittee met on October 14, 2008, and consisted of Michael Beck, Susan Wynn, David Mayer, Betsy Miller, James Whalen, and was chaired by Vice Chair Thomas Oberbauer.

Discussion

The ad hoc subcommittee focused on providing recommendations to key policy questions that were presented at the January SANDAG Board of Directors retreat. Establishing a position on these questions allows for the determination of the necessary investment level for habitat conservation. The following are the policy questions and the ad hoc committee's responses/recommendations:

- Should a standardized management plan be developed with generic costs for the purposes of estimating regional funding needs? If so, should an independent third party be contracted to develop these costs?

EMP Subcommittee Response: Yes, a subcommittee has already been established to discuss what should be included in habitat management plans. This subcommittee will be meeting over the next few months to develop a proposal to the EMP Working Group. No, the subcommittee feels that the financial model and the estimates on cost have been validated by outside sources, they are robust, and any additional analysis would not yield significantly different results.

- Should a regional funding source include an endowment for perpetual management and monitoring? If no endowment is developed, what is proposed at the end of the current funding measure?

EMP Subcommittee Response: The regional funding source should yield a perpetual funding source. The method (e.g., endowment, perpetual tax, etc.) should be open for discussion.

- Should the jurisdictions be required to maintain their current level of effort regarding open space management? If so, how do you establish equity amongst the jurisdictions?

EMP Subcommittee Response: The regional conservation plans rely upon the promise of a regional funding source. Some jurisdictions have active open space divisions and/or stable funding sources (i.e., non-general fund). The subcommittee feels that the regional funding source should cover the biological management and monitoring cost, and one-half of the land (stewardship) management cost on lands conserved as part of the NCCP. The regional funding source would be a match to the jurisdictions or other land manager's management cost as required by the conservation plans.

- Should the regional funding provide the funds for basic land management of private property dedicated to a jurisdiction through a development entitlement process?

EMP Subcommittee Response: Yes, one-half of the cost as described above.

- Should a regional funding source include a contingency for unforeseen events? If a contingency is desirable, should it be generated from the proposed land management funding until an established threshold is met?

EMP Subcommittee Response: Yes, a 10% contingency should be included. It should build up to a predetermined amount, and then funds should be redirected towards other management and/or monitoring efforts until the fund used drops below the predetermined amount. The amount of the contingency cap would need to be determined.

- Should the local jurisdictions provide for the program administration costs?

EMP Subcommittee Response: Yes, one-half of the land management cost only as described above.

The Subcommittee recommendations would result in the following funding needs:

EMPWG Ad Hoc Subcommittee Recommendation Option

Totals (2008\$)^a	Average Annual	40-Year Total (in millions)
One-time Costs: Land Acquisition, Restoration and Start Up	\$11,632,574	\$465
Totals (2008\$)^b	Annual Recurring Cost	40-Year Total (in millions)
Annual Reoccurring Costs: Habitat Management and Monitoring	\$22,132,307	\$885
Annual Program Administration	\$2,213,231	\$88.5
Contingency (10%) on Management and Monitoring	\$2,434,554	\$97
Annual Payment into Perpetual Endowment assuming a 3% inflation adjusted rate of return	\$16,395,050	\$1,236
Stewardship Management on Lands Conserved through Entitlement Process	Included above	Included above
Total Annual Cost	\$54,807,716	N/A
40 Years (2010 - 2050)		\$2,772

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

^a All costs are in 2008\$. Actual contributions would need to rise to off-set inflation.

^b All costs are in 2008\$. Actual contributions would need to rise to off-set inflation.