



# MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

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## ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP

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

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

1 to 3 p.m.

SANDAG, 7th Floor Conference Room  
401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101

Staff Contact: Keith Greer  
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keith.greer@sandag.org

### AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- STATUS OF QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVE
- STATUS OF LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT GRANT AND REQUEST FOR FORMATION OF AD HOC EVALUATION COMMITTEE
- GOLDEN EAGLE RESEARCH IN SAN DIEGO
- SOUTH COAST MULTI-TAXA DATABASE

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# ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

ITEM NO.		RECOMMENDATION
1.	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Chair, SANDAG Board Member, Terry Sinnott, City of Del Mar Council Member)</b>	
+2.	<b>APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES</b> The Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) is asked to review and approve the minutes from its October 14, 2014, meeting.	<b>APPROVE</b> Estimated Start Time: 1 – 1:05 p.m.
3.	<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS</b> Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the EMPWG on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Working Group. Speakers are limited to three minutes each.	Estimated Start Time: 1:05 – 1:10 p.m.
4.	<b>STATUS OF QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVE (Rob Rundle, SANDAG)</b> The Quality of Life Initiative is being developed by SANDAG to address unfunded infrastructure needs such as habitat preservation, storm water runoff, and transit. Mr. Rundle will provide the current status of this initiative and how it will be addressed at the 2015 SANDAG Board of Directors annual retreat.	<b>INFORMATION</b> Estimated Start Time: 1:10 – 1:30 p.m.
5.	<b>STATUS OF LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT GRANT AND REQUEST FOR FORMATION OF AD HOC EVALUATION COMMITTEE (Keith Greer, SANDAG)</b> SANDAG is currently processing two grant efforts under the Environmental Mitigation Program. Mr. Greer will provide a status update on both grant programs and recommend that SANDAG staff members of the EMPWG serve on an ad hoc working group to review and evaluate the land management grants received on January 6, 2015.	<b>RECOMMEND</b> Estimated Start Time: 1:30 – 1:50 p.m.
6.	<b>GOLDEN EAGLE RESEARCH IN SAN DIEGO (Dr. Robert Fisher and Dr. Jeff Tracy, U.S. Geological Survey)</b> SANDAG is funding a portion of a larger effort to look at the status, distribution, and demography of golden eagles in San Diego County. Dr. Robert Fisher and Dr. Jeff Tracy will provide initial results of the eagle captures, GPS tracking of movement, and next steps in this project.	<b>INFORMATION</b> Estimated Start Time: 1:50 – 2:20 p.m.
7.	<b>SOUTH COAST MULTI-TAXA DATABASE (Dr. Robert Fisher, U.S. Geological Survey)</b> The U.S. Geological Survey has been developing the South Coast Multi-taxa Database (SC-MTX) to serve as a single repository, archival, and retrieval system for biological data collected in south California. The SC-MTX is ready for public users and Dr. Robert Fisher will provide a demonstration.	<b>DISCUSSION</b> Estimated Start Time: 2:20 – 2:50 p.m.
8.	<b>UPCOMING MEETINGS</b> The next meeting of the EMPWG is scheduled for March 10, 2015, from 1 to 3 p.m.	<b>INFORMATION</b> Estimated Start Time: 2:50 – 3 p.m.

+ next to an agenda item indicates an attachment

**San Diego Association of Governments**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP**

January 13, 2015

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **2**

**Action Requested: APPROVE**

OCTOBER 14, 2014, MEETING MINUTES

File Number 3200100

The meeting of the Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) was called to order by Vice Chair Mike Grim (City of Carlsbad) at 1:08 p.m.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Attendance sheet is attached.

2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 12, 2014, MEETING MINUTES (APPROVE)

Attendees from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and Wildlife Conservation Board were added to the attendance sheet for the August meeting minutes, as they had been inadvertently omitted.

Action: With the correction made, Michael Beck, Endangered Habitat League, motioned to approve the meeting minutes for August 12, 2014, and Glen Laube, City of Chula Vista, seconded the motion. The motion carried without opposition.

Yes: Mike Grim (City of Carlsbad), James Whalen (Alliance for Habitat Conservation), Susan Wynn (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Robert Fisher (USGS), Anne Harvey (San Diego Conservation Network), Jeanne Krosch (City of San Diego), Bobbie Stephenson (County of San Diego), Trish Smith (The Nature Conservancy), Richard Van Sant (Army Corps of Engineers), Kim Smith (Caltrans), Michael Beck, and Glen Laube. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: City of Oceanside, Building Industry Association, California Coastal Conservancy, City of Escondido, City of Poway, City of Santee, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the San Diego Foundation.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Keith Greer (SANDAG) gave an announcement that parking would be available for three hours plus in order to cover those attending the South County Land Management meeting taking place directly after the Environmental Planning Working Group.

Mr. Greer introduced Katie Day, the new environmental planning intern at SANDAG.

Mr. Greer informed the room that Paul Fromer (San Diego Management and Monitoring Program [SDMMP]) will be the new SDMMP administrator, replacing the current administrator, Ron Rempel, starting November 1, 2014.

Mr. Fisher gave an announcement that the new USGS data entry system for data base management is planned to be available for use and will be introduced at the January EMPWG, but needed additional testing. He asked if anyone would be interested in volunteering to beta test the system to find bugs. Those interested should talk to him after the meeting.

## **REPORTS**

### **4. *TransNet* ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM: LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR SEVENTH CYCLE OF GRANT FUNDING (INFORMATION)**

Mr. Greer discussed the upcoming events pertaining to the call for projects for the seventh cycle of Land Management Grants. He announced that the SANDAG Board of Directors approved \$1.5 million for the seventh grant cycle on September 26, 2014. Over 300 interested parties were informed of the grant's availability on October 1, 2014, via email. The committee was encouraged to forward the notification to other interested parties. The call for projects is open for 90 days from October 1, 2014, to the deadline on January 6, 2015. A workshop will be held on November 6, 2014, at 9 a.m. in the SANDAG board room to discuss eligibility requirements, resources, and tools available for the application process, as well as to answer questions from potential applicants. Mr. Greer showed exactly where the application package is located on the Public Notices page of the SANDAG website and how to download the PDF. Mr. Greer then explained the evaluation process, which will follow similar years of recommendations by the EMPWG followed by the Regional Planning and Transportation Committees for a recommendation to the SANDAG Board of Directors. The goal is to have an executed contract by fall 2015, prior to the spring growing season.

### **5. ONLINE CONSERVATION TOOLS: CONSERVED LANDS DATABASE AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN TRACKER (INFORMATION)**

Grace Chung (SANDAG) introduced and demonstrated how to use the new interactive online web mapping tool for the Conserved Lands Database. She showed how to use different base maps, standard navigation tools, and conserved land and species data layers to make maps. She encouraged potential applicants for Land Management Grants to use this tool to make a map of their proposed project area and submit it with their application. Other tools demonstrated included changing the title, adding text, locating parcels and addresses, accessing more detailed information about each parcel, adjusting transparency, using multiple layers, and generating a PDF of the created map. The URL for the site is [gis1.sandag.org/conservedlandviewer/](http://gis1.sandag.org/conservedlandviewer/).

Mr. Greer stated that SANDAG is trying to include all conserved lands in the database. It was discussed whether the easement layer was updated for habitat easements that have expired. Mr. Greer suggested that if anyone noticed a conserved parcel that was not marked in the Conserved Land layer or a parcel that was marked in the layer but is no longer conserved, to label it on the map and send SANDAG the PDF so the database could be updated. Mr. Greer and Ms. Chung agreed that the easement data was updated within the last year.

Ms. Chung turned the floor over to Emily Perkins (SDMMP) to introduce SDMMP's online conservation mapping tool.

Ms. Perkins announced that SDMMP will be hosting an information session about this online conservation tool on November 5, 2014, and November 18, 2014, and warned that there will be a

limited number of spaces available. She informed the room that she also will be presenting at the call for projects Land Management Grant workshop on November 6, 2014.

Ms. Perkins introduced the databases available in the viewer, which include conserved lands, Management Strategic Plan (MSP) tracking, animal species occurrences with reference to SL species (species lost entirely), SO species (species with significant occurrences), and SS species (species considered stable but still require management), and information on priority objectives for significant species available for implementation. Tables containing a list of species with prioritized actions and a list of prioritized actions and their status are available. Recommended steps for using the interactive map also are provided on the website. Ms. Perkins warned that the map takes some time to load due to the amount of information provided. She then demonstrated how to use and navigate through layers to access information about the occurrences of species, respective category of management, what actions are being prioritized, and how to find and download more detailed information for each objective. She also demonstrated how to change base maps, draw parcels, determine acreage, query for species, search for known locations, add text and labels, and change the title so people can create their own maps. Ms. Perkins encouraged the Working Group to use the mapping tool and give feedback to the SDMMMP. She recommended the use of the internet browser Google Chrome for accessing the mapping tool.

Mr. Whalen inquired if other states have these impressive adaptive management tools and capabilities.

Dr. Fisher stated that the USGS viewer has more detailed information available compared to this viewer, but noted that this viewer is very user-friendly.

## 6. STRATEGIC WILDFIRE PLANNING: RECOMMENDATIONS (DISCUSSION)

Dr. Fisher introduced 11 recommendations to be added to the MSP for planning for wild fires, referred to as the Fire Strategic Plan (FSP), created by the USGS, with input from participants of the Fire and Wildfire Strategic Plan Workshop held in mid-March of 2014. This plan is meant to incorporate the protection of wildlife as well as human life and property during fire events. He first summarized the information presented in his previous EMPWG presentation and then explained each recommendation in detail. He also showed videos that demonstrated the ability of inorganic material to smother headwaters when mobilized during fire events, reducing up to 100 percent of the aquatic habitat in that area; and the ability of inorganic materials to mobilize during rain events of different magnitudes, causing severe flooding and the destruction of habitat. He referenced the risk tool discussed in his previous presentation, which includes a geo spatial model aimed at focusing management actions on at-risk areas.

The eleven recommendations to be added to the FSP are:

1. Establish a fire management program
2. Manage road side ignitions
3. Establish a vegetation recovery program
4. Create a county wide fire management guide book

5. Establish a centralized data source
6. Identify values at risk
7. Gather data
8. Prioritize the risk
9. Make an action plan
10. Develop a local area emergency response system
11. Re-evaluate the conserved land system

Dr. Fisher stated that the FSP will be an element of the MSP and be consistent in its formatting. It will list fire data for habitats, giving special attention to SI, SO, and SS priority species, and will establish a timeline. Dr. Fisher stated that he hopes to have a draft of the FSP by the end of December 2014. It was mentioned that the drafting of the FSP could benefit from the full attention and focus of a full-time employee, as current USGS staff are working on several other projects at the same time.

Options for and concerns about methods of balancing wildfire prevention with natural habitat preservation were discussed. Prescribed burns on private property, the prohibition of access to fire triggering-activities in fire-prone areas, and the removal of vegetation along roadsides each year by city governments were among the methods referenced.

Mr. Beck inquired if an actual budget has been drafted in order to implement these regional recommendations. Carlton Rochester (USGS) responded that the method for creating an actual budget would have to start on a small scale to see how successful and effective the plan and budget was, and then plan for larger-scale projects from there. The use of the already established volunteer-based Fire Watch programs as additional support in the FSP was recommended.

Jill Terp (U.S. Fish and Wildlife) stated that the fire community is currently more focused on human health and safety, and not habitat and wildlife. She agreed that human health and safety is a priority, but acknowledged Dr. Fisher for bringing biologists and Cal Fire workers together to hear each other's concerns.

#### 7. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT (INFORMATION)

The next meeting of the EMPWG is scheduled for January 13, 2015, from 1 to 3 p.m.

(Note: The November Working Group meeting was cancelled due to the Veterans Day holiday.)

Tentative Topics: Database Integration by Dr. Fisher of USGS.

Vice Chair Grim adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP  
 MEETING ATTENDANCE FOR OCTOBER 14, 2014**

REPRESENTATION	JURISDICTION/ ORGANIZATION	NAME	MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	ATTENDING
Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group Chair	Councilmember, City of Del Mar	Hon. Terry Sinnott	Chair	NO
South County Subregion	City of Chula Vista	Glen Laube	Member	YES
	Vacant	Vacant	Alternate	N/A
North County Coastal Subregion	City of Carlsbad	Mike Grim	Vice Chair/ Member	YES
	City of Oceanside	Marisa Lundstedt	Alternate	NO
North County Inland Subregion	City of Escondido	Barbara Redlitz	Member	NO
	City of Poway	Richard Whipple	Alternate	NO
East County Subregion	City of Santee	Kevin Mallory	Member	NO
	City of Santee	Melanie Kush	Alternate	NO
City of San Diego Subregion	City of San Diego	Jeanne Krosch	Member	YES
		Kristen Forburger	Alternate	NO
County of San Diego Subregion	County of San Diego	Bobbie Stephenson	Member	YES
		LeAnn Carmichael	Alternate	NO
Other Public Agencies	Army Corps of Engineers	Richard Van Sant	Member	YES
		Vacant	Alternate	N/A
	California Coastal Conservancy	Joan Cardellino	Member	NO
		Megan Cooper	Alternate	NO
	Caltrans	Bruce April	Member	NO
		Kim Smith	Alternate	YES
	Department of Fish and Wildlife	David Mayer	Member	NO
		Gail Sevrens	Alternate	NO
	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Susan Wynn	Member	YES
		David Zoutendyk	Alternate	NO
	USGS	Robert Fisher	Member	YES
		Carlton Rochester	Alternate	YES
	Wildlife Conservation Board	David Means	Member	NO
		Teri Muzik	Alternate	NO
Non-Profits	Endangered Habitats League	Michael Beck	Member	YES
		Scott Grimes	Alternate	NO
	San Diego Conservation Network	Anne Harvey	Member	YES
		Vacant	Alternate	N/A
	The Nature Conservancy	Trish Smith	Member	YES
		Vacant	Alternate	N/A
The San Diego Foundation	Emily Young	Member	NO	
	Vacant	Alternate	N/A	
Business	Alliance for Habitat Conservation	James Whalen	Member	YES
		Nick Doenges	Alternate	NO
	Building Industry Association	Matt Adams	Member	NO
		Vacant	Alternate	N/A

**Other Attendees:**

Cathy Chadwick, Education Discovery Institute  
Yvonne Moore, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program  
Emily Perkins, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program  
Tom Oberbauer, AECOM  
Ron Rempel, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program  
Marcus Spiegelberg, CNLM  
Dan Marschulck, SDSU  
Kim Roeland, City of San Diego  
David Hogan, Chapparel Lands Conservancy  
Michael Jefferson, AES  
Jacqueline McCrory, AES  
Markus Spiegelberg, CNCM  
Mike Gonzales, RBF  
Mark Doderer, Recon  
Jean Jancaitis, The Nature Conservancy  
Niki McGinnis, City of San Diego  
Patricia Gordon-Reedy, CBI  
Jess Norton, SDRVC  
Yvette Cota, SDSU  
Sarah Krejca, Caltrans  
Paul Fromer, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program  
Heyo T. Jarks, River Partners  
Hallie Thompson, City of Carlsbad  
Kris Preston, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program  
Cheryl Goddard, County Department of Parks and Recreation  
Christine Schaefer, SES  
Pete Famolaro, SWA  
Mary Niez, County Department of Parks and Recreation  
Jill Terp, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Alexandra Fay, California Western

Grace Chung, SANDAG  
Keith Greer, SANDAG  
Katie Day, SANDAG