



MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

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

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP

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

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

1 to 3 p.m.

SANDAG, 7th Floor Conference Room
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101-4231

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

Beginning in February, the parking garage elevators at Wells Fargo Plaza will undergo a six month mechanical modernization. During this period, only one garage elevator will be in service. Please allow yourself extra time to make your way up from the garage to the SANDAG offices and Board Room. For those requiring special assistance, please call the SANDAG front desk in advance of any meetings at (619) 699-1900.

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- **AD HOC COMMITTEE'S FY 2016-2017 WORK PLAN AND FY 2016 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**
- **STATE ROUTE 67 WILDLIFE MOVEMENT STUDIES**
- **RANCHO JAMUL OTAY TARPLANT AND NATIVE GRASSLAND/FORBLAND RECOVERY**

*SANDAG offices are accessible by public transit.
Phone 511 or see 511sd.com for route information.
Secure bicycle parking is available in the building garage off Fourth Avenue.*

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, 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.



Welcome to SANDAG. Members of the public may speak to the Working Group on any item at the time the Working Group is considering the item. Please complete a Speaker's Slip, and then present the slip to the Clerk of the Working Group. Members of the public may address the Working Group on any issue under the agenda item entitled Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person unless otherwise directed by the Chair. The Working Group may take action on any item appearing on the agenda.

Public comments regarding the agenda can be sent to SANDAG via comment@sandag.org. Please include the agenda item, your name, and your organization. Email comments should be received no later than 12 noon, two working days prior to the meeting. **Any handouts, presentations, or other materials from the public intended for distribution at the meeting should be received by the Clerk of the Working Group no later than 12 noon, two working days prior to the meeting.**

In order to keep the public informed in an efficient manner and facilitate public participation, SANDAG also provides access to all agenda and meeting materials online at www.sandag.org/meetings. Additionally, interested persons can sign up for e-notifications via our e-distribution list at either the SANDAG website or by sending an email request to webmaster@sandag.org.

SANDAG operates its programs without regard to race, color, and national origin in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. SANDAG has developed procedures for investigating and tracking Title VI complaints and the procedures for filing a complaint are available to the public upon request. Questions concerning SANDAG nondiscrimination obligations or complaint procedures should be directed to SANDAG General Counsel, John Kirk, at (619) 699-1997 or john.kirk@sandag.org. Any person who believes himself or herself or any specific class of persons to be subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI also may file a written complaint with the Federal Transit Administration.

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.

SANDAG agenda materials can be made available in alternative languages. To make a request call (619) 699-1900 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

Los materiales de la agenda de SANDAG están disponibles en otros idiomas. Para hacer una solicitud, llame al (619) 699-1900 al menos 72 horas antes de la reunión.

如有需要, 我们可以把SANDAG议程材料翻译成其他语言.

请在会议前至少 72 小时打电话 (619) 699-1900 提出请求.

SANDAG offices are accessible by public transit. Phone 511 or see 511sd.com for route information. Bicycle parking is available in the parking garage of the SANDAG offices.



ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

ITEM NO.		RECOMMENDATION
1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Chair, SANDAG Board Member, Terry Sinnott, City of Del Mar Council Member)	
+2.	APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES The Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) is asked to review and approve the Minutes from its April 14, 2015, meeting.	APPROVE Estimated Start Time: 1 to 1:05 p.m.
3.	PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the EMPWG on any issue within the jurisdiction of the EMPWG. Speakers are limited to three minutes each.	COMMENT Estimated Start Time: 1:05 to 1:10 p.m.
+4.	DRAFT SAN DIEGO FORWARD: THE REGIONAL PLAN STATUS (Laurie Gartrell, SANDAG) The SANDAG Board of Directors released the Draft San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan (Draft Regional Plan) for public review on April 24, 2015. The Draft Regional Plan combines the Regional Transportation Plan and its Sustainable Communities Strategy with the Regional Comprehensive Plan into one planning document that provides a vision for the region's future growth and development. The Draft Regional Plan proposes a strategy for a more sustainable future which includes investing in a transportation network that will provide residents more travel choices, protects the environment, creates healthy communities, and stimulates economic growth. SANDAG currently is soliciting comments on the Draft Regional Plan. Ms. Gartrell will provide a brief report to the EMPWG.	RECOMMENDATION Estimated Start Time: 1:10 to 1:25 p.m.
+5.	AD HOC COMMITTEE'S FY 2016-2017 WORK PLAN AND FY 2016 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS (Susan Wynn, United States Fish and Wildlife Service) On April 14, 2015, the EMPWG formed an ad hoc committee to review the Work Plan for FY 2015-2016 for regional management and monitoring, and provide recommendations to update the Plan for FY 2016-2017. In addition, the ad hoc committee was requested to provide a funding recommendation for its implementation in FY 2016. Ms. Wynn will provide a report to the EMPWG of the recommendations of the ad hoc committee.	RECOMMENDATION Estimated Start Time: 1:25 to 1:50 p.m.
6.	STATE ROUTE 67 WILDLIFE MOVEMENT STUDIES (Megan Jennings, Ph.D., San Diego State University) Dr. Jennings has been researching the movement of wildlife around State Route 67 under a contract for Caltrans. Dr. Jennings will provide a status report on her findings, implications, and recommendations for future efforts.	INFORMATION Estimated Start Time: 1:50 to 2:20 p.m.

**7. RANCHO JAMUL OTAY TARPLANT AND NATIVE GRASSLAND/
FORBLAND RECOVERY (Jessie Vinje, Conservation Biology Institute)**

INFORMATION

The Conservation Biology Institute has been working with state and federal agencies and other local partners to examine methods to restore native grassland and grassland endangered species. Ms. Vinje will provide a report on their success in restoring the endangered Otay tarplant and the success of the Department of Fish and Wildlife in restoring native grassland and forbland habitat on the Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve.

Estimated Start Time:
2:20 to 2:50 p.m.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

INFORMATION

Next Meeting of the EMPWG is scheduled for September 9, 2015, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Estimated Start Time:
2:50 to 3 p.m.

Tentative Topics: Wildlife Management Efforts by the U.S. Forest Service and Military Bases.

+ next to an item indicates an attachment

San Diego Association of Governments
ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
WORKING GROUP

July 14, 2015

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **2**

Action Requested: APPROVE

APRIL 14, 2015, MEETING MINUTES

File Number 3200100

The meeting of the Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) was called to order by Terry Sinnott (City of Del Mar), Chair of the EMPWG at 1:02 p.m.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Attendance sheet is attached.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 13, 2015, MEETING MINUTES (APPROVE)

Two grammatical errors were identified in the January 13, 2015, meeting minutes; the first is the direct verb of "place" instead of the past tense "placed" on page five; and the second is the term "afflicted" used instead of "affiliated" with respect to the formation of an ad hoc committee and potential conflict of interest, on page six.

Action: With the corrections made, Michael Beck (Endangered Habitats League) motioned to approve the meeting minutes for January 13, 2015, and James Whalen (Alliance for Habitat Conservation) seconded the motion. The motion carried without opposition.

Yes - Terry Sinnott (City of Del Mar), Michael Beck (Endangered Habitats League), Robert Fisher (U.S. Geological Survey), LeAnn Carmichael (County of San Diego), Anne Harvey (San Diego Conservation Network), Glen Laube (City of Chula Vista), Bridget Strickland (The San Diego Foundation), David Mayer (Department of Fish and Wildlife), Teri Muzik (Wildlife Conservation Board), Megan Cooper (California Coastal Conservancy), Kim Smith (Caltrans), Kristen Forburger (City of San Diego), Trish Smith (The Nature Conservancy), James Whalen (Alliance for Habitat Conservation).

No - None.

Abstain - Susan Wynn (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Richard Whipple (City of Poway), Mike Grim (City of Carlsbad).

Absent - Building Industry Association, City of Santee, Army Corps of Engineers.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were no public comments.

REPORTS

4. REQUEST FOR FORMATION OF AD HOC FY 2016 FUNDING COMMITTEE (DISCUSSION)

Keith Greer (SANDAG) explained that the Management and Monitoring Work Plan (Work Plan) establishes an annual funding budget for management and monitoring activities funded through *TransNet*. For the past nine years, an ad hoc committee has been formed by the EMPWG to review and allocate funding for various goals of the Work Plan's funding strategy. Mr. Greer requested that up to seven members of the EMPWG volunteer to join the committee to allocate \$4 million of funding for FY 2015-2016 and review the Work Plan. The committee would meet to make a recommendation to the EMPWG in July for consideration. The EMPWG would discuss and modify a recommendation to the Regional Planning Committee for FY 2016 funding.

David Mayer (Department of Fish and Wildlife), Mike Grim (City of Carlsbad), Michael Beck (Endangered Habitats League), Robert Fisher (U.S. Geological Survey), LeAnn Carmichael (County of San Diego), and James Whalen (Alliance for Habitat Conservation), volunteered to serve on the committee, and Susan Wynn (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) volunteered to serve as the Chair. The ad hoc committee will meet in May 2015 and present their findings to the EMPWG at a subsequent meeting.

5. *TransNet* ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM DRAFT PROJECT RANKINGS FOR SEVENTH CYCLE OF GRANT FUNDING (RECOMMEND)

Katie Levy (SANDAG) notified the EMPWG that before the *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program Land Management Grant draft project rankings could be presented, all members with an organizational conflict of interest must recuse themselves and leave the room for the duration of the discussion of the item. Members of The Nature Conservancy, City of Chula Vista, Endangered Habitats League, California Coastal Conservancy, and San Diego Foundation recused themselves. The remaining members of the EMPWG were asked to recommend that the Regional Transportation Committee make a recommendation to the SANDAG Board of Directors to fund the eleven selected land management grant projects listed on the following page.

Ms. Levy explained that on September 26, 2014, the Board of Directors approved the evaluation criteria and \$1.5 million dollars of funding for the seventh cycle FY 2015 Call for Projects for the Land Management Grant program. On January 13, 2015, an ad hoc evaluation committee was formed by the EMPWG. This committee met on April 2, 2015, to review and evaluate all 27 grant proposals submitted. The committee members were David Mayer (Department of Fish and Wildlife), Mike Grim (City of Carlsbad), Michael Beck (Endangered Habitats League), Robert Fisher (U.S. Geological Survey), LeAnn Carmichael (County of San Diego), and James Whalen (Alliance for Habitat Conservation). Susan Wynn (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) was the chair of the committee. Trish Smith (The Nature Conservancy) had volunteered to be on the committee, but stepped down due to a conflict of interest.

Susan Wynn (U.S Fish and Wildlife Service) described the difficulty in evaluating and prioritizing projects due to the high quality of the submitted proposals. Proposals were reviewed and ranked before the meeting, and then discussed, and consolidated into final recommendations that best align with the goals and objectives of the regional Management Strategic Plan (MSP) and the evaluation criteria of the following three eligible activities.

Ms. Wynn briefly described the following eleven projects recommended for funding which would utilize the available \$1.5 million:

- (1) Maintenance and Enhancement of Extant Populations of MSP Species and their Habitats ~ 40 percent of funding
 1. Cactus Wren by Zoological Society of San Diego
 2. Nutall's Lotus by San Diego Audubon Society
 3. Otay RV Cactus Wren by County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation
 4. Otay RV Salt Creek Cactus Wren 3 by City of Chula Vista
- (2) Threat Reduction to MSP Species and their Habitats from Invasive Species and Wildfires ~ 40 percent of funding
 1. San Luis Rey, Santa Margarita and San Dieguito Watersheds by Mission Resource Conservation District
 2. Sweetwater Reservoir Wetland by Sweetwater Authority
 3. Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit 2 by San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
 4. Brachypodium P2 by Conservation Biology Institute
- (3) Habitat Maintenance, Access Control/Management, and Volunteer Coordination ~ 20 percent of funding
 1. Mother Miguel Mountain by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - San Diego National Wildlife Refuge
 2. South San Diego County Community 3 by Earth Discovery Institute
 3. Furby-North Preserve by County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation

Action: Mike Grim (City of Carlsbad) motioned to approve the draft project recommendations for the seventh cycle FY 2015 Land Management Grants, and James Whalen (Alliance for Habitat Conservation) seconded the motion. The motion carried without opposition.

Yes - Terry Sinnott (City of Del Mar), David Mayer (Department of Fish and Wildlife), Mike Grim (City of Carlsbad), Susan Wynn (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Robert Fisher (U.S. Geological Survey), LeAnn Carmichael (County of San Diego), James Whalen (Alliance for Habitat Conservation), Anne Harvey (San Diego Conservation Network), Teri Muzik (Wildlife Conservation Board), Kristen Forburger (City of San Diego), Richard Whipple (City of Poway), Kim Smith (Caltrans).

No - None.

Abstain - None.

Members with a conflict of interest returned to the EMPWG after vote on the item.

6. STATUS OF FERAL SWINE EFFORTS IN SAN DIEGO (INFORMATION)

Richard Burg of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) discussed the history, status, and results to date, of the ongoing invasive control efforts of feral swine in San Diego County. Feral swine is an invasive animal currently present in almost every county in the State of California. Threats caused by their presence include the spread of disease, the destruction of native habitats, agriculture, and cultural and historical resources, among others. Their intelligence and prolific breeding have made their population control and eradication difficult.

Mr. Burg showed images of the swine population's expansion from 2009 to 2014. He noted that the severity of the issue would likely have been lessened if control efforts were able to occur at first notice of the invasive species in 2009.

Control efforts require the collaboration of an intergovernmental group consisting of CDFW, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, County of San Diego, City of San Diego, and others. Funding and contributions have come from the Bureau of Land Management, various tribal governments, CDFW, SANDAG, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and others. Major challenges include funding gaps, public communication, and private land access.

Mr. Burg explained that the pigs are mostly nocturnal, and are mainly found in the southeast of the county near areas of standing water and vegetation cover. Four key focus areas in the region include Palomar Mountain, Capitan Grande Reservation, Descanso, and the area comprising Hauser and Corral Canyons. Cameras have been placed in areas with old rooting or wallows. Over 10,000 pounds of bait have been used to lure swine to various traps. Trap methods include cage traps, corral traps, shooting, and snaring. To date, 42 pigs have been dispatched through this program. It is estimated that the total population in the region is roughly 150 to 200 swine. Mr. Burg noted that their capture has been more difficult than originally expected due to the species' intelligence and general location in difficult to access areas.

The Humane Society encouraged the use of birth control as a more humane method of controlling the population, yet efforts of population control via birth control have proven to be ineffective. To encourage control efforts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had the species classified as a game animal, which provides hunters containing a hunting license the ability to hunt this species year round. When asked why feral swine was not classified as a pest animal, Mr. Burg explained that pest classification would require additional permitting and registration with the Department of Food and Agriculture, and therefore increased delays.

Members of the EMPWG discussed efforts in adjacent Riverside County, different approaches of control efforts, the disposal of dispatched swine, future funding, and the use of border patrol cameras to monitor feral swine near the international border. Robert Fisher (U.S. Geological Survey) expressed interest in conducting an analysis of the tissue and blood samples collected from dispatched pigs to monitor diet changes and preferences.

Mr. Burg assured that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service contractors are highly qualified professional hunters, and the decision of multiple agencies to act together on this project may have taken longer to get everyone on the same page initially, but should result in a more effective and affordable project.

Michael Beck (Endangered Habitats League) requested that status reports and results be shared with the EMPWG. Keith Greer (SANDAG) offered to provide a synthesis of the kill data submitted to SANDAG thus far, at a future date.

7. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE (INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION)

Paul Fromer, new administrator for the San Diego Management and Monitoring Program (SDMMP), presented the program's main goals for 2015, and the status of the MSP.

The first goal for 2015 includes finishing and updating all of the SDMMP's strategic regional plans. This goal requires revisions of the connectivity strategic plan, completion of the fire and wildlife strategic plan, implementation of the invasive plant strategic plan, and completion of the monitoring strategic plan. The second goal is to make all of these plans, including the MSP, available in one interactive and user-friendly digital document/database. Currently, information resides in several different locations, and formats including the South Coast Multi Taxa Database, Master Occurrence Matrix, MSP Priorities Viewer, and others. The third major goal is to reformat and geospatially link all data previously submitted to SDMMP, to the interactive database containing all completed strategic plans and management objectives.

Mr. Fromer explained that the SDMMP would like to have the MSP address the status of all species in the region, including their threats, stressors, and suggested monitoring program. He stressed how important it was that the management and monitoring documents are developed in collaboration and tie back to the same goals and objectives. There is only a short list of species for which management strategic plans and monitoring programs still need to be developed, as well as certain vegetation communities.

The SDMMP and U.S. Geological Survey are currently in the process of developing a regionwide remote sensing and sampling grid system approach to track vegetation change, which could help focus management and monitoring attention on at-risk areas. Additionally, this system could assist with tracking management needs for faunal species requiring specific vegetation communities. The SDMMP is also developing optimized survey protocols for updating preserve management plans and establishing baseline information. Baseline conditions can be compared against overtime to track changes and assist with measuring success rates of certain management initiatives.

Lastly, Mr. Fromer expressed his intention for SDMMP to reorganize the MSP and incorporate all of the stated plans into one comprehensive document or "roadmap." SDMMP would like to integrate the document into an interactive website and database so that all information regarding strategic plans, vegetation communities, and plant species are spatially connected and easily accessible. Mr. Fromer presented his expected timeline and hopes to have all draft documents completed and uploaded online into one roadmap in 2016.

The EMPWG discussed the necessity and urgency of implementing the connectivity strategic plan. Mr. Fromer explained that it is not going to be finalized as its own plan, but will be finalized as a document to be incorporated into the MSP. The group agreed that the connectivity strategic plan should be implemented pragmatically in order to help make efficient and careful land use decisions, as some key parcels critical for connectivity could be at high risk for development. It was suggested that the plan be established as a separate report in order to be implemented as soon as possible since very specific management recommendations have already been identified.

The EMPWG discussed the status of the wildfire strategic plan, climate smart conservation principles, and the necessity of the Quality of Life Measure passing on a future ballot.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT (INFORMATION)

The next meeting of the EMPWG is scheduled for July 14, 2015, from 1 to 3 p.m. [Note: *This was a special meeting, as the regularly scheduled March meeting was cancelled due to the ad hoc evaluation committee for the Land Management Grant Program. The ad hoc Management and Monitoring Work Plan Committee will meet in May, postponing the next scheduled EMPWG to July 2015.*].

Tentative Topics: Recommendation of the funding allocation for FY 2015-2016 Management and Monitoring Work Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m. by Chair Terry Sinnott.

REPRESENTATION	JURISDICTION/ORGANIZATION	NAME	MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	ATTENDING
Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group Chair	Councilmember, City of Del Mar	Hon. Terry Sinnott	Chair	YES
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	Vacant	Alternate	N/A
North County Inland Subregion	City of Escondido	Barbara Redlitz	Member	NO
	City of Poway	Richard Whipple	Alternate	YES
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	NO
		Kristen Forburger	Alternate	YES
County of San Diego Subregion	County of San Diego	LeAnn Carmichael	Member	YES
		Vacant	Alternate	N/A
Other Public Agencies	Army Corps of Engineers	Richard Van Sant	Member	NO
		Vacant	Alternate	N/A
	California Coastal Conservancy	Joan Cardellino	Member	NO
		Megan Cooper	Alternate	YES
	Caltrans	Bruce April	Member	NO
		Kim Smith	Alternate	YES
	Department of Fish and Wildlife	David Mayer	Member	YES
		Gail Sevrens	Alternate	NO
	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Susan Wynn	Member	YES
		David Zoutendyk	Alternate	NO
	U.S. Geological Survey	Robert Fisher	Member	YES
		Carlton Rochester	Alternate	NO
	Wildlife Conservation Board	John P. Donnelly	Member	NO
		Teri Muzik	Alternate	YES
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	Bridget Strickland	Member	YES
Nicola Hedge		Alternate	NO	
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:

Emery Barajag, City of Chula Vista
Vivi Mai, City of Carlsbad
Christine Sloan, County of San Diego
Jim Brown, Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation
Deb Mossa, Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation
Megan Jennings, San Diego State University
Dan Marschalck, San Diego State University
Sharon Coe, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program
Paul Fromer, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program
Kris Preston, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program
Emily Perkins, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program
Yvonne Moore, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program
Christina Schaefer, SES, San Diego Habitat Conservancy
Christa Horn, Institute for Conservation Research (San Diego Zoo)
Emily Howe, Institute for Conservation Research (San Diego Zoo)
Michelle Maloney, Louisiana Wildlife Federation
Tom Oberbauer, AECOM
Jeff Harlan, Great Ecology
Ashley Tuggle, Great Ecology
Mike Gonzales, RBF Consulting
Leonard Wittwer, The Escondido Creek Conservancy

Katie Day, SANDAG
Keith Greer, SANDAG
Katie Levy, SANDAG
Rob Rundle, SANDAG

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15-04-8

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 24, 2015**

ACTION REQUESTED - ACCEPT

DRAFT SAN DIEGO FORWARD: THE REGIONAL PLAN

File Number 3102000

Introduction

The Draft San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan (Regional Plan) combines the big-picture vision for how our region will grow over the next 35 years with an implementation program to help make that vision a reality. The Regional Plan, including its Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), is built on an integrated set of public policies, strategies, and investments to maintain, manage, and improve the transportation system so that it meets the diverse needs of the San Diego region through 2050.

Discussion

The following sections present a brief overview of the Regional Plan, which is followed by a discussion of the public input process as well as the major milestones leading to the anticipated adoption of the Regional Plan in fall 2015.

A Vision of Healthy and Thriving Communities

The San Diego region's changing patterns of land use – where we live, work, and play – give us an exciting opportunity to build a smarter transportation system that reflects these changes and serves people's evolving needs and desires. The Regional Plan is designed to strike a balance among competing interests and champions a sustainable San Diego region for generations to come. Central to the Regional Plan is its vision:

“To provide innovative mobility choices and planning to support a sustainable and healthy region, a vibrant economy, and an outstanding quality of life for all.”

The path toward achieving these goals includes several objectives: Habitat and Open Space Preservation; Regional Economic Prosperity; Environmental Stewardship; Mobility Choices; Partnerships and Collaboration; and Healthy and Complete Communities.

Recommendation

The Board of Directors is asked to: (1) accept the Draft San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan (Regional Plan) for distribution; (2) authorize staff to distribute the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under development for the Regional Plan as soon as it is available in May 2015; (3) schedule various public hearings and workshops on the Draft Regional Plan, including its Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and Draft EIR; and (4) set the closing date for public comments to 55-days after distribution of the Draft EIR for the Draft Regional Plan and its SCS and the Draft EIR.

The Sustainable Communities Strategy

The updated general plans for San Diego's local jurisdictions call for a region that grows more strategically than in the past, concentrating new housing and jobs in existing urban areas while preserving open space. To accomplish this, the Regional Plan's SCS demonstrates how the regional development pattern, transportation network, policies, and programs can work together to achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) emission targets for cars and light trucks. The California Air Resources Board has set a target for the San Diego region to lower GHG emissions by 7 percent per capita by 2020, and by 13 percent per capita by 2035, compared with a 2005 baseline. The Regional Plan's SCS will result in lowered GHG emissions that will exceed the state's targets, reaching per capita reductions of 18 percent by 2020 and 24 percent by 2035.

The SCS includes the following five building blocks:

1. A **land use** pattern that accommodates the San Diego region's future employment and housing needs, and protects sensitive habitats and resource areas.
2. A **transportation network** of public transit, Express Lanes and highways, local streets, bikeways, and walkways built and maintained with reasonably expected funding.
3. **Managing demands on our transportation system** (also known as Transportation Demand Management) in ways that reduce or eliminate traffic congestion during peak periods of demand.
4. **Managing our transportation system** (also known as Transportation System Management) through measures that maximize the overall efficiency of the transportation network.
5. **Innovative pricing policies** and other measures designed to reduce the number of miles people travel in their vehicles as well as traffic congestion during peak periods of demand.

Investing in Mobility for a Changing Region

The Regional Plan outlines nearly \$204 billion in transportation investments, paid for by local, state, and federal tax dollars. Projects will be phased in as funds become available, but the goal is to complete these projects as early as possible to provide more travel choices. The Regional Plan's investment strategy focuses heavily on expanding public transit and active transportation (biking and walking), while also reconfiguring existing highways to promote carpooling, public transit, and other alternatives to driving alone.

The Regional Plan's public transit improvements include: double-tracking of the Amtrak and COASTER corridor and improved stations; SPRINTER double-tracking, which will enable services every 10 minutes; new Trolley lines from San Ysidro to Carmel Valley, Pacific Beach to El Cajon, Downtown San Diego to San Diego State University via Mid-City, and University City to Sorrento Valley; expanded *Rapid* bus services; streetcars; and local bus enhancements. Additionally, the Regional Plan includes full implementation of the regional bike network, plus safety improvements near public transit projects, highway interchanges, and schools to promote walking and biking.

The Regional Plan also includes more Express Lanes to encourage carpooling and better accommodate expanded public transit services. Features will include dynamic pricing, multiple

access points to regular highway lanes, and direct access ramps for carpools and toll-paying customers. Net revenues generated on those lanes will be used to support public transit operations.

Using the Latest Technology to Build a 21st Century Transportation System

To make our transportation system as efficient and user-friendly as possible, the Regional Plan envisions a network of cost-effective, high-tech tools to help transportation managers keep the system running smoothly, and to help travelers make their trips faster, more efficient, and trouble-free. These enhancements are included as Transportation Demand Management and Transportation System Management solutions in the Regional Plan. Technology embedded into the transportation system will grow even more useful when it is linked to smart phones, tablets, and other devices. In addition, future vehicle automation technology will provide additional opportunities to optimize use of San Diego's corridors.

A Regional Plan that Promotes Sustainability and Health

All the transportation improvements outlined in the Regional Plan are designed to serve new patterns of land use – a future with increasingly compact communities that demand a mix of easy-to-use and efficient public transit, more opportunities to walk and bike, and more efficient roadways.

Meeting these demands will support healthier communities, while protecting the environment and preserving more open space. Air quality has improved significantly over the past four decades, and the transportation investments detailed in the Regional Plan, coupled with improvements in fuel and vehicle technologies, will continue to help improve air quality throughout the San Diego region while lowering GHG emissions.

Financing Our Future

The Regional Plan is based on current and reasonably available financial resources that are applied to the estimated capital, operating, maintenance, and rehabilitation costs of the region's transportation system phased through 2050.

Total revenues estimated to come into the region over the 35-year span of the Regional Plan are estimated at \$204 billion. All revenues have been escalated to the year that the money will be spent. The investment plan is funded by a combination of local, state, and federal revenues. Local funds make up 48 percent of the projected revenue, state funds make up 34 percent, and federal funds amount to 18 percent, with revenues phased by decade.

Economic Analysis

The Regional Plan's economic analysis shows that the benefits of the Regional Plan outweigh the costs by a factor of almost two-to-one, meaning that for every dollar invested in the Regional Plan, San Diegans will receive almost two dollars of benefit. Among the tangible economic benefits of implementing the Regional Plan over the next 35 years are an average of roughly 53,000 new jobs per year, an annual increase of \$13 billion in gross regional product, and an annual increase of nearly \$6 billion in income.

Public Input and the Adoption Process

SANDAG implemented a comprehensive public outreach and involvement program to support the development of the Regional Plan and its SCS. The Regional Plan Public Involvement Program is based on the SANDAG Public Participation Plan, which was adopted by the Board of Directors in 2012. Efforts to involve the public in the development of the Regional Plan have been tracked and recorded to chronicle the large number and wide range of activities organized and held by SANDAG beginning in 2012.

The next step will be to obtain public input on the Draft Regional Plan. To do this, a broad range of media and communication avenues are being utilized to provide information, solicit participation and input, and allow for ongoing feedback and updates. A major goal of this public involvement effort is to reach out to both nontraditional and traditional audiences to include them in the transportation planning process. To support this goal, Community Based Organizations working with SANDAG to engage lower-income and minority communities as well as seniors, disabled, and other stakeholder groups, have been conducting ongoing outreach throughout the development of the Draft Regional Plan and will continue these efforts through the public review period. The closing date for public comments on the Draft Regional Plan and its SCS is proposed for 55-days after distribution of the Draft EIR.

SANDAG will hold various subregional workshops and public hearings in May 2015 to allow for public comment on the Draft Regional Plan and its SCS and the Draft EIR. The schedule and format of the workshops will provide opportunities for questions and answers with technical staff, public comments to be submitted, and information to be shared. The public workshops have been scheduled at times and locations that will provide the best options for public participation.

Upon action by the Board of Directors, the Draft Regional Plan and its SCS will be distributed to local jurisdictions, the Metropolitan Transit System, the North County Transit District, Caltrans, and other interested parties, and will be available on the SANDAG website and on the San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan website. The Draft EIR will be released as soon as it is available in May 2015, and a deadline for public comment on the Draft EIR will be 55-days after distribution. Anticipated major milestones include:

- April 24, 2015: Release of the Draft Regional Plan and its SCS
- May 2015: Release of the Draft EIR
- May 12-28, 2015: Subregional Workshops on the Draft Regional Plan/SCS/EIR
- June 12, 2015: Public hearing at the Board of Directors Policy meeting (note that a second public hearing will be scheduled at another location before the close of the public comment period and will be widely publicized)
- July 2015: Close of public comment period for the Draft Regional Plan and its SCS and the Draft EIR (date to be determined based on release of Draft EIR)

- July 2015: Transportation Committee, Regional Planning Committee, and Board of Directors review of Draft Regional Plan/SCS/EIR public comments
- September 25, 2015: Board of Directors certifies Final EIR, approves air quality conformity finding, and adopts Final Regional Plan and its SCS

Note: The Draft Regional Plan, SCS and Appendices may be obtained from the SANDAG website at www.sandag.org or from the San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan website at www.sdforward.com. CDs of the entire document will be available upon acceptance of the release by the Board of Directors free of charge by contacting the SANDAG Public Information Office at (619) 699-1950. Copies of the Draft Regional Plan in printed format may be purchased for the cost of reproduction.

GARY L. GALLEGOS
Executive Director

Key Staff Contact: Phil Trom, (619) 699-7330, phil.trom@sandag.org

**TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program:
Regional Management and Monitoring FY 2016-2017 Work Plan**

INTRODUCTION

The *TransNet* Extension Ordinance and Expenditure Plan, approved by the voters in November 2004, include the Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) which provides funding to mitigate habitat impacts from regional and local transportation projects, and provides funding for regional land management and biological monitoring. The EMP is a unique component of the *TransNet* Extension Ordinance in that it goes beyond traditional mitigation for transportation projects by including a funding allocation for habitat acquisition, management, and monitoring activities to help implement the regional habitat conservation plans. This funding allocation is tied to mitigation requirements and the environmental clearance approval process for projects outlined in the Regional Transportation Plan and to implement the pending Healthy Communities goals being developed as part of San Diego Forward: the Regional Plan.

Each year, the SANDAG Board of Directors allocates \$4 million to implement regional land management and biological monitoring pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement with state and federal agencies on the implementation of the EMP. In 2013, a technical document entitled *Management Strategic Plan (MSP) for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego County* was developed to increase the efficient use of both the *TransNet* funding as well as other outside local, state, and federal funds. The MSP has several elements dealing with species management, wildlife connectivity, wildfires and regional monitoring that will promote the purpose of the *TransNet* EMP. The MSP is available at: http://www.sdmmp.com/reports_and_products/Management_Strategic_Plan.aspx.

The purpose of the strategic plan is to identify and prioritize actions that are needed to ensure the persistence of key wildlife species, maintain ecosystem processes, and maintain healthy natural communities in an efficient and integrated manner across the region in the context of a changing ecosystem due to wildfires, habitat type conversion, and climate change.

FY 2015-2016 Strategic Goals and Areas of Emphasis

To guide the development of the annual allocation of regional management and monitoring funds, a set of strategic goals have been developed by the MSP. These strategic goals identify long-term areas of achievement that should remain relatively unchanged on an annual basis. Supporting these strategic goals are the areas of emphasis and achievement milestones, which will be updated each year to highlight particular areas of focus for the coming year and as measure of success.

Strategic Goals

1. **Promote key sensitive species** persistence and resiliency through management actions to prevent extirpation and extinction.
2. **Promote native vegetation communities** persistence and resiliency through the development and implementation of strategies to maintain and increase habitat quality.

3. **Improve wildlife movement** through the identification of critical linkage areas and implementation of strategies to enhance the physical and genetic connectivity of species across rural and urban landscapes.
4. **Promote regional collaboration** through the facilitation and coordination with existing land management efforts, development of best management practices, and leverage existing funding.

Areas of Emphasis and FY 2015-2016 Milestones

The highest priorities for SANDAG during FY 2016 are the Areas of Emphasis as follows:

- **Promote Key Sensitive Species.** The MSP has identified several plant and animal species that could either be entirely lost within San Diego County, or where significant occurrences of the species could be lost. For FY 2016, management efforts will be directed towards 13 at-risk plant species and 11 at-risk animal species as identified in the MSP.

Achievement Milestone FY 2016-2017

- Complete a regional baseline assessment of the status and a current management on 90 percent of the known population of the priority rare plant species as identified in the MSP on conserved lands. (Work started in 2015).
- Incorporate data from regional assessment into regional master occurrence database for analysis.
- Continue work started in FY 2015, with land managers and property owners to identify gaps in rare plant monitoring and fill those gaps through a SANDAG consultant to coordinate and complete surveys in FY 2016 where gaps still exist.
- Implement management actions identified as high priority during plant monitoring efforts conducted in FY 2014-2015.
- Initiate genetic analysis of the remaining six high priority plant species identified in FY 2015 to inform species management decisions to increase the species resiliency within the MSP areas and to inform decisions on seed banking and bulking.
- Conduct hydrologic studies of current and historic locations of willow monardella on conserved lands in coordination with other land managers to evaluate the effect of hydrologic modification on this species.
- Continue with golden eagle work started through the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in FY 2014-2015 that focuses on delineating foraging areas and population demographics.
- Utilize existing data previously collected on the Quino checkerspot butterfly to develop a five-year implementation plan.
- Identify factors affecting arroyo toad at each population location and develop site-specific management actions to improve conditions for each population and prioritize actions for implementation.
- Initiate reestablishment of western pond turtles in the San Diego River below El Capitan Reservoir and continue population reestablishment in the Otay River watershed.

- Support the existing burrowing owl implementation plan (already funded by outside sources) for the Otay, Tijuana, and Sweetwater River watersheds by providing data review and scientific support.
 - Establish two geographically-based cactus nurseries to support enhancement of coastal cactus wren habitat and conduct other restoration efforts such as transplanting mature cactus in the Otay and San Dieguito River watersheds.
 - Identify the location of key pallid and Townsend bat habitat components (e.g., roosts, water sources, foraging areas) and evaluate how native forb/grassland enhancement efforts can integrate with their improvement.
 - Evaluate the condition of the willow flycatcher population in the San Luis Rey River watershed and its importance as a source population for maintaining willow flycatcher populations in the MSP area.
 - Complete data analysis and participate in range-wide gnatcatcher monitoring using a standardized survey protocol in FY 2016.
 - Monitor cactus wren populations in the Otay, San Diego, and Sweetwater River watersheds to evaluate status and movement between these watersheds.
 - Assist preserve managers and land owners with predator and invasive species control efforts on open space lands for the protection of MSP efforts.
 - Update the MSP to develop objectives and implementation strategies for the Hermes copper butterfly and Harbison's dun skipper and develop an implementation plan.
- **Vegetation Community Monitoring and Recovery.** Vegetation communities serve as habitat for priority plant and animal species and as surrogates for ecosystem health. Changes in the vegetation communities due to fires, invasive species, droughts, climate change, and other factors may be causing a landscape level change to these communities. For FY 2016-2017, management and monitoring efforts will be directed towards the following activities:

Achievement Milestone FY 2016-2017

- Identify regional monitoring objectives to assess the status/health of vegetation communities on conserved lands, and develop standardized protocols to address these objectives.
- Apply standardized threats and stressor protocols established in FY 2015, and collect data on Argentine ants and urban runoff in FY 2016 (to be refined by the protocols) habitat areas totaling approximately 500-1,000 acres.
- Assist preserve managers and land owners in enforcement of unauthorized activities on open space lands. Work with local jurisdictions to evaluate and promote opportunities with work with local law enforcement staff.
- Implement and assess the effectiveness of invasive plant species (priority species 1, 2, and 3) eradication efforts under the County of San Diego Agriculture Weed Management Area contract with SANDAG.

- Implement adaptive management actions to increase native grass and forb composition and bare ground components of grasslands and coastal sage scrub using layered treatments (e.g., grazing, fire, and seeding) on four preserve areas of 500 acres (or greater).
- Assist USGS with recommendation and development of actions that will be the future Wildfire Management Element of the MSP and implement high priority management actions identified in the updated MSP.
- **Enhance Movement of Wildlife.** Species need to move to maintain population size and genetic diversity. In a landscape fragmented by urban development and linear infrastructure, restrictions to movement could result in a risk of extinction or extirpation. For FY 2016-2017, management and monitoring efforts for understanding and enhancing wildlife movement will be directed towards the following activities:

Achievement Milestone FY 2016-2017

- Analyze existing mountain lion movement data collected in FY 2014-2015 and expand efforts to identify how mountain lions are utilizing the northern inland area of the region on both sides of Interstate 15.
- Continue to collect data on badger population connectivity to inform management decisions including enhancement of road crossing areas for badgers.
- Initiate discussion on the implementation of State Route (SR) 94 wildlife infrastructure plan (to be funded by others).
- Develop, in association with Caltrans, a wildlife infrastructure improvement plan for SR 67.
- Utilize the data from USGS road undercrossing studies to develop guidelines for future undercrossing designs that benefit a wide range of wildlife species.
- Update the Connectivity Element of the MSP which will include evaluation of critical land acquisitions.
- Determine the movement of Southern mule deer across SR 67 using genetic DNA fingerprinting.
- Evaluate genetic connectivity of horned lizards throughout the MSPA (to be funded by others).
- Initiate pollinator studies for rare plants (to be funded by others).
- Continue supporting San Diego fairy shrimp genetic study focusing on hybridization threats (to be funded by others).

Facilitate Best Practices for Management and Monitoring. San Diego County is made of numerous, diverse land managers. In addition, continued research yields more insight into the methodologies and actions that are most efficient and cost-effective. Funded by SANDAG, the San Diego Management and Monitoring Program (SDMMP) has been the point of regional management and monitoring coordination. For FY 2015-2016, regional coordination will focus on the following activities:

Achievement Milestone FY 2016-2017

- Complete the Monitoring Element of the MSP started in FY 2015 and initiate the development of identified monitoring protocols.
- Provide regional science support and data analysis of regional management and monitoring data.
- Refine the output products of the regional database, increase their data sets, provide data analysis to preserve managers, and provide pre-formatted data reports to interested stakeholders.
- Collaborate with military and other regional conservation planning programs to promote intra- and inter- regional habitat conservation planning in Southern California.
- Provide a quantitative and qualitative assessment on the status of regional management and monitoring efforts by end of FY 2016.
- Update the MSP and incorporate all strategic plan elements into one Strategic Habitat Roadmap document.

A	B	C	D	E	F
#	Strategic Goal	Approved Prior Years FY 06-15	Available Funding	Proposed FY 16 Funding	Comments/Recommendations
1	Promote Key Sensitive Species				
1.1	Priority 1 Rare and Endemic Plants Recovery	\$915,000	\$493,557	\$200,000	Use existing USGS contract to conduct genetic studies on 6 species. Hire contractor for coordination to survey gaps in existing rare plant surveys.
1.2	Priority 1 Vertebrates Recovery	\$3,440,000	\$221,263	\$1,800,000	Continue with recovery actions on 9 at risk faunal species as identified in the Management Strategic Plan. Complete data analysis and participate in range-wide monitoring of gnatcatcher
1.3	Priority 1 Invertebrates Recovery	\$910,000	\$225,372	\$100,000	Work to develop conservation goals and objectives for QCB and Herme's copper and develop an implementation plan. Work to develop conservation goals and objectives for Harbison's dun skipper.
1.4	Other Species (Priority 2 species Recovery)	\$490,000	\$155,027	\$0	No additional funding required at this time.
1.5	General Stressors and Threats Management	\$1,070,000	\$66,588	\$185,000	Assist preserve managers and land owners with predator control efforts and invasive species on open space lands for the protection of MSP efforts.
	Subtotal	\$6,825,000	\$1,161,807	\$2,285,000	
2	Promote native vegetation communities				
2.1	Vegetation Community Monitoring and Recovery	\$1,145,000	\$570,136	\$0	Identify regional monitoring objectives to assess the status/health of vegetation communities. Apply standardized threats and stressor protocols and collect data on Argentine ants and urban runoff.
2.2	Pro-active Wildfire Planning and Management	\$2,550,000	\$1,377	\$150,000	Implement Wildfire Management Plan recommendations. Work with fire management agencies to assist with pre-fire planning efforts.
2.3	Invasive Plant Species Management	\$575,000	\$73,407	\$65,000	Continue with work being done by County Agricultural under contract to SANDAG.
2.5	Updated Vegetation Mapping	\$850,000	\$0	\$0	Work completed.
2.6	Enforcement	\$550,000	\$65,957	\$200,000	Existing efforts with CDFW wardens and SD Sheriffs are limited by their capacity. Explore development of a fund for local jurisdictions to work with local law enforcement and land managers to reduce unauthorized activities on open space lands.
2.7	Preserve level management plan standardization	\$450,000	\$0	\$0	Contractor currently working on two pilot planning areas. Work is sufficiently funded for FY 16.
2.8	Land Management Implementation (e.g., grants)	\$14,710,000	\$1,895,000	\$0	Develop an 8th cycle of land management grants with funding allocated from prior years. Focus of grants will be to assist in implementation of MSP. Eligibility and evaluation criteria to be worked out.
2.9	Emergency Land Management Fund	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$50,000	Add \$50 K into fund pursuant to prior SANDAG Board discussion to build the fund up to \$500,000.
	Subtotal	\$21,130,000	\$2,905,877	\$465,000	
3	Improve wildlife movement				
3.1	Wildlife Corridor and Linkages Monitoring	\$1,445,000	\$156,429	\$300,000	Continue with existing wildlife corridor studies. Expand into North County. Develop, in association with Caltrans, a wildlife infrastructure improvement plan for SR 67. Update the Connectivity Element of the MSP.
	Subtotal	\$1,445,000	\$156,429	\$300,000	
4	Promote regional coordination				
4.1	Program Administrator	\$1,370,000	\$250,287	\$200,000	Continue to fund SDMMP position.
4.2	Management & Monitoring Coordinator	\$1,350,000	\$107,163	\$150,000	Continue to fund SDMMP position.
4.3	Biologist	\$720,000	\$101,984	\$150,000	Continue to fund SDMMP position.
4.4	GIS Support	\$750,000	\$129,128	\$150,000	Continue to fund SDMMP position.
4.5	Database Development and Support	\$760,000	\$175,392	\$150,000	Continue to fund SDMMP position.
4.6	Conserved Lands Database Management	\$275,000	\$78,290	\$0	SDMMP to assume function. No funding required in FY 16.
4.7	Administrative & Science Support	\$375,000	\$54,116	\$150,000	Continue to fund USGS, university professors and consultants to provide support.
	Subtotal	\$5,600,000	\$896,360	\$950,000	
	TOTAL FUNDING STRATEGY	\$35,000,000	\$5,120,474	\$4,000,000	