



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, April 14, 2015

1 to 3 p.m.

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

Staff Contact: Keith Greer
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AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- **TransNet ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM: DRAFT PROJECT RANKINGS FOR SEVENTH CYCLE OF GRANT FUNDING**
- **STATUS OF FERAL SWINE EFFORTS IN SAN DIEGO**
- **MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

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ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM WORKING GROUP

Tuesday, April 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 January 13, 2015, meeting.	APPROVE Estimated Start Time: 1:00 – 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 Working Group. Speakers are limited to three minutes each.	Estimated Start Time: 1:05 – 1:10 p.m.
4.	REQUEST FOR FORMATION OF AD HOC FY 2016 FUNDING COMMITTEE (Keith Greer) On September 26, 2014, the SANDAG Board of Directors adopted a Work Plan for FY 2015-2016 for regional management and monitoring. Funding was provided for implementation in FY 2015. Mr. Greer will request that the EMP Working Group discuss formation of an ad hoc committee to develop recommendation for funding the Work Plan in FY 2016. It is expected that the ad hoc committee will review the Work Plan, identify funding needs and/or modifications to the Work Plan, and report back with a recommendation to the EMP Working Group at their next meeting.	DISCUSSION Estimated Start Time: 1:10 – 1:15 p.m.
+5.	<i>TransNet</i> ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM: DRAFT PROJECT RANKINGS FOR SEVENTH CYCLE OF GRANT FUNDING (Susan Wynn, United States Fish and Wildlife Service; Katie Levy) On January 13, 2015, the EMPWG identified an ad hoc committee to review the 27 grants received under the seventh cycle of the <i>TransNet</i> EMP Land Management Grant Program. Susan Wynn, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, will present the recommendation of the ad hoc committee's recommendation for funding. The EMP Working Group will be asked to review, discuss and provide a recommendation to the Regional Planning Committee on the selection and funding of land management grants.	RECOMMEND Estimated Start Time: 1:15 – 1:40 p.m.
6.	STATUS OF FERAL SWINE EFFORTS IN SAN DIEGO (Richard Burg, California Department of Fish and Wildlife) SANDAG, along with other federal and state funding partners, have collaborated on an effort to curb the expansion of feral swine in San Diego County. Feral swine not only cause habitat impacts, but also pose a threat to livestock from disease. The Department of Agriculture, under the direction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is implementing this effort. Mr. Richard Burg of the CDFW will provide a presentation of this project and its efforts to date.	INFORMATION Estimated Start Time: 1:40 – 2:20 p.m.

7. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE (Paul Fromer, San Diego Management and Monitoring Administrator)

The Management Strategic Plan (MSP) provides a framework for the prioritization of actions and strategic allocation of funding. The MSP is intended to be a living document which is updated as conditions change. Mr. Paul Fromer, San Diego Management and Monitoring Administrator, will provide a status report on the update of the MSP, with an emphasis on the monitoring component of the MSP.

**INFORMATION/
DISCUSSION**

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

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting of the EMPWG is scheduled for July 14, 2015, from 1 to 3 p.m.

INFORMATION

Estimated Start Time:
2:50 – 3 p.m.

+ next to an item indicates an attachment

San Diego Association of Governments
ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
WORKING GROUP

April 14, 2015

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **2**

Action Requested: APPROVE

JANUARY 13, 2015, MEETING MINUTES

File Number 3200100

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

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Attendance sheet is attached.

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 14, 2014, MEETING MINUTES (APPROVE)

Two issues with the October 14, 2014 meeting minutes were identified; the first is the unintended omission of the Wildlife Conservation Board from the list of absent EMPWG members, the second is the duplicate naming of Marcus Spiegelberg (Center for Natural Lands Management) in the attendance list of "Other Attendees."

Action: With the corrections made, Bruce April, Caltrans, motioned to approve the meeting minutes for October 14, 2014, and Nick Doenges, Alliance for Habitat Conservation, seconded the motion. The motion carried without opposition.

Yes - Terry Sinnott (City of Del Mar), Bruce April (Caltrans), Michael Beck (Endangered Habitats League), Robert Fisher (USGS), Jeanne Krosch (City of San Diego), LeAnn Carmichael (County of San Diego), Trish Smith (The Nature Conservancy), Anne Harvey (San Diego Conservation Network), Glen Laube (City of Chula Vista), Bridget Strickland (The San Diego Foundation), Teri Muzik (Wildlife Conservation Board), Nick Doenges (Alliance for Habitat Conservation), David Zoutendyk (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), David Mayer (Department of Fish and Wildlife). No - None. Abstain - Joan Cardellino (California Coastal Conservancy). Absent - Building Industry Association, City of Santee, City of Escondido, City of Poway, City of Oceanside, City of Carlsbad, Army Corps of Engineers.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dianne Nygaard of Preserve Calavera had a public comment on Item 4 (discussed under Item 4 below).

Christina Schaefer of the San Diego Habitat Conservancy announced that her organization has undergone the rigorous accreditation application process with the National Land Trust Accreditation Commission, and come spring, they will be the first and only accredited habitat conservancy based out of San Diego. Ms. Schaefer encourages those with any comments to post them on to the San Diego Habitat Conservancy website or email to National Land Trust directly at info@landtrustaccreditation.org.

Keith Greer (SANDAG) commented to the room that there have been several changes to members of the EMPWG. Members that have stepped down due to retirement or promotions include Bobbie Stephenson (County of San Diego), David Means (Wildlife Conservation Board), and Emily Young (The San Diego Foundation). Mr. Greer then introduced the new member Bridget Strickland (The San Diego Foundation) and her alternate, Nicola Hedge (The San Diego Foundation).

REPORTS

4. STATUS OF QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVE (INFORMATION)

Rob Rundle (SANDAG) explained the history of the Quality of Life Initiative, its current status, and future plans that will be discussed at the SANDAG Annual Board of Directors Retreat later this month. The *TransNet* Extension ordinance required an additional funding measure by SANDAG to be placed on the ballot within four years to provide funding to implement the regional habitat conservation plans. The required action to place the measure on the ballot was amended several times to extend the deadline by the SANDAG Board of Directors with the support of key stakeholders due to the economic recession. The current date is for a measure to be provided to the voters in November 2016. Mr. Rundle briefly went into the three main topics that will be discussed at the Annual retreat, including:

1. Barriers and costs to the Accelerated Transportation Scenario which increases the amount of transit in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
2. Issues and challenges with projected funding to pay for the RTP through 2050
3. Challenges and next steps with the Quality of Life measure which would require the review of past polling, and the potential of additional polling to see if priorities have changed

Mr. Rundle noted that the Board of Directors is taking the necessary time to come up with an effective Quality of Life Initiative that will have a higher likelihood of getting approved as opposed to just meeting the bare minimum requirement that may fail to resonate with the voters. The presentation that will be discussed at the Board of Directors Retreat is currently posted on the SANDAG website and is available for public view.

Members of the EMPWG discussed current legislation, assumptions, and the stress of decreases in state budget and funding on current and future plans.

Dianne Nygaard of Preserve Calavera made a public comment about the large amount of property damage due to unauthorized bikers, dumping, and homeless encampments on preserves such as the Calavera Highlands. Ms. Nygaard noted that the clearing from recent fires disclosed even more

damage that was previously hidden and suggested the inclusion of enforcement on preserves be considered in the Quality of Life Initiative.

EMPWG members discussed security issues requiring a large amount of focus, cost, and energy for land managers with respect to the control of invasive plants and people.

5. STATUS OF LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT GRANT AND REQUEST FOR FORMATION OF AD HOC EVALUATION COMMITTEE (RECOMMENDATION)

Keith Greer (SANDAG) gave the EMPWG an update on *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program's two active grant programs; the Land Acquisition Grant Program and Land Management Grant Program.

Mr. Greer described the first cycle of Land Acquisition Grants that started in April of 2013. This cycle allocates \$20 million of economic benefit funding (money saved from buying land early and under budget) to persons acquiring land for the purpose of habitat preservation. There were 17 initial applicants. After preliminary evaluation, the top nine candidates (requesting a total of \$25 million) were presented to the Board of Directors, and appraisals were conducted on each grantee's property under Caltrans supervision. Next steps require going to the Regional Planning and Transportation Committees for a funding recommendation, discussion by the *TransNet* Independent Tax Oversight Committee, and finally an action by the SANDAG Board of Directors on February 27, 2015. Staff is proposing a 180-day escrow resulting in a conservation easement or similar legal mechanism to protect the selected sites in perpetuity.

The second active grant program is the Land Management Grant Program, of which Katie Levy (SANDAG) is project manager. The Board of Directors approved \$1.5 million allocated for the seventh cycle which closed on January 6, 2015. A total of 27 applications were received, requesting \$6 million with a match of \$6.7 million. Mr. Greer noted that this was the first time in all seven cycles that the matching funds were greater than the requested funds.

As done in previous cycles, Mr. Greer suggested the formation of an ad hoc committee not afflicted with grants that will evaluate grants to review and evaluate the grant proposals for land management with a recommendation to the full EMPWG at their next meeting. This committee would be four to six individuals that hold no conflict of interest, and are willing to contribute a significant time commitment. Conflict of interest includes any member recommending an applicant, applying, or partially funding an applicant. Mr. Greer notified the room that if the EMPWG approves, Vice Chair Mike Grim (City of Carlsbad) offered to Chair the ad hoc committee. The following seven members volunteered to sit on the committee: David Mayer (Department of Fish and Wildlife), Robert Fisher (USGS), LeAnn Carmichael (County of San Diego), Trish Smith (The Nature Conservancy), Susan Wynn (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services) (absent but nominated by her present alternate, David Zoutendyk), James Whalen (Alliance for Habitat Conservation) (absent but nominated by his present alternate, Nick Doenges), and Keith Greer (SANDAG). The EMPWG approved Vice Chair Mike Grim as Chair to the ad hoc evaluation committee.

6. GOLDEN EAGLE RESEARCH IN SAN DIEGO (INFORMATION)

Dr. Fisher (USGS) and Dr. Tracy (USGS) informed the EMPWG members about the history and current status of Golden Eagle research occurring in Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) areas of

San Diego County. Their study was made possible with the help of many organizations including, but not limited to, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, SANDAG, County of San Diego, County of Orange County, and State Wildlife Grant funds. The project's goals are to understand how Golden Eagles move throughout the county by monitoring their movement, and to learn about their population dynamics by collecting genetic samples. Results can be used to better inform regional planning with respect to land use, development, and habitat conservation near regions of heavy eagle use.

Dr. Fisher explained that this process requires a method of baiting and capturing the eagles, affixing 15 minute GPS-GSM tracking units (soon to be 30 second) to the birds, using a "snip chip" tool to conduct genetic sampling, then the release and continued monitoring. The importance of affixing GPS-GSM units onto the eagles as soon as possible was highlighted, as no captures will occur once nesting season begins in mid-February. Dr. Fisher stated that his goal is to affix monitoring devices and conduct genetic sampling on twenty birds. He then showed pictures illustrating eagle movement from data collected thus far. To date, the study has affixed GPS-GSM units to seven birds; five females and two males. Preliminary data has shown that range sizes vary from 45 to 340 miles, significantly larger than the literature had previously stated. Blood tests have indicated that birds are healthy with low indications of lead poisoning.

Dr. Fisher referenced several historical studies of Golden Eagles that occurred in and around Southern California, some dating back to the early 1900's. These studies briefly indicate the amount of nests, popular locations, home ranges around nests, distances to human developments, and insight to the amount of eggs that were taken from nests and collected by researchers. Dr. Fisher noted that 334 sets of collected eggs have been documented, and insisted that many more likely were taken without being recorded. This continued harvesting could have had detrimental effects on subsequent populations.

Dr. Fisher noted issues with the study such as international border lines, recreational shooters, and the difficulty of baiting these birds with respect to "managing meat on the landscape." The meat was intended to attract Golden Eagles, yet many wild animals including feral pigs, pumas, bobcats, and coyotes, were also attracted to the bait. To date, 6,800 pounds of meat have been used over 100 days of baiting.

Michael Beck (Endangered Habitats League) asked if any birds were being sought after in East County, especially with the land-use conflict with wind turbines. Dr. Fisher explained that East County was an area of lower priority as this study was focusing primarily on MSCP management units within San Diego County. Dr. Fisher did mention that he will be attending a conference in Sacramento to discuss next steps with renewable energy and their effect on species such as the Golden Eagle. Information obtained there can be included in the analysis for the County of San Diego's land use plan. A concern from an attendee was that some eagles were breeding in January, so it may already be too late to trap females. Future updates will be made on the project to the EMPWG.

7. SOUTH COAST MULTI-TAXA DATABASE (INFORMATION)

Dr. Fisher presented the newly updated publically accessible South Coast Multi-Taxa Database available on the San Diego Monitoring and Management Program website. This database contains

information pertaining to biological monitoring and land management in coastal Southern California.

This information portal has two views; the public data retrieval site, in which data for available studies can be queried and accessed by all users, and the private access view, which is password protected and only allows those users who sign in to access, add, and edit data. The private view provides a team with controlled access to data and documents, and notifies team members about updates and edits made by the group. There is also a spatial interphase, in which users can click on an area of a digitalized map to query information pertaining to plants and animals in that area.

The program requires users submitting data to fill out a field data collection form in order to standardize data sets. A multi-taxa database dictionary was created to give directions so all entries follow the same protocol. Users submitting data are also required to submit metadata, which is "data about their data," necessary for others to fully understand the information being submitted.

Dr. Fisher first explained how the behind the screens tables work, and then through images of the website to demonstrate what the public and private views looks like, how to submit data, and where information such as data entry templates and the data dictionary can be found (a live tour of the website was unavailable as the SANDAG server was experiencing technical difficulties). One of the most notable abilities of this system is that once the data has been entered into the preset data fields, a report can be auto generated, saving the user time and energy. Dr. Fisher stressed that this is an integrated database, meaning data does not sit stagnant.

Next steps include a training session ideally scheduled in February of 2015, to teach users how to properly enter metadata. Dr. Fisher will continue to repair any database issues, beta-test the data entry portion of the portal, and give a final training session sometime in spring/summer. Mr. Greer offered the SANDAG computer lab for training.

Ms. Carrie Downey, Councilmember City of Coronado, mentioned that her neighborhood is experiencing severe issues with an influx of crows, and asked if any EMPWG members knew of actions currently being taken to control this growing population. People noted that this was a county wide issue but no specific study or current action was identified.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT (INFORMATION)

The next meeting of the Environmental Mitigation Program working group is scheduled for March 10, 2015, from 1 to 3 p.m. *[Note: this was subsequently rescheduled to April 14, 2015 to allow the ad hoc land management committee members time to review the grant applications].*

Tentative Topics: Recommendations for EMP Land Management Grant Program recipients from ad hoc evaluation committee.

Topics requested by members of the EMPWG include a status report about feral pig control in San Diego County, and a status report about the monitoring component of the Management Strategic Plan and scheduled monitoring.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m. by Chair 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	NO
	City of Oceanside	Vacant	Alternate	N/A
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	LeAnn Carmichael	Member	YES
		Vacant	Alternate	NO
Other Public Agencies	Army Corps of Engineers	Richard Van Sant	Member	NO
		Vacant	Alternate	N/A
	California Coastal Conservancy	Joan Cardellino	Member	YES
		Megan Cooper	Alternate	NO
	Caltrans	Bruce April	Member	YES
		Kim Smith	Alternate	NO
	Department of Fish and Wildlife	David Mayer	Member	YES
		Gail Sevens	Alternate	NO
	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Susan Wynn	Member	NO
		David Zoutendyk	Alternate	YES
	USGS	Robert Fisher	Member	YES
		Carlton Rochester	Alternate	YES
	Wildlife Conservation Board	Vacant	Member	N/A
		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	NO
		Nick Doenges	Alternate	YES
	Building Industry Association	Matt Adams	Member	NO
		Vacant	Alternate	N/A

Other Attendees:

Pat Atchinson, ICF
Dave Bittner, WRI
Leigh Bittner, WRI
Chris Brown, USGS
Sharon Coe, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program
Tim Dillingham, CDFW
Hon. Carrie Downey, City of Coronado
Pete Famolaro, SWA
Paul Fromer, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program
Mike Gonzales, RBF
Christine Hirt, San Diego Audubon
Shelby Howard, HELIX
Ben Lardiere, ECORP
Dan Marschalck, SDSU
Besty Miller, City of San Diego
Yvonne Moore, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program
Jess Norton, SDRVC
Dianne Nygaard, Preserve Calaveras
Tom OOberbauer, AECOM
Emily Perkins, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program
Fred Sandquist, Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation
Christina Schaefer, SES, San Diego Habitat Conservancy
Rebecca Schwartz, San Diego Audubon
Christine Sloan, County of San Diego
Jeff Tracy, USGS

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

San Diego Association of Governments
ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
WORKING GROUP

April 14, 2015

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **5**

Action Requested: RECOMMEND

TransNet ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM:
LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM: DRAFT PROJECT
RANKINGS FOR SEVENTH CYCLE OF GRANT FUNDING

File Number 1200300

Introduction

The *TransNet* Extension Ordinance and Expenditure Plan, approved by the voters in November 2004, includes 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.

Each year the SANDAG Board of Directors allocates \$4 million toward implementation of regional land management and biological monitoring pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with state and federal agencies on the implementation of the EMP.

For FY 2015, the Board of Directors allocated \$1.5 million of the \$4 million for a competitive land management grant program. A competitive selection process is used to award funding to successful applicants. Eligible applicants include land managers from private nonprofit organizations, local jurisdictions, and other governmental agencies. The purpose of this report is to provide information and request that the EMP Working Group make a recommendation to the Regional Planning and Transportation Committees to make a recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the recommended list of projects for funding for the Seventh Cycle FY 2015 Call for Projects for the *TransNet* EMP Land Management Grants Program.

Discussion

Competitive Selection Process

On September 26, 2014, the Board of Directors approved the release of the Seventh Cycle of Grant Funding FY 2015 Call for Projects for the *TransNet* EMP Land Management Grants Program. A total of \$1.5 million was available to address land management activities related to: (1) Maintenance and Enhancement of Extant Populations of Management Strategic Plan for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego (MSP) Species and their Habitats (approximately 40% of available funds); (2) Threat Reduction to MSP Species and their Habitats from Invasive Species and Wildfires (approximately

40% of available funds); and (3) Habitat Maintenance, Access Control/Management and Volunteer Coordination (approximately 20% of available funds). The Board of Directors also approved the evaluation criteria and weighting for each of the three categories of eligible activities.

The Seventh Cycle FY 2015 Call for Projects was issued on October 1, 2014. At its January 13, 2015, meeting the EMP Working Group appointed an evaluation committee to review the land management grant proposals received by SANDAG under the call for projects. The final evaluation committee consisted of EMP Working Group members who were not competing for funds: Leann Carmichael, County of San Diego; Robert Fisher, U.S. Geological Survey; David Mayer, California Department of Fish and Wildlife; James Whalen, J. Whalen & Associates; Susan Wynn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and SANDAG staff member Keith Greer. EMP Working Group member Susan Wynn chaired the evaluation committee.

The call for projects closed on January 6, 2015, and SANDAG received 27 proposals and distributed them to each committee member to rank and evaluate independently.

On April 2, 2015, the evaluation committee met to review its individual rankings, which were compiled prior to the meeting by SANDAG staff based upon overall cumulative ranks for each of the three categories of eligible activities. The proposals were then collectively discussed regarding merit, shortcomings and conditions, and/or reductions in project funding based upon available funding for this call for projects.

As with the past six land management grant cycles, the evaluation committee made recommendations for full or partial funding for projects based upon its discussions and expertise to determine if overall intended goals of project proposals could be achieved. Moreover, applicants were available by phone if any questions arose regarding their proposal and confirmed whether reduced funding would still result in a successful project.

Evaluation Ranking Results

For the Maintenance and Enhancement of Extant Populations of MSP Species and their Habitats category, a total of 13 proposals were received requesting funding for approximately \$2.6 million. The evaluation committee recommended funding for four projects totaling approximately \$600,000. The top ranked projects recommended for funding are highlighted in green in Attachment 1.

For the Threat Reduction to MSP Species and their Habitats from Invasive Species and Wildfires category, a total of seven proposals were received requesting funding for approximately \$2.4 million. The evaluation committee recommended funding for four projects totaling \$600,000. The top-ranked projects recommended for funding are highlighted in pink in Attachment 1.

For the Habitat Maintenance, Access Control/Management and Volunteer Coordination category, a total of seven proposals were received requesting funding for approximately \$700,000. The evaluation committee recommended funding for three projects totaling \$300,000. The top ranked projects recommended for funding are highlighted in yellow in Attachment 1.

Next Steps

If the EMP Working Group recommends that the Regional Planning and Transportation Committees make a recommendation for Board of Directors approval of the 11 recommended projects, the draft funding recommendations for the *TransNet* EMP Land Management Grant Program Seventh Cycle of Grant Funding will be presented as an information item at their June meetings. Additionally, the Committees will be asked to make a recommendation for Board of Directors approval at their joint July meeting. The *TransNet* Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee also will be provided with the funding recommendations as an information item for discussion at its June meeting to confirm that the grant funding recommendations are consistent with *TransNet* Extension Ordinance funding eligibility requirements. If approved by the Board of Directors, Notices of Award will be sent for the 14 recommended projects and grant agreements would be executed by fall 2015.

Attachment: 1. *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program Land Management Grant Program Draft Project Rankings for Seventh Cycle of Grant Funding: Maintenance and Enhancement of Extant Populations of MSP Species and their Habitats; Threat Reduction to MSP Species and their Habitats from Invasive Species and Wildfires; and Habitat Maintenance, Access Control/Management, and Volunteer Coordination

Key Staff Contact: Katie Levy, (619) 699-731, katie.levy@sandag.org

**TransNet ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM:
DRAFT PROJECT RANKINGS FOR SEVENTH CYCLE OF GRANT FUNDING
MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF EXTANT POPULATIONS OF MSP SPECIES AND THEIR HABITATS**

PRJ #	Project Title	Applicant	Project Summary from Proposal	Requested Grant Amount	Proposed Match Amount	Recommended Grant Funding	SUM of Ranks	Overall Rank	Discussion/Conditions
4	Cactus Wren	Zoological Society of San Diego	Implement active restoration of critical cactus wren habitat in the Lake Hodges area and developing a North County Cactus Nursery that will supply local native cacti to restoration projects throughout the region for 2 years.	\$ 230,721.00	\$ 52,446.00	\$ 230,721.00	12	1	Fully fund. Coordinate with South San Digo County Coastal Cactus Wren Conservation Implementation Plan.
26	Nuttall's Lotus	San Diego Audubon Society	Maintain and expand certain extant small and large populations of Nuttall's Lotus within Mission Bay Park.	\$ 110,017.00	\$ 54,120.00	\$ 110,017.00	29	2	Fully fund. If translocating plants, use materials as close to translocation spot as possible.
18	Otay RV Cactus Wren	County of San Diego- Dept of Parks & Rec	Increase the amount of suitable habitat and improve connectivity for the coastal cactus wren along Otay River Valley through restoration and enhancement of degraded habitat areas.	\$ 66,840.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 66,840.00	33	3	Fully fund. Coordinate with South San Digo County Coastal Cactus Wren Conservation Implementation Plan.
19	Otay RV & Salt Creek Cactus Wren 3	City of Chula Vista	Increase the amount of suitable habitat and improve connectivity for the coastal cactus wren along Otay River Valley and Salt Creek through restoration and enhancement of degraded habitat areas.	\$ 189,836.00	\$ 3,744.00	\$ 189,836.00	34	4	Fully fund. Coordinate with South San Digo County Coastal Cactus Wren Conservation Implementation Plan.
22	Nuttall's Acmispon	Los Penasquitos Lagoon Foundation	Maintain, restore, and enhance existing populations of Nuttall's acmispon located within Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve.	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 246,000.00	\$ -	36	5	Funding not available.
8	Otay Mesa	Chapparal Lands Conservancy	Implement a two year project to restore 7.3 acres of vernal pools and maritime succulent scrub in northwestern Otay Mesa.	\$ 211,515.16	\$ 255,931.39	\$ -	39	6	Funding not available.
13	South County Grasslands P3	Land IQ Restoration	Phase 3 will complete grasslands restoration experiment and lead to development of restoration Best Management Practices.	\$ 587,583.00	\$ -	\$ -	40	7	Funding not available.
9	Dennery Canyon	Chapparal Lands Conservancy	Implement a two year project to restor 10.25 acres of maritime succulent scrub and native grassland in northwestern Otay Mesa.	\$ 200,350.17	\$ 298,860.93	\$ -	40	7	Funding not available.
23	Hermes Copper	Back Country Land Trust	Enhance and stabilize small Hermes copper populations in western San Diego County and establish them as refugia in case of catastrophic wildfires.	\$ 361,160.00	\$ 14,420.00	\$ -	41	9	Funding not available.
6	Orcutt's Hazardia	Center for Natural Lands Management	Protect, maintain and enhance Orcutt's hazardia plant species located at the Manchester Habitat Conservation Area.	\$ 210,724.46	\$ 29,384.92	\$ -	43	10	Funding not available.
7	Acanthomintha 2	Center for Natural Lands Management	Protect, maintain, and enhance San Diego thormmint plant species through development of Best Management Practices.	\$ 119,416.51	\$ 33,768.92	\$ -	43	10	Funding not available.
5	SW Pond Turtle	Otay Water District	Introduce southwestern pond turtle into 2.1 acres of pond habitat and associated uplands in the Otay Water District San Miguel Habitat Management Area and enhance the value of riparian habitat in the two ponds for southwestern willow flycatcher and yellow-breasted chat.	\$ 181,700.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ -	66	12	Funding not available.
3	Patch-Nosed Snake	Zoological Society of San Diego	Track patch-nosed snakes over two years at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park Biodiversity Reserve to instruct strategic planning toward sustainable populations.	\$ 39,772.00	\$ -	\$ -	76	13	Funding not available.
TOTAL				\$ 2,629,635.30	\$ 1,011,276.16				

**TransNet ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM:
DRAFT PROJECT RANKINGS FOR SEVENTH CYCLE OF GRANT FUNDING
THREAT REDUCTION TO MSP SPECIES AND THEIR HABITATS FROM INVASIVE SPECIES AND WILDFIRES**

PRJ #	Project Title	Applicant	Project Summary from Proposal	Requested Grant Amount	Proposed Match Amount	Recommended Grant Funding	SUM of Ranks	Overall Rank	Discussion/Conditions
2	San Luis Rey, Santa Margarita & San Dieguito Watersheds	Mission Resource Conservation District	Re-treatment of Arundo and maintenance of the right-of-entry (ROE) database, to allow re-treatments to occur on over 350 public and private properties in these watersheds.	\$ 306,000.00	\$ 306,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	10	1	Partially fund \$300,000. Coordinate with SD River Partners to ensure work is not duplicated in SD River Valley; any cut or chipped material to be removed from site; and include City of San Diego property as part of re-treatment area. Applicant to submit revised Scope of Work, Budget & Schedule.
20	Sweetwater Reservoir Wetland	Sweetwater Authority	Purchase of plant materials and seed as part of a large-scale wetland riparian adaptive management - Sweetwater Reservoir Wetland Habitat Recovery Project.	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 4,691,967.00	\$ 100,000.00	14	2	Partially fund \$100,000. Applicant to submit revised Scope of Work, Budget & Schedule.
21	Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit 2	San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy	Invasive plant re-treatments, limited new treatments, revegetation and habitat restoration, detailed mapping of invasive plants throughout the Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit.	\$ 190,804.50	\$ 143,880.00	\$ 100,000.00	24	3	Partially fund \$100,000. Applicant to submit revised Scope of Work, Budget & Schedule for 2 years.
12	Brachypodium P2	Conservation Biology Institute	Control invasive grass, Brachypodium distachyon, in 4 locations by refining existing Brachypodium Best Management Practices, expanding treatment into new areas using proven BMPs, and developing new BMPs for landscape-level application.	\$ 426,364.00	\$ 24,016.00	\$ 100,000.00	27	4	Partially fund \$100,000 for Task 1 only. Objective of funding this project proposal is to complete Best Management Practices. Applicant to submit revised Scope of Work, Budget & Schedule for 2 years.
10	Arroyo Toad	City of San Diego- Public Utilities Department	Enhance 231 acres of arroyo toad riparian habitat in the San Pasqual Valley through removal of dead invasive plant biomass from stream corridors.	\$ 110,992.00	\$ 38,992.00	\$ -	28	5	Funding not available.
14	Hermes, Encinitas Baccharis, & Sticky Dudleya	Escondido Creek Conservancy	Survey, reduce threats, enhance, restore, and monitor at three project sites and one match area site for Hermes copper, Encinitas baccharis and Sticky dudleya.	\$ 992,611.00	\$ 84,909.00	\$ -	29	6	Funding not available.
17	Lusardi Creek 2	County of San Diego- Dept of Parks & Rec	Restore a portion of the 223.78-acre Lusardi Creek Preserve as almost the entire Preserve burned in 2007 and again in 2014.	\$ 142,900.00	\$ 32,700.00	\$ -	33	7	Funding not available.
TOTAL				\$ 2,419,671.50	\$ 5,322,464.00				

**TransNet ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM:
DRAFT PROJECT RANKINGS FOR SEVENTH CYCLE OF GRANT FUNDING
HABITAT MAINTENANCE, ACCESS CONTROL/MANAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATION**

PRJ #	Project Title	Applicant	Project Summary from Proposal	Requested Grant Amount	Proposed Match Amount	Recommended Grant Funding	SUM of Ranks	Overall Rank	Discussion/Conditions
24	Mother Miguel Mountain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-SD National Wildlife Refuge	Protect sensitive species, including Mexican flannelbush and critical habitat on the southwestern slope of Mother Miguel Mountain, while managing public access and awareness.	\$ 21,454.00	\$ 80,185.00	\$ 21,454.00	9	1	Fully fund.
15	S. San Diego County Community 3	Earth Discovery Institute	Extend conservation outreach and environmental education through interpretive and habitat conservation events, student involvement, and volunteer patrols.	\$ 159,500.00	\$ 52,964.00	\$ 159,500.00	16	2	Fully fund. Partner with San Ysidro School District and County to educate students regarding Furby-North protected/restricted access.
16	Furby-North Preserve	County of San Diego-Dept of Parks & Rec	Addition of signage, fencing and gates on the Furby-North Property to prevent unauthorized access into and across the Property and allow for future active restoration of the unauthorized trails as outlined in the Resource Management Plan.	\$ 110,968.00	\$ 10,327.00	\$ 119,046.00	23	3	Fully fund and additional \$8,078 to install additional gate. Install fencing where most appropriate and add on-site monitoring for post-installation of fencing and gates with matching funds/County staff time.
27	River Park Watch 2	San Diego River Park Foundation	Engage the community in stewardship of critical habitat areas along the San Diego River through systematic survey, clean-up and monitoring.	\$ 132,852.00	\$ 54,650.00	\$ -	25	4	Lack of available funding.
11	Enforcement	City of San Diego-Park and Recreation Department	Funding for 3750 hours of overtime patrols by SD Police Department officers and Rangers to decrease habitat destruction through expanded enforcement capacity at illegal use hotspots.	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ -	27	5	Lack of available funding.
25	Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary	San Diego Audubon Society	Day-to-day management activities to support the expansion of invasive control efforts to 65 acres of priority habitat areas within the preserve, including clearance of brush and understory, maintenance of trails, and management of invasive plant species.	\$ 54,451.00	\$ 42,794.00	\$ -	27	5	Lack of available funding.
1	Durling Preserve	Fallbrook Lands Conservancy	Create a safe and "habitat friendly" access for maintenance and monitoring, and perform an overall reconnaissance for sensitive and endangered species for the purpose of determining appropriate public access, and the effects of such access on these species.	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	39	7	Lack of available funding.
TOTAL				\$ 701,725.00	\$ 279,420.00				