



401 B Street, Suite 800  
 San Diego, CA 92101-4231  
 (619) 699-1900  
 Fax (619) 699-1905  
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# Meeting Notice and Agenda

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

## Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

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

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

1 to 3 p.m.

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

Staff Contact: Kim Smith  
 (619) 699-6469  
 kim.smith@sandag.org

## Agenda Highlights

- **Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: FY 2020 Annual Funding**
- **Assessment of Environmental Mitigation Land Management Grant Program**
- **Mountain Lions – Update on Research in San Diego County**

**Please silence all electronic devices during the meeting**

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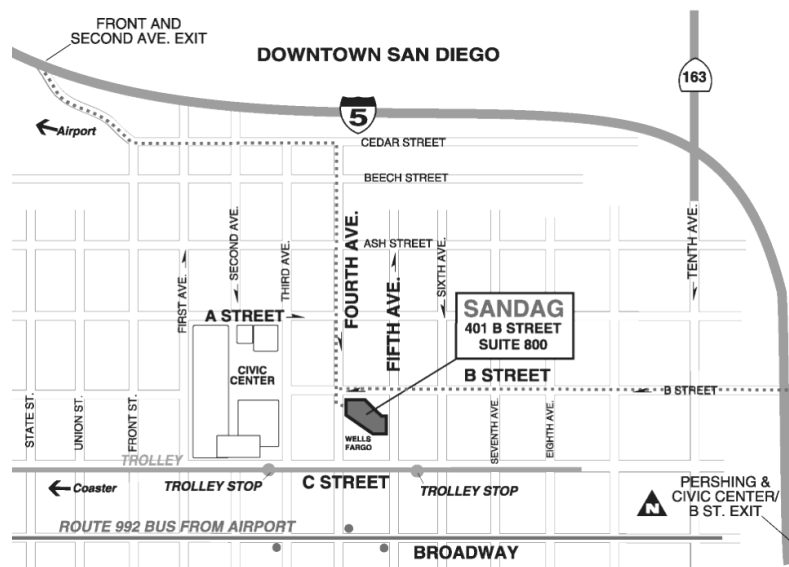
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# Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

<b>Item No.</b>		<b>Action</b>
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Estimated Start Time: 1 – 1:05 p.m.
+2.	<b>Approval of Meeting Minutes</b> The Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) is asked to review and approve the minutes from its July 9, 2019, meeting.	<b>Approve</b> Estimated Start Time: 1:05 – 1:10 p.m.
3.	<b>Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments</b> Members of the public shall have the opportunity to address the EMPWG on any issue within the jurisdiction of SANDAG that is not on this agenda. Anyone desiring to speak shall reserve time by completing a Request to Comment form and giving it to the meeting coordinator prior to speaking. Public speakers should notify the meeting coordinator if they have a handout for distribution to EMPWG members. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person. EMPWG members also may provide information and announcements under this agenda item.	Estimated Start Time: 1:10 – 1:15 p.m.

## Reports

+4.	<b>Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: FY 2020 Annual Funding</b> <i>Susan Wynn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife</i> <i>Kim Smith, SANDAG</i> Each year the EMPWG makes a recommendation to the Regional Planning Committee on the allocation of \$4 million dollars for regional management and biological monitoring activities pursuant to an approved Memorandum of Agreement on the implementation of the Environmental Mitigation Program. At its May 2019 meeting, the EMPWG formed an ad hoc committee to develop recommendations for FY 2020 for consideration by the EMPWG.	<b>Recommend</b>
5.	<b>Assessment of Environmental Mitigation Land Management Grant Program</b> <i>Courtney Pesce, SANDAG</i> SANDAG has provided grants for regional land management activities since 2006 under the <i>TransNet</i> Environmental Mitigation Program. Since its inception, SANDAG has awarded 117 grants over nine cycles. Ms. Pesce will present the results of her efficiency and effectiveness audit of the program and provide recommendations for improvements.	<b>Information</b>

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| <p>6. <b>Mountain Lions - Update on Research and Findings in San Diego County</b><br/><i>Winston Vickers, UC Davis</i><br/>Mr. Vickers will give an update on mountain lion research and recent findings in San Diego County, the region and the state.</p> | <p><b>Information</b></p> |
| <p>7. <b>Upcoming Meetings</b><br/>The next EMPWG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 1 p.m.</p>  | <p><b>Information</b></p> |
| <p>8. <b>Adjournment</b></p>  |                           |

+ next to an item indicates an attachment



# Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

Item: **2**

September 10, 2019

Action: **Approve**

## July 9, 2019, Meeting Minutes

Chair Kristine Alessio (Vice Mayor, City of La Mesa) called the meeting of the Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) to order at 1:03 p.m.

### 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Approve)

Action: Prior to voting on the May 14, 2019, meeting minutes, Susan Wynn (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) made a correction that she provided the second on the vote to approve the January 8, 2019, meeting minutes. James Whalen (Alliance for Habitat Conservation) also made a correction in May's meeting minutes to change Mr. Robert Fisher (USGS) to Dr. Fisher. The EMPWG unanimously approved both changes. Upon a motion by Mr. Whalen and a second by Dr. Fisher, the EMPWG approved the minutes from the May 14, 2019, meeting.

Yes: Bruce April (Caltrans), Dai Hoang (City of Chula Vista), Betsy Miller (City of San Diego), Vice Chair LeAnn Carmichael (County of San Diego), Trish Smith (The Nature Conservancy), Candace Wo (The San Diego Foundation), and Susan Wynn. Abstain: None. Absent: Army Corps of Engineers, Building Industry Association, City of Carlsbad, City of Oceanside, City of Poway, City of Santee, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered Habitats League, U.S Forest Service, and Wildlife Conservation Board.

### 2. Public Comments/Member's Comments (Discussion)

No public or member comments were made.

## Reports

### 3. San Diego Forward: The 2020 Federal Regional Transportation Plan Draft Transportation Network (Discussion)

On February 22, 2019, the Board of Directors approved an action plan that will extend the development of San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan until late 2021. To mitigate risks to the transportation funding, SANDAG is preparing the 2020 Federal Regional Transportation Plan to meet federal requirements for adoption in the spring of 2020. The draft transportation network will be presented to the Board of Directors at its July 26, 2019, meeting for discussion.

Rachel Kennedy, Senior Regional Planner, explained to Mr. Whalen, who inquired how to solve the schism between North and East county, that the 2020 Federal Regional Transportation Plan Draft Network is a place holder to keep the current plan in place while also meeting the federal requirements.

### 4. SANDAG Strategic Plan (Discussion)

Loree Goffigon and Reza Ahmadi (Performance Works) presented the item. SANDAG is developing a multi-year plan that will define the agency's mission, vision, strategic priorities, and create a roadmap for building internal capacity necessary for delivering regional programs, projects and initiatives. Input from a broad range of stakeholders is being gathered during the early phase of this effort.

Dr. Fisher suggested the strategic plan soften the effect that infrastructure has on the natural landscape by using elevated highways or underpasses for natural wildlife to pass freely. Ms. Miller mentioned the EMPWG needs to be highlighted more to the public and to stakeholders because most do not know what the EMPWG does or what the purpose of the program is. Mrs. Wynn suggested that the EMPWG needs to continue work that has already been performed (regional coordination), but also expressed the need to secure a regional funding source.

## **5. San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan (Discussion)**

In February 2019, the Board of Directors unanimously approved an action plan to develop a bigger and bolder transportation vision for the 2021 Regional Plan that will transform the way people and goods move throughout the San Diego region. Allison Wood, Senior Regional Planner, introduced key strategies (known as the 5 Big Moves) that will be used to identify transportation solutions for critical connections throughout the region. Feedback over the coming months, along with input from stakeholders and the public, will continue to inform the 2021 Regional Plan visionary framework.

## **6. Biodiversity Management in San Diego County (Information)**

Dr. Fisher presented on biodiversity in global and regional contexts for preserves in San Diego County. At the local scale, it is important to understand drivers of change, how we define biodiversity and the tools for assessing species range changes. Biosecurity is a neglected topic, but it ties critically to invasive species issues in the region. The presentation addresses the link between these issues and quality of life in San Diego.

## **7. San Diego End Extinction Initiative (Information)**

Mendel Stewart (San Diego Zoo Global) presented on the San Diego End Extinction initiative and discussed the need to preserve San Diego's unique biodiversity, the background of the initiative, how it is structured, and a summary of the status of this effort.

Following Mr. Stewart's presentation, the EMPWG discussed how the San Diego Zoo's goals and objectives blends with the Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) goals and strategies. The EMPWG discussed the absence of and need for a local champion or elected official that will promote the goals and strategies to help the Board of Directors better understand and support future EMP projects and suggestions.

## **8. Upcoming Meetings**

The next EMPWG meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2019, at 1 p.m.

## **9. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Leann Carmichael (County of San Diego) adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

## Confirmed Attendance at SANDAG Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group Meeting

July 9, 2019

Jurisdiction	Name	Attended	Comments
City of La Mesa	Chair Kristine Alessio	Yes	
	Vacant		
County of San Diego	Vice Chair LeAnn Carmichael	Yes	
	Deborah Mosley	Yes	
City of San Diego	Betsy Miller	Yes	
	Heidi VonBlum	No	
City of Santee	Melanie Kush	No	
	Christina Rios	No	
City of Carlsbad	Rosanne Humphrey	No	
City of Oceanside	Jeff Hunt	No	
City of Poway	Oda Audish	No	
	Carol Rosas	No	
City of Chula Vista	Cheryl Goodard	No	
	Dai Hoang	Yes	
Army Corps of Engineers	Kyle Dahl	No	
	Michelle Lynch	No	
Caltrans	Bruce April	Yes	
	David Nagy	No	
Department of Fish and Wildlife	David Mayer	No	
	Hans Sin	No	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Susan Wynn	Yes	
	David Zoutendyk	No	
U.S. Forest Service	Kirsten Winter	No	
	Lance Criley	No	
U.S. Geological Survey	Robert Fisher	Yes	
	Carlton Rochester	Yes	
Wildlife Conservation Board	Rebecca Fris	No	
	John Walsh	No	
Endangered Habitats League	Michael Beck	No	
	Scott Grimes	No	
San Diego Conservation Network	Anne Harvey	No	
	Vacant		
The Nature Conservancy	Cara Lacey	No	
	Trish Smith	Yes	

The San Diego Foundation	Candace Wo	Yes
	Cami Mattson	No
Alliance for Habitat Conservation	James Whalen	Yes
	Nick Doenges	No
Building Industry Association	Matt Adams	No
	Vacant	
<b>Other Attendees</b>		
Kris Preston	SDMMP	Yes
Annabelle Bernabe	SDMMP	Yes
Sarah MCcutcheon	SDMMP	Yes
Lisa Maier	ESA	Yes
Scott Nespor	City of Poway	Yes
Oreg Mattson	Rick Engineering Company	Yes





## Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

Item: **4**

September 10, 2019

Action: **Recommend**

### Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: FY 2020 Annual Funding

#### Introduction

In May, the Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) formed an ad hoc committee to recommend an annual funding allocation for FY 2020 for regional land management and biological monitoring.

#### Discussion

The *TransNet* Extension Ordinance and Expenditure Plan, approved by voters in 2004, includes the Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP), which provides funding to mitigation habitat impacts from regional and local transportation projects and provides funding for regional land management and biological monitoring.

Each year, the 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. An MOA that implements the next ten years of the EMP was adopted by the Board of Directors on February 22, 2019.

The [two-year Work Plan for FY 2019-2020](#) is based on the objectives and priorities included in the [Management Strategic Plan](#). This Work Plan outlines the overarching goals, areas of emphasis, and key milestones for regional management and monitoring. The proposed funding levels for FY 2020 are consistent with the adopted *TransNet* MOA.

#### Next Steps

Pending recommendation for approval from the EMPWG, the proposed budget for FY 2020 totaling \$4 million will be presented to the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee and the Regional Planning and Transportation Committees for recommendation for approval to the Board of Directors in October 2019. Staff would implement the Work Plan with the approved budget for FY 2020.

Key Staff Contact: Kim Smith, 619-699-6949, kim.smith@sandag.org

Attachment: 1. Draft Ad Hoc FY 2020 Funding Allocation

### Draft Ad Hoc FY 20 Funding Allocation

A	B	C	E	F	G
#	Strategic Goal	Approved Prior Years FY 06-19	Available Budget	Ad Hoc Recommendation	Comments
1	<b>Promote key sensitive species</b>				
1.1	Rare and Endemic Plant Monitoring and Recovery	\$1,840,000	\$39,809	\$375,000	Continue to facilitate monitoring by local jurisdictions and contract a consultant to fill the gaps in monitoring for FY 2020. Continue funding for additional development of seed and management plans, including funding for seed collection and banking.
1.2	Vertebrate Monitoring and Recovery	\$7,285,935	\$69,410	\$1,215,000	Continue funding species habitat recovery.
1.3	Invertebrate Monitoring and Recovery	\$1,298,535	\$150,616	\$80,000	Continue to work with contractors on rare butterfly monitoring and management.
1.4	General Stressors and Threats Management	\$1,835,000	\$0	\$50,000	Continue to work with partners to finalize and implement the Invasive Animal Management Plan.
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$12,749,470</b>	<b>\$345,355</b>	<b>\$1,720,000</b>	
2	<b>Promote native vegetation communities</b>				
2.1	Vegetation Community Monitoring and Recovery	\$1,349,764	\$320,252	\$150,000	Continue with regional vegetation monitoring protocol development and testing. Initiate the development of a grazing plan in coordination with land managers.
2.2	Pro-active Wildfire Planning and Management	\$3,100,000	\$401,377	\$0	No additional funding needed.
2.3	Invasive Plant Species Management	\$1,390,000	\$6,231	\$200,000	Continue to work with County of San Diego Agriculture to strategically reduce invasive species in the region. Moving \$85,520 from Strategic Goal 1.4 Other Species Monitoring (this is phased out) for a total of \$285,520 for Strategic Goal 2.3.
2.4	Updated Vegetation Mapping	\$850,000	\$13,161	\$0	No additional funding needed. Start vegetation mapping in FY 2022.
2.5	Enforcement	\$1,200,000	\$547,299	\$0	No additional funding needed. Continue to work with local jurisdictions to start multiple pilot efforts.
2.6	Preserve level management plan standardization	\$450,000	\$27	\$0	No additional funding needed.
2.7	Land Management Implementation (e.g., grants)	\$17,510,000	\$800,000	\$600,000	Start 10th cycle of the land management grants in FY 2020/2021.
2.8	Emergency Land Management Fund	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0	No additional funding needed.
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$26,249,764</b>	<b>\$2,488,347</b>	<b>\$950,000</b>	
3	<b>Improve wildlife movement</b>				
3.1	Wildlife Corridor and Linkages Monitoring	\$2,340,766	\$47	\$100,000	Continue to work with partners and contract a consultant to implement regional wildlife movement monitoring using motion cameras.
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2,340,766</b>	<b>\$47</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	
4	<b>Promote regional coordination</b>				
4.1	Program Administrator	\$2,200,000	\$219,449	\$0	Existing contract expired. No additional funding required to fill vacancy.
4.2	Management & Monitoring Coordinator	\$1,990,000	\$75,102	\$155,000	Continue to work under existing contracts for FY 2020.
4.3	Biologist	\$1,450,000	\$27,597	\$225,000	Continue to work under existing contracts for FY 2020.
4.4	GIS Support	\$1,350,000	\$75,575	\$292,000	Continue to work under existing contracts for FY 2020.
4.5	Database Development and Support	\$1,455,000	\$0	\$278,000	Continue to work under existing contracts for FY 2020.
4.6	Conserved Lands Database Management	\$275,000	\$78,290	\$0	No additional funding needed.
4.7	Administrative & Science Support	\$940,000	\$17,959	\$280,000	Continue to work under existing contracts for FY 2020.
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$9,660,000</b>	<b>\$493,973</b>	<b>\$1,230,000</b>	
	<b>TOTAL FUNDING STRATEGY</b>	<b>\$51,000,000</b>	<b>\$3,327,723</b>	<b>\$4,000,000</b>	