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Meeting Notice and Agenda

Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

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

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

1 to 3 p.m.

Caltrans District 11, Building 1
4050 Taylor Street
San Diego, CA 92110

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Agenda Highlights

- **Preserve Metrics Workshop**

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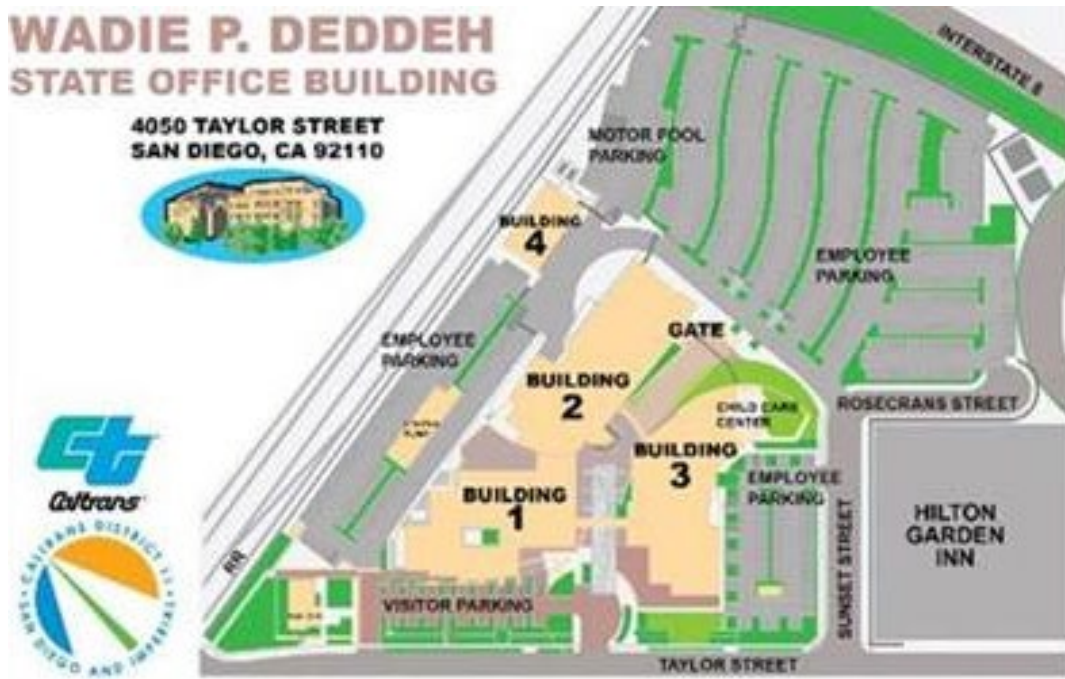
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Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Item No.		Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	Estimated Start Time: 1 – 1:05 p.m.
+2.	Approval of Meeting Minutes The Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) is asked to review and approve the minutes from its September 10, 2019, meeting.	Approve Estimated Start Time: 1:05 – 1:10 p.m.
3.	Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments 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.	Preserve Metrics Workshop SANDAG is seeking input on the development of metrics to measure the overall health of the regional preserve system.	Discussion
9.	Upcoming Meetings The next EMPWG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2019, at 1 p.m.	Information
10.	Adjournment	

+ next to an item indicates an attachment



Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

Item: **2**

November 12, 2019

Action: Approve

September 10, 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 1:05 p.m.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Approve)

Action: Prior to voting on the July 9, 2019, meeting minutes, Susan Wynn (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) made a correction that she did not provide the second on the vote to approve the January 8, 2019, meeting minutes. Upon a motion by Susan Wynn and a second by Chair Kristine Alessio, the EMPWG approved the minutes from the July 9, 2019, meeting.

Yes: Chair Kristine Alessio (City of La Mesa), Vice Chair LeAnn Carmichael (County of San Diego), David Mayer (California Department of Fish and Wildlife Service), David Nagy (Caltrans), Dai Hoang (City of Chula Vista), Julia Chase (City of San Diego), Michael Beck (Endangered Habitats League), Trish Smith (The Nature Conservancy), Candace Wo (The San Diego Foundation), Carlton Rochester (USGS), Susan Wynn, and Lance Criley (U.S. Forest Service). Abstain: None. Absent: Alliance for Habitat Conservation, Army Corps of Engineers, Building Industry Association, City of Carlsbad, City of Oceanside, City of Poway, City of Santee, San Diego Conservation Network, and Wildlife Conservation Board.

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

Kim Smith, Senior Environmental Planner, announced to the Working Group that there will be a meeting on October 3, 2019, for all of the working groups at SANDAG to meet and provide input on the 5 Big Moves and the next steps on San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan (2021 Regional Plan). Secondly, Kim Smith discussed the SANDAG requirement through the Independent Taxpayer Association's fourth Triennial Performance Audit to develop metrics that measure the health of the preserve system. SANDAG is currently working on this internally and will be coming back to the EMPWG possibly in November for a workshop. In addition, members of the EMPWG requested SANDAG create a smaller group meeting to develop a vision for habitat conservation in the future and how it will fit into the 2021 Regional Plan. SANDAG agreed to facilitate a future meeting and report back to the EMPWG. Finally, Kim Smith announced that the last acquisition of property has been completed from the 2015 Land Acquisition Grant Program. The Skyline property is located in the Jamul/Dulzura area totaling 779 acres. Habitat on the property supports the coastal California gnatcatcher and potentially Hermes copper butterfly. The Endangered Habitats League will manage the property in perpetuity.

Reports

3. Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: FY 2020 Annual Funding (Approve)

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 the May 2019 meeting, the EMPWG formed an ad hoc committee to develop recommendations for the FY 2020 for consideration by the EMPWG. Kim Smith and Susan Wynn presented the ad hoc recommendations to the working group.

Action: Upon a motion by Chair Kristine Alessio (City of La Mesa) and a second by Susan Wynn, the EMPWG approved the budget proposal recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee.

Yes: Chair Kristine Alessio, Vice Chair LeAnn Carmichael, David Mayer, David Nagy, Dai Hoang, Julia Chase, Michael Beck, Trish Smith, Candace Wo, Carlton Rochester, Susan Wynn, and Lance Criley. Abstain: None. Absent: Alliance for Habitat Conservation, Army Corps of Engineers, Building Industry Association, City of Carlsbad, City of Oceanside, City of Poway, City of Santee, San Diego Conservation Network, and Wildlife Conservation Board.

4. Assessment of Environmental Mitigation Land Management Grant Program (Discussion)

SANDAG has provided grants for the regional land management activities since 2006 under the *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program. Since its inception, SANDAG has awarded 117 grants over nine cycles. Courtney Pesce, Environmental Planning Intern, presented the results of her efficiency and effectiveness audit of the program and provided recommendations for improvement.

5. Mountain Lions – Update on Research and Findings in San Diego County (Discussion)

Winston Vickers (UC Davis) provided an update on the mountain lion research and recent findings in San Diego County, the region, and the state.

6. Upcoming Meetings

The next Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Chair Kristine Alessio adjourned the meeting at 2:44 pm.

Confirmed Attendance at SANDAG Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) Meeting

July 9th, 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	No	
City of San Diego	Kristin Forburger	No	
	Heidi VonBlum	No	
	Julia Chase	Yes	
City of Santee	Melanie Kush	No	
	Christina Rios	No	
City of Carlsbad	Rosanne Humphrey	No	
City of Oceanside	Jeff Hunt	No	
City of Poway	Scott Nespor	No	
	Oda Audish	No	
City of Chula Vista	Cheryl Goodard	No	
	Dai Hoang	Yes	
Army Corps of Engineers	Kyle Dahl	No	
	Michelle Lynch	No	
Caltrans	Bruce April	No	
	David Nagy	Yes	
Department of Fish and Wildlife	David Mayer	Yes	
	Hans Sin	No	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Susan Wynn	Yes	
	David Zoutendyk	No	
U.S. Forest Service	Kirsten Winter	No	
	Lance Criley	Yes	
U.S. Geological Survey	Robert Fisher	No	
	Carlton Rochester	Yes	
Wildlife Conservation Board	Rebecca Fris	No	
	John Walsh	No	
Endangered Habitats League	Michael Beck	Yes	
	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	No
	Nick Doenges	No
Building Industry Association	Matt Adams	No
	Vacant	
Other Attendees		
Kris Preston	SDMMP	Yes
Sarah MCcutcheon	SDMMP	Yes
Andrew Meyer	S.D. Audubon Society	Yes
Joely Maak	None	Yes
Scott Tremor	SDNHM	Yes
John Martin	USFWS	Yes
Alanna Sullivan	ESA	Yes
Michelle Blake	Caltrans	Yes
Megan Jennings	SDSU	Yes
Hannah Walchak	TECC	Yes



Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

Item: **4**

November 12, 2019

Action: **Discussion**

Preserve Metrics Workshop

Overview

In May 2019, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), San Diego Management and Monitoring Program (SDMMP), and a small group of stakeholders met to identify and develop metrics to measure the health of the regional preserve system.

Discussion:

SANDAG is seeking input on the development of metrics to measure the overall health of the regional preserve system.

Key Considerations

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.

In FY 2018, the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee released the fourth Triennial Performance Audit on the *TransNet* program. The audit is performed every three years and outcomes include recommendations to improve various processes. One of the recommendations for the EMP was to develop metrics using the abundance of data collected to date to holistically understand the status and trends of the overall health of the preserve system against the baselines established in regional conservation plans. These performance results would then be communicated to the public. SANDAG has until 2021 to comply with the audit recommendations.

Next Steps

Once input on the development of the metrics is received, SANDAG will work with SDMMP and an outside consultant to develop an approach to communicate these complex ideas to the public. Staff will come back to the EMPWG at a future meeting to update the group on progress moving forward.

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