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Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020
 1 to 3 p.m.**

****Teleconference Meeting****

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

The SANDAG Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2020, will be conducted virtually in accordance with Governor Newsom’s State of Emergency declaration regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, Executive Order N-29-20, and the Guidance for Gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health. Working Group Members will primarily participate in the meeting virtually, while practicing social distancing, from individual remote locations. There are a few options for public participation:

- [Listen to the meeting audio stream through sandag.org](#)
- [Observe the meeting via GoToMeeting](#) (registration required)

To register for the GoToMeeting webinar, follow the prompts to enter your name and email address. Members of the public who prefer not to share their names with SANDAG may use initials or a pseudonym; however, to receive a confirmation email, including a link to join the webinar, you will need to enter a valid email address. On the morning of the meeting, click the “Join Webinar” link in the confirmation email. To avoid connection issues, [check your system requirements](#) in advance.

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SANDAG is relying on commercial technology to broadcast the meeting via GoToWebinar. With the recent increase of virtual meetings, platforms such as Microsoft Teams, WebEx, GoToMeeting, and Zoom are working to scale their systems to meet the new demand. If we experience technical difficulty or you are unexpectedly disconnected from the broadcast, please close and re-open your browser and click the link to re-join the meeting. SANDAG staff will take all possible measures to ensure a publicly accessible experience. Please note that the meeting will continue to be broadcast audio-only via the “Listen to the meeting” link on [sandag.org](#).

Public Comments: Persons who wish to address the Working Group on an item to be considered at this meeting, or on non-agendized issues, may email comments to the EMPWG at clerk@sandag.org (please reference: “June 9 EMPWG Meeting” in your subject line and identify the item number(s) to which your comments pertain).

Comments received by 4 p.m. on Friday, June 5, will be provided to EMPWG members prior to the meeting. Comments received during the meeting will be read into the record at the appropriate time for public comments. All comments received prior to the close of the meeting will be made part of the meeting record.



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. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person. The Working Group may only take action on any item appearing on the agenda.

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 sandag.org/meetings. Additionally, interested persons can sign up for email notifications at sandag.org/subscribe.

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Mission Statement

The 18 cities and county government are SANDAG serving as the forum for regional decision-making. SANDAG builds consensus; makes strategic plans; obtains and allocates resources; plans, engineers, and builds public transit; and provides information on a broad range of topics pertinent to the region's quality of life.

San Diego Association of Governments · 401 B Street, Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101-4231
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Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

June 9, 2020

Item No.		Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
+2.	Approval of Meeting Minutes The Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) is asked to review and approve the minutes from its March 10, 2020, meeting.	Approve Estimated start time: 1:05-1:10 p.m.
3.	Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments Persons who wish to address the EMPWG on an item to be considered at this meeting, or on non-agendized issues, may email comments to the EMPWG at clerk@sandag.org (please reference "June 9 EMPWG Meeting" in your subject line and identify the item number(s) to which your comments pertain). Comments received by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 5, will be provided to EMPWG members prior to the meeting. Comments received during the meeting will be read into the record at the appropriate time for public comments. All comments received prior to the close of the meeting will be made part of the meeting record. EMPWG members also may provide information and announcements under this agenda item.	Estimated start time: 1:10-1:15 p.m.
Reports		
4.	Request for Formation of an Ad Hoc Committee for FY 2021-2022 Work Plan and FY 2021 Annual Funding <i>Kim Smith, SANDAG</i> The EMPWG is asked to approve the formation of an ad hoc committee for the development of the FY 2021 – 2022 Work Plan for regional management and monitoring, and the annual allocation of funding for FY 2021. The committee will meet in July (day and time to be determined).	Approve
5.	Habitat Conservation Vision <i>Kim Smith, SANDAG</i> SANDAG staff will give a brief presentation on the development of a Habitat Conservation Vision and how this vision ties into the Regional Plan.	Discussion
6.	Preserve Metrics <i>Kim Smith, SANDAG</i> <i>Dr. Kris Preston, SDMMPIU.S. Geological Survey</i> An update on the progress and future timeline of the development of metrics to measure the health of the preserve system will be presented.	Discussion

7. **Macrofaunal Index of Biotic Integrity – Identifying Management Options Across Watersheds** **Information**

Dr. Robert Fisher, U.S. Geological Survey

The U.S. Geological Survey has been working to integrate 20 years of stream survey data from watersheds across southern California to develop a proof of concept for implementing a regional macrofaunal index of biotic integrity (MIBI) for identifying habitat quality for watersheds. The biological parameters are then contrasted to various standard hydrological impairment scores for each watershed to develop management categories for regional prioritization of actions. These MIBI metrics can then be monitored over time across the region to determine if improvement scores are being met and where actions may need re-prioritization.

8. **Upcoming Meetings** **Information**

The next EMPWG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 1 p.m.

9. **Adjournment**

+ next to an item indicates an attachment



Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

Item: **2**

June 9, 2020

Action: **Approve**

March 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chair Kristine Alessio (City of La Mesa) called the meeting of the Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) to order at 1:06 p.m.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Approve)

Action: Upon a motion by Bruce April (Caltrans) and a second by Chair Alessio, the EMPWG approved the minutes from the November 12, 2019, meeting.

Yes: Candace Wo (The San Diego Foundation), David Mayer (California Department of Fish and Wildlife), Kristin Forburger (City of San Diego), Lance Criley (U.S. Forest Service), LeAnn Carmichael (County of San Diego), Michael Beck (Endangered Habitats League), Dr. Robert Fisher (United States Geological Survey [USGS]), Rosanne Humphrey (City of Carlsbad), Trish Smith (The Nature Conservancy), Susan Wynn (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and Tyler Martin (Alliance for Habitat Conservation).

Abstain: None.

Absent: Army Corps of Engineers, Building Industry Association, City of Chula Vista, City of Oceanside, City of Poway, City of Santee, San Diego Conservation Network, Endangered Habitats League, and Wildlife Conservation Board.

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

A member of the public requested at a future meeting there be an update on the mitigation for the I-5 North Coast Corridor projects, particularly the work including mitigation that is near Batiquitos Lagoon. In addition, the Ocean Protection Council awarded the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation a \$600,000 grant to restore 40 acres of wetland and coastal sage scrub habitats. Additionally, the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation is working with the Pacific Ridge School to install wildlife cameras on the project site within Batiquitos Lagoon. The Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation hopes to identify coyotes, mule deer, and other wildlife that resides on the property. Information from the wildlife cameras will be made available to the public on the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation's website.

Dr. Fisher updated the working group on research that has been published by the USGS. The first publication, *Climate Impacts on Newts*, explores how newts respond to large-scale droughts. The second publication by Dr. Fisher and Dr. Megan Jennings (San Diego State University), is *Genetics and Connectivity of Bobcats in Southern California*. The third publication is *Systematics of Banded Gecko in San Diego*. The San Diego banded gecko is one of the key targets for USGS. USGS has been monitoring the genetics and morphology of the banded gecko and research indicates that it is restricted to San Diego and Baja California. The species that resides in Orange and Riverside County are desert banded geckos, concluding that that they are different sub species.

Dr. Fisher also informed the working group that the final determination for the listing of the western spadefoot toad will be released around September 2020. This will have huge implications on restoration projects involving vernal pools inside and outside reserves. Dr. Fisher encouraged project managers that work within restoration sites in or around vernal pools to provide their feedback/comment to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the next 30 days. Dr. Fisher recently published two papers on western spadefoot toads, one on upland movement and one on modeling the northern portion of the range.

The USGS is also finishing up an assessment of the southern portion of the spadefoot's range, while assessing conservation against the modeled distribution in order to evaluate the importance of listing or not listing the species. USGS is also comparing the northern population, where the species is mostly absent from conservation lands, to the newly assessed southern portion.

Kim Smith (SANDAG) announced future EMP working group meetings will be quarterly meetings instead of monthly meetings (March, June, September, December). If there are any important items that needs to be addressed, SANDAG is able to hold an additional working group meeting.

Reports

3. Preserve Metrics

An update on the progress and future timeline of the development of metrics to measure the health of our regional preserve system was presented.

4. Climate Resilient Connectivity for the South Coast Ecoregion

Dr. Megan Jennings (San Diego State University) presented an overview of the project that combined considerations with connectivity and landscape metrics in the South Coast Ecoregion. The results of the project can support preservation of biodiversity and proactive planning to help keep common species common under climate change.

5. Mule Deer Movement and Gene Flow in Northern San Diego County

Dr. Amy Vandergast (U.S. Geological Survey) gave an overview of the U.S. Geological Survey's recent study of mule deer scat genotyping efforts and inferring movement and gene flow among deer populations in northern San Diego County. Results of this study can help assess overall levels of connectivity and identify locations on the landscape where connectivity could be enhanced.

6. Upcoming Meetings

The next Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 1 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Chair Alessio adjourned the meeting at 2:59 pm.

Confirmed Attendance at SANDAG Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group Meeting

March 10, 2020

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	Yes	
	Heidi VonBlum	No	
	Julia Chase	No	
City of Santee	Melanie Kush	No	
	Christina Rios	No	
City of Carlsbad	Rosanne Humphrey	Yes	
City of Oceanside	Jeff Hunt	No	
City of Poway	Scott Nespor	No	
	Oda Audish	No	
City of Chula Vista	Cheryl Goodard	No	
	Dai Hoang	No	
Army Corps of Engineers	Kyle Dahl	No	
	Michelle Lynch	No	
Caltrans	Bruce April	Yes	
	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	Yes	
	Carlton Rochester	No	
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
	Tyler Martin	Yes
Building Industry Association	Matt Adams	No
	Vacant	
Other Attendees		
Kris Preston	SDMMP	
Sarah MCcutcheon	SDMMP	
Andrew Meyer	S.D. Audubon Society	
Emily Perkins	SDMMP	
Barbara Kus	USGS	
David Hill	Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation	
Fred Sandquist	Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation	
Don Omsted	LWU	
Mike Howard	Dudek	
Amy Vandergast	USGS	
Annabelle Bernabe	SDMMP	
Mendel Stewart	EESD	
Megan Jennings	SDSU	
Rebecca Lewison	SDSU	
Travis Kemnitz	S.D. Audubon Society	
Holly Smit-Kicklighter	CDFW	
Pat Atchinson	ICF	
Katie Layborn	Harris & Associates	
Bill Tippetts	SWID	