



Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group Agenda

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

1 p.m.

****Teleconference Meeting****

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

The Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2022, will be conducted virtually in accordance with Governor Newsom’s State of Emergency declaration regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, Government Code Section 54953(e), Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas 2021), and the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards issued by the California Department of Industrial Relations. Working Group members will primarily participate in the meeting virtually, while practicing social distancing, from individual remote locations.

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Public Comments: Persons who wish to address the members on an item to be considered at this meeting, or on non-agendized issues, may email comments to the Clerk at clerkoftheboard@sandag.org (please reference “Tuesday, January 11, 2022, Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group Meeting” in your subject line and identify the item number(s) to which your comments pertain). Comments received by 4 p.m. on Monday, January 10, 2022, will be provided to members prior to the meeting. If you desire to provide live verbal comment during the meeting, please join the Zoom meeting by computer or phone and use the “Raise Hand” function to request to provide public comment. On a computer, the “Raise Hand” feature is on the Zoom toolbar. By phone, enter *9 to “Raise Hand” and *6 to unmute. Requests to provide live public comment must be made at the beginning of the relevant item, and no later than the end of any staff presentation on the item. The Clerk will call on members of the public who have timely requested to provide comment by name for those joining via a computer and by the last three digits of for those joining via telephone. All comments received prior to the close of the meeting will be made part of the meeting record. Please note that any available chat feature on the Zoom meeting platform should be used by panelists and attendees solely for procedural or other “housekeeping” matters as comments provided via the chat feature will not be retained as part of the meeting record. All comments to be provided for the record must be made via email or orally per the instructions above.

San Diego Association of Governments

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Vision Statement

Pursuing a brighter future for all.

Mission Statement

We are the regional agency that connects people, places, and innovative ideas by implementing solutions with our unique and diverse communities.

Our Commitment to Equity

We hold ourselves accountable to the communities we serve. We acknowledge we have much to learn and much to change; and we firmly uphold equity and inclusion for every person in the San Diego region. This includes historically underserved, systemically marginalized groups impacted by actions and inactions at all levels of our government and society.

We have an obligation to eliminate disparities and ensure that safe, healthy, accessible, and inclusive opportunities are available to everyone. In 2021, SANDAG will develop an equity action plan that will inform how we plan, prioritize, fund, and build projects and programs; frame how we work with our communities; define how we recruit and develop our employees; guide our efforts to conduct unbiased research and interpret data; and set expectations for companies and stakeholders that work with us.

We are committed to creating a San Diego region where every person who visits, works, and lives can thrive.



Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Item No.		Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
+2.	Approval of Meeting Minutes The Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) is asked to approve the minutes from its September 14, 2021, meeting.	Approve
3.	Public Comments and Communications 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.	
Reports		
4.	Regional Habitat Conservation Vision Update and Next Steps <i>Keith Greer, SANDAG</i> At its December 10, 2021, meeting the Board of Directors approved and adopted San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan, specifically allocating \$3 billion towards Habitat Conservation. An overview on the Regional Habitat Conservation Vision, how it ties into the newly adopted 2021 Regional Plan, and next steps, will be presented. The EMPWG is also asked to approve the formation of an ad hoc committee to work on these next steps including an update to the needs for habitat acquisition, management, and monitoring.	Discussion/ Possible Action
5.	Institute for Ecological Monitoring and Management's Applied Climate Adaptation and Conservation Research Program <i>Megan Jennings, SDSU</i> In 2019, the San Diego State University (SDSU) Institute for Ecological Monitoring and Management (IEMM), completed the Climate Resilient Connectivity project to guide conservation planning for connectivity under climate change. An update on research efforts and products as a result of the IEMM and Climate Science Alliance collaboration including connectivity modeling, climate adaptation support for natural resource management, and local jurisdictional planning, carbon sequestration in natural landscapes, and resilient restoration for Tribal cultural resilience, will be presented. An overview on how the data products, decision support tools, and prioritizations that have resulted from this research can be used to support planning for the state's 30x30 initiative, the Natural Community Conservation Planning-planing and plan updates, and implementation of the SANDAG recently adopted Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, will also be presented.	Discussion

6. Monitoring and Management of Fusarium Dieback - Invasive Shot Hole Borers in San Diego **Discussion**

Dr. Akif Eskalen and Shannon Colleen Lynch, University of California, Davis

In 2017, the University of California, Davis was awarded a SANDAG project to create best management and monitoring practices for land managers for the invasive Shot Hole Borer in San Diego County. An overview on the model developed to predict invasive Shot Hole Borers establishment in California, findings regarding the endophyte work, and the experiments being conducted to use the endophytes as a control option, will be presented.

7. Upcoming Meetings **Information**

The next EMPWG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 1 p.m.

8. Adjournment



Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group

Item: **2**

January 11, 2022

Action: **Approve**

September 14, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair LeAnn Carmichael (County of San Diego) called the meeting of the Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group (EMPWG) to order at 1:04 p.m.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Approve)

Action: Upon a motion by Trish Smith (The Nature Conservancy), and a second by Susan Wynn (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), the EMPWG approved the minutes from its June 8, 2021, meeting.

Yes: Candace Wo (The San Diego Foundation), Cheryl Goodard (City of Chula Vista), James Whalen (Alliance for Habitat Conservation), Kristin Forburger (City of San Diego), LeAnn Carmichael (County of San Diego), Michael Beck (Endangered Habitats League), Robert Fisher [United States Geological Survey (USGS)], Rosanne Humphrey (City of Carlsbad), Susan Wynn (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Stefanie Cervantes (City of Oceanside), and Trish Smith.

Abstain: Stefan Galvez-Abadia (Caltrans) and Hans Sin (California Department Fish and Wildlife).

Absent: Army Corps of Engineers, Building Industry Association, City of Poway, City of Santee, San Diego Conservation Network, U.S. Forest Service, and the Wildlife Conservation Board.

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

Michael Beck asked when the next EMPWG meeting is scheduled for and whether that meeting would discuss the Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP), Land Management grant process. Kim Smith responded that the next EMPWG is planned for December, and the grant process will be addressed in a pre-proposal workshop scheduled for November.

Robert Fisher shared three published papers in the Zoom chat about Golden Eagles, Argentine Ants, and Western Spadefoot Toads. All three publications would be sent out to the EMPWG members and interested parties after the meeting.

Keith Greer announced the release of SANDAG's 2021 Regional Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Interested parties should go to <https://sdforward.com/mobility-planning/draft-eir/> to read more about the draft EIR and submit comments. Keith went into further detail about the importance of habitat and agriculture, analyzed and discussed in the draft EIR. Keith also offered to discuss at the meeting, or in a future email, questions regarding the EIR and 2021 Regional Plan. Susan Wynn asked to clarify if the habitat illustrated on the last slide was being conserved or impacted. Keith responded that the past Regional Plan anticipated more impacts versus what the new 2021 Regional Plan depicts. Michael Beck inquired if the 2015 Regional Plan and EIR had taken the County of San Diego's 2011 General Plan's recommendations for the backcountry into consideration and included that in the Draft 2021 Regional Plan and EIR. Keith responded that for the 2015 Regional Plan, SANDAG did review the county's 2011 General Plan and that the 2021 Regional Plan illustrates where future growth for habitats should occur on conserved lands. Keith highlighted that there are discrepancies between the land use patterns in the draft 2021 Regional Plan compared to the county's general plan, but that it is known and expected.

Kim Smith introduced a new primary member to the EMPWG, Stefan Galvez-Abadia from Caltrans, who temporarily replaced Bruce April. Kim also provided an update to the EMPWG that a Chair has not been chosen, but an update will be given at the start of 2022. Additionally, Kim reported that the EMP Land Management Grants Tenth Cycle of Call for Projects was proceeding and will be going to the Board of Directors for the approval to release the call on October 25, 2021. Kim further explained that the grant would be released in November through a new software, BidNet.Direct, and a pre-proposal Workshop will be planned for after the release of the call.

No other public comments or announcements were made to the EMPWG.

Reports

3. Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: FY 2022 Annual Funding (Discussion/Possible Action)

Each year the EMPWG makes a recommendation to the Regional Planning Committee on the allocation of four million dollars for regional management and biological monitoring activities pursuant to an approved Memorandum of Agreement on the implementation of the EMP. At its June 2021 meeting, the EMPWG formed an ad hoc committee to develop recommendations for fiscal year 2022 for consideration by the EMPWG. Susan Wynn presented to the EMPWG the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations for the EMP FY 2022 Regional Management and Monitoring Program.

Action: Upon a motion by James Whalen (Alliance for Habitat Conservation) and a second by Trish Smith, the EMPWG unanimously approved the recommendation for FY 2022 funding for regional management and monitoring.

Yes: Anne Harvey (San Diego Conservation Network), Candace Wo, Cheryl Goodard, Hans Sin, James Whalen, Kristin Forburger, LeAnn Carmichael, Michael Beck, Robert Fisher, Rosanne Humphrey, Stefanie Cervantes, Susan Wynn, Stefan Galvez-Abadia, and Trish Smith.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Army Corps of Engineers, Building Industry Association, City of Poway, City of Santee, U.S. Forest Service, and Wildlife Conservation Board.

4. Grazing Monitoring Plan for Conserved Lands (Information)

The San Diego Management and Monitoring Program, land managers, grazing experts, federal and state agencies, and other partners formed a working group and developed three grazing objectives to manage for improved habitat quality and reduced fire risk on Conserved Lands. This year, SANDAG contracted with UC Berkeley's Rangeland Science Program and other grazing experts to develop and implement a grazing monitoring plan to evaluate the effectiveness of grazing as a large-scale management tool. The UC Berkeley team presented what they have done to-date and their plans for the next two years on their pilot study at the Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve.

5. Use of Artificial Intelligence to Identify Species Images (Information)

The USGS has been developing camera monitoring tools and software to facilitate a regional camera wildlife monitoring program. Jeff Tracey gave a presentation about developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) software that scans through thousands of camera monitoring photos and selects those with wildlife and identifies animals to species level. Jeff is also collaborating with Winston Vickers from the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center to take camera trap data of mountain lions and use AI software to identify individuals. The intent is to develop camera monitoring and individual recognition software as important components of a long-term mountain lion population monitoring program for western San Diego County.

6. Upcoming Meetings

The next EMPWG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 1 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Vice Chair LeAnn Carmichael adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.

Confirmed Attendance at SANDAG Environmental Mitigation Program Working Group Meeting

September 14, 2021

Jurisdiction	Name	Attended	Comments
City of La Mesa	Vacant		
	Vacant		
County of San Diego	Vice Chair LeAnn Carmichael	Yes	
	Deborah Mosley	Yes	
City of San Diego	Kristin Forburger	Yes	
	Heidi VonBlum	No	
	Dan Monroe	Yes	
City of Santee	Melanie Kush	No	
	Christina Rios	No	
City of Carlsbad	Rosanne Humphrey	Yes	
City of Oceanside	Stefanie Cervantes	Yes	
City of Poway	Scott Nespor	No	
	Vacant		
City of Chula Vista	Cheryl Goodard	Yes	
	Dai Hoang	No	
Army Corps of Engineers	Kyle Dahl	No	
	Michelle Lynch	No	
Caltrans	Stefan Galvez-Abadia	Yes	
	David Nagy	No	
Department of Fish and Wildlife	David Mayer	No	
	Hans Sin	Yes	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Susan Wynn	Yes	
	David Zoutendyk	Yes	
U.S. Forest Service	Kirsten Winter	No	
	Lance Criley	No	
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	Yes	
	Vacant		
The Nature Conservancy	Cara Lacey	No	
	Trish Smith	Yes	

Jurisdiction	Name	Attended	Comments
The San Diego Foundation	Candace Wo	Yes	
	Cami Mattson	No	
Alliance for Habitat Conservation	James Whalen	Yes	
	Roselei Redrick	No	
Building Industry Association	Matt Adams	Yes	
	Vacant		
Other Attendees			
Kris Preston	SDMMP		
Sarah McCutcheon	SDMMP		
Alissa Cope	Sage Environmental Group		
Adrienne Lee	Public Member		
Keith Greer	SANDAG		
Christina Schaefer	Public Member		
Emily Kochert	Public Member		
Felix Ratcliff	UC Berkley		
Christina Schaefer	Public Member		
Kaveh Motamed	UC Berkley		
Jamison Lauria	Escondido Creek Conservancy		
Lynn Huntsinger	UC Berkley		
Jeff Tracey	USGS		
James Bartolome	UC Berkley		
Kathleen P	San Diego Habitat		
Arash Afghahi	Public Member		
Megan Jennings	SDSU		
Linda Ivanov	Public Member		
Shirley Innecken Harris	Public Member		
Sara Allen	San Diego Parks and Rec		
Joshua Zajdel	SANDAG		
Winston Vickers	USGS		
Emily Perkins	USGS		
Barbra Calantas	Public Member		
John Martin	USFW		
Delaney Carmen	Public Member		
The Escondido Creek Conservancy	The Escondido Creek Conservancy		
Emily Gray	Public Member		
Dustin Harrison	SDRC		
Jessie Vinje	Public Member		
Andrew Meyer	San Diego Audubon Society		