

Jurisdiction Conference Call with City of Vista

Multiple Species Conservation Program – North County Plan

April 11, 2017, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Attendees:

PDS: Peter Eichar, Eira Whitty

DPR: Jennifer Price

Vista: John Conley – Community Development Director, jconley@ci.vista.ca.us, 760-643-5388 and John Hamilton – Environmental Planner, jhamilton@ci.vista.ca.us, 760-643-5391

Question/Comment/Topic:	Response/Way Forward:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is the County of San Diego revamping the North County MSCP now? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development pressure has increased since the economic recovery – this is also a priority as directed by the Board of Supervisors. The County currently has take authority (4d) for Coastal Sage Scrub with Wildlife Agencies; however, there is concern about long-term viability without the Plan in place.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What reaction do Wildlife Agencies and stakeholders have to the species list reduction? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the covered species list was done with Wildlife Agency consultation. Because of new USFWS requirements for species-level monitoring for any listed species, the cost is too high to list 63 covered species.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will Capital Projects benefit from the plan? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails within the North County Preserve are currently a covered activity in the Draft Plan. The County Department of Public Works and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) are involved in development of the North County Plan, and many of their projects will be considered “covered activities” in the Plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are other benefits of the North County MSCP? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will streamline the permitting process through one agency (the County) and grant take authority. It will set up a regional preserve focused on habitat connectivity and ensure the long-term survival of sensitive plant and animal species.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the corridors and linkages between the PAMA and neighboring jurisdictions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County will send Vista a map showing regional linkages between the North County Plan Area and neighboring jurisdictions in the North County (see attached map below).

Question/Comment/Topic:	Response/Way Forward:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What caused the reduction in the covered species list? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The covered species list was reduced from 63 species to 29 species to better represent threatened and endangered species known to occur in the planning area. New USFWS standards require species-level monitoring for any listed species. The County will focus funding on detailed species-level monitoring on the 29 threatened and endangered species in the Plan area. Implementation of the conservation strategy and assembly of the Preserve is expected to benefit other species and habitats in the area including a watch list of 14 species that have been identified as vulnerable and of relative importance to the North County Plan. The remaining 20 species from the original 63 that aren't included as covered species or watch list species either don't occur within the Plan area or other regulations are sufficient to protect them.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will the County pay for the North County Plan? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PAMA will be assembled through public acquisitions and discretionary permits requiring mitigation. Anticipate annual appropriations from the Board of Supervisors. This is County specific and not regional funding. \$10 million/year for the South County Sub-Area Plan. Potential sources for funding for the North County include: Federal, State, SANDAG (Metro Planning Organization), voter initiatives, parcel taxes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the County afford monitoring? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County will send contact information for Audubon and California National Plant Society to Vista. Mixture of County departments and DPR staff via the annual appropriation of approximately \$10 million. Good sources include San Diego Management and Monitoring Program (SDMMP), Ag Weights and Measures (invasive plant treatment), and volunteers. The County also has as-needed contractors to implement other monitoring efforts like those for the Arroyo toad. The County will include Vista in a Funding Meeting if the County holds one in the future.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vista had previously tried to get permission from the Wildlife Agencies to reduce monitoring efforts (from required annual monitoring) and was denied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because Ogden monitoring wasn't sufficient, DPR had to reassess their monitoring approach and created the Comprehensive Monitoring Plan (CMP).

