

**East County MSCP Steering Committee Meeting
County Administration Center (CAC) Room 302/303
1600 Pacific Coast Highway, San Diego, CA
Feb 6, 2008 1:30pm – 3:30pm**

- 1:30 p.m. Introductions (Tom Oberbauer)**
- 1:35 p.m. Meeting Overview (Bryan Woods, Steering Committee Facilitator)**
- 1:45 p.m. East County MSCP Background (Tom Oberbauer)**
- Study Area vs. Planning Area
 - ISA Workshops 1 & 2
 - MSCP Goals & Terms
- 1:55 p.m. East County MSCP Timeline (Kim Zuppiger)**
- Overall Timeline
 - Key Phases of the Project
- 2:15 p.m. Steering Committee Discussion (Bryan Woods)**
- Future Meeting Dates/Schedule
- 3:00 p.m. Opportunity for Public Input (Bryan Woods)**
- 3:20 p.m. Next Steps (Tom Oberbauer)**
- Review Hardline Criteria Policy and Provide Comments at Next Meeting
- 3:25 p.m. Closing Comments (Bryan Woods)**

Attachments:

- 1. East County MSCP Project Overview (PowerPoint)**
- 2. Updated Steering Committee List**
- 3. Ownership Statistics for East County MSCP for 2007 (Source: 2007 SANDAG Data)**
- 4. Goals and Objectives**
- 5. Project Timeline**
- 6. Hardline Criteria Policy**

Weblinks:

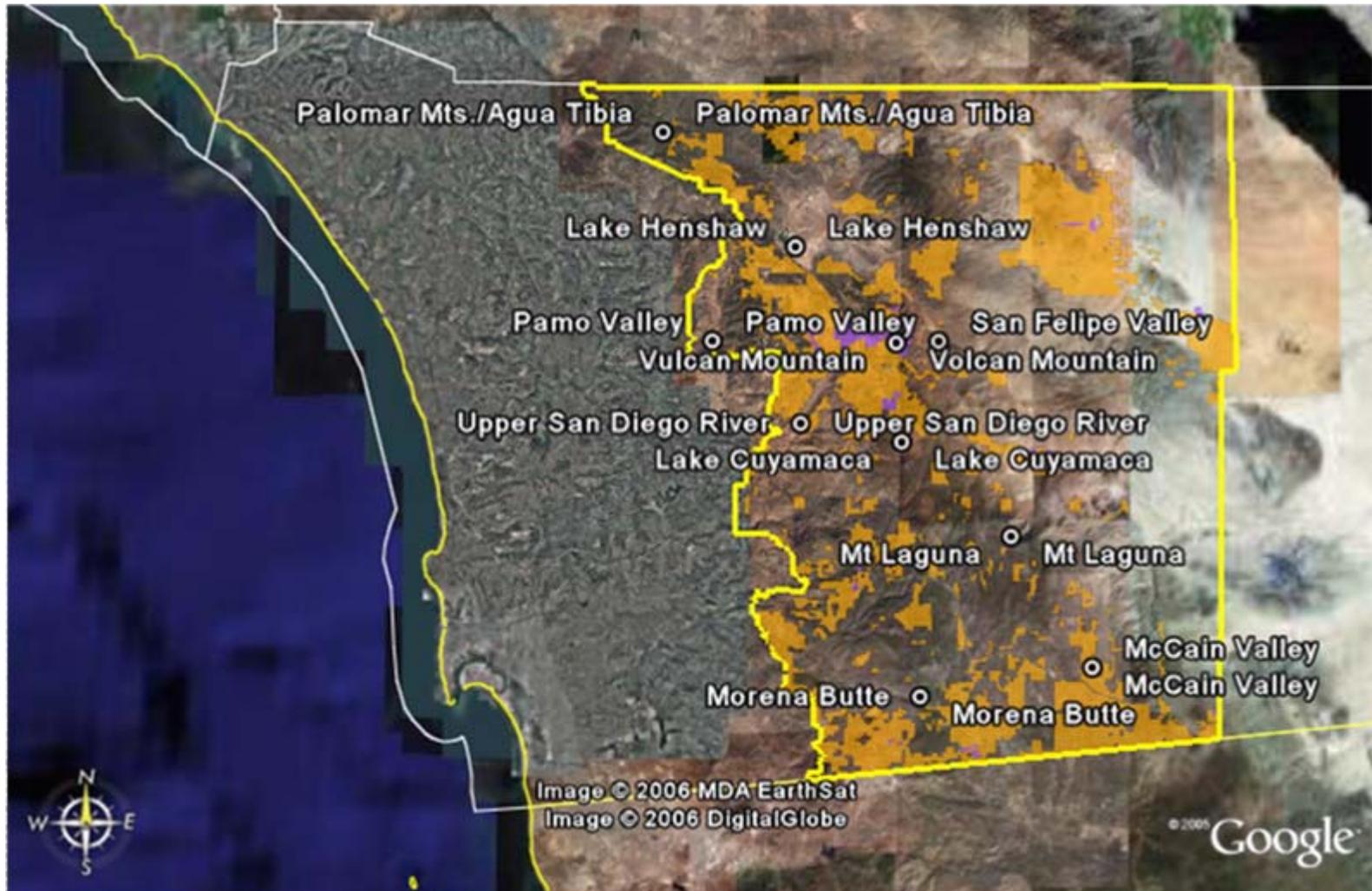
- **Status of NCCP Plans:**
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/nccp/status.html>
- **East County MSCP ISA Reports:**
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/nccp/pubs/eastcountysareportl.pdf>

EAST COUNTY MSCP

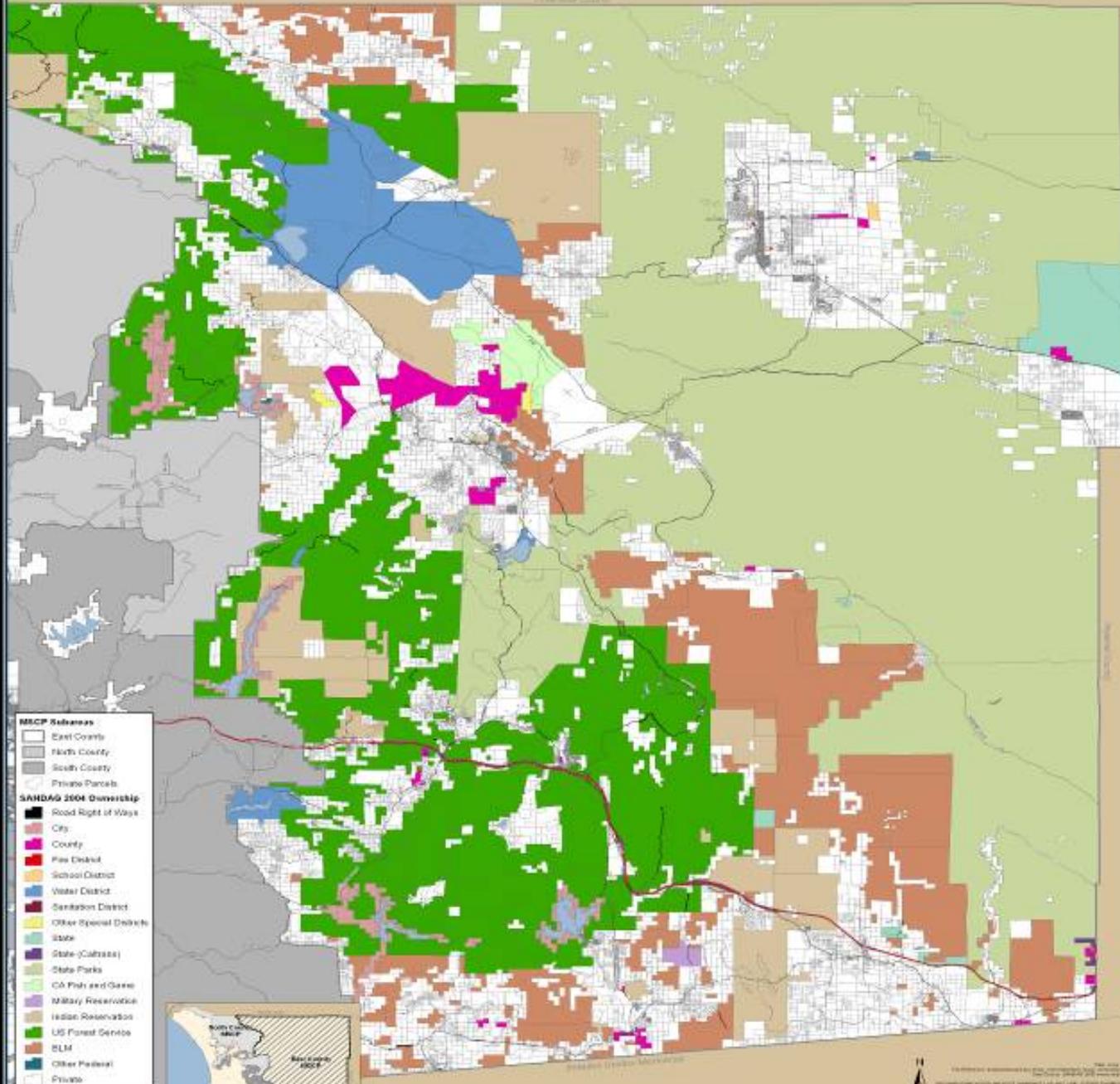


Steering Committee Meeting #2
February 6th, 2008

EAST COUNTY MSCP AREA



East County MSCP Parcel Ownership Map





EAST COUNTY MSCP PLAN

- MSCP plans include independent scientific input and analysis to assist plan participants in creating a scientifically-based plan.
- Peer review was received by eight (8) Independent Science Advisors with various areas of expertise to provide a basis for the identification of biologically important areas.



ISA WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

- COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO MSCP
- WILDLIFE AGENCIES
- TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATES (TAIC)
- JONES AND STOKES
- SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
- INDEPENDENT SCIENCE ADVISORS



INDEPENDENT SCIENCE ADVISORS

- **Dr. Reed Noss** is nationally recognized as one of the foremost experts on conservation of biodiversity and has authored several books on the subject.
- **Dr. Robert Fisher** is affiliated with the San Diego State University reserve system and USGS. He is well known for performing groundbreaking research in the San Diego region on the utilization of habitats by reptiles and amphibians.



INDEPENDENT SCIENCE ADVISORS

- **Dr. Esther Rubin** is affiliated with the Conservation Biology Institute and has been researching a population of 400 adult big horn sheep to learn about their habitat use and behavior. Dr. Rubin is examining the influence of habitat use and behavior on social structure and ecological relationships between bighorn sheep and other large mammals, such as mule deer and mountain lions.
- **Drew Stokes** is affiliated with the San Diego State University reserve system and USGS. He is well known for performing groundbreaking research in the San Diego region on bats.



INDEPENDENT SCIENCE ADVISORS

- **Dr. Kathy Williams** is affiliated with San Diego State University. Dr. Williams' primary interests include: insect/plant interactions, effects of food quality on insect population dynamics, insects as indicators of biodiversity and habitat restoration, riparian ecology, and ecology of cicadas.

- **Dr. Brian Foster** is a local ornithologist. Dr. Foster's specialty is the study of rare and endangered birds in the San Diego region.



INDEPENDENT SCIENCE ADVISORS

- **Jeff Opdycke** is the Conservation Program Manager for the San Diego Zoo and works in the conservation of local resources. He has a background in reviewing habitats from a regional perspective.
- **Dr. Paul Beier**, of Northern Arizona University, is a noted researcher on the movements of large predators throughout Southern California. He has particular expertise in the area between the Palomar/ Agua Tibia Mountains and the Santa Ana Mountains.

1ST ISA WORKSHOP 2007



ISA Attendees in the Field



ISA Attendees at Meeting

2ND ISA WORKSHOP 2007



**Workshop Attendees
in Meeting**



**Workshop Attendees
in the Field**

2ND ISA WORKSHOP 2007 (CONT.)



Lookout at Lake Henshaw



ISA PARTICIPATION

- *Past ISA workshop presentations included:*
 - *Planning methodology*
 - *Sensitive species*
 - *Biological principles*
- *ISA participation will now be on a more informal basis.*



EAST COUNTY MSCP GOALS

- ***Economic Goals:*** Create greater certainty for economic and urban development by identifying appropriate locations for new development.
- ***Social Goals:*** Protect the quality of life for local residents by maintaining the area's scenic beauty, natural biological diversity, cultural resources, and recreational opportunities.

EAST COUNTY MSCP GOALS (CONT.)

- ***Biological Goals:*** Develop a preserve system that will maintain the range of natural biological communities and native species within the Plan Area and contribute to the recovery of endangered, threatened, and sensitive species and their habitats.



PRESERVE ASSEMBLY TERMS

- Pre-approved Mitigation Area (PAMA)
- Hardlines



OVERALL ECMSCP TIMELINE

- Early Community Outreach2005 – 2006
- ISA WorkshopsSummer 2007
- Draft Preserve Design.....Summer 2008
- Property Owner Notification.....Winter 2008
- Draft Text.....Fall 2009
- Draft EIR/EISWinter 2009
- Plan Completion.....Winter 2010

Note: Opportunity for Public Input Exists Throughout the Process



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Overview of Meeting Topics
- Discuss Project Timeline

DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS





NEXT STEPS

- Next Meeting: March 2008 (TBD)
- Review Hardline Criteria Policy

East County MSCP Steering Committee List

Steering Committee (22)

1. Bryan Woods, Steering Committee Facilitator and County Planning Commissioner
2. Matthew Adams, Building Industry Advisory Group
3. Eric Anderson, Farm Bureau
4. Jeff Barfield, RBF Consulting, Inc.
5. Craig Benedetto, Benedetto & Danon Public Relations, Inc.
6. Bev Esry, Lake Morena-Campo CPG
7. Diane Green, Native Plant Society
8. Cherry Diesenbach, Pine Valley CSG
9. Judy Halderman, Borrego CSG (Co-Chair)
10. David Hogan, Southwest Center for Biological Diversity
11. Abby King, Borrego CSG (Co-Chair)
12. Eric Larson, San Diego County Farm Bureau
13. David Mayer, CA Dept of Fish and Game
14. Stacey Ostermann, US Fish and Wildlife Service
15. Heather Schmallbach, CA Dept of Fish and Game
16. Rikki Schroeder, Consultant
17. Dan Silver, Endangered Habitat League
18. Pete Sorensen, US Fish and Wildlife Service
19. Donna Tisdale, Boulevard CSG
20. Jim Whalen, Alliance for Habitat Conservation
21. Susan Wynn, US Fish and Wildlife Service
22. Kathy Viatella, The Nature Conservancy

East County MSCP Study Area - Ownership	Acres	Percent of Study Area
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	144,091.823	9.30%
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME	7,181.803	0.46%
CITY OF SAN DIEGO PROPERTY	17,780.828	1.15%
COUNTY	11,631.025	0.75%
FIRE DISTRICTS	11.156	0.00%
INDIAN RESERVATIONS	96,713.275	6.24%
MILITARY RESERVATIONS	1,156.907	0.07%
NOT IN PLAN	325.306	0.02%
OTHER FEDERAL	289.665	0.02%
OTHER SPECIAL DISTRICTS	2,055.070	0.13%
PRIVATE	356,964.220	23.05%
SANITATION DISTRICTS	20.541	0.00%
SCHOOL DISTRICTS	539.635	0.03%
STATE	16,462.795	1.06%
STATE (CALTRANS)	3,717.358	0.24%
STATE PARKS	566,218.241	36.56%
US FOREST SERVICE	276,843.594	17.87%
WATER DISTRICTS	46,860.374	3.03%
Total East County MSCP Study Area:	1,548,863.615	100.00%

ECMSCP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 General Approach to Goal Setting

The County is in the process of developing a hierarchical framework of goals and objectives that tiers off the overarching goals of the NCCP program, which are “to sustain and restore those species and their habitats... necessary to maintain the continued viability of... biological communities impacted by human changes to the landscape” and “to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance natural communities.”

Based on these broad goals the County will define measurable objectives tailored to the specific ecological setting, natural communities, and species of concern. These objectives will be used to develop area-specific and resource-specific criteria to guide plan development and define monitoring and management actions.

The County is working to refine and identify East County MSCP goals, as described below. These goals will be used to guide the preserve design and conservation analysis.

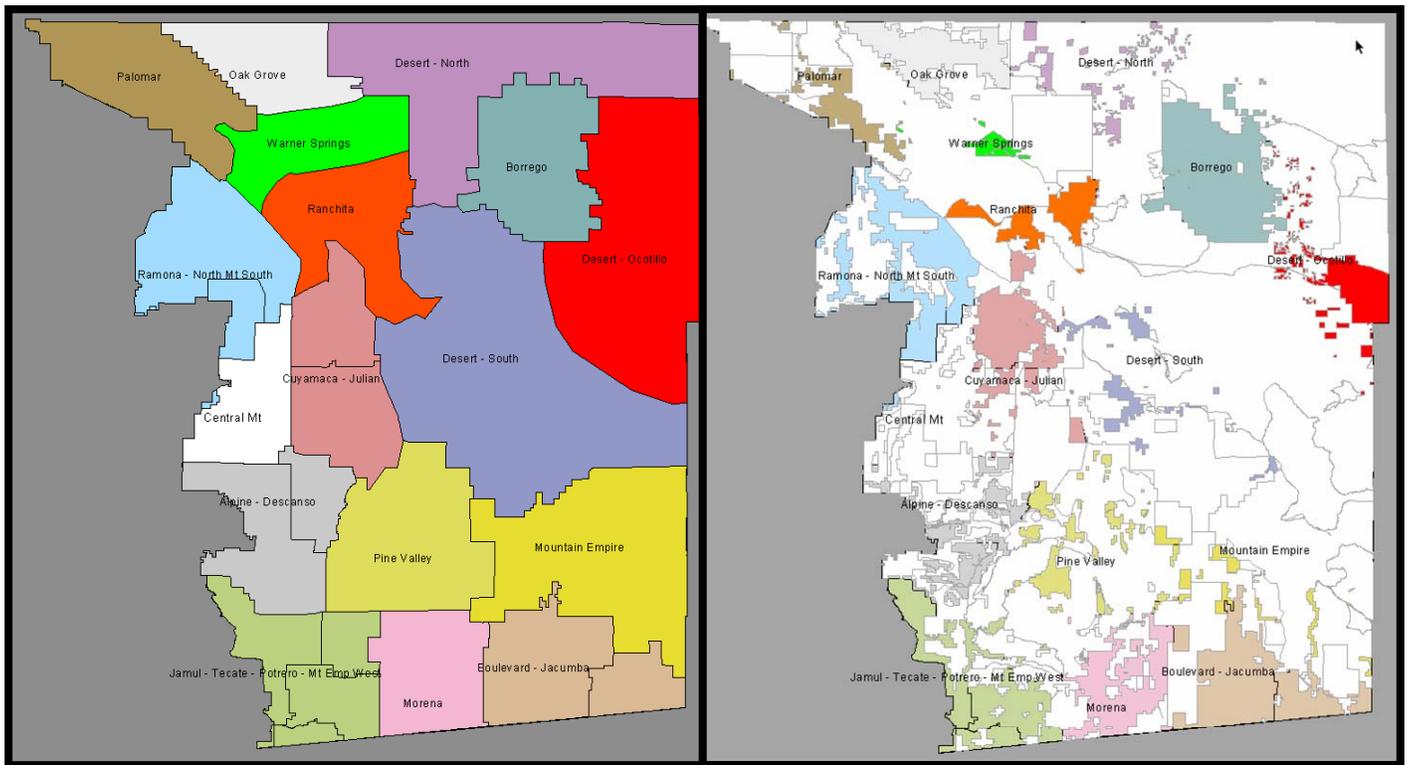
1.2 Overarching Biological Goals

The following overarching biological goals are intended to guide the broad conservation objectives of the plan, preserve design, habitat monitoring and management, and future development and land use planning. These qualitative goals are the guiding principles of the East County MSCP conservation planning process and apply to conservation planning throughout the entire Study Area.

- **Conserve Biodiversity:** Develop a preserve system that will maintain the range of natural biological communities and native species within the Plan Area and contribute to the recovery of endangered, threatened, and sensitive species and their habitats.
- **Conserve Environmental Diversity:** Blocks of habitat should contain a diverse representation of physical and environmental conditions.
- **Conserve Target Species Throughout the Plan Area:** Species that are well-distributed across their native ranges are less susceptible to extinction than species confined to small portions of their ranges.
- **Conserve Large, Intact Patches of Habitat:** Large blocks of habitat containing substantial populations of the target species are superior to small blocks of habitat containing small populations.
- **Maintain Close Reserve Areas:** Blocks of habitat that are close to one another are better than blocks of habitat far apart.
- **Maintain Contiguous Habitat:** Habitat that occurs in less fragmented, contiguous blocks is preferable to habitat that is fragmented or isolated by urban lands.
- **Link Reserves with Corridors:** Interconnected blocks of habitat better serve conservation purposes than isolated blocks of habitat. Corridors or linkages function better when habitat within them resembles habitat that is preferred by target species.
- **Protect Reserves from Encroachment:** Blocks of habitat that are roadless or otherwise inaccessible to human disturbance better conserve target species than accessible habitat blocks.

1.3 Area-Specific Goals and Objectives

Area-specific goals and objectives developed for East County MSCP segments will address the key biological resources within the focal planning area, the land use and ownership patterns, and local preserve design opportunities and constraints. Area-specific goals are generally qualitative (e.g., in the Boulevard – Jacumba focal Planning Area link USFS and BLM land to Baja Target Protected Areas (see CBI 2003, La Posta Linkage Portfolio), and area-specific objectives are quantitative (e.g., conserve at least 700 acres of grassland in patches greater than 200 acres in the Morena Focal Planning Area). The County is in the process of developing area-specific goals and objectives.



Sample Focused Planning Areas for Development of Area-Specific Goals (a. Study Area, b. Plan Area)

East County MSCP Regions

General Plan Regions	Communities
North Mountain	<p>Plan Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palomar • Warner Springs • Ranchita • Oak Grove • Chihuahua Valley • Santa Ysabel • Mesa Grande • Santa Ysabel Preserve • Volcan Preserve • Palomar County Parks <p>Study Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vista Irrigation District • Palomar State Park • US Forest Service • BLM • Lake Sutherland (City of San Diego)
Central Mountain	<p>Plan Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Ramona • Julian • Descanso • Cuyamca • Pine Valley/Guatay <p>Study Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuyamaca Lake (Helix Water District) • El Capitan City of San Diego • San Vicente Reservoir – City of San Diego • US Forest Service • BLM
Mountain Empire/ Backcountry	<p>Plan Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Alpine • Jamul/Dulzura • Lake Morena/Campo • Potrero • Tecate • Boulevard • Jacumba <p>Study Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Forest Service • BLM • Loveland Reservoir -City of San Diego
Desert	<p>Plan Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borrego Springs • Ocotillo <p>Study Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Forest Service • BLM • State Parks • Ocotillo OHV Park • California DFG – San Felipe Valley
In-holdings	<p>Study Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleveland National Forest • State Parks • BLM

East County MSCP Draft Schedule (Feb 6, 2008)

TASK DESCRIPTION	Start Date	Projected Completion Date	Completion Date
SUMMARY: OVERALL PROGRAM	September 30, 2007	December 11, 2010	
MAP and POLICY DEVELOPMENT	September 30, 2007	June 20, 2008	--
STEERING COMMITTEE REVIEW	December 1, 2007	March 29, 2009	
Steering Committee (Meeting 1- Kickoff)	December 1, 2007	December 15, 2007	December 3, 2007
Timeline & Process (Meeting 2)	December 15, 2007	February 29, 2008	February 6, 2008
Key Land Use Issues (Meeting 3)	February 29, 2008	March 21, 2008	March 19, 2008
Preserve Assembly Strategies (Meeting 4)	March 21, 2008	April 25, 2008	April 30, 2008
Financing and Habitat Acquisition (Meeting 5)	April 25, 2008	June 4, 2008	--
Draft PAMA Map (Meeting 6)	June 4, 2008	July 28, 2008	--
Revisions to Draft Map	July 1, 2008	August 1, 2008	--
Revised PAMA Map (Meeting 7)	August 1, 2008	September 1, 2008	--
Revisions to Draft Map	September 1, 2008	October 1, 2008	--
Owner Notification (SB 18, Property Owners, Map Review Workshops)	September 1, 2008	October 1, 2008	--
Management and Monitoring (Meeting 8)	September 27, 2008	November 27, 2008	--
Regional Workshops for Map Review	October 1, 2008	November 1, 2008	--
Implementation BMO and RPO (Meeting 9)	November 27, 2008	January 27, 2009	--
Final Overview of Issues/Policies (Meeting 10)	January 27, 2009	March 29, 2009	--
ENDORSEMENT OF DRAFT MAP	March 22, 2009	June 8, 2009	--
Planning Commission Workshops (2 Workshops)	March 22, 2009	June 8, 2009	--
Board of Supervisors Hearing Preparation	April 26, 2009	June 8, 2009	--
FINALIZE DRAFT TEXT	September 30, 2008	April 18, 2009	--
Prepare Final Draft ECMSCP Plan Document (County)	September 30, 2008	February 27, 2009	--
Prepare Final Species Accounts/ Full Coverage Analysis	February 27, 2009	April 18, 2009	--

East County MSCP Draft Schedule (Feb 6, 2008)

TASK DESCRIPTION	Start Date	Projected Completion Date	Completion Date
REVISE DRAFT TEXT	January 8, 2009	August 26, 2009	--
Revise and Update all Draft Plan Documents	January 8, 2009	August 26, 2009	--
EIR/EIS	March 3, 2009	June 12, 2010	--
Environmental Analysis Phase	March 3, 2009	July 31, 2009	--
Draft EIR/EIS	July 31, 2009	January 6, 2010	--
Public Review and Final EIR/EIS	January 6, 2010	June 12, 2010	--
PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR MAP, TEXT, and EIR/EIS	June 12, 2010	December 11, 2010	--
Planning Commission Hearing	June 12, 2010	October 8, 2010	--
Board of Supervisors Hearing	October 8, 2010	December 11, 2010	--
<p>Assumptions and Risks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assumes minimum 1 full-time staff and 2 part-time staff dedicated to complete assigned tasks within specified time frame (no competing tasks/responsibilities). 2. The preserve design will not be affected by policy decisions. Any significant changes would require more time and budget to reconfigure conservation calculations and analyses. 3. Assumes that all departmental processing issues are resolved on schedule. 4. The hearing/decision date is subject to decision-making body availability and schedule. 5. Dates which fall upon a holiday or weekend will have an actual completion date on the first business day after such holiday. 6. Public comments and hearing comments will not add significant time to make revisions/updates. 7. The project will not be continued by the decision-making body or appealed. 8. Public comments and hearing comments will not require preparation of a Supplemental or Subsequent Environmental Impact Report. 			



DATE: October 16, 2007

TO: MSCP Staff
MSCP Stakeholders

FROM: Eric Gibson, Interim Director

RE: **CRITERIA FOR HARD-LINE CONSIDERATION FOR THE EAST COUNTY MSCP**

As we initiate the habitat preserve mapping and modeling phase of the East County MSCP, criteria must be established to determine when a development proposal will be considered a "Hard-Lined Development Project." By definition, a Hard-lined Development Project is a project for which the boundaries of the proposed Biological Open Space and the proposed Development Area have been identified and incorporated into a Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Plan. Under the MSCP plan, the Biological Open Space is shown as Gains and the Development Area is shown as Take Authorized Area. Upon approval of the MSCP plan, Take of Covered Species Subject to Incidental Take will be authorized within the Take Authorized Area and Adaptive Management will be required within the Biological Open Space.

A Hard-Lined Development Project does not confer any development rights or project approvals; it is only used to assess the functionality of the proposed East County MSCP preserve area assuming certain conceptual development impact areas that are proposed within that preserve area. In order to be considered a hard-line in the East County MSCP, a development project must comply with the following criteria.

- I. An active discretionary permit application is on file with DPLU; and,
- II. A biological technical report has been prepared by the applicant and accepted as complete by the County by no later than December 19, 2008; and,
- III. The proposed habitat preserve hard-line has been accepted in concept by DPLU and the Wildlife Agencies as being consistent with draft conservation policies or providing conservation of resources that might otherwise not be conserved by no later than February 27, 2009; and,
- IV. The environmental analysis (CEQA) has gone out for public review, the project is scheduled for public hearing, or the project has received tentative approval from the decision-making authority by no later than July 22, 2009.

If a proposed project meets the criterion listed above, the property owner must be informed of the following via a letter from the County.

- The East County MSCP map and plan text will be submitted to the Wildlife Agencies as a draft proposal by the County. If the Wildlife Agencies raise legitimate concerns regarding the effect of the Hard-Lined Development Project on the East County MSCP, the project will be removed from the MSCP plan and revert to the designation of Pre-Approved Mitigation Area.

- The project hardlines are specific to the proposed discretionary permit application. If the development project is denied or expires for any reason, the agreed upon hardlines will revert to the designation of Pre-Approved Mitigation Area.
- It is important to note that DPLU's acceptance of this project as a Hard-Lined Development Project only pertains to take authorizations that are anticipated under the East County MSCP and should not be construed as a preliminary approval of the proposed project.
- The decision to include the project as a Hard-Lined Development Project does not endorse or guarantee future approvals of the proposed project through the regulatory process, nor does it pre-suppose or assure land uses within these areas will be approved.
- The proposed development project must comply with all applicable County ordinances and analyze a full range of alternatives under CEQA. Any significant modifications to the project design that occur after the East County plan is adopted will likely require that you process an amendment to the MSCP plan.

If you should have any questions, please contact Jeff Murphy, Interim Deputy Director at (858) 694-3765 or Tom Oberbauer, Chief MSCP, at (858) 694-3701.

Minutes for East County MSCP Steering Committee Meeting # 2
County Administration Center (CAC) Room 302/303
1600 Pacific Coast Highway, San Diego, CA
February 6, 2008 (1:30pm – 3:30pm)

Introductions (Tom Oberbauer)

This is the second Steering Committee meeting for the East County MSCP and Bryan Woods will be serving as the Steering Committee Facilitator.

Meeting Overview (Bryan Woods, Steering Committee Facilitator)

Bryan Woods has been facilitating the General Plan Update meetings for the County of San Diego and he will ensure that the agenda is followed and that all issues are considered before a decision is rendered and that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak. Introductions were made around the conference table for the Steering Committee and members of the public present.

1. East County MSCP Background (Tom Oberbauer)

Overview of the Study Area vs. Planning Area

- The Study Area refers to all lands in the project boundary of the East County MSCP Study Area (i.e., private land and public lands) with the exception of Tribal lands. The Study Area is the approximately 1.6 million acres. The MSCP will not apply to the Forest Service, BLM and Vista Irrigation District lands, but the whole Study Area will be considered in terms of its relationship to conservation planning within the Planning Area. The County is also working cooperatively with the State Parks in the planning process.
- The Planning Area refers to the unincorporated land over which the County of San Diego has land use jurisdiction (i.e., private parcels and County-owned land). The Planning Area is the approximately 400,000 acres of land area within the Study Area.

Independent Science Advisors (ISA) Workshops 1 & 2

- The County held two Independent Science Advisor workshops. Workshop participants were the Wildlife Agencies, County of San Diego, TAIC, Jones and Stokes, San Diego Natural History Museum and eight Independent Science Advisors.
- Workshops with associated field trips were conducted so that the ISA members could fully understand the issues involved in the East County MSCP. The ISAs made recommendations regarding issues such as planning methodology, models, species lists, and biological principles. The ISAs prepared two reports that will serve as the basis for the East County MSCP conservation analysis.

MSCP Goals & Terms

- Attachment 4 provides an overview of MSCP goals and terms.
- Attachment 6 provides proposed criteria for “Hardline” projects.

2. East County MSCP Timeline (Kim Zuppiger)

Timeline

- An Overview of timeline was given, with anticipated date for draft text by the fall of 2009, draft EIR/EIS by the winter of 2009, and Plan completion by winter of 2010.

Key Phases of the Project

- Attachment 5 includes a draft project timeline and indicates various topics for discussion at the upcoming Steering Committee meetings.
- Kim Zuppiger will poll the Steering Committee members via e-mail to determine upcoming dates for Steering Committee meetings.

Property Owner Notification

- The County discussed the overall project timeline and indicated that the County will send a notification to both the Community Planning Groups and the individual property owners (there are approximately 16,000 private parcels) regarding the East County MSCP. Community Planning Groups and the general public will also be informed of regional workshops to review the draft East County MSCP map once it has been prepared and reviewed by the Steering Committee.

3. Steering Committee Discussion (Bryan Woods)

- 3.1 Once the property owners receive notification will there be any outreach to them or just inviting them into the hearing process?** (Eric Larson) Yes, the County will probably have a telephone line established for immediate questions answered and then we will start doing more outreach, as well. (Tom Oberbauer)
- 3.2 How many community planning groups are represented in the Study Area?** (Bryan Woods). There are eighteen. (Tom Oberbauer)
- 3.3 Will there be workshops for every community planning group?** (Donna Tisdale) There will probably be workshops for larger areas, although there may not be workshops for every individual community planning group (Tom Oberbauer).
- 3.4 Is there a draft map in existence?** (Donna Tisdale) When the County held the Independent Science Advisors (ISA) workshops, some preliminary draft maps were generated for discussion purposes only. The ISAs made recommendations on those maps, so they will be modified based on feedback. We are going through the mapping process with our consultants and they will be doing the modeling. Based on the timeline, we anticipate bringing a draft map to the Steering Committee for review in summer of 2008 (Tom Oberbauer).
- 3.5 When will the list of covered species be decided? Will that be a continuing discussion throughout the process?** (Libby Lucas, DFG) Yes, it will be an ongoing process. There were initially 250 sensitive species on the ECMSP list and it has been narrowed down to approximately 153 species. The draft species list was also included in the December 2007, Steering

Committee packet and it can also be reviewed online on the MSCP website. (Tom Oberbauer)

- 3.6 What is the status regarding issues such as groundwater, hydrology, species information, etc.?** (Kathy Viatella, TNC) Staff is preparing summary papers on key land use issues that pertain to both the development of the preserve design and plan text and we will bring these forward for review by the Steering Committee. (Kim Zuppiger)
- 3.7 When are biology reports for the projects considered for hardlining due?** (Susan Wynn, US Fish and Wildlife Service) To be considered for hardlining, a project must have a biology report submitted to the County by the end of 2008 and the discretionary permit application must presently be submitted and in process. (Tom Oberbauer)
- 3.8 Can property owners “opt out” of the ECMSCP Plan and/or deal with the Wildlife Agencies directly?** (Donna Tisdale) Any proposed development projects must still comply with CEQA and other regulations, even if all MSCP requirements are met. The East County MSCP will assist property owners with permitting and assurances. If the property owner does not develop their land then there is essentially no change to the property owner. (Tom Oberbauer)
- 3.9 Can a property owner in or outside of the PAMA deal directly with the Wildlife Agencies? Doesn't the MSCP create a voluntary situation for property owners, which allows them to participate individually with the Wildlife Agencies?** (Eric Larson) Once the County has received its permits under the MSCP, there is no need for private property owners to submit a permit to the Wildlife Agencies. (Susan Wynn) If a property owner wants to develop land without the MSCP, they would need to negotiate directly with the Wildlife Agencies, which may be a lengthy process. With the MSCP, there is an advantage, as the process is streamlined and you already have mitigation ratios and don't have to go through that level of negotiation. (Dahvia Lynch). This issue will be discussed in more detail at the next ECMSCP Steering Committee Meeting. (Tom Oberbauer)
- 3.10 Can't a property owner in or outside of the PAMA deal directly with the Wildlife Agencies? Doesn't the MSCP create a voluntary situation for property owners, which allows them to participate individually with the Wildlife Agencies?** (Eric Larson) In Boulevard, a developer has purchased 7,500 acres and wants to incorporate. Jacumba and Campo are also experiencing development pressure. (Donna Tisdale) Near Campo, there is a proposal for development of 450 new homes. (Bev Esry, Lake Morena-Campo Community Planning Group) Staff has not specifically been approached by developers in this area, but there are several large projects in process, in the southeastern part of the County, as well as several others in Pine Hill and Julian areas that are not approved yet. (Tom Oberbauer) Despite the rural nature of East County, urban type development is being proposed, making these discussions valuable. Groundwater also plays a large role in development in the East County. (Bryan Woods)

- 3.11 Did the ISAs raise the groundwater issue and is this an issue that the County will be considering?** (Libby Lucas) Yes, and staff is working on this issue and will be bringing information about this topic to the Steering Committee for review. (Tom Oberbauer)
- 3.12 Describe the hardline situation.** (Bryan Woods) An applicant with a large development project would delineate the open space and development areas to become a hardline project. Hardlines require negotiation with developers and agencies and can take several years. The hardline policy for ECMSCP will consider only at projects currently in process. (Tom Oberbauer)

4. Opportunity for Public Input (Bryan Woods)

- 4.1 What are the standards being used to identify critical populations?** (Cindy Burrascano, Native Plant Society) County staff is reviewing each species individually to develop appropriate conservation measures and identifying focal species as recommended by the ISAs. (Adam Wagschal)
- 4.2 There is concern regarding preservation of the ocotillo in the Borrego Springs area, where there is a high density of ocotillo, cholla, and mesquite. How will these species be addressed in the ECMSCP?** (Kurt Levens) Ocotillos are within the vegetation community of creosote bush scrub and would be covered under that vegetation community. (Adam Wagschal)
- 4.3 Regarding the hardlines, does the County have a list of projects for which permits are in process right now with the County?** (John Elliot) No. There is a list of projects that are in process, but none have requested hardline status. (Tom Oberbauer)
- 4.4 When will property owners know if they meet hardline criteria?** (John Elliot) If discretionary permit applications have not already been submitted, they cannot be considered for hardline status. When the County sends out notifications, property owners will receive further information on this. (Tom Oberbauer)
- 4.5 What percent of public lands will be included in the ECMSCP?** (John Elliot) The County is coordinating with representatives from public agencies such as State Parks, Forest Service and BLM. Although public lands are shown in the East County MSCP "Study Area", they are creating their own conservation plans. The County does not have jurisdiction over these lands. (Tom Oberbauer)
- 4.6 When you overlay the groundwater ordinance over private lands, what percent of the land that is developable will be subject to the ECMSCP Plan?** (John Elliot) There are approximately 400,000 acres of private land within the ECMSCP area for which the County will address biological issues. (Tom Oberbauer)

- 4.7 What is percentage/amount of endangered species on public land in the East County?** (Mr. Starkey) The County uses a program that will model sensitive species. Both public lands and many private lands have a high number of sensitive species, however, those private lands with sensitive species are the focus of the ECMSCP Plan. (Tom Oberbauer)
- 4.8 Will the documents and maps reflect the percentage of species that are on public lands?** (Mr. Starkey) Species accounts will indicate whether a species is located primarily on public or private land. The focus of this project is on the private land that will help to preserve and protect sensitive species, with the goal of recovery. (Tom Oberbauer)
- 4.9 When will there be a discussion about on preserve land and fire management?** (John Elliot) Fire management will be a component of the ECMSCP Plan. Programs for dead, dying, and diseased tree and vegetation removal and management will be incorporated into the Plan. There will be more discussion about fire and vegetation management and monitoring in upcoming Steering Committee meetings. (Tom Oberbauer)

Next Steps (Tom Oberbauer)

The topic for next meeting will be the County's Hardline Criteria Policy. Steering Committee members were asked to review and provide comments on this issue at the next East County MSCP Steering Committee meeting.

Closing Comments (Bryan Woods)

Bryan Woods, Facilitator, appreciates the opportunity to be involved with the East County MSCP Plan. As there are no more questions or comments, the meeting is adjourned.