

Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Amendment

Stakeholder Meeting
October 15, 2009



Photo Courtesy of Guy Bruyey



Projected Timeline

- Financing Plan Paper: review late fall 2009.
- EIR/EIS: public review late 2010/early 2011.
- Board of Supervisors: end of summer 2011.
- Implementation: fall 2011.



Overview of Financing Concepts



Funding Responsibilities

- Acquisition shared among County, Wildlife Agencies, and land developers.
- County manages and monitors lands it owns, acquires, or obtains as mitigation or ensures it will be done.
- Federal and state agencies manage respective public lands committed for habitat conservation.
- If mitigation lands remain in private ownership, then owners also are responsible for stewardship.



County Contribution

- County will fund Quino through general funds and other options available in future.
- Same management and monitoring framework for Subarea Plan will be used for Quino.
- No additional acquisition requirements are anticipated for Quino.



Regional Funding

- TransNet provides local half-cent sales tax for transportation improvement projects/mitigation, administered by SANDAG.
- TransNet is not used to fulfill County's implementation obligations, but complements the MSCP.
- As TransNet represents only a portion of potential regional funding, local jurisdictions may evaluate other options.
- County will continue to fund implementation of Subarea Plan and Quino Amendment, even if other options not available.



Federal and State Contributions

- Substantial acquisitions to date by federal and state agencies.
- Biological monitoring will be carried out by agencies on land under their control.
- Wildlife Agencies also coordinate biological monitoring program, analyze data, and provide information/technical assistance to local jurisdictions.



Other Contributions

- Some private landowners choose to retain ownership of lands conserved through development process.
- Lands in private ownership are managed for stewardship by owner, HOA, local landscape maintenance districts.
- Otay Ranch approved prior to Subarea Plan, so funds own management/monitoring program on Otay Ranch Preserve.
- County/City of CV (POM) are also in discussions with SD National Wildlife Refuge, BLM, CDFG, and City of SD to manage and monitor lands east of Otay Lake.



Results to Date

- 67% (66,242 acres) of conservation goal for Subarea already met through acquisition, dedication of easements, and baseline preserve.
- An additional 12,231 acres of private baseline land is committed to be conserved as development occurs.
- Majority of critical habitat for Quino within Plan Area already conserved (81%).
- Majority of Quino observations within Plan Area already conserved (71%).



Estimated Implementation Costs

- Additional costs for Quino beyond implementing Subarea Plan limited monitoring and surveys.
- Adaptive management will occur in conjunction with other Covered Species to maximum extent possible.
- Majority of efforts required for Quino, such as general habitat monitoring, will be implemented through existing processes.
- County is interested in participating in regional program for occupancy monitoring to track population trends over time.
- Costs for Quino will be absorbed into the existing budget for management and monitoring of approximately \$1.6 million/year.



Adaptive Management Costs

- Will take place in conjunction with that for other Covered Species.
- Focused in preserves in South County, Alpine-Jamul, and San Vicente QMUs.
- Primary focus on maintaining native vegetation communities.
- General habitat monitoring to identify appropriate adaptive management actions for Quino.
- RMPs: basis for general preserve management and include Quino.



Quino Checkerspot Butterfly - Courtesy of Fred Roberts

Baseline Habitat Survey Costs

- Already being done for existing preserves and take Quino into consideration.
- For existing preserves in South County, Alpine-Jamul, and San Vicente QMUs, surveys will be done within 3 years of implementation.
- For future preserves surveys will be done within 3 years after dedication.
- The estimated cost to perform baseline habitat surveys, which include a Quino habitat assessment, is \$250/acre.



Occupancy/Habitat Monitoring Costs

- Will track changes in Quino populations and habitat over time.
- County may select monitoring points from potential habitat in Subarea based on recommendations by *Longcore et al.*
- County is interested in working with SANDAG Environmental Working Group to track Quino population trends in the region.
- Cost for occupancy and habitat monitoring being evaluated.



Quino Checkerspot Butterfly - Courtesy of Fred Roberts

Questions?



Quino Checkerspot Butterfly - Courtesy of Fred Roberts

Conservation Policy Paper (Recap)



Conservation Policy Paper

- **Includes:**

- Project processing procedures.
- Anticipated conservation levels.

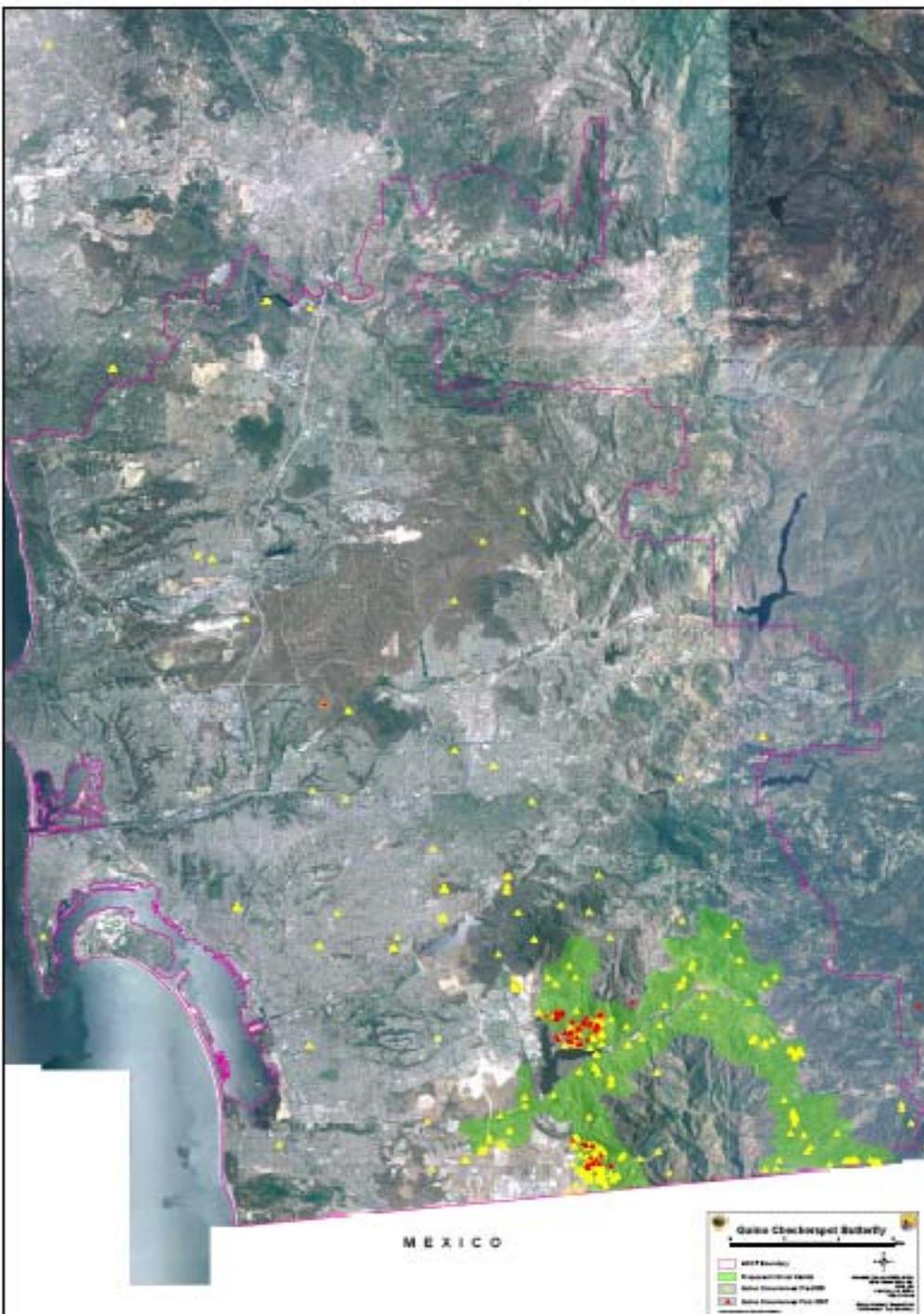
- **Objectives:**

- Minimize burdens of Federal ESA.
- Provide Take Authorization for public and private projects.
- Preserve sufficient Quino habitat for long-term conservation.



Quino Checkerspot Butterfly - Courtesy of Fred Roberts

Revised Designation of Critical Habitat July 2009



MEXICO





100% Conservation Areas

- Existing preserves and future preserves.
- No impacts to Quino or habitat allowed.



0% Conservation Area

- Outside critical areas for Quino or isolated.
- No on site conservation required, but still mitigate impacts.



Quino Criteria Areas

- Mostly in PAMA not yet preserved.
- Occupied Quino Habitat to be avoided, preserved onsite.
- If complete avoidance infeasible, impact up to 20% (similar to narrow endemic policy).
- If impact, mitigate.

Quino Management Units (QMUs)

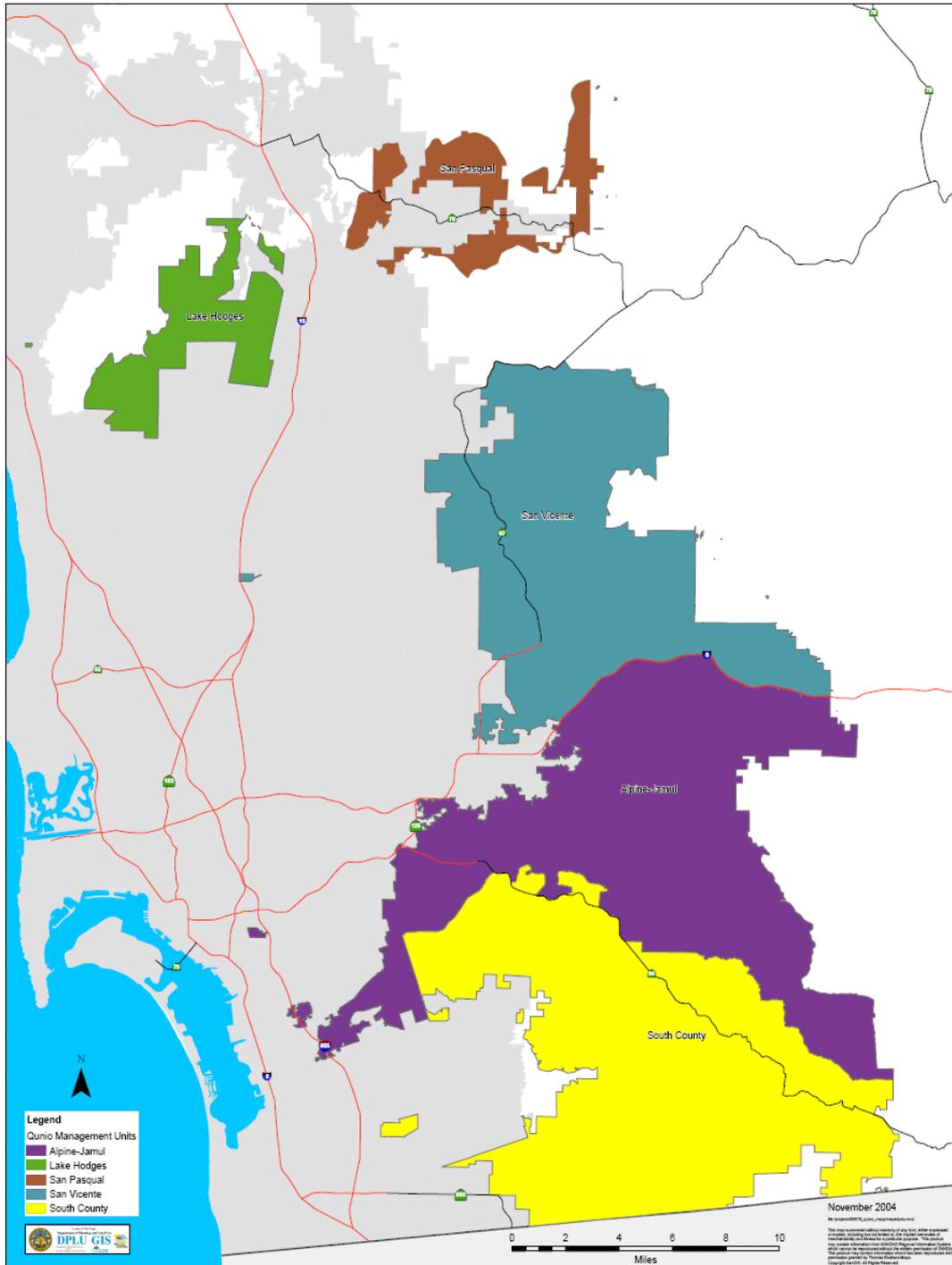


Surveys Required:

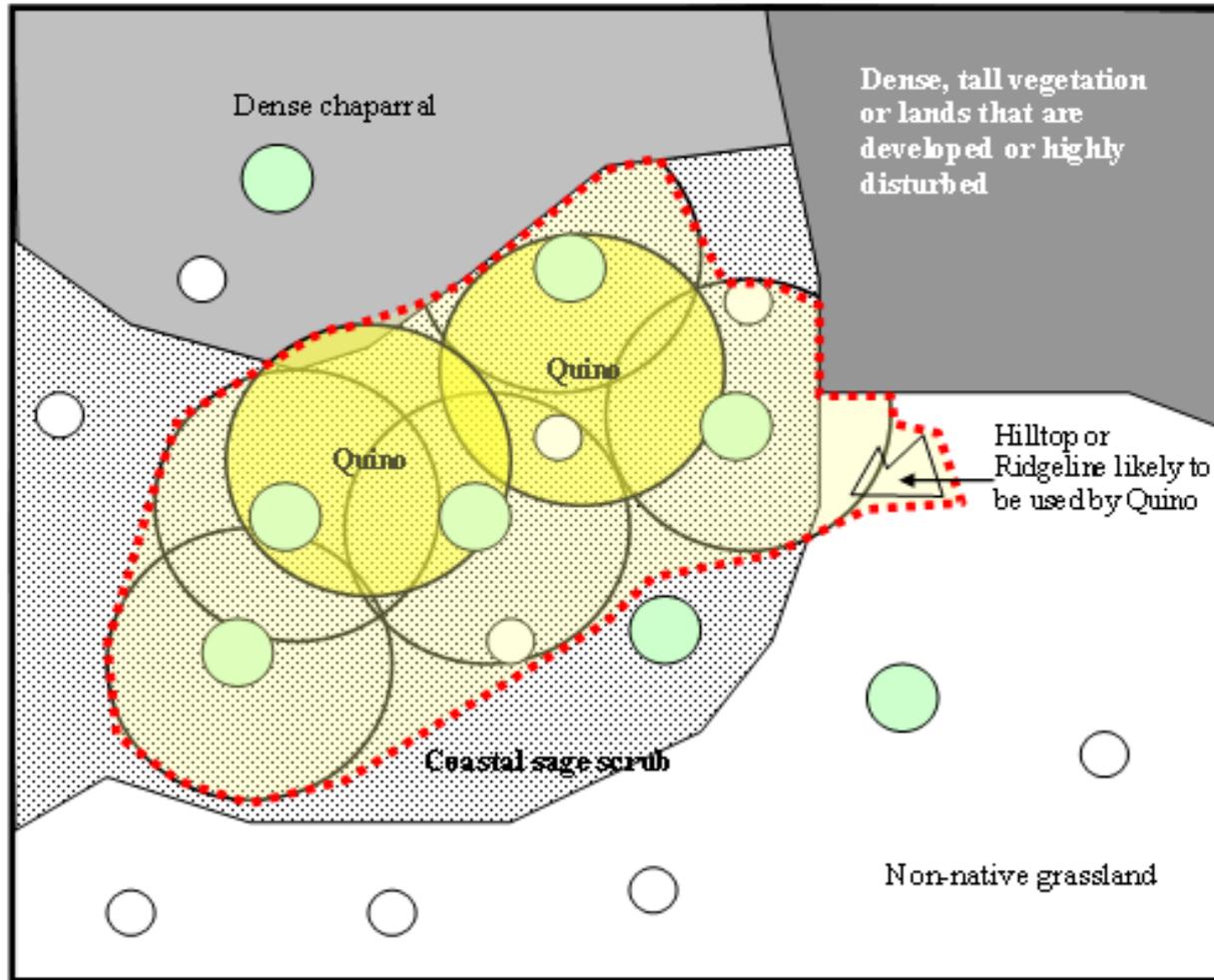
- San Vicente (blue)
- Alpine-Jamul (purple)
- South County (yellow)

Surveys Not Required:

- Lake Hodges (green)
- San Pasqual (brown)



Project Boundary



Occupied Quino Habitat Mapping

- Potential Quino Habitat within 200 m of sighting.
- Additional natural habitat with host / nectar plants within 200 m of sighting.
- Any additional natural lands within 200 m of SLHPP.
- Hilltops/ridgelines where Quino adults may mate within 200 m of open areas/natural vegetation.

○ Insignificant host or nectar plant population

● Significant Larval Host Plant Patch

○ 200 m radius circle

● Quino Habitat



Mitigation

- Required for impacts to Occupied Quino Habitat.
- In general, land conservation at set ratio.
- Within Criteria Areas, must demonstrate effort to:
 - Preserve Occupied Quino Habitat; and
 - Mitigate within same QMU as impacts.



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Discussion
Comments
Questions