

A-1 UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Comment Letter A-1



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, California 92008



In Reply Refer To:
FWS-SD-15B0072-18CPA0186

Mr. Mark Slovik
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, California 92123

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report, for Otay Ranch
Village 14 and Planning Areas 16 & 19

Dear Mr. Slovik:

We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have reviewed, in part, the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and associated documents dated March 1, 2018, prepared for the County of San Diego (County).

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The proposed project includes development of PV 1, 2, and 3. We believe based on materials presented in MSCP documents, these parcels should be treated as preserve (e.g., MSCP EIR/EIS Figure 2-12, City of San Diego 1996; the County's MSCP Subarea Plan, Figure 1-2 County of San Diego 1997; and the preserve conveyance plan for Otay Ranch, Figure 14, City of Chula Vista and County of San Diego 2002).

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We believe any changes to preserve areas need to maintain habitat values that were established by the MSCP. In this case PV 1, 2, and 3, they were established to protect a wildlife corridor and large blocks of coastal sage scrub; important for coastal California gnatcatcher. We recommend that your analysis of the proposed changes to the existing preserve should address how the habitat values will be maintained in Proctor Valley.

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We are committed to working with you to develop a plan moving forward. We would also like to discuss potential impacts to the endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly and how this project could contribute to a potential Quino amendment. Please contact me at (760) 431-9440 to answer questions regarding this letter or to schedule a follow up discussion.

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Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of G. Mendel Stewart and digital signature block: Digitally signed by GEORGE STEWART Date: 2018.04.16 16:23:39 -0700

G. Mendel Stewart
Field Supervisor

Mr. Slovik (FWS-SD-15B0072-18CPA0186)

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cc:

Mark Wardlaw, County of San Diego

Gail Sevens, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Literature Cited

City of Chula Vista and County of San Diego. 2002. *Otay Ranch Phase 2 Resource Management Plan*. June 4, 1996; revised August 7, 2002.

City of San Diego. 1996. Recirculated Draft Joint EIR/EIS: Issuance of Take Authorization for Threatened and Endangered Species Due to Urban Growth within the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Planning Area.

County of San Diego. 1997. *Multiple Species Conservation Program, County of San Diego Subarea Plan*. Prepared by the County of San Diego in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game. Adopted October 22, 1997.