COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE
AND
REPORT FORMAT AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Department of Planning and Land Use
Department of Public Works

Fourth Revision
September 15, 2010

APPROVAL

I hereby certify that these **Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources, Report Format and Content Requirements for Biological Resources, and Report Format and Content Requirements for Resource Management Plans** are a part of the County of San Diego, Land Use and Environment Group's Guidelines for Determining Significance and Technical Report Format and Content Requirements and were considered by the Director of Planning and Land Use, in coordination with the Director of Public Works on September 15, 2010.

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I hereby certify that these **Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources, Report Format and Content Requirements for Biological Resources, and Report Format and Content Requirements for Resource Management Plans** are a part of the County of San Diego, Land Use and Environment Group's Guidelines for Determining Significance and Technical Report Format and Content Requirements and have hereby been approved by the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) of the Land Use and Environment Group on the fifteenth day of September, 2010. The Director of Planning and Land Use is authorized to approve revisions to these Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources and Report Format and Content Requirements for Biological Resources and Resource Management Plans except any revisions to the Guidelines for Determining Significance presented in Section 4.0 must be approved by the Deputy CAO.

Approved, September 15, 2010

CHANDRA WALLAR
Deputy CAO

Fourth Revision
September 15, 2010

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June 30, 2009
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July 30, 2008
First Revision
December 5, 2007
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September 26, 2006

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

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EXPLANATION

These Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources and information presented herein shall be used by County staff for the review of discretionary projects and environmental documents pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). These Guidelines present a range of quantitative, qualitative, and performance levels for particular environmental effects. Normally, (in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary), an affirmative response to any one Guideline will mean the project will result in a significant effect, whereas effects that do not meet any of the Guidelines will normally be determined to be "less than significant." Section 15064(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines states:

> "The determination whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment calls for careful judgment on the part of the public agency involved, based to the extent possible on factual and scientific data. An ironclad definition of significant effect is not always possible because the significance of an activity may vary with the setting."

These Guidelines shall assist in providing a consistent, objective and predictable evaluation of significant effects. These Guidelines are not binding on any decision-maker and should not be substituted for the use of independent judgment to determine significance or the evaluation of evidence in the record. The County reserves the right to modify these Guidelines in the event of scientific discovery or alterations in factual data that may alter the common application of a Guideline.

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List of Acronyms

ACOE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
BMO	Biological Mitigation Ordinance
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
COI	Certificate of Inclusion
CSS	Coastal Sage Scrub
DPLU	Department of Planning and Land Use
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act (federal)
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HLP	Habitat Loss Permit
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MSCP	Multiple Species Conservation Program
NCCP	Natural Communities Conservation Plan
LLO	Likely Limits of Occurrence
RCA	Resource Conservation Areas
RPO	County of San Diego Resource Protection Ordinance
SAMP	Special Area Management Plan
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USC	United States Code
WCB	Wildlife Conservation Board

INTRODUCTION

This document provides guidance for evaluating adverse environmental effects that a proposed project may have on biological resources. These Guidelines for Determining Significance (Guidelines) should be consulted during the evaluation of any biological resource pursuant to CEQA. Specifically, this document addresses the following questions listed in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Appendix G, IV. Biological Resources, IX. Land Use and Planning, and XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance:

IV. Biological Resources – Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means?

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?

IX. Land Use and Planning – Would the project:

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects.)

1.0 GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

San Diego County has long been known as a unique environment for biological resources. Both the number and diversity of the habitats and species present in the County far exceed those of most other counties in the United States. Several factors are responsible for this unique environment, including climate, geology, topography, microhabitats, and endemism.

The loss of native habitat to development and agricultural uses over the last several decades has caused many of the region's biological resources to become increasingly rare. Some habitat types now occupy less than 5-10% of their historical range. The majority of habitat loss has occurred along the coast and inland mesas. Hence, most of the habitat types that have experienced the greatest losses and are now considered the most sensitive are found within these areas, such as southern maritime chaparral, vernal pools, coastal bluffs and dunes, maritime succulent scrub and freshwater habitats. Other habitat types, such as coastal sage scrub, grasslands, oak woodlands and various chaparral habitats are becoming more sensitive as residential development extends further into previously rural areas in the north and along the eastern foothills of the County.

The far eastern parts of the County, from the mountain areas to the desert regions, have been left relatively intact thus far and may remain so given that large portions of these areas are publicly owned. However, some habitat types in these areas, such as coniferous forest, Colorado Desert wash scrub, desert dunes, and desert sink scrub, are still considered sensitive for reasons other than historical loss, such as limited distribution, the potential to host sensitive species, or the inability to recover from disturbance.

Today, San Diego supports over 400 sensitive plants and animals. These species range from uncommon to critically endangered. Some of these species require immediate, proactive measures, particularly those that are already listed as threatened or endangered. For others, extirpation or extinction is not quite so imminent, but their

long-term survival may depend upon the precautionary actions taken now, including ensuring that a sufficient amount of native habitat is preserved in a viable manner. Refer to Tables 2 and 3 for lists of County-sensitive plants and wildlife.

Most of the County's conservation policies focus on preservation at the ecosystem and habitat level. The single species approach is only used for particularly sensitive species or those species with unusual life history needs. In all cases, single-species methods are used in conjunction with the habitat or ecosystem-level approach. The County of San Diego has established policies that aim to balance the needs of humans with the need to protect biological resources. The County's policies have been designed to maintain the optimal health and viability of each ecosystem and habitat given the existing and potential environmental conditions and constraints.

2.0 EXISTING REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

Several Federal, State and local regulations have been established to protect and conserve biological resources. The descriptions below provide a brief overview of the most appropriate regulations and their respective requirements.

2.1 Federal Regulations and Standards

Federal Endangered Species Act[1]
[http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/ch35.html]
Enacted in 1973, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and their ecosystems. The Act prohibits the "take" of threatened and endangered species except under certain circumstances and only with authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through a permit under Section 4(d), 7 or 10(a) of the Act. Under the Endangered Species Act, "take" is defined as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act[2]
[http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/ch7schII.html]
Congress passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) in 1918 to prohibit the kill or transport of native migratory birds, or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird unless allowed by another regulation adopted in accordance with the MBTA. The prohibition applies to birds included in the respective international conventions between the U.S. and Great Britain, the U.S. and Mexico, the U.S. and Japan, and the U.S. and Russia.

[1] U.S.C Title 16, Chapter 35, Sections 1531-1544.
[2] U.S.C Title 16, Chapter 7, Subchapter II, Sections 703-712.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[3]
[http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode16/usc_sup_01_16_10_5A_20_II.html]
When first enacted in 1940, the Act prohibited the take, transport or sale of bald eagles, their eggs or any part of an eagle except where expressly allowed by the Secretary of Interior. The Act was amended in 1962 to extend the prohibitions to the golden eagle.

Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), 1972[4]
[http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/33/ch26.html]
The Federal Water Pollution Control Act was first passed by Congress in 1948. The Act was later amended and became known as the Clean Water Act. The Act establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States. It gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to implement pollution control programs, including setting wastewater standards for industry and water quality standards for contaminants in surface waters. The Act makes it unlawful for any person to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters, without a permit under its provisions. Clean Water Act 404 permits are issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for dredge/fill activities within wetlands or non-wetland waters of the U.S. Clean Water Act 401 certifications are issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board for activities requiring a federal permit or license which may result in discharge of pollutants into waters of the U.S.

2.2 State Regulations and Standards

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)[5]
[http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/stat/]
California Environmental Quality Act requires that biological resources be considered when assessing the environmental impacts resulting from proposed actions. CEQA does not specifically define what constitutes an "adverse effect" on a biological resource. Instead, lead agencies are charged with determining what specifically should be considered an impact.

California Fish and Game Code
[http://law.justia.com/california/codes/fgc.html]
The California Fish and Game (CFG) Code regulates the taking or possession of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians and reptiles, as well as natural resources such as wetlands and waters of the state. It includes the California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Sections 2050-2115) and Streambed Alternation Agreement regulations (Section 1600-1616), as well as provisions for legal hunting and fishing, and tribal agreements for activities involving take of native wildlife.

[3] U.S.C Title 16, Chapter 5A, Subchapter II, Sections 668 a-d.
[4] U.S.C Title 33, Ch.26, Sub-Ch.I-VI.
[5] PRC, § 21000 et. seq. and the State CEQA Guidelines, CCR, §15000 et seq.

California Endangered Species Act[6]
[http://law.justia.com/california/codes/2009/fgc/2050-2069.html]
The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) generally parallels the main provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and is administered by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The CESA prohibits take of any species that the California Fish and Game Commission determines to be threatened or endangered. CESA allows for take incidental to otherwise lawful development projects upon approval from CDFG. Under the California Fish and Game Code, "take" is defined as to "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill."

California Native Plant Protection Act
[http://law.justia.com/california/codes/fgc/1900-1913.html]
The Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) of 1977 (Fish and Game Code Section 1900-1913) directed the Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to carry out the Legislature's intent to "preserve, protect and enhance rare and endangered plants in this State." The NPPA gave the California Fish and Game Commission the power to designate native plants as "endangered" or "rare" and to protect endangered and rare plants from take.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act[7]
[http://law.justia.com/california/codes/wat/13000-13002.html]
This Act provides for statewide coordination of water quality regulations. The Act established the California State Water Resources Control Board as the statewide authority and nine separate Regional Water Quality Control Boards to oversee water quality on a day-to-day basis at the regional/local level.

Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Act of 1991[8]
[http://law.justia.com/california/codes/fgc/2800-2835.html]
The NCCP Act is designed to conserve natural communities at the ecosystem scale while accommodating compatible land use. The California Department of Fish and Game is the principal state agency implementing the NCCP Program. NCCP Plans developed in accordance with the Act provide for comprehensive management and conservation of multiple wildlife species and identify and provide for the regional or area-wide protection and perpetuation of natural wildlife diversity while allowing compatible and appropriate development and growth.

California Oak Woodland Conservation Act
[http://law.justia.com/california/codes/fgc/1360-1372.html]
In 2001, the California Legislature passed the California Oak Woodland Conservation Act. This act established the Oak Woodland Conservation Program, administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), which was designed to provide $10 million to help local jurisdictions protect and enhance their oak woodland resources. It offers landowners, conservation organizations, and cities and counties an opportunity to obtain funding for projects designed to conserve and restore California's oak

[6] California Fish and Game Code, Division 3, Chapter 1.5, Sections 2050-2115.
[7] California Water Code, Division 7, Sections 13000-14958.
[8] Section 2800 et. seq. of the California Fish and Game Code, as amended January 1, 2003 (Chapter 4, sections 1 and 2 of California statutes 2002.

woodlands. It authorizes the WCB to purchase oak woodland conservation easements and provide grants for land improvements and oak restoration efforts. While the Program is statewide in nature, it is designed to address oak woodland issues on a regional priority basis. The Program provides a mechanism to achieve sustainable ranching and farming operations, along with healthy oak woodlands.

2.3 Local Regulations and Standards

San Diego County General Plan – Open Space Element (Part I), Conservation Element (Part X), and Community and Subregional Plans

[http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/generalplan.html]

The Open Space Element and the Conservation Element of the General Plan provide guiding principles for the conservation of biological resources. The Open Space Element outlines the goals and policies pertaining to each type of open space, not all of which are for the preservation of biological resources. The Conservation Element, specifically Chapters 3 and 4 address County policies relating to water, vegetation and wildlife habitat. Appendix K of the Conservation Element outlines the County's Resource Conservation Areas (RCA), which are further described and delineated in each of the Community and Subregional Plans. Each RCA has been designated as such for a purpose specific to that area. When a site is located within a mapped RCA, the project must comply with the relevant policies for that RCA (i.e., avoidance of oaks, etc.).

County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance

[http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/zoning/index.html]

Land may also have a zoning designation or Special Area Regulation with certain restrictions pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance. For instance, lands may have a zoning designation of S81 Ecological Resource Area Regulations. The few uses allowed on lands with this designation are subject to strict provisions and limitations. The Zoning Ordinance also applies other Special Area Regulations with specific restrictions and provisions, including designator G (Sensitive Resource), R (Coastal Resource Protection Area) and/or V (Vernal Pool Area).

Multiple Species Conservation Program and Biological Mitigation Ordinance[9]

[http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/mscp/bmo.html]

The MSCP is a long-term regional conservation plan designed to establish a connected preserve system that protects the County's sensitive species and habitats. The MSCP covers 582,243 acres over 12 jurisdictions. Each jurisdiction will have their own subarea plan to be implemented separately from one another. The subarea plan for the County's jurisdiction covers 252,132 acres in the southwestern portion of the unincorporated lands. The County Subarea Plan is regulated by the Biological Mitigation Ordinance, which outlines the specific criteria and requirements for projects within the MSCP boundaries. The County Subarea Plan (adopted October 1997), the

[9] County of San Diego, Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), County of San Diego Subarea Plan, 1997 and County of San Diego, Biological Mitigation Ordinance, (Ord. Nos. 8845, 9246) 1998 (new series).

BMO (adopted March 1998), the Final MSCP Plan (dated August 1998) and the Implementing Agreement (signed March 1998) between the County and Wildlife Agencies are the documents used to implement the MSCP.

The MSCP and BMO provide specific criteria for project design, impact allowances and mitigation requirements. The criteria in this document, Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources, do not replace those required by the MSCP. All projects within the MSCP boundaries must conform to both the MSCP requirements and the County's policies under CEQA.

Resource Protection Ordinance[10]
[http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/cob/ordinances/ord9842.doc]
The Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO) was adopted in 1989 and amended in 1991 and 2007. RPO restricts to varying degrees impacts to various natural resources including wetlands, wetland buffers, floodplains, steep slopes, sensitive habitat lands and historical sites. Certain permit types are subject to the requirement to prepare Resource Protection Studies under the RPO.

RPO restricts uses in wetlands as defined by the ordinance. Aquaculture, scientific research, wetland restoration projects, limited removal of diseased or invasive plant species, and limited road-, driveway- or trail-crossings may be allowed when specific findings are made for these uses. In addition, the ordinance requires that a wetland buffer be provided to further protect the wetland resources. Improvements necessary to protect the adjacent wetlands and those uses allowed within the actual wetland are the only allowed uses within the buffer. For more explicit information on these requirements refer to RPO.

RPO also limits impacts to sensitive habitat lands. Sensitive habitat lands include unique vegetation communities and/or the habitat that is either necessary to support a viable population of sensitive species, is critical to the proper functioning of a balanced natural ecosystem or which serves as a functioning wildlife corridor. Habitats considered sensitive or significant under CEQA are not necessarily considered RPO sensitive habitat lands. Examples of RPO sensitive habitat lands include, but are not limited to:

- Lands that include populations of sensitive species (such as County Group A plants, Group I wildlife species, state- and federally-listed species).
- Lands that contain unique vegetation communities, such as maritime succulent scrub, southern coastal bluff scrub, coastal and desert dunes, calcicolous scrub, maritime chaparral, valley sacaton grassland, hardpan and claypan vernal pools, montane meadows, mesquite bosque, native grassland, and Torrey pine forest.

Examples of lands that would not be considered RPO sensitive habitat lands include, but are not limited to: Coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, chaparral, and non-native grasslands, provided that these habitats: (a) do not include populations of sensitive

[10] County of San Diego, Resource Protection Ordinance, 2007 (Ord. Nos. 9842, 7968, 7739, 7685 and 7631).

species (such as Group A plants, Group I wildlife species, state- and federally-listed species); (b) are not critical to a balanced ecosystem; or (c) are not part of a functioning wildlife corridor.

Impacts to RPO sensitive habitat lands shall only be allowed when: (a) all feasible measures have been applied to reduce impacts; and (b) mitigation provides an equal or greater benefit to the affected species.

The ordinance includes the provision that when "the extent of environmentally sensitive lands on a particular legal lot is such that no reasonable economic use of such lot would be permitted by these regulations, then an encroachment into such environmentally sensitive lands to the minimum extent necessary to provide for such reasonable use may be allowed".

Habitat Loss Permit Ordinance[11]
[www.co.san-diego.ca.us/dplu/docs/HLP-Ord8365.pdf]
The Habitat Loss Permit (HLP) Ordinance was adopted in March of 1994 in response to both the listing of the California gnatcatcher as a federally threatened species, and the adoption of the Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) Act by the State of California. Pursuant to the Special 4(d) Rule under the ESA, the County is authorized to issue "take permits" for the California gnatcatcher (in the form of Habitat Loss Permits) in lieu of Section 7 or 10(a) Permits typically required from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Although issued by the County, the wildlife agencies must concur with the issuance of a HLP for it to become valid as take authorization under the ESA.

The HLP Ordinance states that projects must obtain an HLP prior to the issuance of a grading permit, clearing permit or improvement plan if the project will directly or indirectly impact any of several coastal sage scrub (CSS) habitat types. The Ordinance requires an HLP if CSS or related habitat will be impacted, regardless of whether the site is currently occupied by gnatcatchers. HLPs are not required for projects within the boundaries of the MSCP since take authorization is conveyed to those projects through compliance with the MSCP. HLPs are also not required for projects that have separately obtained Section 7 or 10(a) permits for take of the gnatcatcher. For more explicit information on these requirements refer to the HLP Ordinance.

3.0 TYPICAL ADVERSE EFFECTS

Any action that results in the loss or degradation of a biological resource is considered an adverse effect. The most obvious adverse effect is the direct removal of a resource, such as clearing of habitat or the take of a species. Although not as apparent, indirect impacts can be as harmful as direct impacts. In fact, indirect impacts can adversely affect species or habitat to the extent that it is effectively equivalent to removing the resource.

[11] County of San Diego, An Ordinance Amending the San Diego County Code to Establish a Process for Issuance of the Coastal Sage Scrub Habitat Loss Permits and Declaring the Urgency Thereof to Take Effect Immediately, Ordinance No. 8365. 1994, Title 8, Div 6, Ch. 1. Sections 86.101-86.105, 87.202.2.

Land may also be designated “impact neutral,” where the acreage is not considered impacted, but cannot be credited toward mitigation requirements. For example, wetlands and wetland buffers that are avoided to comply with the Resource Protection Ordinance are considered impact neutral. Also see Section 4.2 of the Biological Report Format and Content Requirements regarding other impact neutral situations (large lot subdivisions and fire clearing for existing permitted and occupied structures).

Significant adverse effects may result from one or more direct, indirect and/or cumulative impacts (CEQA Sections 15358 and 15355). The following describes each of these types of impacts relative to biological resources.

3.1 Direct Impacts

Direct impacts are those that are generally obvious, absolute or quantifiable. The removal of habitat by grading or clearing is the most common direct impact. Other examples of direct impacts would include the construction of a substantial barrier in a wildlife corridor (the direct impact being to wildlife movement) or the loss of habitat occupied by a certain species (the direct impact being to that particular species). Direct impacts may occur through the project itself or actions necessary to implement the project (e.g., fire fuel modification and/or clearing, construction staging areas).

3.2 Indirect Impacts

Indirect impacts may be the result of secondary effects from direct impacts or those impacts that over time cause the degradation of a resource by changing its function, health or quality. Unlike direct impacts that are typically one-time effects, indirect impacts often continue in the long term and may actually increase.

Indirect impacts commonly result from a project’s “edge effects.” Edge effects from development may extend several hundred feet into adjacent open space areas, causing significant changes in species composition, diversity and abundance in those nearby lands. Projects can have a wide variety of indirect impacts depending on the nature of the project, the type of resources present, and the type and degree of edge effects.

Projects can also cause a decline in the availability of a resource, such as water or prey, or change the habitat viability by altering the moisture regime or vegetation present, thereby adversely affecting a biological resource. Projects may cause habitat fragmentation, loss of ecosystem and watershed integrity, and may affect ecosystems and natural systems through changes in the pattern of land use, and population density or growth rate. Indirect impacts have been addressed in multiple species recovery plans, reports, journal articles and conferences. These Guidelines were created based on the best available science and most common standards followed by the wildlife agencies, conservationists and biologists. On a case-by-case basis, other measurable standards may apply.

3.3 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are those caused by the additive effect of multiple direct and indirect impacts to a biological resource over time. A project's direct and indirect impacts may not be individually significant, but the additive effect when viewed in connection with the impacts of past, present and probable future projects may cause the significant loss or degradation of a resource. In addition, multiple different impacts to a resource may be cumulative. For instance, a creek may be impacted directly and indirectly from road crossings, buffer encroachment and edge effects, all of which cumulatively cause the overall degradation of the creek.

A project may have significant cumulative effects notwithstanding the project's conformance with a regulatory program or existing mitigation plan such as a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) or Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP). For example, species may become listed that were not addressed in the adopted plan, or insufficient information was available at the time of plan adoption.

CEQA requires an appropriate cumulative study area (geographic scope) when determining which projects to include in a cumulative analysis. If the appropriate study area is entirely within the MSCP, a project may rely on the MSCP to determine that the project's impacts are not cumulatively considerable. If, however, a project is located on the periphery of the MSCP, or the project lies both within and outside the MSCP, the cumulative study area must extend beyond the boundaries of the MSCP as necessary to address the appropriate resource(s).

3.4 Permanent and Temporary Impacts

Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts can be described in more detail relative to whether they are permanent or temporary. Permanent impacts to biological resources would result from a permanent direct loss of those resources as an area is converted to another condition (e.g., developed, ornamental landscaping, agriculture, etc.), or an indirect impact (e.g., edge effects) that will persist and is permanent.

Direct impacts may be considered temporary when an area can be restored to its pre-impact condition thus providing habitat and wildlife functions and values effectively equal to the functions and values that existed before the area was impacted.

4.0 GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

This section provides guidance for evaluating adverse environmental effects a project may have on biological resources. The Significance Guidelines listed in this section are organized into five subject areas based on the State CEQA Guidelines. Some types of impacts may need to be evaluated under more than one subject area.

These Significance Guidelines were established using a variety of resources. Some are the result of extensive literature review covering scientific texts, journal articles, regional

studies and regulatory documents. Others were developed during the creation of the MSCP and are based on modeling and species analyses. Best available science was used in establishing these Significance Guidelines. If no conclusive scientific data was available to support a considered guideline, that guideline was not included. The Significance Guidelines will be modified as necessary when new scientific evidence becomes available. Any person may provide suitable scientific evidence to DPLU for consideration in modifying the Significance Guidelines presented in this section and the information shall be considered and applied, as approved by the County. Additional site-specific Significance Guidelines may be applied where relevant circumstances dictate and as approved by the County. Please note that due to the extensive list of references and multiple sources for each Significance Guideline, all references are listed in Section 6.0 at the end of this document.

It is important to note that quantification standards are provided as a guidance tool only and specific conditions may vary based on specific site conditions and/or circumstances as well as the best available scientific information regarding a species' biology. Values are provided as a tool for assessing the need to consider the potential for a significant adverse effect to occur and the requirement to specifically address the issues raised in this section.

Before a determination of the significance of an impact can be made, the presence, nature and extent of the biological resources must be established per the County's Report Format and Content Requirements for Biological Resources, which describes survey and mapping requirements.

The following significance guidelines should guide the evaluation of whether a significant impact to biological resources will occur as a result of project implementation. A project will generally be considered to have a significant effect if it proposes any of the following, absent specific evidence to the contrary. Conversely, if a project does not propose any of the following, it will generally not be considered to have a significant effect on biological resources, absent specific evidence of such an effect.

4.1 Special Status Species

The project would have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on a candidate, sensitive, or special status species listed in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The following information should be evaluated to provide evidence to support a determination of impact significance.

A. The project would impact one or more individuals of a species listed as federally

or state endangered or threatened.[12]

B. The project would impact an on-site population of a County List A or B plant species, or a County Group I animal species, or a species listed as a state Species of Special Concern. Impacts to these species are considered significant; however, impacts of less than 5 percent of the individual plants or of the sensitive species' habitat on a project site may be considered less than significant if a biologically-based determination can be made that the project would not have a substantial adverse effect on the local long-term survival of that plant or animal taxon.[13]

C. The project would impact the local long-term survival of a County List C or D plant species or a County Group II animal species.[14]

D. The project may impact arroyo toad aestivation, foraging or breeding habitat. Any alteration of suitable habitat within 1 kilometer (3,280 feet) in any direction of occupied breeding habitat or suitable stream segments (unless very steep slopes or other barriers constrain movement) could only be considered less than significant if a biologically-based determination can be made that the project would not impact the aestivation or breeding behavior of arroyo toads.[15]

E. The project would impact golden eagle habitat. Any alteration of habitat within 4,000 feet of an active golden eagle nest could only be considered less than significant if a biologically-based determination can be made that the project would not have a substantially adverse effect on the long-term survival of the identified pair of golden eagles.[16]

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[12] Significance guideline 4.1.A. Impacts to federally and/or state listed species are always considered significant.

[13] Significance guidelines 4.1.B, 4.1.C. The County has divided sensitive species into groups based on their rarity and known threats. Plant species are divided into Groups A through D on the County Rare Plant List (Table 2). Animals are divided into Groups I and II on the Sensitive Animal List (Table 3). Groups A and B Plants and Group I Animals include those that have a very high level of sensitivity, either because they are listed as threatened or endangered or because they have very specific natural history requirements that must be met. Groups C and D Plants and Group II Animals include those species that are becoming less common, but are not yet so rare that extirpation or extinction is imminent without immediate action. These species tend to be prolific within their suitable habitat types.

[14] The term "local" in significance guidelines C and F is defined by the boundaries of the County's multiple species conservation plans. For species in southern San Diego county, "local" is the area covered by the South County Subarea Plan. For species in northern San Diego county, "local" is the North County Plan area. "Local" for other species is the rest of the County east of the North County Plan and South County Subarea Plan areas. In cases where a species occurs in central San Diego county, an area about the size of the North County Plan or South County Subarea Plan should be considered the "local" area used for analyzing impacts and significance.

[15] Significance guideline 4.1.D. Arroyo toads breed in wetland areas, but require upland habitats for aestivation (similar to hibernation). Studies have shown that arroyo toads will travel up to 1 kilometer (0.62 miles) from wetlands, but there is no definitive study to show the absolute minimum distance that arroyo toads require for all of their life history needs. The USFWS model used to identify and map areas essential to this species determined that areas up to 25m (80 feet) in elevation above the stream channel were most likely to contain the primary constituent upland habitat elements essential to the species. Until such time that a more definitive study is completed, the County will use a width and elevation most often used by the wildlife agencies and amphibian experts.

[16] Significance guideline 4.1.E. Only a limited number of active golden eagle nests remain in San Diego County. This guideline applies a 4,000-foot no-disturbance zone around golden eagle nests. If the project proposes a use that will have little to no long-term effects, such as the construction of a wireless

F. The project would result in the loss of functional foraging habitat for raptors. Impacts to raptor foraging habitat is considered significant; however, impacts of less than 5 percent of the raptor foraging habitat on a project site may be considered less than significant if a biologically-based determination can be made that the project would not have a substantial adverse effect on the local long-term survival of any raptor species.[17]

G. The project would impact the viability of a core wildlife area, defined as a large block of habitat (typically 500 acres or more not limited to project boundaries, though smaller areas with particularly valuable resources may also be considered a core wildlife area) that supports a viable population of a sensitive wildlife species or supports multiple wildlife species. Alteration of any portion of a core habitat could only be considered less than significant if a biologically-based determination can be made that the project would not have a substantially adverse effect on the core area and the species it supports.

H. The project would cause indirect impacts, particularly at the edge of proposed development adjacent to proposed or existing open space or other natural habitat areas, to levels that would likely harm sensitive species over the long term. The following issues should be addressed in determining the significance of indirect impacts: increasing human access; increasing predation or competition from domestic animals, pests or exotic species; altering natural drainage; and increasing noise and/or nighttime lighting to a level above ambient that has been shown to adversely affect sensitive species.[18]

I. The project would impact occupied burrowing owl habitat.[19]

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telecommunications facility or improvements to an existing road, the project may proceed with appropriate mitigation during the non-breeding season without having significant effects. Long-term uses within the 4000-foot zone, including most development and recreational uses, are considered significant impacts to golden eagles even if the initial grading, clearing and construction were completed outside of the breeding season. The analysis completed during the creation of the MSCP found the 4,000-foot no-disturbance to be necessary for the long-term viability of the existing active nests. Given the lack of any contrary scientific evidence, the County will also use the 4,000-foot zone criteria outside of the MSCP.

[17] Some raptor species, such as the black-shouldered kite, can forage over smaller patches of habitat than large raptors. Analysis of impacts to areas less than five acres should be evaluated for loss of foraging habitat for these smaller raptors.

[18] Significance guideline 4.1.H. Some studies such as the Bioacoustics Research Team (1997) concluded that 60dBA, averaged over a time period such as one hour or 24 hours, is a single, simple criterion to use as a starting point for passerine impacts until more specific research is done. Factors that may be considered include, but are not limited to, song and noise frequencies and levels and temporal shifts (time of day, steady vs. intermittent, etc.) for the sensitive species. Best available science will be consulted to determine potential impacts associated with increases in noise and lighting levels for the species present or expected. The following evidence supports the significance of increases in nighttime lighting: (1) plants depend on darkness for the management of their metabolism; (2) deciduous trees lose their leaves during the fall by the production of hormones that are caused by lengthening nights and do not lose their leaves when light pollution simulates summer's long days and short nights; (3) animals depend on darkness in order to hunt, conceal their location, navigate, or reproduce, (4) mammals waste energy trying to stay away from lighted areas (5) some physiological processes only happen in the dark, such as resting, repairing, or charging of systems; (6) birds use dark skies to navigate during bi-annual migrations; and (7) migrating birds can become disoriented when they fly through an artificially brightened area.

[19] The County has prepared a strategy for addressing burrowing owls in the unincorporated county (Attachment A of the Report Format and Content Requirements – Biological Resources). The strategy

J. The project would impact occupied cactus wren habitat, or formerly occupied coastal cactus wren habitat that has been burned by wildfire.[20]
K. The project would impact occupied Hermes copper habitat.[21]
L. The project would impact nesting success of the following sensitive bird species through grading, clearing, fire fuel modification, and/or other noise generating activities such as construction.[22]

Species*	**Breeding Season**
Coastal cactus wren	*February 15 to August 15*
*Coastal California gnatcatcher**	*February 15 to August 31*
Least Bell's vireo	*March 15 to September 15*
Southwestern willow flycatcher	*May 1 to September 1*
Tree-nesting raptors	*January 15 to July 15*
Ground-nesting raptors	*February 1 to July 15*
Golden eagle	*January 1 to July 31*
*Light-footed clapper rail***	*February 15 to September 30*

** The breeding seasons listed in this table do not supersede implementing agreements with the Wildlife Agencies, Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), Habitat/Resource Management Plans (HMPs/RMPs), and Special Area Management Plans (SAMPs). For example, inside the MSCP Subarea Plan, the gnatcatcher breeding season is March 1 to August 15.*
*** The light-footed clapper rail is a CDFG fully-protected species and under the Fish and Game Code, CDFG does not allow "take" of fully-protected species.*

discusses surveying, analyzing impacts, and designing mitigation for burrowing owls. According to the strategy, all remaining non-native grasslands on East Otay Mesa are considered occupied by burrowing owls.

[20] Many cactus patches occupied by the coastal cactus wren were burned during the 2003 and 2007 wildfires in San Diego County. Efforts to restore cactus patches are underway, including salvaging of cactus species from impact sites. Guidelines for salvaging cactus from impacted occupied or potential cactus wren habitat on development sites are provided in Attachment C of the Report Format and Content Requirements - Biological Resources.

[21] Significance guideline 4.1.K. Though not state or federally listed, the Hermes copper meets the definition of endangered under CEQA Sec. 15380 because its "survival and reproduction in the wild are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, overexploitation, predation, competition, disease, or other factors." The County's determination that the Hermes copper meets the definition of endangered under CEQA is based on the loss of Hermes copper populations by development and wildfire, and the review of published and unpublished literature. Interim guidelines for surveying, assessing impacts, and designing mitigation for Hermes copper are provided in Attachment C of the Report Format and Content Requirements – Biological Resources.

[22] Significance guideline 4.1.L. This guideline addresses the potential loss of offspring for particularly sensitive birds. Any direct or indirect impacts that might affect the nesting success of these species would be significant. The dates used are based on the collective information gathered from various studies completed on the birds of San Diego County.

4.2 Riparian Habitat or Sensitive Natural Community

The project would have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or another sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The following information should be evaluated to provide evidence to support a determination of impact significance.

A. Project-related grading, clearing, construction or other activities would temporarily or permanently remove sensitive native or naturalized habitat (as listed in Table 5, excluding those without a mitigation ratio) on or off the project site. This Guideline would not apply to small remnant pockets of habitat that have a demonstrated limited biological value. No *de minimus* standard is specified under which an impact would not be significant, however; minor impacts to native or naturalized habitat that is providing essentially no biological habitat or wildlife value can be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the projected impact may be less than significant. For example, an impact to native or naturalized upland habitat under 0.1 acre in an existing urban setting may be considered less than significant (depending on a number of factors). An evaluation of this type should consider factors including, but not limited to, type of habitat, relative presence of habitat type in project vicinity, its condition and size, presence or potential for sensitive species, relative connectivity with other native habitat, wildlife species and activity in project vicinity, and current degree of urbanization and edge effects in project vicinity, etc. Just because a particular habitat area is isolated, for example, does not necessarily mean that impacts to the area would not be significant (e.g. vernal pools). An area that is disturbed or partially developed may provide a habitat "island" that would serve as a functional refuge area "stepping stone" or "archipelago" for migratory species.
B. Any of the following will occur to or within jurisdictional wetlands and/or riparian habitats as defined by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), CDFG and the County of San Diego: removal of vegetation; grading; obstruction or diversion of water flow; adverse change in velocity, siltation, volume of flow, or runoff rate; placement of fill; placement of structures; construction of a road crossing; placement of culverts or other underground piping; any disturbance of the substratum; and/or any activity that may cause an adverse change in native species composition, diversity and abundance.
C. The project would draw down the groundwater table to the detriment of groundwater-dependent habitat, typically a drop of 3 feet or more from historical low groundwater levels.[23]

[23] Significance guideline 4.2.C. Studies have found that groundwater reductions adversely affect native plant species. Two of the referenced studies (Integrated Urban Forestry, 2001 and Committee on Riparian Zone Functioning and Strategies for Management et al., 2002) found that permanent reduction

D. The project would cause indirect impacts, particularly at the edge of proposed development adjacent to proposed or existing open space or other natural habitat areas, to levels that would likely harm sensitive habitats over the long term. The following issues should be addressed in determining the significance of indirect impacts: increasing human access; increasing predation or competition from domestic animals, pests or exotic species; altering natural drainage; and increasing noise and/or nighttime lighting to a level above ambient that has been shown by the best available science to adversely affect the functioning of sensitive habitats.

E. The project does not include a wetland buffer adequate to protect the functions and values of existing wetlands. If the project is subject to the Resource Protection Ordinance, buffers of a minimum of 50 feet and a maximum of 200 feet to protect wetlands are required based on the best available science available to the County at the time of adoption of the ordinance.[24] The following examples provide guidance on determining appropriate buffer widths.[25]

- A 50-foot wetland buffer would be appropriate for lower quality RPO wetlands where the wetland has been assessed to have low physical and chemical functions, vegetation is not dominated by hydrophytes, soils are not highly erosive and slopes do not exceed 25%.
- A wetland buffer of 50-100 feet is appropriate for moderate to high quality RPO wetlands which support a predominance of hydrophytic vegetation or wetlands within steep slope areas (greater than 25%) with highly erosive soils. Within the 50-100-foot range, wider buffers are appropriate where wetlands connect upstream and downstream, where the wetlands serve as a local wildlife corridor, or where the adjacent land use(s) would result in substantial edge effects that could not be mitigated.
- Wetland buffers of 100-200 feet are appropriate for RPO wetlands within regional wildlife corridors or wetlands that support significant populations of wetland-associated sensitive species or where stream meander, erosion, or other physical factors indicate a wider buffer is necessary to preserve wildlife habitat.
- Buffering of greater than 200 feet may be necessary when an RPO wetland is within a regional corridor or supports significant populations of wetland-associated sensitive species and lies adjacent to land use(s) which could result in a high degree of edge effects within the buffer. Although the RPO stipulates a maximum of 200 feet for RPO wetland buffers, actions may be subject to other laws and regulations (such as the Endangered Species Act) that require greater wetland buffer widths.

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in groundwater elevation levels of greater than three feet is enough to induce water stress in some riparian trees, particularly willow (*Salix* spp.), cottonwood (*Populus* spp.) and *Baccharis* species.

[24] Significance guideline 4.2.E. Wetland crossings by their nature will not have a wetland buffer.

[25] Significance guidelines 4.2.E, 4.5.C. The Resource Protection Ordinance substantially limits activities that may occur in wetlands and wetland buffers as defined by the Ordinance. The Ordinance requires wetland buffers of an appropriate size to protect the wetlands environmental and functional habitat values. The Ordinance prohibits impacts to sensitive habitat lands, although it allows development within sensitive habitat lands when the project includes mitigation that provides an equal or greater benefit to the affected species.

4.3 Federal Wetlands

The project would have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means.

This Guideline refers only to federally protected wetlands. The significance of impacts shall be determined under Guideline 4.2.B, C, and E.

4.4 Wildlife Movement and Nursery Sites

The project would interfere substantially with the movement of a native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

The following information should be evaluated to provide evidence to support a determination of impact significance.

A. The project would impede wildlife access to foraging habitat, breeding habitat, water sources, or other areas necessary for their reproduction.
B. The project would substantially interfere with connectivity between blocks of habitat, or would potentially block or substantially interfere with a local or regional wildlife corridor or linkage. For example, if the project proposes roads that cross corridors, fencing that channels wildlife to underpasses located away from interchanges will be required to provide connectivity. Wildlife underpasses shall have dimensions (length, width, height) suitable for passage by the affected species based on a site-specific analysis of wildlife movement.[21] Another example is increased traffic on an existing road that would result in significant road-kill or interference with an existing wildlife corridor/linkage.
C. The project would create artificial wildlife corridors that do not follow natural movement patterns. For example, constraining a corridor for mule deer or mountain lion to an area that is not well-vegetated or that runs along the face of a steep slope instead of through the valley or along the ridgeline.[21]
D. The project would increase noise and/or nighttime lighting in a wildlife corridor or linkage to levels likely to affect the behavior of the animals identified in a site-specific analysis of wildlife movement.[26]

[26] Significance guidelines 4.4.B, 4.4.C, 4.4.D, 4.4.E, 4.4.F. Wildlife movement paths have a critical role in species survival, allowing foraging, juvenile dispersal, genetic flow, migration and colonization. Without these ecological processes, the probability of species extirpation and eventually extinction is significantly greater. Because of their importance, movement paths have received substantial attention in conservation biology literature. Unfortunately, no study has or can conclude the universal minimum standards for maintaining a movement path because of inherent variability in biological resources. Instead, the optimal conditions for individual movement paths is based on site-specific factors, such as the function of the movement path (i.e., as either a regional linkage or a local movement corridor), the needs of the specific species that use the path and the type and quality of habitat present. The criterion

E. The project does not maintain an adequate width for an existing wildlife corridor or linkage and/or would further constrain an already narrow corridor through activities such as (but not limited to) reduction of corridor width, removal of available vegetative cover, placement of incompatible uses adjacent to it, and placement of barriers in the movement path. The adequacy of the width shall be based on the biological information for the target species, the quality of the habitat within and adjacent to the corridor, topography and adjacent land uses. Where there is limited topographic relief, the corridor should be well-vegetated and adequately buffered from adjacent development. Corridors for bobcats, deer and other large animals should reach rim-to-rim along drainages.[21]
F. The project does not maintain adequate visual continuity (i.e., long lines-of-site) within wildlife corridors or linkage. For example, development (such as homes or structures) sited along the rim of a corridor could present a visual barrier to wildlife movement. For stepping-stone/archipelago corridors, a project does not maintain visual continuity between habitat patches. [21]

4.5 Local Policies, Ordinances, Adopted Plans

The project would conflict with one or more local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance, and/or would conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan.

The following information should be evaluated to provide evidence to support a determination of impact significance.

A. For lands outside of the MSCP, the project would impact coastal sage scrub (CSS) vegetation in excess of the County's 5% habitat loss threshold as defined by the Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP) Guidelines.[27]
B. The project would preclude or prevent the preparation of the subregional Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP). For example, the project proposes development within areas that have been identified by the County or resource agencies as critical to future habitat preserves.[22]
C. The project will impact any amount of wetlands or sensitive habitat lands as outlined in the Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO).[20]
D. The project would not minimize and/or mitigate coastal sage scrub habitat loss in accordance with Section 4.3 of the Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP) Guidelines.[22]

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set forth relies on site-specific factors while following the guiding principles that have been established through the numerous studies (best available science) on wildlife movement paths.

[27] Significance guidelines 4.5.A, 4.5.B, 4.5.D, 4.5.G, 4.5.J. Projects must conform to the specific requirements of the Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP) Guidelines and the San Diego County Habitat Loss Permit (HLP) Ordinance. These guidelines relate to specific findings required for all projects outside of the MSCP boundaries.

E. The project does not conform to the goals and requirements as outlined in any applicable Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Habitat Management Plan (HMP), Special Area Management Plan (SAMP), Watershed Plan, or similar regional planning effort.
F. For lands within the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), the project would not minimize impacts to Biological Resource Core Areas (BRCAs), as defined in the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO).[28]
G. The project would preclude connectivity between areas of high habitat values, as defined by the Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub Natural Communities Conservation Planning Process (NCCP) Guidelines.[22]
H. The project does not maintain existing movement corridors and/or habitat linkages as defined by the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO).[23]
I. The project does not avoid impacts to MSCP narrow endemic species and would impact core populations of narrow endemics.[23]
J. The project would reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of listed species in the wild.[22]
K. The project would result in the killing of migratory birds or destruction of active migratory bird nests and/or eggs (Migratory Bird Treaty Act).[29]
L. The project would result in the take of eagles, eagle eggs or any part of an eagle (Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act).

4.6 Cumulative Impacts

The project has the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal species.

The project has impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)

The whole of the proposed action must be evaluated to determine if there will be significant cumulative impacts. Cumulative issues to consider include the applicability of a regional plan (such as MSCP and NCCP) and a list of past, present and future projects in the area. Cumulative impacts should be evaluated for each of the guidelines used to determine significance. If relying on a project's conformance with a regulatory program or existing mitigation plan such as an HCP or NCCP as evidence that cumulative impacts will be less than significant, additional language should be included

[28] Significance guidelines 4.5.F, 4.5.H, 4.5.I. Projects must conform to the specific requirements of the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) and the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO). These guidelines relate to specific findings required for all projects within the MSCP boundaries.
[29] Migratory bird breeding season February 15 to August 31.

to substantiate the decision that the project has no cumulatively considerable impacts beyond the existence of the HCP or NCCP. CEQA requires an appropriate cumulative study area (geographic scope) when determining which projects to include in a cumulative analysis. If the appropriate study area is entirely within the MSCP, a project may rely on the MSCP to determine that the project's impacts are not cumulatively considerable. If, however, a project is located on the periphery of the MSCP, or the project lies both within and outside the MSCP, the cumulative study area must extend beyond the boundaries of the MSCP as necessary to address the appropriate resource(s). The HCP or NCCP may not be adequate to substantiate a finding of no cumulatively considerable impacts if there are newly-listed species and/or species present that were not identified as adequately conserved by the HCP or NCCP.

5.0 STANDARD MITIGATION MEASURES AND PROJECT DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

When it has been established that a significant impact will potentially occur, the project must propose mitigation to lessen or compensate for the impact. As defined by CEQA (Section 15370), mitigation includes either measures to avoid, minimize or rectify impacts or measures that compensate for impacts by adequately replacing or providing substitute resources.

5.1 Typical Mitigation Measures and Conditions

Table 1 provides some applicable mitigation measures.

Table 1
Typical Mitigation Measures and Conditions[1]

Typical Mitigation Applied to Reduce Effects Below Significance
Biological Open Space/Conservation Easement or Fee Title Transfer of Open Space
Limited Building Zone Easement
Off-site Purchase or Preservation of Habitat[2]
Preparation and Implementation of Revegetation Plans
Salvage of Root Stock, Seed or Specimens for Revegetation[3]
Revegetation and/or enhancement of Open Space
Resource Management Plans (RMP) *(formerly known as Habitat Management Plans or HMPs*)
Breeding Season Avoidance
Permanent Signs
Permanent Fencing or Walls
Temporary Fencing
Evidence of Federal or State permits
Restrictions on Lighting, Runoff, Access, and/or Noise
Biological Monitoring

[1] These are described more fully in the County's Report Format and Content Requirements – Biological Resources (Attachment A).
[2] Any land proposed for mitigation must be current on property taxes.
[3] Guidelines for salvaging cactus species are provided in Appendix B of the County's Report Format and Content Requirements – Biological Resources.

Project design is critically important for the protection of biological resources. Unless projects are designed appropriately, resources cannot be protected in a manner that will ensure long-term viability. Therefore, the type and location of projects should always be designed with the needs of biological resources in mind. Detailed discussion regarding project design is included below. Guidance for processing projects within the South County Subarea of the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) is included in Attachment B.

5.2 On-site Open Space Considerations

The project should first be reviewed to determine whether on-site open space is needed. **On-site open space should only be included in one of the following instances:**

- **A site hosts *high* to *very high* value or irreplaceable biological resources; or**
- **A site hosts *moderate* value biological resources and site-specific factors dictate that on-site mitigation would be biologically-viable; or**
- **A site hosts *low* value habitat but is part of a larger habitat complex that is biologically-viable.**

Project sites that do not meet the examples above shall provide any necessary mitigation off-site. If it is determined that on-site open space should be included, the optimal size, shape and location of open space should be a primary consideration when designing a project.
To determine the value of a site's biological resources, the following attributes should be considered:

- The sensitivity of the vegetation type;
- Extent of on and off-site habitat connectivity;
- General quality of the habitat as determined by the level of disturbance, range in vegetative structure and species diversity;
- Sensitivity of species present;
- Importance of its biological function, such as being part of a wildlife corridor, functioning as a buffer or being integral to a watershed;
- Physical characteristics, such as topography and soils.
- Whether the site has been identified as or adjacent to a pre-approved mitigation area (PAMA) or proposed PAMA.

The following basic principles should be followed when designing a project that includes on-site open space:

❖ In all cases, projects should be designed to minimize impacts to the more sensitive resources and completely avoid and buffer those that are very rare or unique.

- Although the overall size of an open space area is important, long-term viability of the resources depends on other factors as well. Site conditions and project-specific details should be considered, including:
  - The function and value of the habitat (i.e., as a remnant for stepping-stone / archipelago-dependent behavior, etc.);
  - The type of habitat present and any design requirements (i.e., a vernal pool has a watershed, oak woodlands and wetlands need a buffer to protect their root systems, etc.);
  - Whether wildlife use portions of the site for movement (on any scale);
  - The types of species using the site for nesting, foraging, movement, etc;
  - The nature and scale of the project proposed (for instance, an industrial project will require far different considerations than a subdivision with 20-acre lots);
  - Fire fuel modification and vegetation management requirements for existing and proposed structures and roads.

- Large blocks of habitat are generally better than smaller ones. However, when no alternative exists, there are cases when a small patch of habitat is useful as a stepping-stone through a developed landscape; although, this is only functional for a limited number of avian species.

- The shape of open space in relation to development is often as important as size. The intent of any project design should be to create the maximum amount of interior open space with the lowest amount of interface between development and preserved areas – referred to as maximizing the surface area to perimeter ratio. A shorter perimeter translates to less potential for "edge effects" to degrade the open space.
- The shape, size and location of open space should all be planned to create the maximum amount of habitat connectivity between on and off-site areas. Habitat connectivity allows for more wildlife movement and maximizes the amount of resources available to resident wildlife (for nesting, foraging, etc.).

- To maintain the ecosystem as a functioning unit, the open space should be located such that it encompasses the natural diversity of type, function and structure of habitats. Natural patterns of habitat associations should also be preserved. For instance, wetlands and their adjacent upland habitats should be preserved together as should the grasslands or low-lying shrublands adjacent to oak woodland.

- Linkages and corridors are essential for juvenile dispersal, foraging, migration and genetic exchange, all of which are necessary for maintaining healthy populations. The optimal location and dimensions of each linkage and corridor are dependent upon the types of resources present and the specific needs of species that use the movement path. Natural movement paths within a larger block of undisturbed habitat should be protected, as should the existing constrained, sometimes tenuous connections that provide the last link between two patches of habitat. Projects should never propose to create a constricted corridor or further constrain an existing one.

- Preserve design may include land subject to past disturbances if the land in its current or restored state would serve a biological function.

6.0 REFERENCES

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[Attachment A]

DEFINITIONS

Bosque – low-lying area, densely forested with deciduous trees, near a river or stream in the desert.

Calcicolous – growing in soil that is rich in lime.

Core Wildlife Area – A large block of habitat that supports a source population of a sensitive wildlife species or multiple wildlife species. Core wildlife areas are typically 500 acres or more (not limited to project boundaries), though smaller areas with particularly valuable resources may also be considered a core wildlife area.

Corridor – A specific route that is used for movement and migration of species. A corridor may be different from a "Linkage" because it represents a smaller or more narrow avenue for movement.

Cumulatively considerable – The incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

Impact Neutral – An area not considered impacted, but cannot be credited toward mitigation requirements. For example, wetlands and wetland buffers that are avoided to comply with the Resource Protection Ordinance are impact neutral. Large lot subdivisions may designate impact neutral areas as described in the Biological Report Format and Content Requirements, section 4.2, Analysis of Project Effects. Fire-clearing for existing permitted and occupied structures may also be designated as impact neutral as described in section 4.2 of the Biological Report Format and Content Requirements.

Linkage – An area of land which supports or contributes to the long-term movement of wildlife and genetic exchange by providing live-in habitat that connects to other habitat areas.

Mafic – containing or relating to a group of dark-colored minerals composed chiefly of magnesium and iron and that occur in igneous rocks.

Narrow Endemic Species – As defined in the Biological Mitigation Ordinance, those plant species listed on Attachment E of document No. 0769999 on file with the Clerk of the Board.

Native Wildlife Nursery Sites – Sites where wildlife concentrate for hatching and/or raising young, such as rookeries, spawning areas and bat colonies.

Population – An interbreeding group of individuals of the same species. The geographical limits of a population should be delineated as most appropriate for that species depending on its mobility, method of reproduction, and known distribution. Proportions of a population shall generally be determined based on the number of individuals; however, area may be appropriate for some species.

Raptors – Birds of prey such as eagles, hawks, falcons and owls.

Raptor Foraging Habitat – Land that is a minimum of 5 acres (not limited to project boundaries) of fallow or open areas with any evidence of foraging potential (i.e., burrows, raptor nests, etc.).

Sacaton – a coarse perennial grass of the genus *Sporobolus* that grows in alkaline soils.

Sensitive Habitat – Land which supports unique vegetation communities, or the habitats of rare or endangered species or sub-species of animals or plants as defined by Section 15380 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (14 Cal. Admin. Code Section 15000 et seq.). Sensitive Habitat includes the area which is necessary to support a viable population of any of the above species in perpetuity, or which is critical to the proper functioning of a balanced natural ecosystem or which serves as a functioning wildlife corridor.

Sensitive Plant – Those plants which meet the following criteria as determined by the County and maintained in its list of Sensitive Plant Species:

- Group A = Plants that are rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere; or
- Group B = Plants that are rare, threatened or endangered in California but more common elsewhere; or
- Group C = Plants which may be quite rare, but need more information to determine their true rarity status; or
- Group D = Plants of limited distribution and are uncommon, but not presently rare or endangered.

Sensitive Species –

- Those species that are included on generally accepted and documented lists of plants and animals of endangered, threatened, candidate or of special concern by the Federal Government or State of California;
- MSCP Rare, Narrow Endemic Animal Species, Narrow Endemic Plant Species, and County Sensitive Plant and Animal Species.
- Those species that meet the definition of "Rare or Endangered Species" under Section 15380 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Take – as defined in the federal Endangered Species Act, "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct."

[Attachment B]

Guidelines for Projects within Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP)

SOUTH COUNTY SUBAREA PLAN

The Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) is a comprehensive, long-term habitat conservation plan, which addresses the needs of many species and the preservation of natural vegetation communities in San Diego County. The South County Subarea Plan covers 252,132 acres in the southwestern portion of the unincorporated lands. This attachment outlines the steps necessary for a project to comply with the requirements of the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP).

A. REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

- Biological Mitigation Ordinance (March 1998). This document is the regulating tool for the County's MSCP. (http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/mscp/docs/BMO.pdf)

- Subarea Plan (October 1997). This document describes the general concepts and procedures for the three segments within the County's regional MSCP preserve system.

- Implementing Agreement (March 1998). This document is the contract between the wildlife agencies (USFWS and CDFG) and the County.

B. PROCEDURES

1. Determine the MSCP Segment within which the Project Lies (Figure B-1)

The South County Subarea Plan consists of three segments: Lake Hodges, South County and Metro-Lakeside-Jamul.

The Lake Hodges and South County segments are comprised mainly of "hard line" designations that were agreed upon by the landowners, the wildlife agencies and the County during the creation of the MSCP.

Minor and Major Amendment Areas are designations where the parties involved did not agree upon the appropriate designation for some of the properties (further discussion below).

The Metro-Lakeside-Jamul segment has no hard lines with the exception of three properties (2 in Lakeside, 1 in Jamul), but rather has "soft-lines" or areas targeted for preserve assembly. Land within this segment will be evaluated during the review of projects rather than the exact location of development and preserves being pre-determined as in the other two segments.

2. Determine which MSCP Land Designation Applies to the Project Site

Pre-Approved Mitigation Area (PAMA) – These areas are soft-lines (not agreed upon by the landowners, the wildlife agencies and the County) and are only within the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul segment. They signify the general core and linkage areas critical to the success of the regional preserve system. These areas are the focus for preservation of habitat. One of the goals of the MSCP plan is to locate development outside of the Pre-Approved Mitigation Areas as much as possible, and the mitigation ratios are set to encourage mitigation occurring inside PAMA.

Unincorporated Lands in Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment – These lands within the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul segment are outside of the identified core and linkage areas (i.e., not in PAMA). However, these lands may support biological resources necessary for the overall success of the MSCP. Therefore, treatment of these lands depends upon what resources may be affected by the project.

Preserve – The ultimate extent of the MSCP preserve area will be comprised of both the hardline areas located in the Lake Hodges and South County Segments as well as open space areas dedicated or acquired within the Pre-Approved Mitigation Area of the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment. No development is allowed within the Preserved Lands except as specified in Section 1.9 of the Subarea Plan or those uses that are allowed through the appropriate amendment process.

Take Authorized – Typically, these areas may be developed without any further biological review because “take” as defined by the Endangered Species Act has already been adequately mitigated in the form of land set aside as “Hard Lined” preserves during the negotiations between the landowners, wildlife agencies and County during preparation of the Subarea Plan.

Minor Amendment – Minor amendment lands are lands that are not currently part of the MSCP Subarea Plan and that contain habitat that could be partially or completely eliminated (with appropriate mitigation) without significantly affecting the overall goals of the County’s Subarea Plan. An agreement was not reached between the applicable parties prior to approval of the Subarea Plan. While these lands are included within the MSCP planning boundary, a land designation will not be applied until a Minor Amendment to the plan has been processed. At that time, the land will be designated Preserve, Take Authorized, or a mixture of both, based on the approved project design. Minor Amendments require the approval from the local US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Field Office Supervisor and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) NCCP Program Manager. In addition to what all projects require within the MSCP, Minor Amendments require concurrence by both the USFWS and CDFG. Written concurrence by the Resource Agencies is required prior to project approval.

Major Amendment – Like Minor Amendment areas, Major Amendment lands are not currently a part of the MSCP Subarea Plan and are lands for which an agreement was

not reached between the applicable parties prior to approval of the Subarea Plan. However, unlike Minor Amendment areas, Major Amendment areas have a high probability of supporting biological resources critical to the success of the MSCP (either by location within core and linkage areas or by the resources identified on the site). Developments proposed within Major Amendment areas require a formal amendment to the Subarea Plan, NEPA compliance, Federal Register Noticing and concurrence of the Regional Offices of the USFWS (Portland) and the CDFG (Sacramento).

3. Determine if Project is Exempt from the Biological Mitigation Ordinance

Section 86.503(a) of the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO) lists the types of the projects that are exempt from the BMO.

Exemption #'s (7) and (11) relate to grading and clearing associated with a single-family residence on a parcel 10 acres and under in size within the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul segment. Projects meeting the criteria for either of these exemptions require a Certificate of Inclusion (COI) to be granted upon project approval. The Certificate of Inclusion conveys Third Party Beneficiary Status and gives the applicant "take authorization" for any incidental impacts that might occur to sensitive species during grading and/or clearing. COIs are issued for up to 2, 5 or 10 acres (depending on the exemption that applies). Please note that a special project plot plan from the applicant or engineer is necessary when the total parcel size is larger than the allowable area to be cleared (either 2 or 5 acres) pursuant to exemption #11. No map is required for exemption #7.

The issuance of the COI satisfies only the MSCP requirements. All other ordinances and regulations must be complied with, including the Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), if applicable. If the project will affect wetlands, it should be conditioned to obtain state and federal wetland permits when necessary. Note: Projects exempt from CEQA are also exempt from the BMO but do not receive a COI.

4. Project Design Considerations

Project design shall follow the Project Design Considerations, located in section 5.0 of the San Diego County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources. A determination is made by the consultant with concurrence of the County whether the project site meets the BMO definition of a Biological Resource Core Area (BRCA). Projects within a Pre-Approved Mitigation Area or BRCA should maximize open space onsite. Projects outside of these areas should provide mitigation at an offsite location within a PAMA or a BRCA. Land that does not qualify as a BRCA would normally only warrant onsite preservation if wetlands or sensitive plants are present. If offsite habitat preservation is proposed, the offsite mitigation site should be a BRCA or within the PAMA and of equal or better functional value than the impact site.

5. MSCP Findings

Projects within the Subarea Plan must demonstrate conformance with the MSCP by completing MSCP Findings. These findings are required by the Subarea Plan and/or the BMO, and are required for all projects within the MSCP. The Findings are made up of the following 5 sections:

- BRCA Status (BMO Section 86.506 (a)(1) a). Required for all projects.
- Project Design Criteria (BMO Section 86.505(a)). Required for potential impacts to critical populations of sensitive species; significant populations of rare, narrow, endemic animal species; narrow endemic plant species; San Diego County sensitive plants; and land determined to be within a BRCA.
- Preserve Design Criteria (BMO Attachment G). Required if the project is adjacent to an MSCP preserve or if the project proposes onsite preservation.
- Design Criteria for Corridors and Linkages (BMO Attachment H). Required if the project site is within a Regional Linkage or supports a local wildlife Corridor.
- Subarea Plan Findings (MSCP Subarea Plan Section 1.2). Required for all projects.

Once the County staff biologist has determined that the biological report and vegetation map are adequate, the County staff biologist will complete the MSCP Findings. If the project is to undergo public review, MSCP Findings are typically attached to the environmental document (i.e., ND or EIR). The MSCP Findings must later be included in the staff report prepared for any required public hearings. The decision maker / hearing body (i.e. Director, Planning Commission, and/or Board of Supervisors) must adopt the Findings along with the CEQA environmental document. MSCP Findings are only adopted once. When relying on previous MSCP Findings, the decision maker / hearing body must “review and rely upon the previously adopted findings.”

5. Conveyance of Third Party Beneficiary Status

Third Party Beneficiary Status is the transfer of the authority (from the County to a property owner) to take habitat and species. Third Party Beneficiary Status can be achieved after the project has been approved, the MSCP Findings have been adopted (or COI issued), and all MSCP related mitigation measures have been satisfied. For new development projects, documentation of Third Party Status will take the form of a statement in the project resolution or form of decision. Third Party Beneficiary Status is only conveyed after all mitigation measures have been satisfied. This includes the dedication of all easements, purchase of offsite credits and completion of any other MSCP-related mitigation measures or critical design elements.

Third Party Beneficiary Status may be attained for the project as a whole or for a discrete phase(s) of the project as long as the mitigation for the discrete phase(s) is not functionally dependent upon the mitigation proposed for subsequent phases for MSCP conformance.

Certificates of Participation. Third Party Beneficiary Status may also be conveyed through a Certificate of Participation. These are for projects that have received all discretionary approvals from the County prior to the effective date of the BMO. Projects with remaining discretionary actions are not eligible for this Certificate. A project proponent may apply for a Certificate of Participation.

The County will review such applications to determine if the project conforms to the standards of the County Subarea Plan and the BMO. If the review results in a determination that the project conforms to these standards, the County will issue draft Findings of Conformance for a 45-day review period by the Wildlife Agencies. Unless written objections related to the Findings of Conformance are received from the Wildlife Agencies by the end of the 45-day review period, the County will issue the Certificate of Participation. If the County finds that the proposed project does not meet the standards set forth in the Subarea Plan and the BMO, the project proponent will be informed of the deficiencies and the proper procedures for achieving and assuring conformance to the requirements.

Conclusion of MSCP Regulatory Process. Adoption of the MSCP Findings and the subsequent conveyance of Third Party Beneficiary Status complete the basic MSCP regulatory process. A copy of the MSCP Findings will remain in the environmental file for future reference.

Figure B-1
MSCP Segments

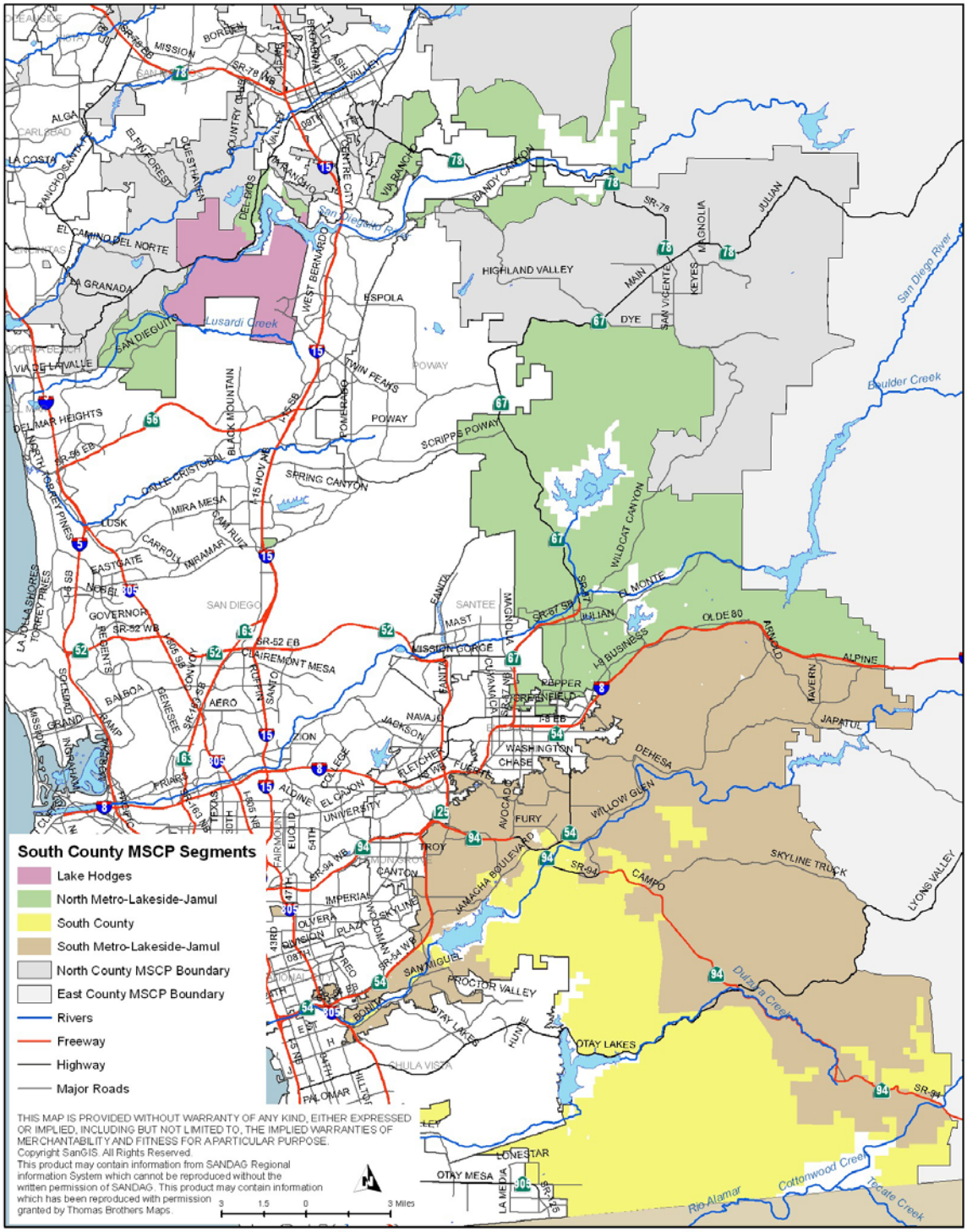

Table 2

County of San Diego Sensitive Plant List

LIST A (Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere)

Abronia villosa var. *aurita*, Foothill sand-verbena -- chaparral and CSS, sandy
Acanthomintha ilicifolia, San Diego thornmint [FT][CE][NE] -- vernal pools, grassy areas, chaparral and CSS, clay and gabbro soils
Ambrosia pumila, San Diego ambrosia [FE][NE] -- chaparral, CSS, grasslands, and valley bottoms, often in disturbed areas
Aphanisma blitoides, Aphanisma -- coastal bluffs, scrub, and dunes
Arctostaphylos glandulosa ssp. *crassifolia*, Del Mar manzanita [FE] -- maritime chaparral, sandy
Arctostaphylos otayensis, Otay manzanita -- mixed chaparral on gabbro and metavolcanic rock
Arctostaphylos rainbowensis, Rainbow manzanita -- chaparral, north county inland areas
Astragalus deanei, Dean's milkvetch -- CSS and riparian along Sweetwater, Otay and Tijuana Rivers and tributaries
Astragalus douglasii var. *perstrictus*, Jacumba milkvetch -- desert transition in southern part of County
Astragalus magdalenae var. *peirsonii*, Pierson's milkvetch [FT][CE] -- desert dunes
Astragalus oocarpus, San Diego Milkvetch -- Lower mountain slopes
Astragalus pachypus var. *jaegeri*, Jaeger's astragalus -- Near Riverside County border, chaparral, cismontane woodlands, CSS, grasslands, sandy or rocky
Astragalus tener var. *titi*, Coastal dunes milkvetch [FE][CE] -- coastal strand
Atriplex coulteri, Coulter's saltbush -- coastal mesas and Ramona grasslands
Atriplex pacifica, South coast saltbush -- coastal sandy areas
Atriplex parishii, Parish brittlescale -- coastal areas and Ramona grasslands
Atriplex serenana var. *davidsonii*, Davidson's saltscale -- coastal areas
Baccharis vanessae, Encinitas baccharis [FT][CE][NE] -- coastal mixed chaparral, cental coast & foothills
Berberis nevinii, Nevin's barberry [FE][CE][MSCP narrow endemic] -- mixed chaparral near Riverside County border, also cismontane woodland, CSS, and riparian scrub, sandy or gravelly
Boechera hirschbergiae (= Arabis h.), Hirshberg's rockcress -- endemic, east of Cuyamaca Lake, on heavy clay overlaid with pebbles
Brodiaea filifolia, Thread-leaved brodiaea [FT][CE][NE] -- clay soils and near vernal pools, North County
Brodiaea orcuttii, Orcutt's brodiaea -- vernal pools and foothill springs
Calochortus dunnii, Dunn's mariposa lily [CA rare][NE] -- montane and foothill, gabbro and metavolcanic soils
Ceanothus cyaneus, Lakeside ceanothus [NE] -- Lakeside, Crest, Alpine chaparral
Centromadia (Hemizonia) pungens ssp. *laevis*, Smooth tarplant -- fall-flowering in coastal valley bottoms
Centromedia (Hemizonia) parryi ssp. *australis*, Southern tarplant -- fall-flowering in coastal and interior valley bottoms including Ramona
Chaenactis carphoclina var. *peirsonii*, Peirson's pincushion flower -- desert slopes near Santa Rosa Mountains
Chaenactis glabriuscula var. *orcuttiana*, Orcutt's pincushion -- coastal bluffs and dunes
Chaenactis parishii, Parish's pincushion flower -- peak tops in the mountains, chaparral, rocky
Chamaesyce platysperma, Flat-seeded spurge -- sandy desert scrub
Chorizanthe orcuttiana, Orcutt's chorizanthe [FE][CE] -- sand soils; Point Loma and Encinitas, older records at Torrey Pines State Park
Chorizanthe polygonoides var. *longispina*, Long-spined spineflower -- clay soils; scattered distribution
Clarkia delicata, Campo clarkia -- central and southern oak woodlands, chaparral
Comarostaphylos diversifolia ssp. *diversifolia*, Summer holly -- coastal and foothill canyons in heavy chaparral
Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. *maritimus*, Salt marsh bird's beak [FE][CE] -- coastal salt marsh
Corethrogyne (Lessingia) filaginifolia var. *linifolia*, San Dieguito sand aster -- north coastal sandy areas

Corethrogyne filaginifolia (=Lessingia f.), San Diego sand aster -- coastal sandy areas
Cryptantha ganderi, Gander's cryptantha -- desert dunes
Cupressus forbesii, Tecate cypress -- Otay, Tecate, and Guatay Mountains
Cupressus stephensonii, Cuyamaca cypress -- west slope of Cuyamaca Peak
Deinandra (Hemizonia) conjugens, Otay tarplant [FT][CE][NE] -- grasslands near Otay and Bonita
Deinandra (Hemizonia) floribunda, Tecate tarplant -- fall-flowering in valleys and arroyos in interior, southern chaparral
Deinandra (Hemizonia) mohavensis, Mojave tarplant [CE] -- drainages in 3,000 ft. elevation chaparral, Chihuahua Valley, Palomar Mtn.
Delphinium hesperium ssp. *cuyamacae*, Cuyamaca larkspur [CA rare] -- montane meadows
Downingia concolor var. *brevior*, Cuyamaca downingia [CE] -- Cuyamaca Lake
Dudleya blochmaniae var. *blochmaniae*, Blochman's dudleya -- MCAS Camp Pendleton clay soils and terraces
Dudleya blochmaniae var. *brevifolia*, Short-leaved dudleya [CE][NE] -- sandstone terraces near Torrey Pines and Del Mar
Dudleya multicaulis, Many-stemmed dudleya -- MCAS Camp Pendleton
Dudleya variegata, Variegated dudleya [NE] -- coastal mesas, CSS and grasslands on foothill slopes among rocks, especially metavolcanics
Dudleya viscida, Sticky dudleya -- North County coastal canyon slopes
Ericameria cuneata var. *macrocephala*, Laguna Mountain goldenbush -- rocky mountain peaks
Eriogonum foliosum, Leafy buckwheat -- sandy montane desert soils
Eryngium aristulatum var. *parishii*, San Diego button-celery [FE][CE] -- vernal pools
Eryngium pendletonensis, Pendleton button-celery -- MCAS Camp Pendleton; coastal bluffs, grasslands and sparse CSS
Fremontodendron mexicanum, Mexican flannelbush [FE][CR] -- metavolcanic canyons on Otay and Jamul Mountains
Galium angustifolium ssp. *borregoense*, Borrego bedstraw [CR] -- Palm Canyon
Galium angustifolium ssp. *jacinticum*, San Jacinto Mountains bedstraw -- montane areas
Grindelia hirsutula var. *hallii*, Hall's gumplant -- montane grassy and meadow areas
Hazardia orcuttii, Orcutt's hazardia [CT] -- CSS in Encinitas
Heuchera brevistaminea, Mt. Laguna alumroot -- rocky mountain cliff slopes
Horkelia cuneata ssp. *puberula*, Mesa horkelia -- chaparral, CSS, cismontane woodland, sandy, gravelly
Horkelia truncata, Ramona horkelia -- gabbro and metavolcanic foothill slopes and peaks
Hulsea californica, San Diego sunflower -- chaparral slopes in montane areas
Isocoma menziesii var. *decumbens*, Decumbent goldenbush -- CSS
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri*, Coulter's goldfields -- coastal saltmarsh
Lepechinia ganderi, Gander's pitcher sage [NE] -- metavolcanic soils, Otay and San Miguel Mountains
Lepechinia cardiophylla, Heart-leaved pitcher sage [NE] -- metavolcanic soils near Mt. Woodson
Lepidium flavum var. *felipense*, Borrego pepper-grass -- dry lake bottom, Little Blaire Valley
Lepidium virginicum var. *robinsonii*, Robinson pepper-grass -- CSS and grassy areas
Lessingia glandulifera var. *tomentosa*, Warner Springs lessingia -- valleys near Warner Springs; chaparral, sandy
Lilium parryi, Lemon lily -- moist montane meadows
Limnanthes gracilis ssp. *parishii*, Cuyamaca meadowfoam [CE] -- montane meadows
Linanthus floribundus ssp. *hallii*, Santa Rosa Mtn. linanthus -- Santa Rosa Mountains
Linanthus orcuttii, Orcutt's linanthus -- montane forest openings
Lotus crassifolius var. *otayensis*, Otay Mountain lotus -- top of Otay Mountain
Lotus haydonii, Pygmy lotus -- desert canyons, pinyon juniper, rocky
Lotus nuttallianus, Nuttall's lotus -- south coastal strand and sandy soils
Lupinus excubitus var. *medius*, Mtn. Springs bush lupine -- eastern edge of County near I-8
Malacothamnus aboriginum, Indian Valley bush mallow -- montane chaparral
Mimulus latidens, Vernal pool monkeyflower -- vernal pools
Monardella hypoleuca ssp. *lanata*, Felt-leaved rock mint -- southern foothill peak tops
Monardella macrantha ssp. *hallii*, Hall's monardella -- montane forest

Monardella nana ssp. *leptosiphon*, San Felipe monardella -- montane chaparral and conifer forest, near Riverside border
Monardella stoneana, Jennifer's monardella -- in canyons around Otay and Tecate Mountains
Monardella viminea (= *M. linoides* ssp. *viminea*), Willowy monardella [FE][CE][NE] -- coastal canyons
Muilla clevelandii, San Diego goldenstar -- coastal mesas and clay soils
Navarretia fossalis, Spreading navarretia [FT] -- vernal pools
Navarretia peninsularis, Peninsular navarretia -- moist montane areas near Cuyamaca Lake
Navarretia prostrata, Prostrate navarretia -- vernal pools
Nemacaulis denudata var. *denudata*, Coast woolly-heads -- sandy coastal areas
Nolina cismontana, Chaparral beargrass -- Magee Ridge, Viejas Mtn.
Nolina interrata, Dehesa beargrass [CE][NE] -- chaparral and CSS on gabbro soils in southern foothills
Opuntia parryi var. *serpentina (Clylindropuntia californica)*, Snake cholla [NE] -- south county CSS
Orcuttia californica, California Orcutt grass [FE][CE] -- large vernal pools in California
Packera ganderi (= Senecio g.), Gander's butterweed [CA rare] -- gabbro soils in interior regions
Phacelia stellaris, Brand's phacelia -- sandy soils near the coast
Pinus torreyana ssp. *torreyana*, Torrey pine -- coastal mixed chaparral at Del Mar (only applies to naturally occurring trees)
Poa atropurpurea, San Bernardino bluegrass [FE] -- montane meadows
Pogogyne abramsii, San Diego mesa mint [FE][CE] -- vernal pools
Pogogyne nudiuscula, Otay mesa mint [FE][CE] -- vernal pools in Otay Mesa
Quercus dumosa, Nuttall's scrub oak -- maritime chaparral
Ribes canthariforme, Morena currant -- moist areas in southern interior chaparral
Ribes viburnifolium, Santa Catalina Island currant -- coastal canyons, chaparral, woodlands, Santa Catalina Island, Imperial Beach, and Baja California
Rorippa (Nasturtium) gambelii, Gambel's water cress [FE][CT] -- montane streams, marshes, lake margins, Julian
Rubus glaucifolius var. *ganderi*, Cuyamaca raspberry -- montane forest near Cuyamaca
Satureja chandleri, San Miguel savory -- gabbro and metavolcanic soils in interior foothills, Jamul/Dulzura and Fallbrook areas
Scutellaria bolanderi ssp. *austromontana*, Southern skullcap -- wet chaparral and montane areas
Sibaropsis hammittii, Hammitt's claycress -- gabbro foothills, Viejas Mtn
Streptanthus campestris, Southern jewelflower -- pinyon-juniper areas
Stylocline citroleum, Oil neststraw -- coastal areas, last collected in 1935
Suaeda esteroa, Estuary seablite -- coastal salt marsh
Tetracoccus dioicus, Parry's tetracoccus -- chaparral on gabbro and metavolcanic soils
Thermopsis californica var. *semota*, Velvety false lupine -- montane meadows
Viguiera purissimae, La Purissima viguiera -- found on MCAS Camp Pendleton, near Orange Co.
Xylorhiza orcuttii, Orcutt's woody aster -- gypsum soils in desert canyons

LIST B (Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California but more common elsewhere)

Adolphia californica, San Diego adolphia -- clay soils in CSS, chaparral and grasslands
Agave shawii, Shaw's agave [NE] -- coastal terraces
Ambrosia chenopodiifolia, San Diego bur-sage -- CSS around Otay
Astragalus insularis var. *harwoodii*, Harwood's milkvetch -- desert dunes at eastern base of mountains, sandy or gravely
Ayenia compacta, California ayenia -- desert canyons
Bergerocactus emoryi, Golden-spined cereus -- coastal bluff and near Otay Mountain in maritime succulent scrub
Bursera microphylla, Elephant tree -- desert slopes
Calliandra eriophylla, Fairy duster -- desert canyons, sandy or rocky
Carlowrightia arizonica, Arizona carlowrightia -- desert scrub, sandy, granitic alluvium
Ceanothus verrucosus, Wart-stemmed ceanothus -- coastal mixed chaparral
Chamaesyce arizonica, Arizona spurge -- sandy desert scrub
Colubrina californica, Las Animas colubrina -- high desert scrub

Cordylanthus orcuttianus, Orcutt's bird's-beak -- CSS in South County near Otay, Chula Vista and Imperial Beach
Coreopsis maritima, Sea dahlia -- coastal bluff
Dieteria (Machaeranthera) asteroides var. *lagunensis*, Laguna Mountain aster [CR] -- meadows and openings in forest on Mt. Laguna
Dudleya attenuata ssp. *orcuttii*, Orcutt's dudleya -- Border Field State Park
Ericameria palmeri ssp. *palmeri*, Palmer's goldenbush [NE] -- south coastal and interior arroyos, mesic
Erodium macrophyllum, Large-leaf fillary -- cismontane woodland, grasslands
Eucnide rupestris, Rock nettle -- desert canyons and cliff bottoms
Euphorbia misera, Cliff spurge -- coastal bluff
Ferocactus viridescens, Coast barrel cactus -- coastal mesas and hillsides
Frankenia palmeri, Palmer's frankenia/yerba reuma -- salt marsh near South Bay
Geraea viscida, Sticky geraea -- southern foothill and desert transition, chaparral, often in disturbed areas
Herissantia crispa, Curly herissantia -- eastern desert slopes
Heuchera rubescens var. *versicolor*, San Diego County alumroot -- rocky mountain cliff slopes, conifer forest, chaparral, Hot Springs & Palomar Mts.
Hulsea mexicana, Mexican hulsea -- desert mountain areas near Jacumba
Ipomopsis tenuifolia, Slender-leaved ipomopsis -- desert transition in southeastern part of County
Iva hayesiana, San Diego marsh-elder -- south coastal arroyos and ravines
Lewisia brachycalyx, Southwestern bitterroot -- near Cuyamaca Lake, in conifer forests and meadows/seeps
Linanthus bellus, Desert beauty -- interior and desert transition chaparral in southern edge of County, sandy
Lycium parishii, Parish's desert-thorn -- low desert flats
Malperia tenuis, Brown turbins -- desert pavement
Matelea parvifolia, Climbing spearleaf -- desert washes and canyons
Mentzelia hirsutissima, Hairy stickleaf -- sandy soil, low desert
Nama stenocarpum, Mud nama -- muddy lake edges
Nemacaulis denudata var. *gracilis*, Slender woolly-heads -- sandy desert areas and coastal dunes
Ornithostaphylos oppositifolia, Palo blanco -- hills south of Tijuana River valley
Quercus cedrosensis, Cedros Island oak -- south slope of Otay Mountain
Rhus trilobata var. *simplicifolia*, Single-leaf basketbush -- pinyon juniper, Pinyon and Vallecito Mts.
Rosa minutifolia, Small-leaved rose [CE] -- Otay Mesa, CSS/chaparral
Salvia munzii, Munz's sage -- southern CSS/chaparral near Otay Mountain and Otay Mesa, also Dictionary Hill and Jamul Mts.
Selaginella eremophila, Desert spike-moss -- desert slopes, gravelly/rocky
Senecio aphanactis, Rayless ragwort -- coastal scrub, chaparral, woodlands, alkaline areas
Senna covesii, Cove's cassia -- desert valley edges
Spermolepis echinata, Spermolepis -- Borrego Valley, sandy or rocky areas
Stemodia durantifolia, Blue streamwort -- mesic, sandy areas
Viola aurea, Golden violet -- pinyon-juniper areas, sandy areas

LIST C (Plants which may be rare, but need more information to determine their true rarity status)

Berberis higginsiae, Fremont barberry -- interior chaparral, pinyon-juniper woodland, rocky areas
Camissonia lewisii, Lewis's sun cup -- CSS, grasslands, cismontane woodlands, coastal areas, sandy or clay areas
Ditaxis serrata var. *californica*, California ditaxis -- desert scrub
Githopsis diffusa ssp. *filicaulis*, Mission Canyon bluecup -- CSS in Mission Valley, but also in Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary
Hordeum intercedens, Vernal barley -- seeps and vernal pools
Myosurus minimus (apus), Little mousetail -- vernal pools
Opuntia wigginsii (Cylindropuntia), Wiggins cholla -- low desert, eastern edge of County, sandy areas

LIST D (Plants of limited distribution and are uncommon, but not presently rare or endangered)

Abronia maritima, Red sand-verbena -- sandy beach areas
Achnatherum diegoense, San Diego needlegrass -- clay soils in native grassy areas, chaparral and CSS, rocky, often mesic areas
Androsace elongata ssp. *acuta*, California androsace -- montane grassy slopes
Artemisia palmeri, Palmer's sage -- arroyo bottoms in chaparral, CSS, and riparian, sandy, mostly south part of County
Asplenium vespertinum, Western spleenwort -- chaparral, woodland, CSS, rocky areas
Astragalus crotalariae, Salton milkvetch -- desert transition
Astragalus lentiginosus var. *borreganus*, Borrego milkvetch -- desert dunes
Azolla mexicana, Mexican mosquito fern -- standing water on ponds
Calandrinia breweri, Brewer's calandrinia -- burned areas
Calandrinia maritima, Seaside calandrinia -- coastal bluff scrub, CSS, grassland, sandy areas
Calochortus catalinae, Catalina mariposa lily -- coastal grasslands, cismontane woodland, CSS, chaparral
Caulanthus simulans, Payson's jewelflower -- sandy, granitic locations in foothills and desert
Chamaebatia australis, Southern mountain misery -- chaparral, gabbro and metavolcanic soils
Chamaesyce revoluta, Thread-stemmed spurge -- Mojave Desert scrub, rocky areas
Chorizanthe leptotheca, Peninsular spineflower -- CSS and chaparral
Convolvulus simulans, Small-flowered morning glory -- coastal clay areas and serpentine seeps, chaparral, CSS, grasslands
Cryptantha costata, Ribbed cryptantha -- desert sandy soils
Cryptantha holoptera, Winged cryptantha -- desert gravels
Cylindropuntia (Opuntia) wolfii, Wolf's cholla -- low desert scrub
Cynanchum utahense, Utah vine milkweed -- desert bajadas
Deinandra (Hemizonia) paniculata, Paniculate tarplant -- grassy areas, coast & foothills, Bonsall to Otay
Delphinium parishii ssp. *subglobosum*, Desert larkspur -- desert transition and rocky locations
Dichondra occidentalis, Western dichondra -- coastal mixed chaparral and North County CSS, grasslands, woodlands
Fritillaria biflora, Chocolate lily -- grasslands, usually on clay soils
Galium johnstonii, Johnston's bedstraw -- Palomar Mtn.
Gilia caruifolia, Caraway-leaved gilia -- east slopes of Palomar Mtn.
Harpagonella palmeri, Palmer's grappling hook -- CSS in South County, chaparral, grassland, clay
Heterotheca sessiliflora ssp. *sanjacintensis*, San Jacinto golden-aster -- North Mtn. Ecoregion, mixed chaparral and mixed conifer
Holocarpha virgata ssp. *elongata*, Graceful tarplant -- coastal mesas and foothills
Horsfordia newberryi, Newberry's velvet-mallow -- Sonoran Desert scrub
Hulsea vestita ssp. *callicarpha*, Beautiful hulsea -- chaparral and coniferous forest
Hymenothrix wrightii, Wright's hymenothrix -- lower mountain woodlands and conifer forests
Juglans californica, California black walnut -- riparian areas near DeLuz
Juncus acutus var. *leopoldii*, Soutwestern spiny rush -- marshes, seeps and riparian areas
Juncus cooperi, Cooper's rush -- desert alkaline areas
Lathyrus splendens, Pride of California -- southern interior chaparral
Lilium humboldtii ssp. *ocellatum*, Ocellated Humboldt lily -- shaded montane canyons
Lycium californicum, California box-thorn -- coastal bluffs and scrub
Lyrocarpa coulteri var. *palmeri*, Palmer's lyrepod -- desert canyons
Microseris douglasii var. *platycarpha*, Small-flowered microseris -- CSS and clay soils
Mimulus aridus, Desert monkey flower -- desert transition
Mimulus clevelandii, Cleveland's monkeyflower -- foothill and mountain peaks
Mimulus palmeri, Palomar monkeyflower -- montane and coastal mixed chaparral
Mirabilis tenuiloba, Slender-lobed four o'clock -- desert canyons
Mucronea californica, California spineflower -- coastal sandy soils (also inland)
Ophioglossum californicum, California adder's tongue fern -- vernal pools, coastal mesas, and coastal mixed chaparral, mesic
Orobanche parishii ssp. *brachyloba*, Short-lobed broomrape -- sandy bluffs

Pectocarya peninsularis, Baja California bur-comb -- rare in Borrego Valley
Penstemon clevelandii var. *connatus*, San Jacinto beardtongue -- rocky desert slopes and mountains
Penstemon thurberi, Thurber's beardtongue -- pinyon juniper areas, chaparral
Pentachaeta aurea, Golden-rayed pentachaeta -- woodlands, lower conifer forests, CSS, grasslands
Perideridia gairdneri ssp. *gairdneri*, Gairdner's yampah -- moist coastal and montane areas
Pilostyles thurberi, Thurber's pilostyles -- Carrizo Badlands Overlook, grows on *Psorothamnus emoryi*
Piperia cooperi, Cooper's rein orchid -- chaparral, woodland, grassland, elev. 15 to 1,585 meters
Piperia leptopetala, Narrow-petaled rein orchid -- woodlands and conifer forests
Polygala cornuta var. *fishiae*, Fish's milkwort -- foothill peaks (chaparral, woodlands, riparian) especially metavolcanic and gabbro
Proboscidea althaeifolia, Desert unicorn-plant -- desert washes, sandy areas
Quercus engelmannii, Engelmann oak -- interior valleys and slopes
Romneya coulteri, Coulter's matilija poppy -- chaparral and CSS, often in burns
Rupertia rigida, Parish psoralea -- montane forest near Cuyamaca
Salvia eremostachya, Desert sage -- northern desert canyons, rocky/gravelly areas
Selaginella asprella, Bluish spike-moss -- montane chaparral, granitic/rocky areas
Selaginella cinerascens, Ashy spike-moss -- undisturbed CSS
Streptanthus bernardinus, Laguna Mtns. Jewelflower -- montane peak tops
Suaeda taxifolia, Woolly seablite -- margins of coastal salt marshes
Viguiera laciniata, San Diego County viguiera -- CSS in southern part of County
Xanthisma (Machaeranthera) junceum, Rush-like bristleweed -- chaparral and CSS in South County

Key to abbreviations

FE – Federally Endangered
FT – Federally Threatened
CE – California Endangered
CR –California Rare
CT – California Threatened
NE – MSCP Narrow Endemic
CSS – Coastal sage scrub

Table 3

County of San Diego Sensitive Animal List

Group 1 Species (alphabetical by scientific name)

Invertebrates

Apodemia virgulti peninsularis, Peninsular metalmark
Branchinecta sandiegoensis, San Diego fairy shrimp (FE, NE)
Coelus globosus, Globose dune beetle
Euphydryas editha quino, Quino checkerspot butterfly (FE, NE)
Euphyes vestris harbisoni, Harbison's dun skipper (NE)
Linderiella occidentalis, California lindellaria
Lycaena hermes, Hermes copper
Callophrys thornei, Thorne's hairstreak butterfly (NE)
Panoquina errans, Wandering salt marsh skipper
Papilio multiculdata, Two-tailed swallowtail
Plebejus saepiolus hilda, Hilda greenish blue
Pseudocopaeodes eunus eunus, Alkali skipper
Pyrgus ruralis lagunae, Laguna Mountain skipper (FE)
Streptocephalus woottoni, Riverside fairy shrimp (FE, NE)

Fish

Eucyclogobius newberryi, Tidewater goby (FE, NE)
Gila orcutti, Arroyo chub
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus, Rainbow Trout -- Steelhead form (FE)

Reptiles and Amphibians

Batrachoseps aridus, Desert slender salamander (FE, CE)
Bufo microscaphus californicus, Arroyo southwestern toad (FE, NE)
Clemmys marmorata pallida, Southwestern pond turtle (NE)
Coleonyx variegatus abbottii, San Diego banded gecko
Ensatina eschscholtzii klauberi, Large-blotched salamander
Phrynosoma mcallii, Flat-tailed horned lizard
Rana muscosa, Mountain yellow-legged frog (FE)
Rana aurora draytoni, California red-legged frog (FT, NE)
Thamnophis hammondii, Two-striped garter snake
Uma notata notata, Colorado Desert fringe-toed lizard

Mammals

Dipodomys stephensi, Stephens' kangaroo rat (FE, CT)
Ovis canadensis nelsoni, Peninsular bighorn sheep (FE, CT)
Perognathus longimembris pacificus, Pacific pocket mouse (FE)

Birds

Accipiter cooperi, Cooper's hawk
Accipiter striatus, Sharp-shinned hawk
Aechmophorus occidentalis, Western Grebe
Agelaius tricolor, Tricolored blackbird
Aimophila ruficeps canescens, Rufous-crowned sparrow
Ammodramus savannarum, Grasshopper sparrow
Amphispiza belli belli, Bell's sage sparrow
Aquila chrysaetos, Golden eagle
Asio otus, Long-eared owl
Athene cunicularia hypugea, Burrowing owl (NE)
Buteo lineatus, Red-shouldered hawk
Buteo regalis, Ferruginous hawk (Winter)
Buteo swainsoni, Swainson's hawk (Nesting) (CT)
Campylorhynchus brunnicapillus couesi, San Diego cactus wren (NE)
Cathartes aura, Turkey vulture
Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus, Western snowy plover (FT)
Circus cyaneus hudsonius, Northern harrier
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis, Yellow-billed cuckoo (CT, NE)
Elanus caeruleus, White-tailed kite
Empidonax trailii extimus, Southwestern willow flycatcher (FE, SE, NE)
Falco mexicanus, Prairie falcon
Falco peregrinus anatum, American peregrine falcon (CE, NE)
Haliaeetus leucocephalus, Bald eagle (Winter) (CE)
Ictera virens, Yellow-breasted chat
Lanius ludovicianus , Loggerhead shrike
Rallus longirostris levipes, light-footed clapper rail (FE, CE)
Melanerpes lewis, Lewis' woodpecker (Winter)
Pandion haliaetus, Osprey (Rarely breeds)
Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi, Belding's savannah sparrow (CE, NE)
Plegadis chihi, White-faced ibis
Polioptila californica, California gnatcatcher (FT)
Progne subis, Purple Martin
Pyrocephalus rubinus flammeus, Vermilion flycatcher
Rallus longirostris levipes, Light-footed clapper rail (FE, CE, NE)
Riparia riparia, Bank swallow (Formerly bred) (CT)
Rynchops niger, Black skimmer
Sternula antillarum browni, California least tern (FE, CE, NE)
Sterna elegans, Elegant tern
Strix occidentalis occidentalis, California spotted owl (CT)
Toxostoma crissale, Crissal thrasher (Mesquite riparian)
Vermivora luciae, Lucy's warbler
Vireo bellii pusillus, Least Bell's vireo (FE, CE, NE)
Vireo vicinior, Gray vireo (Nesting)

Group 2 Species (alphabetical by scientific name)

Invertebrates

Ariolimax columbianus stramineas, Palomar banana slug
Brennania belkini, Belkin's dune tanabid fly
Cicindela gabbii, Gabb's tidal-flat tiger beetle
Cicindela latesignata latesignata, Western beach tiger beetle
Cicindela sinilis frosti, Senile tiger beetle
Cicindela trifasciata sigmoidea, Mudflat tiger beetle
Cincindela hirticollis gravida, Sandy beach tiger beetle
Cincindela latesignata obliviosa, Oblivious tiger beetle
Danaus plexippus, Monarch butterfly
Helminthoglypta traskii coelata, Peninsular Range shoulderband snail
Megathymus yuccae harbisoni, Coastal giant skipper
Phobetus robinsoni, Robinson's rain beetle
Trigonoscuta blaisdelli, Blaisdell trigonoscuta weevil
Tryonia imitator, Mimic tryonia snail

Fish

Cyprinodon macularius, Desert pupfish (FE, CE)
Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni, Unarmored three-spine stickleback (FE, CE)

Reptiles and Amphibians

Anniella pulchra pulchra, Silvery legless lizard
Aspidoscelis hyperythrus beldingi (=*Cnemidophorus hyperythrus*), Belding's orange-throated whiptail
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri (= *Cnemidophorus tigris multiscutatus*), Coastal western whiptail
Charina trivirgata roseofusca, Coastal rosy boa
Coleonyx switaki, Barefoot banded gecko
Crotalus ruber rubber, Northern red diamond rattlesnake
Diadophis punctatus similis, San Diego ringneck snake
Eumeces skiltonianus interparietalis, Coronado skink
Lampropeltis zonata pulchra, San Diego mountain kingsnake
Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii, San Diego horned lizard
Salvadora hexalepis virgultea, Coast patch-nosed snake
Sauromalus obesus, Chuckwalla
Sceloporus graciosus vandenburgianus, Southern sagebrush lizard
Spea hammondii, Western spadefoot
Taricha torosa torosa, Coast range newt
Thamnophis sirtalis ssp. *novum,* South coast garter snake

Birds

Anas strepera, Gadwall
Anser caerulescens, Snow goose (Winter)
Ardea herodias, Great blue heron
Asio flammeus, Short-eared owl (Winter)
Aythya americana, Redhead
Branta canadensis, Canada goose (Winter)
Bucephala islandica, Barrow's goldeneye (Winter)
Butorides striatus, Green heron
Cerorhinca monocerata, Rhinoceros auklet (Oceanic – Winter)
Charadrius montanus, Mountain plover (Winter)
Chlidonias niger, Black tern (Non-breeder)
Contopus borealis, Olive-sided flycatcher
Cypseloides niger, Black swift (Non-breeder)
Dendrocygne bicolor, Fulvous whistling-duck
Dendroica petechia brewsteri), Yellow warbler
Egretta rufescens, Reddish egret
Endomychura hypoleuca, Xantus murrelet (Oceanic)
Fratercula cirrhata, Tufted puffin (Oceanic)
Eremophila alpestris actis, Horned lark
Falco columbarius, Merlin (Winter)
Gavia immer, Common loon (Winter)
Grus canadensis, Sandhill crane
Ixobrychus exilis hesperis, Least bittern
Junco hyemalis caniceps, Gray-headed junco (Winter-rare)
Larus atricilla, Laughing gull (Non breeding, very rare)
Larus californicus, California gull (Non-breeding)
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus, California black rail (extirpated) (CT, NE)
Mycteria americana, Wood stork (Non-breeding, very rare)
Numenius americanus, Long-billed curlew (Non-breeding)
Oceanodroma furcata plumbea, Fork-tailed storm petrel (Ocean)
Oceanodroma homochroa, Ashy storm petrel (Ocean)
Oceanodroma melania, Black storm petrel (Ocean)
Oreortyx pictus eremophila, Mountain quail
Passerculus sandwichensis rostratus, Large-billed savannah sparrow
Pelecanus erythrorhynchos, American white pelican (Winter)
Pelecanus occidentalis californicus, California brown pelican (FE, CE)
Phalacrocorax auritus, Double-crested cormorant (Non-breeding)
Piranga rubra, Summer Tanager
Sialia mexicana, Western bluebird
Toxostoma bendirei, Bendire's thrasher (Non-breeding)
Toxostoma lecontei lecontei, Leconte's thrasher
Tyto alba, Common barn-owl

Mammals *Antrozous pallidus,* Pallid bat *Bassariscus astutus,* Ringtail *Chaetodipus californicus femoralis,* Dulzura Calif. pocket mouse *Chaetodipus fallax fallax,* Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse *Chaetodipus fallax pallidus,* Pallid San Diego pocket mouse *Choeronycteris mexicana,* Mexican long-tongued bat *Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens,* Townsend's big-eared bat *Euderma maculatum,* Spotted bat *Eumops perotis californicus,* Greater western mastiff bat *Felis concolor,* Mountain lion *Lasiurus blossevillii,* Western red bat *Lepus californicus bennettii,* San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit *Macrotus californicus,* California leaf-nosed bat *Myotis ciliolabrum,* Small-footed myotis *Myotis evotis,* Long-eared myotis *Myotis thysanodes,* Fringed myotis *Myotis volans,* Long-legged myotis *Myotis yumanensis,* Yuma myotis *Neotoma lepida intermedia,* San Diego desert woodrat *Nyctinomops macrotis,* Big free-tailed bat *Nyctinomops femorosaccus,* Pocketed free-tailed bat *Odocoileus hemionus,* Southern mule deer *Onychomys torridus Ramona,* Southern grasshopper mouse *Perognathus longimembris brevinasus,* Los Angeles little pocket mouse *Perognathus longimembris internationalis,* Jacumba little pocket mouse *Taxidea taxus,* American badger	

Key to abbreviations

FE – Federally Endangered
FT – Federally Threatened
CE – California Endangered
CT – California Threatened
NE – MSCP Narrow Endemic

Table 4

Vegetation Communities in San Diego County

Introduction

San Diego's vegetation communities owe their diversity to the wide range of soil and climatic conditions found in the County. The County encompasses desert, mountainous and coastal conditions over a wide range of elevation, precipitation and temperature changes. These conditions provide niches for endemic species and a wide range of vegetation communities. San Diego County is home to over 200 plant and animal species that are federally listed as rare, endangered, or threatened. The preservation of this diversity of species and habitats is important for the health of ecosystem functions, and their economic and intrinsic values.

In order to effectively classify the wide variety of vegetation communities, the framework developed by Robert Holland in 1986 has been customized for San Diego County. To supplement the original Holland Code, additions were made by Thomas Oberbauer in 1996 to account for unique habitats found in San Diego and to account for artificial habitat features (i.e., 10000 series). Vegetation communities not present in San Diego County were omitted. Nomenclature and numbering here follows Holland's with a few minor exceptions. A summary of significant changes to Oberbauer's 1996 classification system is located at the end of the list.

While this list is an important planning and regulatory tool, it is recognized that there are inherent limitations to vegetation classification. Nature does not follow a hierarchal and discrete system of species assemblages, but rather exhibits gradations and temporal fluctuations. Despite these limitations, this list provides an efficient framework for environmental analysis, conservation planning, and natural resource management.

Vegetation Communities List

Based on "Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California" prepared by Robert F. Holland, Ph.D. for State of California, The Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game (October 1986)

* Denotes additions to Holland's original categories by Thomas Oberbauer (February 1996)
\# Denotes additions to Holland's original categories in this publication by the County of San Diego (March 2008)

10000 DISTURBED OR DEVELOPED AREAS *
- 11000 Non-Native Vegetation *
  - 11200 Disturbed Wetland *
  - 11300 Disturbed Habitat *
- 12000 Urban/Developed *
- 18000 General Agriculture *
  - 18100 Orchards and Vineyards *
  - 18200 Intensive Agriculture - Dairies, Nurseries, Chicken Ranches *
  - 18300 Extensive Agriculture - Field/Pasture, Row Crops *
    - 18310 Field/Pasture *
    - 18320 Row Crops *

20000 DUNE COMMUNITY
- 21000 Coastal Dunes
  - 21100 Active Coastal Dunes
  - 21200 Foredunes
  - 21230 Southern Foredunes

- 22000 Desert Dunes
  - 22100 Active Desert Dunes
  - 22300 Stabilized and Partially-Stabilized Desert Sand Field
- 23000 Interior Dunes
  - 23200 Relictual Interior Dunes
- 24000 Stabilized Alkaline Dunes*
- 25000 Badlands/Mudhill Forbs*

30000 SCRUB AND CHAPARRAL

- 31000 Coastal Bluff Scrub
  - 31200 Southern Coastal Bluff Scrub
- 32000 Coastal Scrub
  - 32400 Maritime Succulent Scrub
  - 32500 Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub
    - 32510 Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub: Coastal form*
    - 32520 Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub: Inland form*
    - 32530 Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub: Baccharis-dominated #
  - 32700 Riversidian Sage Scrub
    - 32710 Riversidian Upland Sage Scrub
    - 32720 Alluvial Fan Scrub
  - 32800 Flat-topped Buckwheat* (# *formerly part of 37K00*)
- 33000 Sonoran Desert Scrub
  - 33100 Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub
  - 33200 Sonoran Desert Mixed Scrub
    - 33210 Sonoran Mixed Woody Scrub
    - 33220 Sonoran Mixed Woody and Succulent Scrub
    - 33230 Sonoran Wash Scrub*
  - 33300 Colorado Desert Wash Scrub
  - 33500 Calcicolous Scrub*
  - 33600 Encelia Scrub*
  - 33700 Acacia Scrub* (# *formerly 29000*)
- 34000 Mojavean Desert Scrub
  - 34300 Blackbush Scrub
- 35000 Great Basin Scrub
  - 35200 Sagebrush Scrub
    - 35210 Big Sagebrush Scrub
- 36000 Chenopod Scrub
    - 36110 Desert Saltbush Scrub
    - 36120 Desert Sink Scrub
- 37000 Chaparral
  - 37100 Upper Sonoran Mixed Chaparral
    - 37120 Southern Mixed Chaparral
      - 37121 Granitic Southern Mixed Chaparral
      - 37122 Mafic Southern Mixed Chaparral
    - 37130 Northern Mixed Chaparral*
      - 37131 Granitic Northern Mixed Chaparral*
      - 37132 Mafic Northern Mixed Chaparral*
  - 37200 Chamise Chaparral
    - 37210 Granitic Chamise Chaparral*
    - 37220 Mafic Chamise Chaparral*
  - 37300 Red Shank Chaparral
  - 37400 Semi-Desert Chaparral
  - 37500 Montane Chaparral
    - 37510 Mixed Montane Chaparral
    - 37520 Montane Manzanita Chaparral
    - 37530 Montane Ceanothus Chaparral

37540 Montane Scrub Oak Chaparral
37800 Upper Sonoran Ceanothus Chaparral
37810 Buck Brush Chaparral
37830 *Ceanothus crassifolius* Chaparral
37900 Scrub Oak Chaparral
37A00 Interior Live Oak Chaparral
37B00 Upper Sonoran Manzanita Chaparral
37C00 Maritime Chaparral
37C30 Southern Maritime Chaparral
37G00 Coastal Sage-Chaparral Transition
37K00 Montane Buckwheat Scrub (*# renamed; see also 32800*)
39000 Upper Sonoran Subshrub Scrub

40000 GRASSLANDS, VERNAL POOLS, MEADOWS, AND OTHER HERB COMMUNITIES
42000 Valley and Foothill Grassland
42100 Native Grassland
42110 Valley Needlegrass Grassland
42120 Valley Sacaton Grassland
42130 Saltgrass Grassland #
42200 Non-Native Grassland
42210 Non-Native Grassland: Broadleaf-Dominated #
42211 Non-Native Grassland: Artichoke-Thistle-Dominated #
42300 Wildflower Field
42400 Foothill/Mountain Perennial Grassland*
42470 Transmontane Perennial Grassland *
(*# formerly Transmontane Dropseed Grassland*)
44000 Vernal Pool
44300 Southern Vernal Pool
44320 San Diego Mesa Vernal Pool
44321 San Diego Mesa Hardpan Vernal Pool
44322 San Diego Mesa Claypan Vernal Pool
45000 Meadows and Seeps
45100 Montane Meadow
45110 Wet Montane Meadow
45120 Dry Montane Meadows
45300 Alkali Meadows and Seeps
45320 Alkali Seep
45400 Freshwater Seep
46000 Alkali Playa Community

50000 BOG AND MARSH
52000 Marsh and Swamp
52100 Coastal Salt Marsh
52120 Southern Coastal Salt Marsh
52300 Alkali Marsh
52310 Cismontane Alkali Marsh
52400 Freshwater Marsh
52410 Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh
52420 Transmontane Freshwater Marsh
52430 Montane Freshwater Marsh
52440 Emergent Wetland*
52500 Vernal Marsh
52510 Herbaceous wetland #

60000 RIPARIAN AND BOTTOMLAND HABITAT
61000 Riparian Forests

61300 Southern Riparian Forest
61310 Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest
61320 Southern Arroyo Willow Riparian Forest
61330 Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest
61500 Montane Riparian Forest
61510 White Alder Riparian Forest
61800 Colorado Riparian Forest
61810 Sonoran Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest
61820 Mesquite Bosque
62000 Riparian Woodlands
62200 Desert Dry Wash Woodland
62300 Desert Fan Palm Oasis Woodland
62400 Southern Sycamore-Alder Riparian Woodland
62500 Southern Riparian Woodland #
63000 Riparian Scrubs
63300 Southern Riparian Scrub
63310 Mule Fat Scrub
63320 Southern Willow Scrub
63500 Montane Riparian Scrub
63800 Colorado Riparian Scrub
63810 Tamarisk Scrub
63820 Arrowweed Scrub
64000 Unvegetated Habitat *
64100 Open Water *
64110 Marine *
64111 Subtidal *
64112 Intertidal *
64120 Bay *
64121 Deep Bay *
64122 Intermediate Bay *
64123 Shallow Bay *
64130 Estuarine *
64131 Subtidal *
64132 Intertidal *
64133 Brackishwater *
64140 Freshwater *
64200 Non-Vegetated Channel or Floodway *
64300 Saltpan/Mudflats *
64400 Beach *
65000 Non-Native Riparian #
65100 Arundo-Dominated Riparian #

70000 WOODLAND
71000 Cismontane Woodland
71100 Oak Woodland
71120 Black Oak Woodland
71160 Coast Live Oak Woodland
71161 Open Coast Live Oak Woodland *
71162 Dense Coast Live Oak Woodland *
71180 Engelmann Oak Woodland
71181 Open Engelmann Oak Woodland
71182 Dense Engelmann Oak Woodland
71200 Walnut Woodland
71210 California Walnut Woodland
72000 Piñon and Juniper Woodlands
72300 Peninsular Piñon and Juniper Woodlands

72310 Peninsular Piñon Woodland
72320 Peninsular Juniper Woodland and Scrub
75000 Sonoran Thorn Woodland
75100 Elephant Tree Woodland
77000 Mixed Oak Woodland *
78000 Undifferentiated Open Woodland *
79000 Non-Native Woodland * (# *renamed*)
79100 Eucalyptus Woodland * (# *moved from 11000*)

80000 FOREST
81000 Broadleaved Upland Forest
81100 Mixed Evergreen Forest
81300 Oak Forest
81310 Coast Live Oak Forest
81320 Canyon Live Oak Forest
81340 Black Oak Forest
83000 Closed-Cone Coniferous Forest
83100 Coastal Closed-Cone Coniferous Forest
83140 Torrey Pine Forest
83200 Interior Closed-Cone Coniferous Forest
83230 Southern Interior Cypress Forest
84000 Lower Montane Coniferous Forest
84100 Coast Range, Klamath and Peninsular Coniferous Forest *
84140 Coulter Pine Forest
84150 Bigcone Spruce (Bigcone Douglas-Fir)-Canyon Oak Forest
84200 Sierran Coniferous Forest
84230 Sierran Mixed Coniferous Forest
84500 Mixed Oak/Coniferous/Bigcone/Coulter Forest *

Summary of changes made to Oberbauer's 1996 classification system

Nine new classes were added:

- 23200 Relictual Interior Dunes
- 32530 Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub: Baccharis-dominated
- 42130 Saltgrass Grassland
- 42210 Non-Native Grassland: Broadleaf-Dominated
- 42211 Non-Native Grassland: Artichoke-Thistle-Dominated
- 52510 Herbaceous Wetland
- 62500 Southern Riparian Woodland
- 65000 Non-Native Riparian

65100 Arundo-Dominated Riparian

The following classes were modified:

- 11100 Eucalyptus Woodland was moved to 79100
- 13000-series Unvegetated Habitat was moved to 64000-series
- 29000 Acacia Scrub was moved to 33700
- 37K00 Flat-topped Buckwheat was split:
  32800 Flat-topped Buckwheat and
  37K00 Montane Buckwheat Scrub
- 46100 Badlands/Mudhill Forbs was moved to 25000
- 79000 "Undifferentiated Dense Woodland" was changed to "Non-Native Woodland"

Table 5

Habitat Mitigation Ratios

These ratios apply OUTSIDE of approved MSCP Plans. For lands inside approved MSCP Plans, consult the appropriate plan for required mitigation ratios.

These mitigation ratios apply to impacts that cannot be avoided or minimized in accordance with section 5.0 of this document (Standard Mitigation Measures and Project Design Considerations). On-site and/or off-site lands of long-term biological value may count toward mitigation on an in-kind basis.

Mitigation using an "out of kind" habitat type may be appropriate in cases that meet the following criteria:

1. The biological function and value of the habitat used for mitigation is similar to that which was impacted (i.e., shrublands, riparian scrub, etc.);
2. For non-native grassland habitats that have been created by past legal human activity, it may be appropriate to mitigate with the native habitat type that the land formerly supported. Use observed vegetation species as indicators of the probable pre-disturbance habitat. When no appropriate vegetation indicator species are present, use other evidence to determine the appropriate habitat. Such evidence may include, but not be limited to: aerial photographs, vegetation mapping information, historical biological reports or vegetation maps, and observed habitat on adjacent lands.

Out of kind mitigation will not be accepted if a certain habitat is exceptionally valuable based on a particular function that it serves or species that it hosts. In addition, impacts within the Ramona Grasslands or other large continuous grassland areas should be mitigated with grassland habitats from the same continuous area, if feasible.

Holland Codes	Vegetation Communities	Mitigation Ratio
None	Non-wetland Waters of the U.S.[30]	1:1
11100	Eucalyptus Woodland	None
11200	Disturbed Wetland[1]	3:1
11300	Disturbed Habitat	None
12000	Urban/Developed	None
13100	Open Water (13110-13140)	3:1
13200	Non-Vegetated Channel, Floodway, Lakeshore Fringe	3:1
13300	Saltpan/Mudflats	3:1
13400	Beach	3:1
18100	Orchards and Vineyards	None
18200	Intensive Agriculture - dairies, nurseries, chicken ranches	None

[30] Compensatory mitigation for non-wetland waters may include onsite or offsite improvement or enhancement of water resources.

18310	Extensive Agriculture - field/pasture [2]	0.5:1[2]
18320	Extensive Agriculture - row crops	None
21000	Coastal Dunes (21100-21230)	3:1
22000	Desert Dunes (22100-22300)	2:1
24000	Stabilized Alkaline Dunes	3:1
29000	Acacia Scrub	3:1
31000	Coastal Bluff Scrub	3:1
32400	Maritime Succulent Scrub	3:1
32500	Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (32510-32520)[3]	See Note[3]
32700	Riversidean Sage Scrub (32710-32720)	2:1
32800	Flat-topped Buckwheat[3]	See Note[3]
33100	Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub	1:1
33200	Sonoran Desert Mixed Scrub (33210-33230)	1:1
33300	Colorado Desert Wash Scrub	3:1
33500	Calcicolous Scrub	1:1
33600	Encelia Scrub	2:1
34000	Mojavean Desert Scrub (34300)	1:1
35000	Great Basin Scrub (35200-35210)	2:1
36110	Desert Saltbush Scrub	2:1
36120	Desert Sink Scrub	3:1
37121	Granitic Southern Mixed Chaparral	0.5:1
37122	Mafic Southern Mixed Chaparral	3:1
37131	Granitic Northern Mixed Chaparral	0.5:1
37132	Mafic Northern Mixed Chaparral	3:1
37210	Granitic Chamise Chaparral	0.5:1
37220	Mafic Chamise Chaparral	3:1
37300	Red Shank Chaparral	1:1
37400	Semi-desert Chaparral	1:1
37500	Montane Chaparral (37510-37540)	1:1
37800	Upper Sonoran Ceanothus Chaparral (37810-37830)	1:1
37900	Scrub Oak Chaparral	1:1
37A00	Interior Live Oak Chaparral	2:1
37B00	Upper Sonoran Manzanita Chaparral	1:1
37C00	Southern Maritime Chaparral (37C30)	3:1
37G00	Coastal Sage-Chaparral Scrub[3]	See Note[3]
39000	Upper Sonoran Subshrub Scrub	1:1
42100	Native Grassland (42110-42120)	3:1
42200	Non-native Grassland [2]	0.5:1 or 1:1[2]
42300	Wildflower Field	3:1
42400	Foothill/Mountain Perennial Grassland (42470)	3:1

44000	Vernal Pool (44300-44322)	5:1
45000	Meadow and Seep (45100-45400)	3:1
46000	Alkali Playa Community (46100)	3:1
52000	Marsh and Swamp (52100-52440)	3:1
61300	Riparian Forests (61300-61820)	3:1
62000	Riparian Woodlands (62200-62400)	3:1
63000	Riparian Scrubs (63300-63820)	3:1
70000	Woodland (71000-79000)	3:1[4]
80000	Forest (81000-85100)	3:1

[1] Wetland mitigation shall include a minimum 1:1 creation component, while restoration/enhancement of existing wetlands may be used to make up the remaining requirements for a total 3:1 ratio.

[2] The mitigation ratio shall be 1:1 if the site is in East Otay Mesa, occupied by burrowing owl, or the land is considered part of the Ramona grasslands.

[3] Mitigation ratios for coastal sage scrub habitat types are subject to NCCP Process Guidelines and are typically 1:1, 2:1 or 3:1 depending on habitat value for long-term conservation. Habitat value is defined in the NCCP Conservation Guidelines.

[4] For oak woodlands, a reduced mitigation ratio of 2:1 may be applied if the woodland will only be subject to fire fuel modification without removing or otherwise affecting mature oak trees or oak tree recruitment. In these cases, the oak woodland must be preserved in dedicated biological open space and fire fuel modification activities must allow maintenance of existing oak trees and oak tree recruitment.

Sources for Mitigation Ratios:

These standard ratios factor in the importance of preserving areas necessary to ensure the continued survival of species. Mitigation ratios are standardized and not dependent upon the quality of habitat. Rather, the mitigation ratios recognize the regional importance of the habitat, its overall rarity, and the number, variety and sensitivity of species it supports. Mitigation for habitat loss is required to compensate for direct impacts as well as cumulative loss of habitat. Cumulative impacts are often more significant than direct impacts, particularly on smaller projects. While individual projects may actually have very little loss of habitat (direct impacts), the cumulative habitat losses from several projects may result in a dramatic loss of habitat in that area.

Regional preserve plans such as the MSCP include region-wide analyses to determine the location and amount of habitat that may be lost while still ensuring the long-term viability and survival of sensitive biological resources. Outside of the adopted MSCP, no region-wide analysis has been completed. Therefore, outside of adopted plans, ratios are generally higher to help prevent potentially significant, irreparable harm to biological resources. As future regional NCCP/Subarea Plans are adopted, lands within the boundaries of those plans can rely upon mitigation ratios developed for those plans.

[Attachment C]

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Biological Resources were originally approved on September 26, 2006. The following is a summary of revisions made since original document approval.

Fourth Revision, September 15, 2010

Revisions to the Guidelines for Determining Significance

- Addition of three species-specific guidelines (for burrowing owl, coastal cactus wren and Hermes copper butterfly) to Section 4.1.
- "Local" has replaced "regional" in the following guideline: The project would impact the local long-term survival of a County List C or D plant species or a County Group II animal species. The change is based on CEQA case law that determined that "regional" in terms of determining significance is too broad.
- The same change has been made to the guideline for assessing the impacts to raptor foraging habitat; "regional" has been changed to "local": …that the project would not have a substantial adverse effect on the local long-term survival of any raptor species.
- Various editorial changes.

Revisions to Report Format and Content Requirements

- Addition of four attachments:
    - Strategy for Mitigating Impacts to Burrowing Owls in the Unincorporated County
    - Guidelines for Hermes Copper
    - Guidelines for Salvaging Cactus
    - SanBIOS GIS Data Standard User Manual, Version 1
- Instructions that surveys for burrowing owls must follow the Strategy to Mitigate Impacts to Burrowing Owls in the Unincorporated County and surveys for the Hermes copper must follow the County's Hermes Copper Interim Guidelines
- Clarification about where the significance of impacts should be discussed in the biological technical report.
- Addition of three species-specific guidelines (for burrowing owl, coastal cactus wren and Hermes copper butterfly)
- Footnotes regarding the three species-specific guidelines.
- Clarification about preparing conceptual resource management plans (RMPs) and indicating that a template for preparing an RMP is attached.
- Instructions that isolated pockets of habitat should not be proposed as mitigation.
- Information regarding SanBIOS and instructions that SanBIOS must be used to submit biological resources data to the County.
- Various editorial changes.

Third Revision, June 30, 2009

Revisions to the Guidelines for Determining Significance

- Added the California Oak Woodland Conservation Act to Section 2.2: State Regulation and Standards.
- Corrected Section 2.3: Local Regulations and Standards to reflect the 2007 change in the RPO.
- Added mitigation ratio of 1:1 for Non-wetland Waters of the U.S. in Table 5.
- Changed Guideline 4.1B to indicate impacts to State and Federal Endangered Species and County Group A or B plant species and Group 1 animal species are significant when they impact the **local** long-term survival of the species rather than the regional long-term survival, and that impacts to less than 5 percent of the population **on the project** site may be potentially less than significant.
- Changed Guideline 4.1C to determine significance by impacts to the **local** long-term survival of County Group C or D plant species or Group 2 animal species.
- "Foraging habitat" and "suitable stream segments" were added to Guideline 4.1D.
- Clarified Guideline 4.1H to state that it addresses **indirect** sensitive species impacts and the very high standard of "proven to affect" was removed. The "best available science" will be used in analyzing noise and lighting impacts in Guideline 1H.
- Added foraging habitat to Guideline 4.1 D and added "or suitable stream segments" after "occupied breeding habitat."
- Added information regarding the effects of night lighting on plants and wildlife to the footnote for Guideline 4.1.H
- Revised Guideline 4.1I to reflect the County's typical practice of requiring avoidance of clearing, grading and grubbing during the breeding season.
- Clarified Guideline 4.2D to state that it addresses **indirect** sensitive habitat impacts.
- Changed the standard for Guideline 4.4A from the very high standard of "prevent wildlife access" to a reasonable standard of "impede wildlife access."
- Changed Guideline 4.4D to lower the very high standard of "proven to affect."

Revisions to Format and Content Requirements

- A method for impact analysis and guidance on mitigation requirements for sensitive annual plants in order to anticipate variations from year to year was added.
- The Report Format and Content Requirements for Resource Management Plans (Attachment D) were replaced with the Report Format and Content Requirements for **Conceptual** Resource Management Plans. The Report Format and Content Requirements for Resource Management Plans will become a stand alone document and no changes are currently proposed.
- Clarified that the Conceptual Revegetation Plan need not be prepared by a consultant on the County's Approved Revegetation Plan Preparer list, and that neither a cost estimate nor detailed irrigation and landscape architect drawings are required.
- Explained when species-based mitigation is required and when habitat-based mitigation is adequate, and added guidance on use of mitigation ratios for species-based mitigation.

- Clarified how to determine impacts in the oak-root zone and added an exemption for utility line trenching.
- Added construction monitoring by a qualified biologist and transplantation for some cactus species to the Typical Mitigation Measures Attachment.
- Added that for Guideline number 4.1.H, the 60 dB(A) be measured over a time period such as one hour or 24 hours.
- Added a figure to clarify mitigation requirements for oak root zone impacts.
- Updates to the sensitive species lists.
- Various editorial changes.

Second Revision, July 30, 2008

- Oak root protection zones - Added new procedure to overlap fire fuel management zones and oak root protection zones within an open space easement.
- Added guidance for selection of offsite mitigation locations.
- Added guidance about mitigation for impacts to previously preserved land (i.e., open space encroachments, vacations).
- Added additional language to address circumstances where the MSCP would not adequately address cumulative biological impacts.
- Added allowance for 2:1 mitigation ratio for oak woodlands if existing trees are maintained and oak regeneration is assured.
- Revised vegetation codes.
- Added guidance to clarify RPO sensitive habitat lands definition.
- Various editorial changes.

First Revision, December 5, 2007

- Incorporated 2007 changes to Resource Protection Ordinance.
- Added that areas subject to fire-clearing for existing permitted and occupied structures are considered “impact neutral.”
- Added Guidelines for projects within the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP).
- Amended mitigation ratios for coastal sage scrub habitats to reflect NCCP requirements.
- Added guidance about surveying for focused sensitive species during unsuitable environmental conditions.
- Added Report Format and Content Requirements for Resource Management Plans (RMPs).
- Various editorial changes.