



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



In Reply Refer to:
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April 15, 2020
Sent Electronically

Planning Commission
County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 110
San Diego, California 92123

Subject: Otay Ranch Village 13

Dear Planning Commissioners:

The U.S. Fish Wildlife Service (Service) is responsible for administering the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), including habitat conservation plans developed under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act. The Service issued a section 10(a)(1)(B) permit pursuant to the Act for the County of San Diego (County) Subarea Plan for the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) on March 17, 1998. The MSCP is a comprehensive, long-term habitat conservation planning program that addresses multiple species and the preservation of natural vegetation communities within the southwestern subregion of San Diego County. We value our long-term conservation partnership with the County.

The MSCP includes the development footprint and preserve area for the Village 13 (V13) project. However, the MSCP did not cover the federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*; QCB) that is known to occur at V13. We commented on the V13 project in a letter dated May 21, 2015, and in a letter dated March 30, 2017, in response to a request for a Boundary Adjustment. We also provided comments on the update to the Otay Ranch Resource Management Plan in meetings and in a letter dated July 24, 2018.

We remain committed and willing to work with the County and the project applicant to develop a conservation strategy, including a revised project footprint and preserve management, to avoid and minimize impacts to the QCB.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Sobiech
Field Supervisor

cc:
Mark Wardlaw, County of San Diego
Ed Pert, California Department of Fish and Wildlife