

3. Preliminary Overview of Covered Species

Multiple Species Conservation Program – North County Plan Materials for: Steering Committee Meeting #2 and #3

The County conducted an evaluation of animal and plant species known or predicted to occur within the North County Plan Area to determine which species would be covered by the Plan. Sensitive species were defined by the County to be those species listed as rare, threatened, endangered, sensitive (as recognized by the Wildlife Agencies and/or environmental groups), as well as a few widespread (but regionally uncommon) species that were used by the County to evaluate the functionality of the Preserve.

The County conducted an evaluation of sensitive species based on input from the Wildlife Agencies and covered species criteria that had been utilized in more recently adopted multiple species, regional Habitat Conservation Plans/Natural Community Conservation Plans within California. The criteria used to evaluate the sensitive species include the following:

- Range
- Listing Status
- Impact
- Data

These criteria are described in detail below.

Range

The species is known to occur or is likely to occur within the North County Plan Area based on credible evidence, or the species is not currently known in the study area but is expected in the study area during the permit term (e.g., through range expansion or reintroduction to historic range).

Listing Status

The species is either:

- Listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) as threatened (FT) or endangered (FE), or proposed for listing;
- Listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) as threatened (ST) or endangered (SE) or a candidate for such listing, or listed as a Species of Special Concern (SSC), or under the Native Plant Protection Act as rare; or
- Expected to be listed under FESA or CESA within the permit term. Potential for listing during the permit term is based on current listing status, consultation with experts and

Wildlife Agency staff, evaluation of species population trends and threats, and best professional judgment.

Impact

The species or its habitat would be adversely affected by covered activities or projects that may result in take of the species.

Data

Sufficient data exist on the species' life history, habitat requirements, and occurrence in the study area to adequately evaluate impacts on the species, and to develop conservation measures to mitigate these impacts to levels specified by regulatory standards.

Summary

After a thorough review, the County determined 29 species met the four criteria for covered species within the North County Plan Area (see **Table 1**).

Table 1: North County Plan – Preliminary Draft Covered Species					
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status California	County Rank/CRPR	
Invertebrates					
1	Harbison's dun skipper	<i>Euphyes vestris harbisoni</i>	-	-	1
2	Hermes copper butterfly	<i>Lycaena hermes</i>	Candidate	-	1
3	Quino checkerspot butterfly	<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	FE	-	1
4	Riverside fairy shrimp	<i>Streptocephalus wootoni</i>	FE	-	1
5	San Diego fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>	FE	-	1
Amphibians and Reptiles					
6	Arroyo toad	<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i> (<i>Bufo californicus</i>)	FE	SSC	1
7	Western spadefoot toad	<i>Spea (Scaphiopus) hammondii</i>	-	SSC	2
8	Southwestern pond turtle	<i>Clemmys marmorata pallida</i>	-	SSC	1
9	Coast horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	-	SSC	2
Birds					
10	Coastal cactus wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegonensis</i>	MBTA	SSC	1
11	Coastal California gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica</i>	FT/MBTA	SSC	1
12	Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos canadensis</i>	BGEPA/MBTA	SSC FP	1
13	Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	FE/MBTA	CE	1
14	Southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	FE/MBTA	CE	1
15	Tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	MBTA	Candidate/ SSC	1
16	Western Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia hypugaea</i>	MBTA	SSC	1
17	Western yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	FE/MBTA	CE	n/a
Mammals					
18	Stephens' kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	FE	CT	1
19	Pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	-	SSC	2
20	Townsend's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</i>	-	SSC	2

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status California	County Rank/CRPR	
Plants					
21	Del Mar manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos glandulosa</i> <i>ssp. crassifolia</i>	FE	-	A/1B
22	Encinitas baccharis	<i>Baccharis vanessae</i>	FT	CE	A/1B
23	Engelmann oak	<i>Quercus engelmannii</i>	-	-	D/4
24	Orcutt’s spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe orcuttiana</i>	FE	CE	A/1B
25	San Diego ambrosia	<i>Ambrosia pumila</i>	FE	-	A/1B
26	San Diego button-celery	<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> <i>var. parishii</i>	FE	CE	A/1B
27	San Diego thornmint	<i>Acanthomintha ilicifolia</i>	FT	CE	A/1B
28	Spreading navarretia	<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	FT	-	A/1B
29	Thread-leaved brodiaea	<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	FT	CE	A/1B

Notes:

Federal Status

- FE Federally Endangered
- FT Federally Threatened
- BGEPA Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- MBTA Migratory Bird Treaty Act

California - State Status

- CE California Endangered
- CT California Threatened
- SSC Species of Special Concern
- FP Fully Protected

San Diego County Sensitive Animal Group

1. Animals of high sensitivity (state or federally listed or having specific natural history requirements)
2. Animals declining, but not in immediate threat of extinction or extirpation

San Diego County Sensitive Plant List/ California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR)

- A/1B Considered rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere
- B/2 Considered rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
- C/3 Plants that need more information
- D/4 Limited distribution – a watch list