

DRAFT
Species – Questions and Answers

Question	Answer
1. What is inferred by having fewer covered species?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Covered” species will receive take coverage as part of the County’s permit –fewer species will have take coverage. • Covered species list includes all listed species within Plan Area, so take coverage for other species is not necessary at this time.
2. How have we learned from previous HCPs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County has reviewed adopted plans to learn lessons and features that may work in San Diego.
3. How does the Preserve Design affect the number of species covered by this plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “Preserve” list for more information – current pre-approved mitigation area (PAMA) was designed using 63 species previously on the covered list.
4. Is the USFWS saying you already have the Watch List species taken care of?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All species included on the covered species list require species-level monitoring and management. The PAMA was developed to cover a much larger species list. Therefore, the preserve is designed such that as lands are conserved, additional species (beyond the covered species) would receive protection. In that way, the Plan will protect more species than are on the Covered Species list, but the County will not be responsible for managing and monitoring those additional species.
5. The South County MSCP was overtly a habitat-based plan. Where are the habitat umbrellas and where are the linkage umbrellas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the Watch List species are the habitat and linkage “umbrella species”. Additionally, “no longer covered species” will benefit from the proposed PAMA design. Coast-horned lizard (Covered Species) is also a good indicator species for disturbance.
6. In terms of preserve design, the Covered Species and Watch List species hold equal weight?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both sets of species were used equally to ultimately design the PAMA. PAMA was developed with other species in mind, such as those no longer on the Covered Species list or Watch List.
7. Is the Watch List Species verses Covered Species approach a good idea the County and Wildlife Agencies collectively had, or is there data someone could review that indicates this is a feasible approach? Will this approach be feasible for conservancies to continue to manage and monitor their lands?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Watch List Species and Covered Species approach is based on the lessons learned from implementing the South County MSCP. The Watch List species are based on the species observed in the South County Plan that are helpful in designing and assessing the effectiveness of corridors within the Plan area. While these species are important for assessing the health and effectiveness of the Plan, the cost associated with species level management for these species is infeasible. By having both Covered Species and a Watch List, we can monitor the health of the Plan while receiving take coverage for the most sensitive species.
8. The PAMA design doesn’t benefit the “no longer covered species”?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PAMA design does benefit these species, as these species were included in the SITES model to create the PAMA. The PAMA was designed to provide habitat for all 64 species that have been discussed. The number of species that the County can receive take coverage for is limited due to the cost associated with the level of monitoring and management required by the Wildlife Agencies. There are conservation benefits for all of these species, but not all of these species will receive take coverage.

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9. Can these “no longer covered species” be tiered off?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Watch List species will be studied in the EIR • BMO will be included within the EIR/EIS, and BMO provides mitigation specific to covered species and vegetation communities.
10. If these “no longer covered species” are not in the Plan area, are abundant in the Plan area, or are not represented in the Plan area, why would we be required to mitigate for them under CEQA?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the plants on the “no longer covered species” list are nearing their northern range limit in the North County Plan, so they are not as abundant as in the South County. The vast majority of these “no longer covered species” will not need to be conserved outside of PAMA. It is unlikely to encounter them or encounter a significant population outside of PAMA, so we do not anticipate mitigation to be required for them on properties located outside of PAMA.
11. The “no longer covered species” sound more detrimental to developers looking to develop outside the PAMA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County will ensure that the BMO clearly explains how to deal with species that are within and outside of PAMA, and also how to deal with species that are not on the covered list.
12. If an analysis of these “no longer covered species” is not costly, it may be best to include them in the EIR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Mitigation Ordinance will be included (evaluated) within the EIR/EIS, and BMO provides mitigation specific to covered species, watch list species, and vegetation communities.
13. What is the process for species to move from the Covered Species to the Watch List and vice versa?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As time passes, a species might become healthy and be taken off the endangered species list. • If a species becomes listed in the future, we will need to obtain new take authorization for it to become a Covered Species. • The overall PAMA design is based on habitat and the intention is a habitat based conservation plan resulting in take coverage established for the Covered Species. A corollary benefit is that there are other species that will be preserved to some degree within that habitat that are not yet listed.
14. Are all the endangered species we know of part of the 29 Covered Species?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, as well as all candidate species.
15. Is there a process to add future endangered species list candidates to the Covered Species or Watch List?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those species will need to be added separately at a later date. • It is important to understand that just because something is rare, doesn’t mean it’s endangered. The County and Wildlife Agencies would need to evaluate the actual threats to the species before determining if that species should be a Covered Species or on the Watch List.
16. If the County is doing the monitoring and management of the Watch List species, why are grants needed? Will a lack of grants create a monitoring gap?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grant comment on Slide 29 is referring to grants obtained by others to monitor Watch List species. • The funding assurances do not rely on grants – there will be no monitoring gap if grant funding is not obtained.

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17. It would be nice if a process length was defined ahead of time for moving Watch List Species to Covered Species. There should be a time limit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The County is restrained by federal law on how we obtain take authorization, however we are making it as easy as possible to move forward with the Wildlife Agencies should any of the Watch List species become listed.