DRAFT

Preserve – Questions and Answers

Question	Answer
1. Movement and connectivity – want to understand how this works within the North County Plan itself, and between the North County Plans and other plans in the region.	• Habitat corridors and linkages within the North County Plan Area includes linkages within the Plan Area as well as linkages outside of Plan Area – for example, NC1 links the North County Plan to the Riverside MSCP efforts. • Preserve design has considered corridors and linkages with other known preserve areas. However, there is a limit to this as the County cannot plan for or control lands outside of its jurisdiction.
2. Were non-producing agricultural lands included in the SITES model? Corridors may be able to be widened or previous agricultural lands may be able to be restored by selling those lands to conservancies.	• Agriculture is a vegetation type in our model, crop value and production were not factored into the model.
3. How timely is the agriculture data used in the SITES model? Does it reflect abandoned agricultural acreage? How this land is identified is important because we do not want farmers to lose their ability to replant later.	• We do not have an abandoned agriculture data set; agriculture was evaluated using aerial imagery and pesticide permit data, not on the ground observations. • If a property is deemed to have the agriculture vegetation type, the property owner will not lose the ability to farm later if the property is currently fallow.
4. Several corrections, additions, and/or deletions could potentially come about with the draft PAMA – can County provide maps at parcel level?	• Maps at parcel level were provided to Steering Committee.
5. Understand the desire to expand PAMA. However, PAMA should not be expanded just because one believes the land has preservation value. There needs to be a scientific basis for the decision.	• No edits have yet been provided to the County
6. Haven't all of the considered "private development projects" shown on the PAMA map received Wildlife Agency concurrence?	• Some projects require more revisiting than others to verify that all mitigation has been completed. • County staff will be working with the Wildlife Agencies to discuss private projects and how they are presented in the Plan.
7. Why do we need the corridors that are shown? It appears most Covered Species are relatively sedentary.	• Gnatcatcher is a major concern, as well as the other bird and butterfly species. Additionally, many of the Watch List species are mobile (i.e. mountain lion) and will be good indicators for Preserve connectivity.

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8. Concerned Newland Sierra will go into the Plan and draft EIR while still in a very premature phase. The Steering Committee will be in a problem area where they want to support the NCMSCP, but cannot support the inclusion of Newland.	• The project was evaluated/considered in 2010. Though not brought to the Board of Supervisors, it included an agreement between the County, applicant, and Wildlife Agencies. • None of the projects will be solidified by their inclusion in the Plan – in order for a hardline to be completed, Wildlife Agency concurrence is required.
9. There are several very narrow areas of the PAMA that do not appear to have enough buffer area and areas that are shown to have wildlife crossings but are really roads. Does the plan provide adequate connectivity and linkage?	• The wildlife crossings shown are existing crossings, either with existing culverts used by small animals or aerial crossing used by gnatcatchers. • The Plan also has a section requiring future road improvements to include crossing elements. • Many of the areas in the North County are already developed by single family homes. County Staff and the Wildlife Agencies have worked together to ensure these narrower areas are wide enough to allow adequate protection for and the movement of species within the PAMA.
10. Concerned about the lack of Preserves within the coastal areas and islands under the County's jurisdiction.	• The islands of the Plan Area located in Carlsbad, San Marcos, and Encinitas are either County-owned properties or those that fall under the County's jurisdiction. These pieces must be included in the Plan and include Palomar Airport, San Marcos Landfill, Lake San Marcos, county-owned properties, and unincorporated communities. • The majority of land located in the coastal area is densely developed or outside the County's jurisdiction. However, the PAMA is designed to allow species movement from inland to coastal areas by connecting to the Preserve lands of the Incorporated MHCP and Incorporated MSCP.
11. What is NC2 and how does this plan help it or hurt this linkage?	• NC2 (San Luis Rey Linkage) is one of the eleven regional linkages identified within the Plan Area. This is an important linkage connecting lands along the San Luis Rey River with both coastal and inland areas. • The Plan requires wildlife corridors to be conserved through land acquisitions and incorporated into the design of future development projects within the North County Permit Area. These corridors may help to reduce or moderate some of the adverse effects of habitat fragmentation.

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12. From a habitat standpoint, it is not easy to negotiate on a parcel by parcel level. We could get bogged down by going piece by piece when we need to focus on the global habitat.	• County Staff has worked with the Wildlife Agencies to ensure that the PAMA was designed to conserve areas of highest value vegetation and, correspondingly, the areas where the greatest numbers of species are predicted.