



North County Plan



Virtual Public Workshop

North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan Plan Implementation

Thursday, December 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Zoom

Introduction

The County of San Diego (County) holds public workshops during the development of key components of the North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (North County Plan). The workshops are held to incorporate public feedback and adjust the plan as needed.

On December 18, 2025, staff held a virtual public workshop to discuss the County's approach to Plan implementation. The staff presentation outlined how the plan will function, including the roles and responsibilities of the County, Wildlife Agencies, and private entities; the policies that guide plan implementation; how development project applications will be processed; how the County and Wildlife Agencies will respond to any changes over the 30-year permit; and the process for updating the Plan.

The events were promoted using e-blasts, social media posts, and emails directly to stakeholders. County staff also attended stakeholder meetings to promote the workshops. Twelve participants joined the event. They represented environmental, agricultural, economic, recreation, and community organizations as well as interested North County residents.

If you were unable to attend the workshop, the summary below provides an overview of the meeting objectives and format, how input was solicited, and what we learned from the meeting participants. [A video recording](#) and presentation slides ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) are also available. Find information on all our past public workshops on [the North County Plan webpage](#).

Objectives

The meeting was organized to accomplish the following objectives:

- Create a comfortable environment where participants can provide input and share their concerns.
- Present an overview of North County Plan's implementation structure, process, and overall strategy to adapt to change over the 30-year permit term.
- Use the input provided to help develop a balanced and successful plan.

Format

At the virtual meeting, community members participated in a staff and consultant-led presentation. The presentation included interactive questions. Participants were invited to share their opinions by answering these interactive questions. They could also provide input and ask staff questions using the Zoom Q&A feature at any time. At the end of the workshop, any remaining questions were answered live. Members of the public also had an opportunity to have an open discussion with staff.

Interpretation was available for attendees whose primary language is Spanish. Registrants could also request interpretation in the other seven threshold languages. The meeting materials were offered in both English and Spanish on the project website. A link to these materials was provided to attendees at the workshop in the chat.

Major Themes

The input and questions received during the workshop can be grouped into the following themes. The ordering does not reflect importance or frequency.

- Clarification on development rights for properties within the North County Plan Area.
- Importance of habitat protection and connectivity.
- Balancing conservation and public access.
- Mitigation exemptions for single family homes and agriculture.

Interactive Question Responses

Staff asked three questions during the Plan Implementation workshop. Nine workshop participants responded using the interactive questions. One workshop participant was unable to access the interactive question application to submit responses. They were instructed to submit their responses using the Zoom Q&A feature. Their responses are included in the summary below.

Plan Implementation

To begin the workshop, staff wanted to know why the participants attended. To find out, staff asked, “What brought you here today? Please explain your interest in the Multiple Species Conservation Plan.”

What brought you here today? Please explain your interest in the Multiple Species Conservation Plan.	<i>Total responses</i>	8
Responses:		
“An announcement in the CNPS conservation committee.”		
“Learn of city plans affecting our natural spaces.”		
“I am a member of the conservation committees of San Diego Bird Alliance and California Native Plant Society. I am also a member of City Advisory Committees for the Tecolote Canyon and SDRP.”		
“I am an environmentalist and want to protect the remaining wildlife and habitat in North County San Diego”		
“We need to protect wildlife corridors”		
“As a wildlife biologist, this is very important to me”		
“Represent landowner interests especially the local Farm Bureau members”		
“I want to make sure we have a strong plan to protect wildlife and habitat”		

Following the responses, staff presented an overview of the purpose and intent of the North County Plan and countywide Multiple Species Conservation Program. The presentation also included a timeline of work completed to date since the direction from the Board of Supervisors to move forward with the North County Plan in 2020 and the planned release of the Public Draft in 2026. The presentation also included a list of the North County Plan components and Implementing Documents that are currently in development.

Putting the Plan into Action

Before moving on to the County departments involved in implementing the MSCP, staff polled the participants to see if they could correctly guess the number of departments involved.

How many County departments do you think are involved in implementing the Multiple Species Conservation Program?

Total responses 3

Options & Responses:	Count
1	2
3	0
4	0
6	2

Following the responses, staff presented slides on the County's MSCP implementation structure and the roles of the six departments involved, which include Parks and Recreation, Planning & Development Services, Public Works, Agriculture Weights & Measures, Environmental Health and Quality, and General Services. Slides were also presented explaining how federal and State Wildlife Agencies will participate, new and existing County policies and ordinances related to the Plan, and the process for permitting development projects under the Plan.

Responding to Change & Updating the Plan

Next, County staff asks participants to provide input on how they expect the natural environment in San Diego County to change during the North County Plan permit term.

How do you expect the natural environment in San Diego County to change over the next 30 years?

Total responses 6

Responses:	Count
"People in general will love wildlife more, want to protect them, and will love experiences in nature"	
"Climate change will be a major factor in changes in the environment"	
"Climate change will have considerable influence. But, hoping that good planning allows for large swaths of land be conserved for the native species and habitats to persist."	
"Hotter, Drier, less water, more impacts to native habitats, water increasingly scarce"	
"Not much unless the County buys developed property and then restores them thought restoration plans."	
"Climate change will be a major factor in changes in the environment"	

Next, the consultant presented slides on how the plan will respond to changes over the next 30 years. These include any changed or unforeseen circumstances, new species listings under the federal and California Endangered Species Acts, or any new designations of critical habitat. Also presented was how the County would update the plan or permit requirements, what happens when land is added to or removed from the County's jurisdiction, and what regulatory assurances the federal and state agencies provide to ensure there are no surprises during the permit term.

Question and Answer

After the presentation, County staff answered questions that had been submitted from the participants using the Zoom Q&A feature. Questions were answered by staff both using the Zoom Q&A feature and verbally during the workshop.

What's Next?

The County will thoughtfully consider the feedback we received and incorporate it into future drafts of the Plan. While this is the last workshop series before the Public Draft is released, staff remain available to meet and discuss the plan at any time. After the Public Draft is released in 2026, feedback will be incorporated into a Final Plan, which will then move forward to public hearings for adoption.