

Stakeholder Workshop
Quino Addition to the South County Subarea Plan
November 7, 2017, 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Meeting Notes

Attendees:

PDS: Peter Eichar; Crystal Benham; Eira Whitty; Greg Mattson; Korey Klutz (Consultant)

DPR: Dallas Pugh

USFWS: Susan Wynn; Eric Porter

Stakeholder Attendees: Cindy Burrascano, California Native Plant Society; Stephen Haase, Baldwin & Sons; Suzanne Hall, San Diego Zoo Global; Anita Hayworth, Dudek; Laura Hunter, Wildlife and Habitat Conservancy Coalition; Jim Jackson, Jackson Pendo Development; Terry Jorgensen, Backcountry Horsemen of California; Greg Mason, Alden Environmental; Tish Schuyler, Dudek; Ted Shaw, Atlantis Group; Spring Strahm, Conservation Biology Institute; Hannah Walchak, Escondido Creek Conservancy

Question/Comment/Topic:	Response/Way Forward:
What is the difference between the Quino Amendment and the Quino Addition?	The two names refer to the effort to add the Quino checkerspot butterfly to the MSCP – South County Subarea Plan. The Quino Addition is the name of the County’s current effort to add the Quino checkerspot butterfly to the MSCP – South County Subarea Plan.
Is the Quino checkerspot butterfly the first species to get added to the MSCP – South County Subarea Plan? What process will the Quino Addition follow?	Yes, the Quino checkerspot butterfly is the first species proposed to augment the list of covered species under the MSCP – South County Subarea Plan. The Quino Addition will follow the process in the MSCP – South County Subarea Plan’s Implementing Agreement.
The Quino checkerspot butterfly requires open areas with specific plants. The continued restoration and management of these areas is just as important as the initial management of the site.	The Quino Addition’s monitoring and management protocol will need to include a plan for long-term management of Quino checkerspot butterfly sites.
Will the Hermes copper butterfly be included in the Quino Addition?	Currently, it is not incorporated in the Quino Addition effort. The County is exploring a variety of conservation options for the Hermes copper butterfly.
Stakeholder groups have met during past iterations of the Quino Addition. Will the current Quino Addition use any of the material from past work or start from scratch?	The current Quino Addition will use all relevant information from past iterations of the Quino Addition and update the documents to incorporate new biological knowledge, data, regulatory standards, and changed conditions.
What data on the Quino checkerspot butterfly is being used for the Quino Addition?	The Quino Addition will use all available data on the Quino checkerspot butterfly. Available Quino checkerspot butterfly data includes survey data collected by project applicants with Quino checkerspot butterfly on their sites as well as the County, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program (SDMMP), USFWS, and researchers.

Question/Comment/Topic:	Response/Way Forward:
Are there areas that haven't been surveyed for Quino checkerspot butterfly where the species may occur?	Yes, there are areas with predicted Quino habitat that have not been surveyed that may require surveys. The biggest gaps in the Quino survey effort are private lands with predicted Quino checkerspot butterfly habitat. Some areas were not surveyed because it does not include Quino checkerspot butterfly habitat.
Is there negative survey data for the Quino checkerspot butterfly?	Yes, there is negative survey data that indicates areas with predicted habitat where surveys did not detect any Quino checkerspot butterflies. This negative survey data helps inform analysis of the Quino checkerspot butterfly.
How did the fires in 2003 and 2009 impact Quino checkerspot and Hermes copper butterfly habitat?	Sites with Quino checkerspot butterfly retained the species after the fires because the Quino checkerspot host plant (dwarf plantain) and larvae occur closer to the soil and were not as exposed to fires. Fire is a larger threat to the Hermes copper larvae because their host plant (spiny redberry) is a woody shrub is more susceptible to burning and takes a longer time to revegetate an area.
The Quino checkerspot butterfly and the Hermes copper butterfly are very different and will likely require different management.	The County will take this into consideration.
What are the different opportunities for stakeholders to participate?	There are three main opportunities for stakeholder participation: 1.) Currently, at the beginning of the Quino Addition and possibly during the creation of the Quino Addition's elements; 2.) Draft Quino Addition Release to the public; 3.) The environmental scoping and public review period Stakeholders can also contact the Conservation Team with any questions or concerns at any time throughout the process.
Are there any other HCPs that include the Quino checkerspot butterfly as a covered species in San Diego County?	Yes, there are the City of Chula Vista's MSCP – Subarea Plan, SDG&E Low-effect Habitat Conservation Plan for Quino Checkerspot Butterfly, and San Diego County Water Authority Subregional NCCP/HCP.
How is the Quino Addition defining core populations?	The Quino Addition will follow the USFWS Quino Recovery Plan as a guideline and assess areas that have a large population of Quino checkerspot butterflies. The County may have to create a Quino Addition-specific definition for core populations.
(To group) Any specific suggestions for future stakeholder engagement for the Quino Addition process?	Stakeholders want to be involved throughout the process. They are interested to know more about the models, monitoring and management, and overall implementation needs.
Will there be an interim process to allow projects with Quino checkerspot butterfly on the site to proceed before 2021?	The County cannot offer take without a permit. Applicants have the option to pursue their own Incidental Take Permit.
Will the Quino Addition Workshop presentation be available?	Yes, the Quino Addition Workshop presentation, maps, and notes will be available on the Quino Addition website (located here)

Question/Comment/Topic:	Response/Way Forward:
What are the conclusions regarding the Quino checkerspot butterfly populations in 2017?	The status of the Quino checkerspot butterfly populations in 2017 is much better than it was in 2016 (during the drought). While there was not a big survey effort in 2017, Quino checkerspot butterflies were found at sites that had no Quino detection for many years. USFWS and the San Diego Zoo are also conducting active Quino checkerspot butterfly propagation and release in the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge.