

CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 18, 2002  
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
FROM: P. Lamont Ewell, Assistant City Manager  
SUBJECT: 2002 MSCP Annual Public Workshop - Summary Report

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The attached Summary Report on the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) is provided for your information.

Section 14.2 of the MSCP Implementing Agreement requires the City to prepare and submit to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game, a public report containing an annual accounting of habitat lost and conserved within the City's MSCP Subarea during the previous year. The City of San Diego, the County of San Diego, the City of Chula Vista and wildlife agencies are also required to jointly conduct a public workshop to disseminate and discuss the annual report.

On October 2, 2002, the MSCP Annual Public Workshop will be held at the San Diego Natural History Museum from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Staff from the City of San Diego, the County of San Diego, the City of Chula Vista and the wildlife agencies will each make presentations on MSCP implementation activities for their respective agencies. There will be a question and answer period immediately following staff presentations.

For additional information, please contact Keith Greer at 619/236-7258.

  
P. Lamont Ewell

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cc: Michael Uberuaga, City Manager  
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Planning Commissioners

## **2002 MSCP Annual Public Workshop - Summary Report**

**October 2, 2002**

### **BACKGROUND:**

On March 18, 1997, the San Diego City Council unanimously adopted the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), collectively referred to as the wildlife agencies, entered into an Implementing Agreement (I.A.) with the City in July 1997. The I.A. requires the City to prepare a report containing an annual accounting of the habitat acreage lost and conserved within the City's MSCP Subarea. In addition, the City and the wildlife agencies are required to jointly conduct a public workshop to disseminate and discuss the annual report.

The City's fifth MSCP Annual Report was submitted to the wildlife agencies on February 15, 2002. The report identifies by project, the habitat loss and conservation from January 1, 2001 through the end of the 2001 calendar year.

In 2001, habitat conservation efforts within the City's MSCP preserve area, referred to as the Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA), were focused on acquiring critical areas of sensitive habitat and securing wildlife corridors within the MHPA, as well as initiating monitoring efforts. Acquisitions have been accomplished through public purchase and by directing private mitigation to parcels within the MHPA. The City and wildlife agencies have also acquired habitat within the MHPA with state and federal funding. The City is continuing to increase its efforts for the restoration, monitoring and management of habitat within the MHPA as described below.

### **ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY:**

Within the reporting period (January 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001), 800.7 acres of habitat were conserved in the MHPA and 64.7 acres were conserved adjacent to the MHPA, compared to the loss of 59.6 acres of habitat inside the MHPA. Outside the MHPA, 573.7 acres of habitat loss occurred (90 percent of the total habitat lost). Habitat loss, represents the acreage impacted by projects approved for construction within the reporting period.

As of the end of the 2001 reporting period. (December 31, 2001), a total of 31,197.0 acres have been conserved in (29,831.8 acres) or adjacent to (1,365.2 acres) the MHPA. This includes pre-MSCP (baseline) conserved lands totaling 22,141 acres.

The habitat loss and conservation for the 2001 annual reporting period is summarized as follows:

**TABLE 1 - 2001 HABITAT LOSS AND CONSERVATION**  
(January 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001)

Habitat Type & Examples of Habitats	Habitat Loss (acres)		Habitat Conserved (acres)	
	2001	Cumulative	2001	Cumulative
Wetlands: Coastal Wetlands(Salt Pan/Salt Marsh) Riparian Habitats Freshwater Marsh Natural Flood Channel Disturbed Wetland Vernal Pools Marine Habitats(Pacific Ocean/Deep Bay) Eelgrass Beds (Shallow Bays) Open Water	14.6	47.4	29.2	4,610.8
TIER I (rare uplands): Southern Fore dunes Torrey Pines Forest Southern Coastal Bluff Scrub Maritime Succulent Scrub Southern Maritime Chaparral Native Grassland Oak Woodlands	9.7	234.7	10.0	1,811.5
TIER II (uncommon uplands): Coastal Sage Scrub CSS/Chaparral	34.8	882.8	457.5	11,053.3
TIER III A (common uplands): Mixed Chaparral Chamise Chaparral	75.4	374.6	225.2	6,639.8
TIER III B (common uplands): Nonnative Grasslands	203.1	2,207.2	59.3	3,097.8
TIER IV (other uplands) Disturbed Agriculture Eucalyptus	188.9	1,094.6	65.5	3,012.1
Others: Beach Urban/Developed	106.8	776.2	18.6	971.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>633.3</b>	<b>5,617.5</b>	<b>865.3</b>	<b>31,197.0</b>

Note: Includes land inside and outside of MHPA.

The acreages in the table were generated by a geographic information system, which tracks habitat loss and gain. This system, "Habitrak", uses the regional GIS (SANGIS) land base in its area calculations. This is the third year that the Habitrak system has been used to compile the habitat loss/gain information and maps for the annual report. Habitrak was developed to facilitate and standardize the annual reports for each jurisdiction that participates in the MSCP. Funding for the software development was provided by a grant from the California Department of Fish and Game and was administered by SANDAG.

#### **PUBLIC LAND ACQUISITIONS:**

In April 2000, the City Council Rules Committee approved the City priorities for MSCP land acquisition projects. Four areas totaling 4,181 acres were identified:

- Montana Mirador
- Del Mar Mesa
- East Elliott
- Otay Mesa

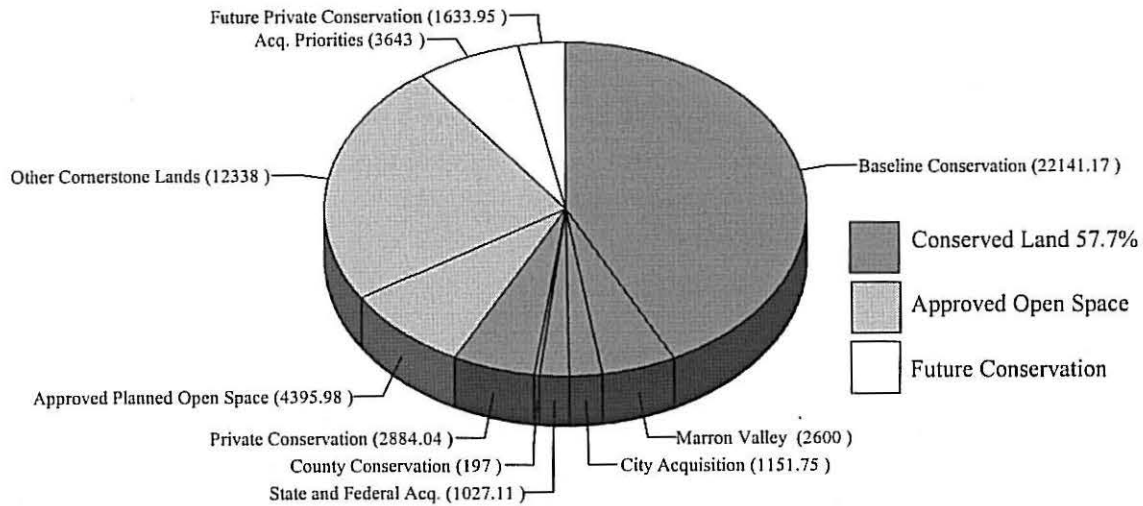
The San Diego River was added as an additional priority acquisition area in the winter of 2001.

In April 2001, the City completed the acquisition of the 538-acre Montana Mirador parcel located within the Rancho Peñasquitos community planning area. In July 2002, the City of San Diego, in partnership with the state Wildlife Conservation Board, the California Transportation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, acquired 56 acres located within the Del Mar Mesa area. This four-way joint acquisition provides for additional protection of scrub oak chaparral and vernal pools. Appraisals are being conducted on the remaining private parcels identified for open space with offers to be made in mid-fall. It is anticipated the completion of the Del Mar Mesa acquisitions from willing sellers will occur by January 2003.

In September 2001, 1,741 acres of critical habitat was approved for conservation associated with the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan. This acreage will become Mission Trails North and will help to link Gooden Ranch and Sycamore Canyon open space parks with Mission Trails Regional Park to the south. The City has been working closely with the state Wildlife Conservation Board to aid in the conservation of land in East Elliott. Appraisals have been completed on the western portion of the area and are being reviewed by the General Services Department of the state. Offers for acquisition are expected to start in this November or December.

On September 6, 2002, Governor Davis signed into law AB 2156 (Kehoe) creating the San Diego River Conservancy. The Conservancy will implement a vision for the river starting at the headwaters near the town of Julian, west 52 miles through Mission Valley into the Pacific at Ocean Beach. The Governor allocated \$12 million for conservation and preservation along the river.

**City of San Diego**  
 MSCP Conservation Status in Acres  
 as of September 2002



GOAL: 52,012 acres

Efforts are underway to acquire property in Del Mar Mesa and East Elliott. City staff has obtained several state and federal grants to facilitate this effort. Appraisals of selected parcels have been completed and negotiations are underway for land acquisitions.

**PROJECT REVIEWS:**

In 2001, 111 new development projects were reviewed by the MSCP staff for consistency with the adopted MSCP Subarea Plan and implementing regulations. Since January 2002, an additional 109 new development projects have been reviewed. City staff continues to ensure that the MHPA preserve design, land use adjacency guidelines, mitigation requirements and specific area management directives have been evaluated and, as appropriate, incorporated into project designs. Projects that comply with the policies of the MSCP are afforded "Third Party Beneficiary" status as provided for in the City's MSCP Implementing Agreement (Section 17.1).

Adjustments to the boundary of the MHPA are allowed on a project-by-project basis if the boundary adjustment is deemed functionally equivalent to the land that is proposed to be removed from the MHPA (see Section 5.4.2 MSCP Plan, August 1998). The wildlife agencies must concur with the adjustment. This year, MSCP staff has continued to have bimonthly meetings with wildlife agency staff to discuss proposed MHPA boundary line adjustments and to obtain concurrence from the wildlife agencies during the preparation of the environmental documents for the boundary line adjustment. After each meeting, MSCP staff confirm in writing the determinations made by wildlife agency staff.

**GRANTS:**

Grant funding is a key component to the successful implementation of the MSCP Subarea Plan. Below is a summary of current grant projects. These projects are further described within the Management Activities and Monitoring Efforts sections of this report. In 2001 and 2002, the City of San Diego has secured \$5,345,551 for acquisition, management and monitoring of lands within the MSCP. Additional grants are pending approval.

**Table 2 - 2001/2002 GRANTS**

<b>GRANT TYPE</b>	<b>GRANTOR</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP)	California Department of Fish and Game	Awarded two grants for MSCP management activities	
Coastal Conservancy	California Coastal Conservancy	Awarded a grant for managing the restoration of Lopez Canyon.	
Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)	State of California Wildlife Conservation Board	Awarded matching grant funds for the acquisition of Montana Mirador. An additional grant consisting of federal monies was approved for use by the City of purchase of land in Del Mar Mesa.	
Watershed Planning - Prop. 13 Planning Grant	State Water Resource Control Board	Awarded a grant for the development of a watershed management plan in Los Peñasquitos watershed.	
Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant (EEMP)	California Transportation Commission	Awarded grant for exotic weed removal in the Carmel Valley Restoration and Enhancement Plan area.	Awarded grant acquisition of land in East Elliott.
Section 6 Planning Grants	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		Awarded grants for development of a vernal pool management plan within the City of San Diego and for functional assessments and wetland delineations in the Otay River Valley and Los Peñasquitos watersheds.
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$ 4,688,275</b>	<b>\$657,276</b>

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:**

In accordance with the City's Implementing Agreement (I.A.), Section 10.6B, the City was obligated to prepare a Framework Management Plan within six months after the adoption of the MSCP Subarea Plan. The City's MSCP Subarea Plan was adopted by the City Council in March 1997. A Framework Management Plan was included as Section 1.5 of the Subarea Plan, therefore, the City has fulfilled their obligations pursuant to Section 10.6B of the I.A.

As part of the fiscal year 2003 budget the City Council established a new Open Space Division in the Park and Recreation Department. This newly formed division will manage the City's existing open space system, including lands acquired under the Multiple Species Conservation Program. In addition, the City Council has created a new position to serve as the urban Canyon Coordinator. This position will be a liaison between the Open Space Division and the various departments working in the canyons on water and sewer projects.

Until a regional funding source is in place, management for biological resources has been focused on maintaining the existing biological values of the habitat land under City control. Opportunities for specific biological management activities have been pursued when local or grant funding could be obtained.

The following (Area-Specific) Management Plans are completed or underway:

**Table 3**

**AREA SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS**

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Mission Trails Regional Park	San Diego Ambrosia Plan: Funded by a NCCP grant, this project identifies the distribution and management recommendations for San Diego Ambrosia within Mission Trails Regional Park.	The Final Plan was adopted by the Mission Trails Taskforce on May 15, 2000.
Pacific Highlands Ranch	City Council approved preparation of a 2,400 acre management plan in July 1999.	Master Revegetation Plan for the entire Pacific Highlands Ranch Subarea was completed in October 2000.
Rancho Encantada, a 1,500 acre parcel located adjacent to Sycamore County Park	Under the direction of the City, McMillian Development Company prepared a management plan for this property.	The development project plans, including final habitat management plan, obtained Council approval in 2001.
Boden Canyon	Funded by a State grant, the City and the California Department of Fish and Game are developing a joint management plan for publicly owned lands in Boden Canyon.	The final draft management plan was completed in September 2001. Currently under review by wildlife agencies and subject to City Council approval. Estimated completion in 2003.

Western Otay River Valley Management Plan	Funded by a NCCP grant and a \$68,490 match from the City of San Diego, the Park and Recreation Department is preparing a management plan for the Otay River Valley between 1-5 to Heritage Road.	The final draft management plan was completed in April 2001. Currently under review by wildlife agencies and subject to City Council approval. Estimated completion in 2003.
Marron Valley Management Plan	City of San Diego Water Department provided \$87,186 to prepare a management plan for the 2,600 acre Marron Valley Cornerstone Mitigation Bank.	The final management plan was completed in June 2001.
Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa	The City and the USFWS Refuges Division is preparing an interagency management plan for Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa. The project is funded by an NCCP grant, a USFWS Challenge Grant and a City match of \$27,134.	A draft was completed in March 2002. Currently, the document is being revised based on comments from the wildlife agencies and the public. Estimated completion in 2003.
Black Mountain	Funded by an NCCP grant, the City of San Diego Planning Department retained a consultant to complete sensitive plant species surveys on Black Mountain, including the recently acquired Montana Mirador.	A draft management plan was completed in June 2002. Currently under review by wildlife agencies and subject to City Council approval. Estimated completion in 2004.
San Diego River (West of Mission Trails)	Funded by an NCCP grant, the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department is currently working with a variety of different agencies to develop a comprehensive management plan for the San Diego River.	Surveys for exotics and an exotic removal plan was developed for the San Diego River funded by the Metropolitan Wastewater Department. Additional surveys will be conducted prior to development of the management plan. Estimated completion in 2005.
San Pasqual/Lake Hodges Cornerstone	Funded by an NCCP grant, the City of San Diego Planning and Water Departments will develop a management plan for the San Pasqual and Lake Hodges Cornerstone banks which will include vegetation mapping, rare plant surveys, wildlife habitat assessments, and evaluations of recreation potential and enhancement opportunities.	Biological surveys began in Spring 2002. The scheduled completion date is March 2004.



The following Management Activities are completed or underway:

**Table 4**  
**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES COMPLETED OR UNDERWAY**

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	STATUS
San Pasqual River Valley CSS Restoration	Funded by an NCCP grant, the City is restoring 15 acres of existing agricultural fields in the San Pasqual River Valley to coastal sage scrub (CSS). The restored habitat will provide connectivity between the San Pasqual River Valley and existing uplands containing gnatcatcher and other sensitive species	The site was cleared and "imprinted" with seed from coastal sage scrub species in January 2000. Maintenance and monitoring will continue through 2003 as funding becomes available.
Lopez Canyon	Working with the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon (Friends) and the California Native Plant Society, the City has secured a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of California to restore the hydrology of Lopez Canyon for the protection and re-establishment of willow monardella ( <i>Monardella linoides ssp. viminea</i> )	The Friends are in the final permitting stages for construction of erosion protection measures to prevent undercutting of the alluvial benches on which the willow monardella occurs. Collected seed and other source material will be used to establish new populations.
Carmel Valley - CVREP	The City has secured a grant from the State of California to remove exotic plant species from the Carmel Valley Restoration and Enhancement Project (CVREP).	Exotic plant removal was conducted in 2001 and 2002. Maintenance will continue until 2003.
San Pasqual/Lake Hodges	The County Agricultural Department has secured funding from the State under a Weed Management Area program to remove exotic perennial peppergrass from the San Pasqual/Lake Hodges area.	Peppergrass removal began in Spring 2001. Maintenance and monitoring will continue as long as peppergrass still needs to be controlled and funding can be obtained.
Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve	The City has secured grants from Caltrans, USFWS, and HCF for San Diego ambrosia restoration and riparian enhancement in Peñasquitos Canyon. The City also obtained an NCCP grant to conduct weeding around San Diego thorn mint populations within Peñasquitos.	Ambrosia restoration began in 1996 and a final report was submitted at the end of 2001. The riparian enhancement efforts began in 1996 and 1999 and were completed in 2000. Weeding around the San Diego thorn mint was conducted in 2002 and will continue in 2003.
Sabre Springs	The City obtained an NCCP grant to conduct weeding around San Diego thorn mint populations within Sabre Springs open space.	Weeding around the San Diego thorn mint was conducted in 2002 and will continue in 2003.
Crest Canyon	The City is conducting exotic plant removal pilot project within the canyon. The effort includes covering iceplant with tarp in order to kill the species without damaging the sensitive soils on-site.	Plant removal and eradication began in August 2002 and will continue in 2003.

Tecolote Canyon	The City obtained a HCF grant for riparian restoration in Tecolote Canyon. The effort included removal of exotics and replanting of native habitat.	The riparian restoration began in 1994 and was completed in June 2001. The restoration site will be monitored as needed by Park and Recreation staff.
Rose Canyon Open Space	The City obtained a HCF grant for riparian, chamise, and CSS restoration in Rose Canyon. The effort included removal of exotics and replanting of native habitat.	The restoration effort began in 1997 was completed in 2002. The restoration site will be monitored as needed by Park and Recreation staff.
Marian Bear Memorial Park	The City obtained a HCF grant for riparian, chamise, and CSS restoration in Marian Bear Memorial Park. The effort included removal of exotics and replanting of native habitat.	The restoration effort began in 1997 and is currently ongoing. Estimated date of completion is 2003.
Mission Trails Regional Park	The City conducted multiple volunteer trail closures along riparian, grassland, and CSS habitat areas. The City is also conducting exotic removal of water primrose and hyacinth in Kumeyaay Lakes. The City also obtained an NCCP grant to conduct weeding around San Diego thorn mint populations within Mission Trails.	The trail closures along riparian areas began in 2000 and are restoring nicely. The grassland and CSS restoration areas began in 2000/2001 and required scarification and reseeded. Monitoring is currently ongoing. The exotic removal effort in Kumeyaay Lakes began in 2000 and will probably require 5 years of maintenance and monitoring to be successful. Weeding around the San Diego thorn mint was conducted in 2002 and will continue in 2003.
Otay Valley Regional Park	The City is conducted exotic removal funded in conjunction with USFWS. An exotic plant removal plan is also in process.	The exotic removal effort was completed in April 2001. The exotic removal plan will identify tamarisk and arundo target for removal within the Park.
San Diego River	An exotic removal plan has been developed and two pilot projects of about 5 acres are proposed.	Currently pursuing permits for pilot projects. Estimated to begin implementation in 2003.
Famosa Slough	A wetland/upland restoration of about 1.3 acres, including stormdrain runoff control, is proposed for Famosa Slough.	Estimated to begin in late 2002.
Chaparral Canyon	A wetland/upland restoration of about 3.8 acres is proposed within the Chaparral Canyon.	Estimated to begin in late 2002.
Adobe Falls	A wetland/upland restoration of about 3.5 acres is proposed within the Adobe Falls area.	Estimated to begin in late 2002.
Black Mountain Open Space	The City obtained a HCF grant for rehabilitation of the 2.5-mile Miners Ridge Loop Trail. Trail rehabilitation will include restoration of native habitat on eroded areas. The City also obtained an NCCP grant to conduct weeding around San Diego thorn mint populations within Black Mountain.	Work on the Miners Ridge Loop Trail began in 2000 and is currently ongoing. Weeding around the San Diego thorn mint was conducted in 2002 and will continue in 2003.

## MONITORING EFFORTS:

City staff is initiating those elements of the MSCP Biological Monitoring Plan (CDFG 1996) that can be accomplished with currently available funding. In cases where proposed methodologies are not fiscally feasible, alternative methodologies are being explored through pilot projects. The following summarizes the status of current monitoring activities:

- Habitat Quality Pilot Project (SDSU): City Staff are seeking a method to evaluate the conditions of the vegetation communities in the MSCP and ways to quantify changes over time. The methodology proposed in the MSCP Biological Monitoring Plan is inadequate with regards to its sampling size and its cost-effectiveness. As an alternative, the City is working with San Diego State to determine if the California Native Plant Society's Rapid Vegetation Assessment technique can be used to determine the vegetative status of several unique vegetation stands, and then by applying remote sensing technology to develop quantitative indices that correlate with the field measurements. If successful, this methodology has potential to cover a large area in cost-effective, repeatable, quantitative manner for change detection programs.
- CSS Reptile Monitoring (USGS): Dr. Robert Fisher's group at the USGS is continuing to implement pitfall trapping on Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa. These sites help to fill in information gaps between Torrey Pines and UCSD Ecological Reserve. In addition to reptile monitoring, ants are being collected and analyzed as a way of determining invasion of non-native species.
- Priority Plant Monitoring: In 2002, City MSCP staff and volunteers monitored the following covered plant species (copies of these reports are available):
  1. Short-leaved dudleya in Crest Canyon, Skeleton Canyon, Torrey Pines State Park, Torrey Pines Extension, and Carmel Mountain. Annual monitoring on Carmel Mountain began in 1999. All other surveys began in 2001.
  2. San Diego thornmint in Peñasquitos Preserve, Sabre Springs, Black Mountain Ranch, and Mission Trails. Annual monitoring began in 2000 for all sites except Mission Trails, where monitoring began in 2001. In addition, the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve have conducted some monitoring on this species since 1992.
  3. Nuttall's lotus in Mission Bay. Annual monitoring began in 2000.
  4. Willowy monardella in Lopez Canyon, Upper Sycamore, and Marron Valley. Annual monitoring began in 2000.

5. Snake cholla in Otay Mesa and Balboa Park. All individuals were documented using a GPS.
6. Del Mar manzanita in Crest Canyon, Peñasquitos Canyon, and Carmel Mountain. GPS documentation of each individual was used when feasible.

- Baseline Rare Plant Monitoring: Under contract to the City, the Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) has conducted baseline surveys in the Spring 2001 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> priority plant species within the City of San Diego. The goal of this project was to determine the distribution and size of rare plant populations for future monitoring efforts. These species include Orcutt's brodiaea, Orcutt's bird's beak, variegated dudleya, Del Mar sand aster, and Cleveland's goldenstar. The final monitoring report is available. Additional surveys were conducted in 2002, with a report to be completed later this fall.
- Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: City staff have conducted surveys throughout City-owned land during all flight seasons since 1998. Focused surveys are expected to continue through the 2003 flight season.
- Southwestern Pond Turtles, Bats, and Arroyo Toads: The County of San Diego is conducting surveys for southwestern pond turtles, bat species, and arroyo toads. The surveys locations include lands within the City of San Diego such as Otay Lakes, San Vicente Reservoir, Peñasquitos Canyon, Mission Trails and Barrett Lake. Surveys have been conducted on several sites in 2002 and will continue into 2003.
- Least Bell's Vireo: The City of San Diego conducted surveys for least Bell's vireo in San Pasqual River Valley in 2002. Surveys will continue into 2003 and will be modified to include arroyo toad surveys as well. A report summarizing the surveys will be completed in 2003.
- Burrowing Owls and Other Raptors: Funded by an NCCP grant, the City has contracted Wildlife Research Institute to conduct burrowing owl and other raptor surveys in Otay Mesa. A final report of the survey effort is scheduled for March 2003.
- Develop Monitoring Database: City staff is working with SANDAG, the County and the USGS on a pilot project for the development of a monitoring database to track the monitoring and management activities. This project is funded by an NCCP grant. It is proposed that the information from this database will be made available via the Internet to interested stakeholders. A database format has been developed and is currently being tested

The City's FY 2003 budget has allocated \$178,000 for MSCP Monitoring. Specific monitoring efforts set for Spring 2003 will be coordinated with the wildlife agencies and the County of San Diego.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES:**

Regional Funding: Long-term funding for regional Habitat Conservation Plans (e.g., MSCP, MHCP) is being discussed and evaluated in the context of San Diego County's need for a comprehensive strategy for regional infrastructure.

SANDAG has established a Regional Planning Committee to propose an approach for the integration of regional infrastructure and financing strategies. This approach would ultimately evolve into a Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) whose objects are "to be smart about growth, planning and preparing in advance of its occurrence." Regional open space and habitat preservation is one of the eleven types of infrastructure needs to be analyzed. As part of the RCP, SANDAG will determine the cost of an integrated financing package for linking the regional infrastructure requirements, of which the regional open space cost would be around \$1.5 billion.

In addition, the Coalition for Quality of Life, a diverse interest group made up of environmental, civic, and business leaders, has formed to discuss linking the need to fund increase mobility, preserving habitat and open space, protecting water quality and closing the urban infrastructure deficit. A decision on the direction of regional funding is anticipated between Nov. 2004 and 2006.

Interim Funding: In March 1999, the San Diego City Council approved "The Smart and Healthy San Diego Plan." This plan allocates a portion of the annual tobacco litigation settlement payments to improve the City's park and open space system including the Multiple Species Conservation Program. A three-year interim funding plan for MSCP was presented by City staff and approved by the NCCP Managers on October 11, 2000 and adopted by the City Council on November 27, 2000. The proposed funding policy statement would generate \$25.4 million of interim funding for MSCP management, monitoring and acquisition through 2004. Subject to Council approval during the annual budget process, funding to implement the MSCP would come from Tobacco Settlement monies (\$4.6 million), the General Fund (\$7.8 million), and various other sources (\$13.0 million), including mitigation, property sales, and grants. In July the City entered into the second year of the three-year interim funding.

On March 5, 2002, California voters passed one of the largest state environmental bond measures in our nation's history. Proposition 40 (California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002) will provide \$2.6 billion dollars statewide to improve the quality of life of all Californians by creating innovative funding mechanisms to protect and enhance air, water, land, cultural and wildlife resources. About \$1.86 billion of the total \$2.6 billion would be spent to buy, preserve, protect or develop new park land, both urban and rural, open space, endangered habitat land, and preserves.

## **TRAINING AND PUBLIC OUTREACH:**

Since 1999, members of the public and government staff have been able to access information on the MSCP through the City's website. Located at [www.sandiego.gov/mscp/](http://www.sandiego.gov/mscp/), the site contains general information on the MSCP, as well as some program-related documents and maps, and City contact information. Mayor Dick Murphy's staff has designed a web page to highlight the Mayor's ten goals for the City of San Diego. Goal Ten is to "Complete MSCP Open Space Acquisitions." This web site provides information on the MSCP land acquisitions priority areas (Del Mar Mesa, East Elliott, and Otay Mesa), annual workshop reports, regional funding information and hyper-links to other state and federal web sites.

MSCP staff continues to participate in training of other City staff with the focus on education of regulations associated with the MSCP and the Environmentally Sensitive Lands ordinance. MSCP staff provided presentations to City staff at regularly scheduled Project Management Academy trainings given to City operational personnel. Additionally, MSCP staff has made presentations to various public organizations including local high schools, Park and Recreation workshops, and the San Diego River group. Additional, efforts are being discussed through the multi-jurisdictional MSCP Education Outreach committee - a formally recognized subcommittee of the MSCP Interagency Coordination Committee.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Since the adoption of the City's MSCP Subarea Plan in July 1997, significant achievements have occurred which continue to contribute to the successful implementation of the City's MSCP Subarea Plan. During the 2001 reporting period, 800.7 acres of habitat were conserved in the MHPA and 64.7 acres were conserved adjacent to the MHPA. Of the 633.3 acres of habitat that was impacted due to project approvals within this same time period, 90 percent of the loss occurred outside of the MHPA. In 2001, 111 new projects were reviewed for consistency with the City's MSCP Subarea Plan.

The City continues to be successful in securing state and federal grants, many of which have been instrumental in providing for MHPA acquisitions and ongoing management and monitoring activities as described in this report. Additional significant acquisitions of private land in Del Mar Mesa and East Elliott are expected to occur over the next year. Additional, information on the status of the MSCP is available through the City's website. The City's MSCP Subarea Plan program objectives for the first five years have been achieved.

  
Gary Halbert, Chief Deputy Director  
Planning Department

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