

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

DATE: July 23, 2003

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: P. Lamont Ewell, Assistant City Manager

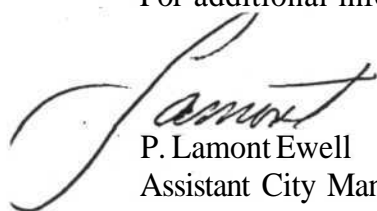
SUBJECT: 2002 MSCP Annual Public Workshop - Summary Report

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 account of the habitat lost and conserved within the City's MSCP Subarea during the previous year. The Cities of San Diego, Chula Vista and Poway, the County of San Diego, and wildlife agencies are also required to jointly conduct a public workshop to disseminate and discuss the annual report.

On August 7, 2003 the MSCP Annual Public Workshop will be held at the Lakeside Community Center, 9841 Vine Street, Lakeside, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Staff from the Cities of San Diego, Chula Vista and Poway, the County of San Diego, and the wildlife agencies will conduct PowerPoint 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
Assistant City Manager

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Attachment

cc: Michael Uberuaga, City Manager
S. Gail Goldberg, Planning Director
Ellen Oppenheim, Park and Recreation Department Director
Ann Hix, Open Space Division Deputy Director
Keith Greer, Deputy Director, Planning Department
Tom Story, Senior Policy Advisor to Mayor Dick Murphy
Planning Commissioners

2003 MSCP Annual Public Workshop - Summary Report

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 account 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 sixth MSCP Annual Report was submitted to the wildlife agencies on February 19, 2003. The report identifies, by project, the habitat loss and conservation from January 1, 2002 through the end of the 2002 calendar year.

In 2002, 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, 2002 - December 31, 2002), 407.1 acres of habitat were conserved in the MHPA and 103.2 acres were conserved adjacent to the MHPA, compared to the loss of 65.4 acres of habitat inside the MHPA. Outside the MHPA, 463.1 acres of habitat loss occurred (88 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 2002 reporting period (December 31, 2002), a total of 32,659.7 acres have been conserved in (31,443.5 acres) or adjacent to (1216.2 acres) the MHPA. This includes pre-MSCP (baseline) conserved lands totaling 22,141 acres.

The habitat loss and conservation for the 2002 annual reporting period is summarized as follows:

TABLE 1 - 2002 HABITAT LOSS AND CONSERVATION
(January 1, 2002 - December 31, 2002)

Habitat Type & Examples of Habitats	Habitat Loss (acres)		Habitat Conserved (acres)	
	2002	Cumulative	2002	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	0.3	47.5	6.5	4845.7
TIER I (rare uplands): Southern Fore dunes Torrey Pines Forest Southern Coastal Bluff Scrub Maritime Succulent Scrub Southern Maritime Chaparral Native Grassland Oak Woodlands	58	310.5	99.9	2061.2
TIER II (uncommon uplands): Coastal Sage Scrub CSS/Chaparral	63.5	944.2	112.5	11520.5
TIER III A (common uplands): Mixed Chaparral Chamise Chaparral	124.9	499.7	218.3	6988.4
TIER III B (common uplands): Nonnative Grasslands	114.6	2319.8	24.3	3211.9
TIER IV (other uplands) Disturbed Agriculture Eucalyptus	127.4	1223.4	33.7	3062.2
Others: Beach Urban/Developed	39.8	816.5	15.1	969.7
Total	528.5	6161.5	510.3	32659.7

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 fourth 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

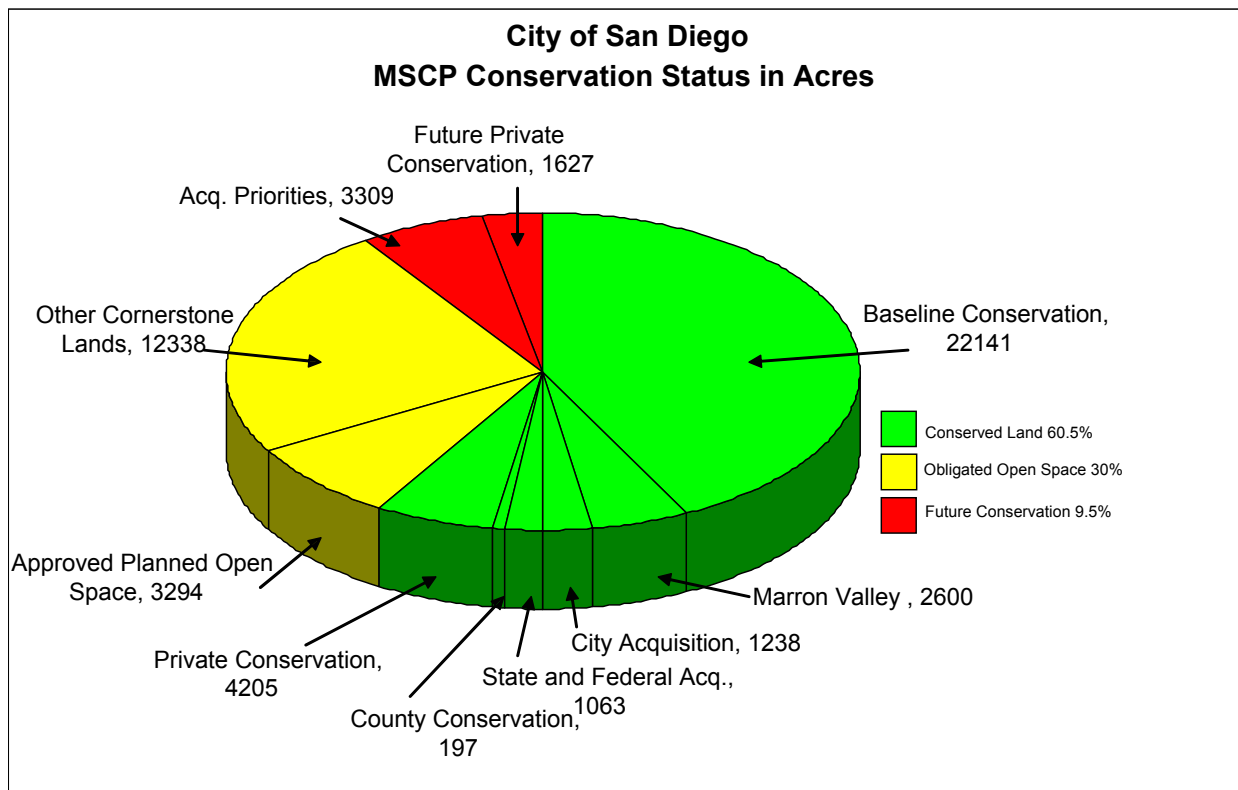
The San Diego River was added as an additional priority acquisition area in the winter of 2001.

In April 2001, the City completed the acquisition of the 538-acre Montana Mirador parcel located within the Rancho Peñasquitos community planning area. In September 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 three parcels totaling 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. In February 2003, the City acquired four additional parcels totaling 13.1 acres. Three private properties are proposing land exchanges on mitigation banks. The four remaining private property owners within the Del Mar Mesa acquisition area have rejected any offer of purchase.

In February 2003, the State Wildlife Conservation Board awarded the City a \$5 million grant for acquisition of private property in the East Elliott acquisition area. To date, 80 parcels have been appraised. Twenty offers have been made; 2 parcels (27 acres) have been acquired. Four parcels are in escrow and those remaining have not responded or have rejected the offer. Additional offers are on-going.

In addition to acquisitions made by the City, 210 acres have been conserved by Allied Landfill (115.35) and the Poway Unified School District (94.75) as mitigation. Finally, 266 acres of Fortuna Mountain were granted to the City by San Diego State University helping to conserve additional land in Mission Trails Regional Park.

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.



Acquisitions on East Elliott, Otay Mesa and the San Diego River are expected to continue through this next year due to state and federal grants.

PROJECT REVIEWS:

In 2002, 161 new development projects were reviewed by the MSCP staff for consistency with the adopted MSCP Subarea Plan and implementing regulations. Since January 2003, an additional 77 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. In 2002 and 2003, the City of San Diego has secured \$5,400,332 in grant funding for acquisition, management and monitoring of lands within the MSCP.

Table 2 - 2002/2003 GRANTS

GRANT TYPE	GRANTOR	2002	2003
Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP)	California Department of Fish and Game	Awarded two grants for MSCP management activities.	
Section 6 Planning Grant	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 Penasquitos watersheds.	
Wildlife Conservation Board (Proposition 12, 2000)	State of California Wildlife Conservation Board	Awarded \$5 million grant to acquire land in East Elliott.	
Environmental Conservation Foundation Grant	Environmental Conservation Foundation		Awarded grant for completion of the Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa Preserve Management Plan.
Total:		\$ 5,308,283	\$92,049

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 Park and Recreation. This newly formed division has taken on the task of managing the

City's existing open space system, including lands acquired under the Multiple Species Conservation Program. Park and Recreation has hired a Senior Planner to serve as the Urban Canyon Coordinator. This position is 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

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	STATUS
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.
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 management plan was completed in June 2001.
San Pasqual/Lake Hodges Cornerstone	Funded by an NCCP grant, the City of San Diego Planning and Water Departments developed a management plan for the San Pasqual and Lake Hodges Cornerstone banks which includes vegetation mapping, rare plant surveys, wildlife habitat assessments, and evaluations of recreation potential and enhancement opportunities.	Biological surveys began in Spring 2002. The management plan was completed in July 2003.
Western Otay River Valley Management Plan	Funded by a NCCP grant and a \$68,490 match from the City of San Diego, Park and Recreation is preparing a	The final draft management plan was completed in April 2001. Currently under review by wildlife agencies

	management plan for the Otay River Valley between 1-5 to Heritage Road.	and subject to City Council approval. Estimated completion in 2003.
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 and Environmental Conservation Foundation (ECF) 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 2004.
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 comments from the wildlife agencies are being incorporated into the document. This plan is subject to City Council approval. Estimated completion in 2004.
Boden Canyon	Funded by a grant awarded to the City of San Diego, the San Dieguito JPA is preparing a joint management plan for publicly owned lands in Boden Canyon.	The final draft management plan was completed in September 2001. Currently wildlife agencies are working on completing the plan. This plan is 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 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.

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	Permits have been obtained for this project and construction of erosion protection measures to prevent

	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 willowy monardella (<i>Monardella linoides ssp. viminea</i>)	undercutting of the alluvial benches on which the willowy monardella occurs will begin in August 2003. 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 continued until 2003 and many exotics have been successfully eradicated.
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 Penasquitos Canyon Preserve	The City has secured grants from Caltrans, USFWS, and HCF for San Diego ambrosia restoration and riparian enhancement in Penasquitos Canyon. The City also obtained an NCCP grant to conduct weeding around San Diego thorn mint populations within Penasquitos.	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 demonstrated great success. Additional exotic removal and restoration will occur as funding becomes available.
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 is being maintained 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 is being maintained 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 was completed in January 2003.
Mission Trails Regional Park	The City conducted multiple volunteer trail closures in 2000/2001 along riparian, grassland, and CSS habitat areas. The City conducted exotic removal of water	Maintenance of volunteer trail closures is ongoing. The exotic removal effort park-wide is ongoing. Weeding around the San Diego thorn mint was

	primrose and hyacinth in Kumeyaay Lakes beginning in 2000. The City also obtained an NCCP grant to conduct weeding around San Diego thorn mint populations within Mission Trails. Park Ranger staff continue to control exotics including fennel, arrundo, artichoke thistle and lepidium park-wide. Park Ranger and volunteer staff conducted variegated dudleya mapping.	conducted in 2002 and continued in Spring of 2003. Variegated dudleya mapping is ongoing.
Otay Valley Regional Park	The City and is conducting exotic removal under various grants. An exotic plant removal plan is also in process. 500 trees have been planted and 2000 tons of trash has been removed.	The exotic removal effort is ongoing. The exotic removal plan will identify tamarisk and arundo targeted for removal within the Park.
San Diego River	The Invasive Exotic Weed Eradication Master Plan proposes to replace all exotic weed species infestations with native wetland species along the entire river within the City of San Diego limits. Two pilot projects of about 5 acres have been implemented. The San Diego River Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) is starting to be prepared for the area from west end of Mission Trails Regional Park to I-5. Funds provided by NCCP grant.	Pilot Projects completed April 2003. Consultant hired to start NRMP.
Famosa Slough	A wetland/upland restoration of about 1.3 acres, including stormdrain runoff control, is underway in Famosa Slough.	Estimated to be complete in 2004.
Chaparral Canyon	A wetland/upland restoration of about 3.8 acres is in progress in Chaparral Canyon.	Estimated to be complete in 2004.
Adobe Falls	A wetland/upland restoration of about 3.5 acres is underway in Adobe Falls.	Estimated to be complete in 2004.
Black Mountain Open Space	The City obtained a HCF grant in 2000 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 is currently in progress. Estimated completion mid- 2004. Weeding around the San Diego thorn mint was conducted in 2002 and continued in Spring of 2003.
Mission Bay Park	Site preparation for California least tern nesting.	All site preparation was completed and number of nests at Mariner's Point and North Fiesta Island look very good.
Mission Bay Park	Tecolote Creek Wetland Treatment Project	Design is 65% complete. Funding for construction being sought.

MONITORING EFFORTS:

City staff is initiating those elements of the MSCP Biological Monitoring Plan (CDFG 1996) that can be accomplished with currently available funding. The following summarizes the status of current and proposed monitoring activities:

Vernal Pool Inventory and Management Plan: The City of San Diego (City) received funding from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in the form of a Section 6 Planning Grant to complete a citywide inventory of vernal pools. The recorded data, such as basin location and biological surveys, will be used to develop a management plan for vernal pools within the City's jurisdiction.

Between January and May 2003, City staff used Geographic Positioning System (GPS) technology to determine the exact location of vernal pools within the City of San Diego. Consultants also conducted vernal pool plant surveys to determine the vernal pool plant species within each vernal pool complex. City staff surveyed each site to determine the coverage of sensitive plant species within each vernal pool. Dr. Andrew Bohanak (San Diego State University) and Dr. Marie Simovich (University of San Diego) surveyed for fairy shrimp in many of the vernal pool complexes throughout the City of San Diego and collected fairy shrimp for genetic testing. Currently, the City of San Diego is aggregating all the data collected for the vernal pool inventory.

Habitat Quality Pilot Project (SDSU): Working with Dr. Doug Stow of SDSU, this project evaluated remote sensing for monitoring existing habitat conditions and the detection of changes over time. Initial efforts in 2001 demonstrated that permanent plots were ineffective for habitat quality monitoring due to limited area that could be sampled. Using Marron Valley as a pilot study site, City staff is comparing field data measurements of habitat quality with remote sensing imagery. The goal is develop a cost-effective methodology for evaluating habitat conditions across the MSCP study area. A final report will be completed in the fall.

Priority Plant Monitoring: In 2003, City MSCP staff and volunteers monitored the following covered plant species (copies of these reports are available):

- 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.
- San Diego thornmint in Penasquitos 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.
- Nuttall's lotus in Mission Bay. Annual monitoring began in 2000.
- Willowy Monardella in Lopez Canyon, Upper Sycamore, and Marron Valley. Annual monitoring began in 2000.
- Variegated dudleya in Otay Lakes, Spring Canyon, Mission Trails Regional Park, Allied Gardens, Penasquitos Canyon, and Black Mountain Ranch. Annual monitoring began in 2001 with the Baseline Rare Plant Monitoring Project.

- Orcutt's brodiaea in Kearny Mesa, Sabre Springs, and Del Mar Mesa. Annual monitoring began in 2001 with the Baseline Rare Plant Monitoring Project.
- Cleveland's goldenstar in Del Mar Mesa and Mission Trails Regional Park. Annual monitoring began in 2001 with the Baseline Rare Plant Monitoring Project.
- Del Mar sand aster in Carmel Valley, Carmel Mountain and Torrey Highlands. Annual monitoring began in 2001 with the Baseline Rare Plant Monitoring Project.
- San Diego ambrosia in Mission Trails Regional Park. Annual monitoring began in 1999.

Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: City staff have conducted surveys throughout City-owned land during all flight seasons since 1998.

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, Penasquitos Canyon, Mission Trails and Barrett Lake. Surveys have been conducted on some sites in 2002 and will continue into 2003. Preliminary reports are available at www.msdp-sandiego.org. It is expected that surveys will be completed in 2004.

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 was provided in March 2003. A copy of this report is available. The City of San Diego has also received grant funding to construct burrowing owl dens and develop a burrowing owl management plan for areas where the burrowing owl dens are constructed. This grant project is currently in the preliminary phases.

Develop Monitoring Database: City staff is working with SANDAG, the County and the wildlife agencies 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.

Wildlife Corridor Monitoring: Wildlife corridor monitoring is being conducted in various sites throughout the City of San Diego by Conservation Biology Institute (CBI). Several stations, including some with cameras, have been set up to track and document wildlife moving through the corridor. A copy of the report produced for this effort is available. In addition, CBI will be conducting a deer tracking study funded by the Environmental Conservation Foundation using radio collars within the Carmel Valley area. This project is in the preliminary stages and will most likely commence in 2004.

Specific monitoring efforts set for Spring 2004 will be coordinated with the wildlife agencies and the County of San Diego.

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/ 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. These goals are available for review online at <http://genesis.sannet.gov/infospc/templates/mayor/index.jsp>. Goal Ten is to "Complete MSCP Open Space Acquisitions." This website 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 websites.

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 2002 reporting period, 407.1 acres of habitat were conserved in the MHPA and 103.2 acres were conserved adjacent to the MHPA. Of the 528.5 acres of habitat that was impacted due to project approvals within this same time period, 88 percent of the loss occurred outside of the MHPA. In 2002, 161 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. All key acquisitions, from willing sellers, in Del Mar Mesa have been completed since the last reporting period. Additional significant acquisitions of private land in 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 six years have been achieved.

Keith Greer, Deputy Planning Director
Planning Department

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