

## Notice of Public Availability

From: Ali Aghili, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220  
Ontario, CA 91764

**Subject: Notice of Public Availability of Proposed Planning Agreement**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is considering the entry into a Planning Agreement under the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA) of 2003 with the Town of Apple Valley (Town) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This notice announces the availability of the proposed Planning Agreement for public review and comment for twenty-one (21) days, pursuant to Section 2810, subdivision (d) of the NCCPA.

The NCCPA encourages broad-based planning to protect and conserve the state's wildlife heritage while allowing appropriate development and growth. CDFW is authorized to approve natural community conservation plans (NCCPs) pursuant to the NCCPA, and to enter into agreements with other public agencies or private entities for the conservation of species and habitats.

The Town is preparing a regional conservation plan for an area encompassing approximately 221,180 acres (346 square miles) within the Town of Apple Valley, its Sphere of Influence, and additional lands in San Bernardino County (County) to the north and east. The plan will be both an NCCP and a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) pursuant Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act. The Town desires to design and implement an NCCP/HCP that describes the measures that local agencies will perform in order to conserve biological resources while providing a permit for urban growth and public infrastructure projects.

The primary purpose of the Planning Agreement is to define the goals and obligations in the development of an NCCP/HCP for the Town and County. Among other things, it also provides a preliminary list of the natural communities, and the endangered, threatened, candidate, or other species that are found, or may be found, in those communities, to provide an initial focus of the NCCP/HCP. The execution of the Planning Agreement is not an approval of the NCCP/HCP, but rather an agreement among CDFW, USFWS, and the Town to a process for the development of a proposed NCCP/HCP.

CDFW invites the public to review and comment on the proposed Planning Agreement. The document can be viewed on the internet at CDFW's website at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/NCCP/Plans/Apple-Valley-MSHCP> or the Town's website at <http://www.applevalley.org/home>. Upon request, a paper copy also can be sent by mail by contacting Ali Aghili at [Ali.Aghili@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Ali.Aghili@wildlife.ca.gov), or can be picked up in person at the Inland Deserts Region Regional Office of CDFW at 3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220, Ontario, CA 91764.

All comments should be sent to the address listed at the top of this Notice. The period for public review and comment will close twenty-one (21) days after the date of this Notice. Comments received on or before April 18, 2017 will be reviewed.

Date: March 27, 2017

Signature

Printed name:

Title

  
Ali Aghili

Senior Environmental Scientist  
(Supervisor)