

## Notice of Public Availability

From: Karen Weiss  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

### **Subject: Notice of Public Availability of Proposed Restated and Amended Planning Agreement**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is considering entering into a Restated and Amended Planning Agreement under the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA) with the County of San Diego (the County) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This notice announces the availability of the proposed Restated and Amended Planning Agreement for public review and comment, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2810, subdivision (d).

The NCCPA encourages broad-based planning to protect and conserve the state's wildlife heritage while allowing appropriate development and growth. It authorizes CDFW to enter into agreements with other public agencies or private entities to prepare natural community conservation plans (NCCPs) that provide for the conservation of species and habitats, and ultimately to approve NCCPs if certain conditions are met.

The County is preparing a regional conservation plan for an area encompassing approximately 311,800 acres in the North County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Plan Study Area and 1.6 million acres in the East County MSCP Plan Study Area. The plans, if approved, will specify measures to conserve biological resources and provide take permits for future development activities in the plan area. The County anticipates seeking CDFW and USFWS approval for the plans, such that the plans would be joint NCCPs and Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) pursuant to Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act.

CDFW, the County, and USFWS originally entered into a Planning Agreement for the North and East Counties MSCP Plan Study Areas in 2008, and the Planning Agreement was subsequently amended in 2013, 2014 and 2019. The Planning Agreement, as amended, expired in January 2020. This Restated and Amended Planning Agreement revives the Planning Agreement and extends its term to January 31, 2025.

The primary purpose of a Planning Agreement is to define the process and goals for the MSCPs. Among other things, it 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 and that will be the initial focus of the planning process for the MSCPs. The execution of this Restated and Amended Planning Agreement is not an approval of the MSCPs, but rather an agreement among CDFW, USFWS, and the County to continue to work together to develop the MSCPs and provides an outline for the planning process.

CDFW invites the public to review and comment on the proposed Restated and Amended Planning Agreement. The document can be viewed on the internet at CDFW's website at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/NCCP/Plans/East-San-Diego-MSCP> and <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/NCCP/Plans/North-San-Diego-MSCP>. Please contact Sara Kern at [sara.kern@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:sara.kern@wildlife.ca.gov) to receive a paper copy of the Restated and Amended Planning Agreement.

All comments should be sent to [sara.kern@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:sara.kern@wildlife.ca.gov) or 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 January 21, 2021 will be reviewed.

Date: December 31, 2020

Signature	/s/ Karen Weiss
Printed name:	Karen Weiss
Title	Environmental Program Manager