

NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLANNING/  
COASTAL SAGE SCRUB

Enrollment for Cities and Counties

The Natural Community Conservation Planning/Coastal Sage Scrub (NCCP/CSS) project is a voluntary program and a collaborative effort with local government and landowners sponsored by the California Resources Agency and its Department of Fish and Game with the cooperation of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The NCCP/CSS will focus on coastal sage scrub habitat and three target species within it. The NCCP goal is to conserve long-term viable populations of the State's native animal and plant species, and their habitats, in landscape units large enough to ensure their continued existence while allowing compatible and appropriate development and growth, as set forth in Section 2800 et. seq. of the California Fish and Game Code (The Natural Community Conservation Act of 1991).

Local jurisdictions have participated in the collaborative planning process that led to preparation of guidelines and standards required by the Natural Community Conservation Act. The purpose of the planning guidelines is to achieve the following objectives:

- a. Reconcile potential conflicts between the conservation of coastal sage scrub habitat, as defined on the basis of surveys of target species, and planned development or other actions that could impair long-term habitat functions.
- b. Help coordinate the NCCP program with provisions of federal and state laws, such as incidental take, critical habitat, habitat conservation, and recovery plan requirements, as applicable.
- c. Provide for the review of NCCP plans pursuant to the program environmental impact report (EIR) provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to define programmatic impact assessment, alternatives analysis, and mitigation measures for future individual projects or actions within the NCCP plan area with regard to potential impacts on coastal sage habitat and associated species.
- d. Provide assurance against additional mitigation requirements being imposed for the purposes set forth in the plan except upon a showing of significant unforeseen circumstances.

revised 4/1/94

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- e. Establish procedures for incidental take permits to become applicable if any target species designated in the NCCP later becomes a candidate species or a listed species.
- f. Conserve long-term viable coastal sage scrub habitat and designated species, in landscape units large enough to ensure their continued existence.
- g. Establish procedures for coordinating public and private NCCP/CSS efforts, plan preparation and review, and implementation of the program.

Local jurisdictions participating in the NCCP/CSS collaborative planning process agree to meet the following standards during the planning period. [For new jurisdictions joining the process, the planning period will last until an NCCP is approved.]

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As a participating jurisdiction the City of Yorba Linda agrees to the following.

1. To assist in the formation of subregional coastal sage scrub natural community conservation plans by:
  - a. Cooperating with other local governments and with landowners to undertake field studies on CSS within their jurisdictions.
  - b. Cooperating with other local governments and with landowners to prepare and process NCCP's for subregions established under the NCCP program.
  - c. Utilizing regulatory authority to the extent authorized by law to support the Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP) Program as envisioned by Fish and Game Code Section 2800-2840.
  - d. Including information on the NCCP program with materials and advice provided to potential project applicants.
2. To be sensitive to the potential impacts of proposed activities on coastal sage scrub during the NCCP planning period by:
  - a. Enrolling, to the maximum extent feasible, publicly-owned lands into the NCCP program by completing the "Enrollment Agreement for Landowners and Land Management Agencies" form and submitting it to the Department of Fish and Game NCCP Program Manager.
  - b. Ensuring that its employees are aware of the NCCP program and of the Jurisdiction's commitment to it.
  - c. Coordinating existing fire prevention and brush and weed abatement policies with the Department and the USFWS to ensure that the coastal sage scrub community is not unnecessarily impacted.

- d. Requiring that any proposed projects provide full disclosure of the amount of coastal sage scrub habitat on the project site, the potential impacts to it, develop and adopt procedures for applying the NCCP Special 4(d) Rule, and process projects through the Special 4(d) Rule.
- e. Monitoring cumulative loss/impact of the coastal sage scrub natural community within its jurisdiction and reporting these losses/impacts to the Department of Fish and Game on a monthly basis.
- f. Requiring, where coastal sage scrub is likely to be impacted, that draft EIR's include, to the maximum extent feasible, surveys prepared in a manner compatible with Scientific Review Panel (SRP) survey guidelines for the selected target species and ensure that these field data will be provided to the Department in a form useable by the SRP.
- g. Requiring analysis of project impacts to coastal sage scrub habitat and other contiguous natural areas such as riparian areas that constitute essential habitat corridors linking coastal sage scrub areas.
- h. Assessing and making appropriate findings as part of the CEQA review process regarding whether: a) projects will have significant unmitigated impact on coastal sage scrub habitat; and b) projects will have the potential to preclude the ability to prepare an effective subregional NCCP.
- i. Requiring environmental documentation in areas where no prior environmental review has been completed under CEQA for grading, grubbing and similar activities proposed in coastal sage scrub natural communities except as required for ongoing agricultural operations.
- j. Consulting with the Department and USFWS, and to strongly consider their recommended mitigation measures for projects affecting coastal sage scrub processed during the NCCP planning period.

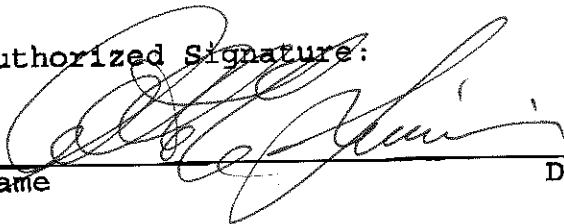
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The commitment of the jurisdiction to maintain these standards is only for the duration of the collaborative planning period and until an NCCP is approved.

The jurisdiction may terminate its commitments under this agreement with 30 days advance notification to the California Department of Fish and Game.

Authorized Signature:

 4/19/95

Name

Date

Arthur C. Simonian, City Manager

Title

City of Yorba Linda

City or County