COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Multiple Species Conservation Program
South County Subarea Plan 2020 Annual Report

Board of Supervisors
June 30, 2021
Item #6
Multiple Species Conservation Program

- What is the MSCP?
- 23rd year of the 50-year program
- Partners
Open Space Lands Acquisitions

GOAL
- 500 acres/year

CRITERIA
- Biology
- Connectivity
- Accessibility
- Value
Multiple Species Conservation Program

- Acquisition
- Management
- Monitoring
- Environmental Education

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
Program History

1997: MSCP South County Plan Adopted

1998: Final Wildlife Agency Permit Approval

1998-Today: County Implementation of South County Plan
MSCP Plan Areas

- South County Subarea Plan
  - Adopted 1997
- Draft North County Plan
- Future East County Plan
- 42,300 acres open space acquired in all three MSCP Plan Areas
MSCP Plan Areas

- North County Plan Area
  - Current status of draft
  - Completion in FY 25/26
- East County Plan Area
  - Completion in the future
23 Years of County Land Preservation

- Since 1998, acquired 23,300 acres in all three MSCP Plan Areas
  - 8,300 acres in South County Subarea Plan Area
  - 7,500 acres in draft North County Plan Area
  - 7,500 acres in future East County Plan Area
- 40 County Preserves created or expanded
- Since 1998, a total of $213 million has been spent on acquisitions
  - $118 million County funds
  - $95 million from grants
2020 County Acquisitions

- 220 acres acquired across all three MSCP Plan areas
  - 66 acres SC MSCP
  - 113 acres NC MSCP
  - 40 acres EC MSCP
- Expanded 7 DPR parks and preserves
South County Plan Preserve Assembly

- Preservation Goal: 98,379 acres
- Through 2020
  - Preserved 79,853 acres
  - 81% of Plan Goal
  - Includes over 13,200 acres of DPR open space
  - 665 acres added in 2020 by private & public acquisitions
Management & Monitoring Activities

- **Management Activities**
  - Resource Management Plan
  - Land stewardship
  - Habitat management and restoration

- **Monitoring Program**
  - Inventory surveys
  - Targeted Monitoring Program

Oakoasis Preserve
Since 1998, County Preserves have helped meet or exceed regional conservation goals:

- Preserves 100% of all known locations of six MSCP Covered Species
- Preserves at least 75% of all known locations of seven MSCP Covered Species
- Preserves 100% of habitat for 1 MSCP Habitat Type
- Preserves at least 75% of habitat for 5 MSCP Habitat Types

Sycamore Canyon and Goodan Ranch Preserve
County Management & Monitoring Accomplishments

- Since 1998, County Preserves have met or exceeded Subarea Plan conservation goals
  - 4 Habitat Conservation Goals
    - Southern maritime chaparral
    - Riparian forest
    - Maritime succulent scrub
    - Riparian woodland
  - 46 MSCP covered species documented
    - 24 plant species
    - 16 bird species
    - 2 reptile species
    - 2 invertebrate species
    - 2 mammal species
County Management & Monitoring Accomplishments

- In 2020, on County Preserves 6 grant funded restoration projects were implemented
  - Tijuana River Valley Invasive Species Removal and Restoration Projects
  - Lakeside Linkage Preserve Cactus Wren and Hermes Copper Butterfly Habitat Restoration
  - Sycamore Canyon and Goodan Ranch Preserve Targeted Invasive Non-Native Plant Treatment Project
  - Ramona Grasslands Preserve Bullfrog Eradication Project
- Over 4,500 trees were planted
South County Successes

- Management and Monitoring
  - Protecting existing species
  - Expand MSCP covered species distribution
- Conservation of open space habitat and MSCP covered species
  - Since 1998, preserving 19 MSCP covered species not previously found on County open space lands
    - Encinitas baccharis
    - Otay tarplant
    - White-faced ibis
    - San Diego fairy shrimp
    - Thorne’s hairstreak butterfly
South County Successes

- Habitat restoration and enhancement projects benefitting MSCP covered species
  - Lakeside Linkage Preserve
    - Invasive plant species treated
    - Native plant species planted
    - 7 acres of coastal cactus wren habitat
    - 2 acres of Hermes copper butterfly habitat
Educational Outreach

- Annually, 1,500 environmental education programs
  - Serves over 17,000 youth at 28 County parks and preserves
- TRACK Trails adventures
  - Average annual participation of 6,500 youth
  - 230% participation increase in 2020
- Multi-language programs and materials
- Community Needs Assessment
Educational Outreach

- County Education Outreach expanded virtually
  - Hawktober 2020
  - Virtual Recreation Center
  - DPR Ranger-led hikes
- Future education outreach efforts
Private Development & Mitigation Lands in South County

- **Private Development Projects**
  - Over 4,000 development permits approved since 1998
  - Permitted in 2020:
    - 128 single-family homes
    - 4 commercial projects

- **Private Mitigation Lands**
  - 6,709 acres preserved since 1998
  - 421 acres preserved in 2020
Private Development Resource Management Plans (RMPs)

- **Required If:**
  - Mitigation land exceeds 50 acres or
  - Sensitive resource would benefit from management and monitoring

- **RMPs Identify:**
  - Preserve Manager responsibilities
  - Financial mechanism for in-perpetuity management
  - Required management and monitoring activities

- **RMP Monitoring:**
  - Annual reports submitted to PDS
  - County review and comment
  - 5-Year RMP Update

(Sycamore Canyon and Goodan Ranch Preserve)
**Private Development Resource Management Plans (RMPs)**

- **36 Private RMPs,**
  - South – 18 RMPs, 1 new RMP adopted in 2020
  - North – 14 RMPs, 1 new RMP adopted in 2020
  - East – 4 RMPs

- **26 Covered Species documented in 2020**
  - South County RMP Annual Reports

- **5 Non-Compliant RMPs**
  - Located within South County
  - Approved prior to 2007
  - Three RMPs making progress
  - Two referred to County Counsel

*Otay Ranch Preserve*
Private Development Resource Management Plans (RMPs)

- **Program Improvements to Reduce Non-Compliance**
  - Standardized project conditions and RMP Guidelines
  - Dedicated County staff for Condition Satisfaction and Final Mapping
  - Dedicated RMP Program Manager
  - Internal coordination
  - Standardized RMP processes and procedures
  - Improved Record Keeping and Data Collection

- **Next Steps**
  - Assess additional streamlining opportunities
  - Continue to improve program compliance

[Sycamore Canyon and Goodan Ranch Preserve]
Going Forward – Future Goals

- **Land Acquisition**
  - Acquire the remaining 19% of South County Preserve
  - Support greenhouse gas reduction goals identified in the Climate Action Plan

- **RMP Updates**
  - Update County RMPs, including those for North County preserves
  - Update the County’s RMP Guidelines for the preparation of new Private RMPs

- **Data Collection**
  - Modernize data collection on County and Private Preserves
  - Create centralized GIS database for County and Private RMPs

- **Management & Monitoring**
  - Conduct invasive species treatments and habitat restoration efforts to benefit MSCP covered species
  - Expand Targeted Monitoring Program, including Private RMPs
Going Forward – Future Goals

- **Environmental Education**
  - Expand content of existing educational programs
  - Translate existing programs into multiple languages
  - Provide education programs in Spanish for South County school districts

- **Regional Partnerships**
  - Expand partnership opportunities to conduct regional monitoring
  - Coordinate with Wildlife Agencies to conduct assessment on regional MSCP Preserve

- **North & East County MSCP**
  - Expand Targeted Monitoring Program to North County and East County Plan Areas
  - Develop the North and East County Plans
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