

June 12, 2023

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
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David Mayer, Environmental Program Manager  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
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**SUBJECT: 2022 MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT**

Dear Mr. Sobiech and Mr. Mayer:

**MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM (MSCP) 2022 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY**

Enclosed is the City of San Diego's 2022 MSCP Annual Report (Annual Report). The Annual Report details progress towards the original conservation goal of 52,727 acres to be preserved within the Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) prior to expiration of the City's MSCP permit in 2047. In developing this report, the City of San Diego (City) utilized HabiTrak—the GIS extension developed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for tracking loss and gain of habitat from private and public development.

In HabiTrak, impacts due to entitled development are entered as *habitat losses* while mitigation measures such as dedication in fee title, covenant of easement (COE) areas and property acquisitions for conservation purposes are entered as *habitat gains*. In 2022, the City recorded a total habitat gain of 233 acres (141 acres inside the MHPA and 92 acres outside the MHPA). The total habitat loss for 2022 was 424 acres (16 acres were lost inside the MHPA and 408 acres outside the MHPA). Please see Attachments 1a through 1d for summary tables which detail habitat conservation by habitat type, conservation gain, and habitat loss generated by HabiTrak for the 2022 reporting year (January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022).

TABLE 1 – 2022 CITY OF SAN DIEGO CONSERVATION ACCOUNTING				
MHPA conservation requirement	Conserved acreage within the MHPA	Conserved acreage outside the MHPA	Lands obligated for future MHPA conservation	Remaining MHPA conservation requirement
(2021) 52,727 acres	36,403 acres	3,108 acres	14,932 acres	1,392 acres
(2022) 52,727 acres	36,544 acres	3,200 acres	14,932 acres	1,251 acres

Additionally, the City completed the required MSCP monitoring and land management activities on over 53,000 acres of conserved open space including: mitigation, habitat enhancement and restoration,

invasive species removal, access control, trash and debris removal, enforcement, abatement of unhoused encampments, volunteer events, and education. Environmental education is a vital part of our natural resource stewardship efforts and thus is included as a management activity because connection to nature promotes increased conservation and stewardship by engaged citizens.

#### **HABITAT ACQUISITION FUND CONTRIBUTIONS/CONSERVATION ACQUISITIONS**

Payment into the Habitat Acquisition Fund (HAF) is a mitigation method for small projects meeting specific requirements—such as projects less than five acres in size or small isolated locations that permit in lieu fees to be paid and pooled by the City to acquire habitat within the MHPA. In 2022, three approved discretionary projects paid into the HAF for a total of \$482,405 (Attachment 2). As of December 31, 2022—the HAF balance was \$795,740 of which—\$713,808 has been allocated for future acquisition and \$79,312 for administration.

#### **HABITAT ACQUISITIONS**

The City, through the Department of Real Estate and Airport Management (DREAM), utilizes grants, HAF, and other means to purchase land for MSCP conservation. Departments involved in acquiring properties for habitat conservation include the Planning Department, Parks & Recreation Department (PRD), Public Utilities Department (PUD), and Engineering & Capital Projects (ECP). Acquisitions for 2022 are discussed below and included in Table 2.

In 2022, the Planning Department utilized HAF funding to acquire a 25-acre property located in East Elliot as part of the continued implementation of the MSCP. East Elliott is a core biological area, deemed essential for continued conservation of San Diego's unique biodiversity. Property acquired with HAF funding will be managed by PRD Open Space Division for the long-term biological integrity of the land.

The La Media Road Improvements Project was approved in April 2021. The project will widen La Media Road from State Route 905 to Siempre Viva Road, widen the segment of Airway Road that crosses La Media Road, and implement drainage improvements at the intersection of La Media Road and Airway Road. The project will result in impacts to sensitive biological resources including impacts to upland and wetland habitat, vernal pools and burrowing owl foraging habitat. To address these impacts, the required mitigation would be accommodated on 6.05 acres spanning two parcels just west of the project. The 6.05 acres needed to implement the mitigation were acquired in June and August of 2022. Upon successful completion of the wetland mitigation effort, PRD would take over long-term management responsibilities ensuring implementation of the MSCP Management Framework.

PUD owns and manages 10,400 acres of Cornerstone Lands under the MSCP for habitat and source water protection. The four Cornerstone Lands include Marron Valley, Otay Reservoirs and Proctor Valley, San Vicente Reservoir, and Hodges Reservoir and San Pasqual Valley. Last year, in 2021, PUD entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the acquisition of an approximately 40-acre parcel of undeveloped land located north of Highway 78 in the San Pasqual Valley in an unincorporated portion of San Diego County. The parcel is surrounded by lands owned and managed by PUD and is conserved to ensure on-site habitat continuity and source water protection for Santa Ysabel Creek.

TABLE 2 – 2022 CITY OF SAN DIEGO CONSERVATION ACQUISITIONS						
Parcel Name	APN	Acreage	Purchase Price	Location	Deed Recorded	Funding Source
East Elliot Parcel	366-080-31	25	\$750,000	East Elliot	6/30/2022	Habitat Acquisition Fund
La Media Road	646-110-05	1.81	\$239,408	Otay Mesa	08/04/2022	Otay Mesa East DIF
La Media Road	646-110-06	4.77	\$750,000	Otay Mesa	06/22/2022	Otay Mesa East DIF
PUD-Judson	242-140-04	40	\$212,000	San Pasqual	09/29/2021	Water Utility Operating Fund

#### **CORNERSTONE LANDS AND CONSERVATION SUMMARY**

In accordance with the Cornerstone Lands Conservation Bank Agreement, the City has 1,000 acres of upland mitigation credit associated with the Marron Valley Cornerstone Lands Conservation Bank. Credits are sold in acres (i.e., 1 credit = 1 acre). In 2022, no habitat credit sales took place for public projects, so the total bank balance remained the same as the 2021 calendar year at 900.795 acres of remaining credits of Tier II and Tier III habitat (Attachment 3a).



Revenue collected from credit sales is placed in an interest-bearing account. Although no credit sales took place in 2022, the current land value is \$2,105,402, the total endowment amount is \$329,017 and current burrowing owls total is \$4,696, for an overall account total of \$2,439,115 as of December 31, 2022 (Attachment 3b). Note that land management activities are funded by the PUD budget and therefore do not reduce revenue for this account.

#### **CITY DEPARTMENT CONSERVATION SUMMARY AND PROJECT ACCOUNTING**

In addition to HabiTrak, this report also includes annual data from City departments concerning small public projects covered by programmatic permits that have a cumulative effect on the MHPA. These City departments include PUD, ECP and Stormwater Department (SWD). Project accounting for PUD, ECP and SWD for the 2022 calendar year are as follows:

##### **Public Utilities Department**

In 2022, there were four projects reported with impacts to the MHPA. These included the I-805 & Governor Drive Emergency Water Main Break, Pump Station 77 Force Main Sewer Spill Emergency Project, Shepherd Canyon (Dishwater Pond) and the Pure Water North City Project (Attachment 4a). The four projects impacted sensitive habitat including Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (0.135 acres) and Non-Native Grassland (0.116 acres). The total impact for these projects was 0.191 acres which required 0.161 acres of mitigation (Attachment 4b). Note that impacts associated with the I-805 & Governor Drive and Shepherd Canyon projects were less than a tenth of an acre which did not require mitigation.

PUD is also responsible for implementation of the Canyon Sewer Program & Long-Term Sewer Maintenance Program (Program) to access, clean, and repair miles of sewer infrastructure located in canyons and other environmentally sensitive areas. The objectives of the Program are:

- To complete the inspection and cleaning of City of San Diego sewer infrastructure located in canyons and other environmentally sensitive areas.
- To identify and implement efficient, effective, and environmentally sensitive means to accomplish the necessary canyon sewer cleaning activities.
- To provide for long-term maintenance of canyon sewer infrastructure, recognizing that availability of access to the infrastructure is essential for an effective long-term program, in accordance with Council Policy 400-13.
- To evaluate and pursue options to redirect sewage flows out of canyons and into street sewer lines or other accessible areas, where feasible and appropriate pursuant to Council Policy 400-14.

PUD provides an annual progress report (the 2022 Annual Program Report) to the Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee (OSCAC) on the Program for the year from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This report provides the status of all Program activities within the reporting year including habitat mitigation, long term access planning and implementation, construction and emergency projects, and 25-month revegetation and restoration projects located throughout the City of San Diego. The full report and details for all activities in 2022 can be found in Attachment 4c.

#### Engineering & Capital Improvements Department

In 2022, ECP reported three projects: Lobrico Court Storm Drain, Riviera Del Sol Neighborhood Park and Salk Neighborhood Park. Impacts associated with these projects did not occur within the MHPA. However, it should be noted that mitigation for the Lobrico Court and Salk Elementary projects was provided in the MHPA. Although the Riviera Del Sol project resulted in impacts, no habitat-based mitigation was required since impacts to the project area were previously mitigated when the larger area was developed over twenty years ago by a private developer (City Council Resolution R-294924). The developer was responsible for complying with the conditions of Permit No. 98-0762, including the purchase of habitat-based mitigation credit prior to issuance of the first grading permit. More details of these projects can be found in Attachment 4d.

#### Stormwater Department

The Municipal Waterways Maintenance Plan (MWMP) (Project No. 616992) and its associated Final Environmental Impact Report (Project No. 616992/SCH No. 2017071022) was adopted and certified by the San Diego City Council in June 2020. The MWMP allows SWD to conduct maintenance and repair activities within its stormwater facilities located throughout the City, and it requires mitigation for any related impacts to environmental resources, such as upland and wetland vegetation. In 2022, SWD maintained and completed the following MWMP projects:

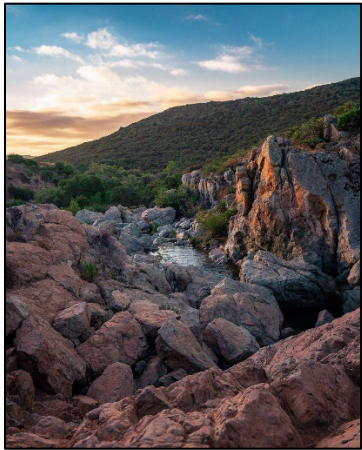
#### Routine Maintenance

- Alvarado 1
- Home 2
- Tripp 1

#### Emergency Maintenance

- Alpha 1 and Ocean View 1
- Smuggler's Gulch 1

Total SWD impacts in 2022 were approximately 7.08 acres. The Smuggler’s Gulch Channel Emergency channel maintenance impacted a total of 3.48 acres (previously mitigated) within the MHPA which comprised of approximately 0.1 acres of Natural Flood Channel, 0.61 acres of Ornamental Plantings, 2.74 acres of Disturbed Land, and 0.03 acres of Urban/Developed Land. Similar impacts at this facility have occurred in the past. All other impacts for the other channels listed above occurred outside of the MHPA. Overall, SWD 2022 activities impacted riparian scrub, freshwater marsh, natural flood channel, disturbed upland and wetland habitats, ornamental plantings, and other vegetation communities within concrete-lined, earthen, or a combination of the two types of channels. Please refer to Attachment 4e which details related impact acreages to the various vegetation and wetland communities listed.



To compensate and mitigate for 2022 and past losses, SWD uses available SWD as well as non-SWD managed mitigation opportunities and continues to plan, design, permit, construct, and conduct long-term monitoring and maintenance of several mitigation sites. A few mitigation sites have already been developed and approved (i.e., signed-off or in-construction) and credits have been allocated for the one-time mitigation that is required and assigned to MWMP facilities. In addition, SWD continues to coordinate permitting activities with the regulatory and resource agencies on remaining potential mitigation sites to serve as permittee-responsible mitigation for specific prioritized MWMP facilities or advanced-permittee responsible mitigation with credit acreage that may be assigned to MWMP facilities as they are prioritized. SWD used or will use the sites listed in Table 3 below to offset impacts for its 2022 maintenance activities.

TABLE 3 – 2022 SWD MITIGATION SITES	
Mitigation Site	Status
Los Peñasquitos Canyon Enhancement Phase I	In long-term management
El Cuervo del Sur Phase I	Remains in the initial 5-year maintenance and monitoring period
2015 - 2016 Emergency Mitigation Plan-Enhancement Sites	In Year 1 of 5-year maintenance and monitoring period
Tijuana River Valley Emergency Channel Mitigation Project	In long-term management
Tijuana River Valley In-Channel Enhancement Area and the Out-of-Channel Enhancement Area	In long-term management
Stadium Wetlands Mitigation	Credits allocated; site is operated by PUD
Rancho Jamul Phase IIB	Proposed private mitigation bank in review

The **Los Peñasquitos Canyon Enhancement Phase I** project (Los Peñasquitos Phase I) received sign-off from the resource agencies in 2021 and is currently in long-term management. Los Peñasquitos Phase 1 provides a total of 7.30 acres of wetland enhancement mitigation credits. A portion of Tripp 1 mitigation for impacts have previously been assigned at this site. The **El Cuervo del Sur Phase I** project entered Year 5 of the Maintenance and Monitoring Period in 2022. It provides a total of 2.3 acres of creation credits. The remainder of Tripp 1 impacts were previously mitigated at this location. Mitigation for



Smuggler's Gulch 1 Emergency was previously provided at the Tijuana River Creation Site (11.02 acres), the **Tijuana River Valley In-Channel Enhancement Area** (4.31 acres) and the **Tijuana River Valley Out-of-Channel Enhancement Area** (4.31 acres), which are all in long-term management. SWD has also reserved approximately 13 acres of mitigation credits at the Public Utilities Department's (PUD's) **Stadium (San Diego River)** mitigation site through multiple purchases of credit. Impacts for Home 2 and Alvarado 1 routine channel maintenance were previously mitigated at the Stadium site. Mitigation credits for the Alpha 1 and Ocean View 1 Emergency are planned at the Stadium site, pending approval and purchase from PUD, as well as the **Rancho Jamul Phase IIB** (privately-owned) mitigation site. SWD has already purchased 3.3 credits at Rancho Jamul Phase IIB and anticipates being able to apply those credits once the project's Banking Enabling Instrument (BEI) is approved by the resource agencies.

Additional information about the channel maintenance and mitigation site projects are documented in SWD's [MWMP FY22 Annual Report](#). This report covers work that occurred in fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022)

Information on the [MWMP](#) and [Final EIR](#) can be accessed by the public online on the City's website and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) website.

#### **NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMP) fulfill the MSCP Implementing Agreement requirement to prepare area specific management directives consistent with MSCP directives for MHPA preserve lands. See below for a status update of NRMPs currently in process.



Crest Canyon Open Space Park NRMP - The climate adaptation and invasive species sections are being prepared for this NRMP which is expected to be submitted to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and CDFW (wildlife agencies) in summer 2022, and for public review in fall 2024. A large sinkhole and subsequent emergency project in the canyon have added some additional time and information to the NRMP. A large-scale mitigation project and restoration project will be implemented in the canyon upon completion of the emergency project. Restoration is expected to be ongoing for the next 5 years.

Tecolote Canyon Natural Park NRMP - The NRMP and Master Plan Update have been approved by the wildlife agencies, the public, and are being reviewed by the Development Services Department for necessary permits to implement the revised trail system. Final alignments of trails, bridges, and location of mitigation areas are pending due to the Tecolote Trunk Sewer Project that will be implemented in 2023. The NRMP is expected to be complete in late 2024.

Pacific Highlands Ranch NRMP -The climate adaptation and invasive species sections are being prepared for this NRMP which is expected to be submitted to the wildlife agencies in fall 2023, and for public review in spring 2024.

Otay Valley Regional Park NRMP – Biological survey updates were completed in spring/summer 2020 and document revisions are scheduled for fall 2023, or spring 2024.

Lusardi and La Zanja Canyons NRMP - Biological surveys are complete and the document is scheduled to be drafted in the winter 2023 or spring 2024.

#### **MHPA LAND MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING**

Land management in support of the City's MSCP Subarea Plan is performed by PUD and PRD. A summary of management activities performed by each department are as follows:

##### **Public Utilities Department Lands**

In 2022, management activities were conducted by PUD staff and consultants within Cornerstone and PUD-owned lands including Barrett Reservoir, Eichenlaub Ranch, El Capitan Reservoir, Hodges Reservoir, Lake Murray and Chaparral Canyon, Marron Valley, Upper and Lower Otay Reservoirs, Pamo Valley, Proctor Valley, San Diego River and Lakeside, San Pasqual Valley, and Sutherland Reservoir. Activities included, but were not limited to, field inspections, trash and debris removal, fence repair, invasive species detection and removal, sign installation, weed abatement, maintenance and monitoring of restoration sites, vernal pool monitoring, vernal pool maintenance and restoration, and cactus wren habitat restoration (Attachment 5).

In addition, PUD manages the Canyon Sewer Cleaning Program and Long-Term Sewer Maintenance Program. The objectives of the program are to complete the inspection and cleaning of the City's sewer infrastructure located in canyons and other environmentally sensitive areas, and identify and implement efficient, effective, and environmentally sensitive means to accomplish the necessary canyon sewer cleaning activities. The program also provides opportunities to evaluate and pursue sewage flow redirection by removing sewer lines from canyons and relocating them within streets or other accessible, less biologically sensitive areas. More details are available in the 2022 Program Progress Report in Attachment 4c.



##### **Parks & Recreation Department Lands**

Management of MHPA lands within the City's conserved open space areas is performed by PRD's Open Space Division and is the responsibility of an interdisciplinary team of biologists, park rangers, pesticide applicators, ground maintenance managers and workers, planners, and nature center directors. In addition to protecting the native species and habitats within each preserve, these staff provide excellent educational opportunities for all park visitors. Each year,

thousands of people visit the nature centers at Tecolote Canyon Natural Park and Mission Trails Regional Park, and hundreds of children participate in environmental education through partnerships with local schools, nature programs, guided walks, and interpretive signs and kiosks.

PRD management activities included trails management, habitat restoration and enhancement, trash removal and illegal camp abatement, brush management and fire protection. Full details of management and monitoring activities covering the City's eleven Ranger Districts can be found in the [MSCP Management Actions Report](#).



The City of San Diego has worked in partnership with the San Diego Management and Monitoring Program (SDMMP), participating jurisdictions and other stakeholders to develop a regional protocol that ensures consistency in data collection and provides a standardized basis for documenting occurrence status and assessing habitat and threats for the various rare plant species. Since 2014, the City of San Diego has submitted rare plant monitoring data to SDMMP for inclusion in a regional database and is available at the following link: [2022 MSCP Rare Plant Monitoring Report](#).

In 2022, PRD's Open Space Division, created the [Multiple Species Conservation Program Covered Species](#) Story Map. Currently, there are eighty-five species protected by the MSCP. Details on specific flora and fauna species covered under the program can be found in this Story Map with the goal of informing the public and city staff about protected species to better monitor and manage these species and their associated habitats.

#### Heritage Brodiaea Preserve

The Heritage Brodiaea Preserve (HBP) is an approximately 14-acre biological open space area that was dedicated as part of the Heritage Bluffs II development project. The HBP is in the northern part of San Diego County. The HBP occurs to the south of Carmel Valley Road and to the east of the Black Mountain Open Space Preserve.

The City included the HBP area into its MSCP Subarea Plan's MHPA in 2021. The goal of the HBP is to facilitate the conservation, preservation, and enhancement of biological resources as part of mitigation for impacts associated with development of the Heritage Bluffs II and East Clusters development project sites. The HBP has preserved a regionally significant population of thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*) in a conservation easement dedicated for that purpose.



The 2022 HBP 2021 Summary Monitoring Report (Year 6) presents the results of activities conducted within the Heritage Brodiaea Preserve (HBP) during the period of January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. Activities discussed in this report include site maintenance activities, thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*) 2022 vegetative population counts and flowering data, and native grassland mitigation implementation. The full 2022 HBP Summary Monitoring Report has been provided as Attachment 6.

#### VERNAL POOL HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

The City of San Diego [Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan](#) (VPHCP) and [Vernal Pool Management and Monitoring Plan](#) (VPMMP) were adopted by the San Diego City Council on January 22, 2018, and the federal take permit was received in August 2018. The VPHCP and VPMMP are available on the City's [Biodiverse SD website](#). The VPHCP added an additional 275 acres into the City's MHPA and provided additional conserved habitat for the following seven threatened and endangered species:



- Otay Mesa mint (*Pogogyne nudiuscula*, PONU)
- San Diego Mesa mint (*Pogogyne abramsii*, POAB)
- Spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*, NAFO)
- San Diego button-celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*, ERAR)
- California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*, ORCA)
- Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*, RFS)
- San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*, SDFS)



The City began implementation of the VPHCP and VPMMP in 2019. Implementation of the VPMMP component of the VPHCP stipulates that all conserved vernal pool complexes be monitored where legal access is available. The City conducts quantitative covered plant monitoring utilizing ArcGIS Survey 123—a form-centric data collection software used to create, share, and analyze survey data using online or mobile devices. Monitoring for lands owned and managed by the City—including those managed by PRD Open Space Division, PUD and DREAM—is completed in accordance with the Final City VPHCP (2018) and VPMMP (2018).

Due to the complexity of monitoring activity experienced in the first few years of VPHCP and VPMMP implementation, reporting is behind by one year. The most recent report is the 2021 [VPHCP Management and Monitoring Report](#) (2021 Summary Report) which utilizes an access database to translate ArcGIS Survey 123 data into a user-friendly document. The 2021 Summary Report included components such as private project VPMMP implementation, vernal pool “take” reporting, citywide changes in vernal pool management levels, and funding mechanisms. The 2021 Summary Report also includes total funds expended for implementation of the VPMMP as well as identification of the amount and source of funding necessary for the following year based on the results of the annual management and monitoring.

The City met with the wildlife agencies in January 2023 to discuss the results of the year 2021 monitoring and analysis and necessary adaptations to ongoing vernal pool management and monitoring. Continued coordination with the wildlife agencies is an important component to preparing VPHCP reporting and fulfilling the requirements of the VPHCP and VPMMP. The 2022 VPHCP Summary Report is underway and will include data analysis of qualitative and covered species monitoring data collected in several complexes throughout the city. Once completed, the 2022 Summary Report will be available on the [Biodiverse SD](#) webpage.

**MHPA BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENTS (BLA) AND BOUNDARY LINE CORRECTIONS (BLC)**

The Planning Department ensures implementation of the MSCP Subarea plan—partly through review of private and public development projects. In 2022, the Planning Department completed over 230 development reviews for conformance with the MSCP Subarea Plan and the City’s Environmentally Sensitive Lands regulations. The City tracks all individual project and community plan BLA and BLC additions and subtractions to the MHPA as part of development project review and maintains a comprehensive in-house GIS database. BLA and BLC addition areas that have been formally conserved do not show up as HabiTrak gain due to the use of the original 1997 MHPA boundary for HabiTrak functions. The City is evaluating alternatives for incorporating BLA, BLC, and VPHCP additions to the MHPA into HabiTrak. The City and wildlife agencies conducted five BLA meetings in 2022. During these meetings, proposed BLAs and BLCs were discussed as well as other project-based or informational items. Table 4 below presents the status of BLAs and BLCs discussed in 2022.

**Boundary Line Adjustments**

Section 1.1.1 of the City’s MSCP Subarea Plan (1997) provides that, “adjustments to the MHPA boundaries may be made without the need to amend either this Subarea Plan or the MSCP Plan in cases where the new MHPA boundary results in an area of equivalent or higher biological value” and that, “the determination of the biological value of a proposed boundary change will be made by the City in accordance with the MSCP Plan, with the concurrence of the wildlife agencies.” Section 5.4.2 of the Final MSCP Plan (August 1998) sets forth the six criteria that the City and wildlife agency staff use to determine if a proposed BLA meets the “functional equivalency” test. MSCP staff obtain wildlife agency concurrence on BLA findings through the development review process. For 2022, there were no MHPA BLA approvals to report.

**Boundary Line Corrections (BLCs)**

The original MHPA boundary for the City was established as part of the regional MSCP mapping efforts, which became effective in March 1997. In 2012, the city and wildlife agencies agreed MHPA BLCs are allowed to rectify minor mapping inaccuracies at the project level. For a MHPA BLC to be supported by City staff, it must be clearly demonstrated that:

- 1) The proposed area to be corrected out was legally permitted prior to plan adoption in 1997; OR,
- 2) No habitat, including wetlands, would be removed,
- 3) No buffer area (e.g., wetland buffer, wildlife corridor) would be impacted, AND,
- 4) Removing the area from the MHPA would not release the applicant from having to otherwise comply with the City's MSCP Land Use Adjacency Guidelines.

Three MHPA BLCs were processed through review and approval of project specific entitlements in 2022 as listed in Table 4 below.

TABLE 4 - MHPA BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENTS & CORRECTIONS CALENDAR YEAR 2021				
Project Name	Project Number	Project Submittal Date	BLA/BLC Approval Date	Project Description
Jerabek Park Improvement Project (BLC)	WBS S-20007.02.06	April 28, 2021	August 25, 2022	The MHPA BLC removed a portion of the project (6,687 sf) that was legally permitted and developed in 1984. The project would not remove any habitat and would not impact any buffers or wildlife corridors.
Rincon Street Improvements (BLC)	PRJ 103058	August 6, 2021	December 19, 2022	The MHPA BLC removed a portion of the project (3,000 sf) that was legally permitted and developed in 1951. The project would not remove any habitat and would not impact any buffers or wildlife corridors.
Salk Neighborhood Park* (BLC)	WBS S-14007.02.06 (PTS 649077)	October 17, 2019	October 21, 2020	The project resulted in a MHPA BLC correcting MHPA skew along the project's western and northern property boundaries. The BLC included a minor subtraction and addition to the MHPA.

*\*Salk Neighborhood Park was inadvertently left out of the 2020 MSCP Annual Report so is being reported in 2022.*

#### **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

The City of San Diego provides numerous environmental education and volunteer opportunities on approximately 27,000 acres of open space managed by PRD. Although limited by the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020, educational opportunities began to reestablish in 2021 as facilities reopened and park rangers and non-profit groups provided hundreds of hours of educational talks and interpretive hikes to park visitors and local school children throughout the City's eleven Park Ranger Districts. In 2022, that trend continued with numerous special events taking place through coordination with groups such as the San Diego Mountain Bike Association (SDMBA), Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon, I Love a Clean San Diego, Ocean Discovery Institute (ODI) and San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF).



SDMBA hosted guided bike rides to educate bikers about sustainable recreational trail use and encourage participation in the restoration and conservation of natural areas. Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon hosted several themed public hikes to educate hikers about the local habitats and

vegetation communities. Park Rangers and I Love A Clean San Diego hosted the annual Creek to Bay Cleanup event at Chollas Lake, including North Chollas and adjacent open space areas which resulted in the cleanup of approximately 2,500 pounds of trash. ODI hosted In-School and Out-of-School programs where students participate in trash collection, invasive grass removal, native plantings, and science experiments. ODI taught 5,529 students throughout 2022 with their programs. With the help of their students, ODI removed 200 pounds of litter and planted approximately 1,500 native seeds within the canyon. The SDRPF Youth Education Team hosted 21 field trips. These field trips teach students the importance of science and the riparian ecosystem. The students conduct their own bioassessment where they examine live small invertebrates under a microscope. City park rangers worked with local non-profit partners to organize outreach events to engage the local community. These events included Latino Conservation Week hosted by San Diego Audubon, National Night Out at the South Bay Recreation Center, the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike the Bay by the San Diego Bike Coalition and the San Diego Mountain Biking Association, Joint River Cleanup with San Diego Coastkeeper, and a planting event with the Institute for Public Strategies. Park rangers also held outreach events to educate students and visitors about the Tri-Canyons Parks, led nature walks, and participated in Ranger pop-ups where they talked to park visitors about the local ecology, seed dispersal, and Monarch butterflies.

The Planning Department continues to explore opportunities to provide more easily accessible information related to the MSCP and the VPHCP. In addition to the Multiple Species Conservation Program Covered Species Story Map created by PRD, the [VPHCP Interactive Mapping Tool](#) and [MHPA interactive map](#) are available through the Planning Department's website, to provide easy access to detailed information regarding the MHPA, vegetation mapping and conservation status. The Planning Department now includes a Public Engagement Program Manager and is continuing to develop innovative ways to equitably engage with the community.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The City of San Diego continues to demonstrate commitment to the MSCP through comprehensive and innovative implementation. From project review and development permitting, through land acquisition and management, City staff works side by side with our partner agencies, non-profits, and the public to keep the Multiple Species Conservation Program at the forefront of regional habitat conservation. We look forward to continuous collaboration well into the future—thus ensuring the success of HCPs critical role in California's conservation efforts.

Please contact Kristy Forburger at (619) 236-6583 or Dan Monroe at (619) 236-5529 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



**Heidi Vonblum**, Director  
Planning Department  
City of San Diego

KF/dmm

- Attachments:
1. City of San Diego Habitak Summary Tables 2022
    - a. Habitat Conservation Accounting Model
    - b. Summary of Habitat Losses and Gains
    - c. Summary of Project Gains
    - d. Summary of Project Losses
  2. HAF Deposit Schedule for Calendar Year 2022
  3. Marron Valley Cornerstone Lands Conservation Bank
    - a. Summary of Marron Valley Cornerstone Lands Conservation Bank Debits
    - b. Cornerstone Land Mitigation Fund 700021
  4. City of San Diego Department Project Accounting
    - a. 2022 PUD Project Impacts by Habitat
    - b. 2022PUD Mitigation Assignments
    - c. 2022 Canyon Sewer Program Progress Report
    - d. 2022 ECP MSCP Project Summary
    - e. 2022 SWD Impact Totals by Project and Habitat
  5. 2022 PUD Resource Management Activities
  6. Heritage Brodiaea Preserve 2022 Annual Report

cc:

David Zoutendyk, Division Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Janet Struckroth, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Pat Gower, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Karen Drewe, Senior Environmental Scientist, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Jennifer Turner, Senior Environmental Scientist, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Heidi Vonblum, Director, Planning Department  
Kelley Stanco, Deputy Director, Planning Department  
Julia Chase, Chief Resilience Officer, Planning Department  
Kristen Forburger, Development Project Manager III, Planning Department  
Andy Field, Director, Parks and Recreation Department  
Karen Dennison, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department  
Erika Ferreira, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation Department  
Amy Dorman, Assistant Director, Public Utilities Department  
Keli Balo, Interim Deputy Director, Public Utilities Department  
James Nagelvoort, Director, Engineering and Capital Projects Department  
Carrie Purcell, Assistant Deputy Director, Engineering and Capital Projects Department  
Sumer Hasenin, Assistant Deputy Director, Stormwater Department  
Eddie Salinas, Interim Deputy Director, Stormwater Department  
Elyse Lowe, Director, Development Services Department  
Penny Maus, Director, Department of Real Estate Assets and Airport Management