

Appendix U10

Management Strategic Plan for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego County

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The *TransNet* Extension Ordinance and Expenditure Plan, approved countywide by voters in November 2004, includes an Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP), which is a funding allocation category for the cost to “create a reliable approach for funding required mitigation for future transportation improvements thereby reducing costs and accelerating project delivery (*TransNet* Extension Ordinance Section D).” On February 22, 2008, the Board of Directors authorized a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Caltrans, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish the process to implement the goals of the *TransNet* EMP over a ten-year period. The original MOA, executed on March 19, 2008, memorialized a Plan of Finance strategy that allocates \$40 million dollars over ten years to assist with regional management and monitoring. On February 22, 2019, a new MOA was approved providing for an additional \$40 million in funding for ten more years. This financial assistance will provide greater assurance that resources will not degrade in the regional open space plan areas while the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is acquiring additional mitigation lands.

In 2008, the EMP established the San Diego Management and Monitoring Program (SDMMP) to coordinate science-based biological management and monitoring of lands in San Diego County that have been protected through various conservation planning and mitigation efforts. The SDMMP works collaboratively with over 115 partner organizations to create more efficient strategies for managing and monitoring plants and animals. These partners include local, state, and federal government agencies, non-profit organizations, and research and education organizations.

A milestone was achieved in 2013 with the completion of the Management Strategic Plan (MSP) for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego County. This document, developed in conjunction with federal and state wildlife agencies, local jurisdictions, land managers, non-profits and key stakeholders, identifies the goals, objectives, and key tasks necessary to successfully manage lands conserved as part of the regional habitat preserve system. As recommended in the FY 2012 *TransNet* Triennial Performance, the Strategic Plan prioritizes management activities for species, habitat, and vegetation communities as a way to inform management decisions in the region and to link available funding from the *TransNet* Regional Habitat Conservation Fund to other federal, state, and local funding to promote effective use of these funds. Simply put, the MSP identifies what tasks need to be accomplished, why these tasks are important, and how they should be prioritized for regional funding. Milestones are provided by fiscal year to provide a roadmap for the implementation of the MSP. On October 26, 2018, the SANDAG Board of Directors adopted a Work Plan to implement the MSP through the strategic allocations of funds.

The SDMMP can be viewed at: <https://sdmmp.com/>

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