

June 4, 2024

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**SUBJECT: 2023 MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT**

Dear Mr. Sobiech and Ms. Burlaza:

**MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM (MSCP) 2023 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY**

Enclosed is the City of San Diego's 2023 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 2023, the City recorded a total habitat gain of 110 acres (66 acres inside the MHPA and 44 acres outside the MHPA). The total habitat loss for 2023 was 64 acres (0.5 acres were lost inside the MHPA and 63 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 2023 reporting year (January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023).

<b>TABLE 1 – 2023 CITY OF SAN DIEGO CONSERVATION ACCOUNTING</b>				
<b>MHPA conservation requirement</b>	<b>Conserved acreage within the MHPA</b>	<b>Conserved acreage outside the MHPA</b>	<b>Lands obligated for future MHPA conservation</b>	<b>Remaining MHPA conservation requirement</b>
<b>(2022) 52,727 acres</b>	<b>36,544 acres</b>	<b>3,200 acres</b>	<b>14,932 acres</b>	<b>1,251 acres</b>
<b>(2023) 52,727 acres</b>	<b>36,608 acres</b>	<b>3,244 acres</b>	<b>14,932 acres</b>	<b>1,187 acres</b>

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 unhoued 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 2023, three approved discretionary projects paid into the HAF for a total of \$473,165 (Attachment 2). As of December 31, 2023—the HAF balance was \$1,275,536 of which—\$1,153,394 has been allocated for future acquisition and \$30,498 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 City Planning Department, Parks & Recreation Department (PRD), Public Utilities Department (PUD) and Engineering & Capital Projects (ECP). Acquisitions for 2023 are discussed below and included in Table 2.

In 2023 the City Planning Department acquired Attisha Trust through a dedication. No land was purchased using the HAF in 2023.

<b>TABLE 2 – 2023 CITY OF SAN DIEGO CONSERVATION ACQUISITIONS</b>						
<b>Parcel Name</b>	<b>APN</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Purchase Price</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Deed Recorded</b>	<b>Funding Source 2023</b>
<b>Attisha Trust</b>	<b>645-050-04</b>	<b>13.15</b>	<b>Dedicated</b>	<b>Otay Mesa</b>	<b>6/08/2023</b>	<b>Dedicated</b>

**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 2023, two projects utilized habitat credit sales. The total bank balance is 892.25 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. The current land value is \$2,378,329, the total endowment amount is \$371,598 and current burrowing owls total is \$5,302, for an overall account total of \$2,755,229 as of December 31, 2023 (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 2023 calendar year are as follows:



**Public Utilities Department (PUD)**

In 2023, PUD implemented a total of four emergency projects that resulted in impacts to sensitive biological resources requiring mitigation (Attachment 4a). In 2023, there were two projects reported with impacts inside the MHPA. These included the Emergency SPS 77A Force Main Vault Spill/Lake Hodges Emergency Sewer Blow-off Valve Removal and Sewer Manhole 247 Emergency Repair in Rose Canyon. The two projects impacted sensitive habitat including Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (0.26 acres) and Non-Native Grassland (0.25 acres). The total impact for these projects was 0.51 acres which required 0.53 acres of mitigation (Attachment 4b).

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 the City 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 provided an annual progress report (the 2023 Annual Program Report) to the Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee (OSCAC) on the Program for the year from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This report provided 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. The full report and details for all activities in 2023 can be found in Attachment 4c.

**Engineering & Capital Improvements Department**

In 2023, ECP reported six projects with impacts to the MHPA. These included the 10428 Clairemont Mesa Blvd SD Emergency, 12200 Escala Drive Emergency, 4356 Altamirano Way SD Emergency, Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, Sewer Group Job 836 and La Media Road Improvements. The six projects impacted sensitive upland habitat including Disturbed Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (0.04 acres), Diegan Coastal Sage

Scrub (0.13 acres), Southern Mixed Chaparral (0.001 acres) and Nonnative Grassland (1.2 acres). The six projects impacted wetland including Southern Willow Riparian Forest (0.03 acres), Oak Riparian Forest (0.06 acres), Vernal Pool (0.01 acres), Freshwater Marsh (0.40 acres), Emergent Wetland (0.39 acres) and Southern Willow Scrub (0.06 acres). These projects impacted a total of 1.37 acres of upland habitat which required 1.2 acres of mitigation; and 0.95 acres of wetland habitat which required 1.93 acres of mitigation. Note that impacts associated with 10428 Clairemont Mesa Blvd SD Emergency, 12200 Escala Drive Emergency, 4356 Altamirano Way SD Emergency and Scripps Miramar Ranch Library were less than a tenth of an acre which did not require mitigation. 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 2023, SWD maintained and completed the following MWMP projects:

Routine Maintenance

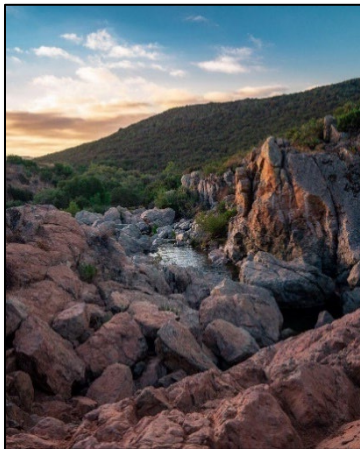
- Pomerado 2
- Tripp 1
- Mission Gorge 1 & 2
- Home 2

Repeat Maintenance

- Mission Gorge 3

Emergency Maintenance

- Alpha 1 & Ocean View 1
- Texas Street Brow Ditch



All SWD impacts in 2023 were located outside of the MHPA. Please refer to Attachment 4e which details related impact acreages to the various vegetation and wetland communities listed.

To compensate and mitigate for 2023 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 2023 maintenance activities.

TABLE 3 – 2023 SWD MITIGATION SITES	
Mitigation Site	Status
Los Peñasquitos Canyon Enhancement Phase I	In long-term management

San Luis Rey Mitigation Bank	Credits purchased and allocated
Marron Valley Cornerstone Lands Mitigation Bank	Credits purchased and allocated
Stadium Wetland Mitigation	Credits purchased and allocated; site is operated by PUD

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. SWD has also reserved approximately 13 acres of mitigation credits at 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.

In FY 2023, SWD also made progress on other Permittee Responsible Mitigation (PRM) and Advanced Permittee Responsible Mitigation (APRM) sites that will provide the required mitigation for past as well as future facility maintenance activities. These sites are listed below in Table 4.

TABLE 4 – 2023 PRM and APRM Sites	
Mitigation Site	Status
2015/2016 Emergency Mitigation Plan Rehabilitation Sites: South Chollas & Paradise Canyon	Bid and Contracting in Progress
Smythe-Bandola	Bid and Contracting in Progress
Los Peñasquitos Canyon Enhancement Phase I	Bid and Contracting in Progress
El Cuervo del Sure Phase II	Bid and Contracting in Progress

Additional information about the channel maintenance and mitigation site projects are documented in SWD’s [MWMP FY23 Annual Report](#). This report covers work that occurred in fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023).

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 (NRMPs) fulfill the MSCP Implementing Agreement requirement to prepare area-specific management directives consistent with MSCP directives for MHPA preserve lands.

**NRMP Strategic Roadmap**

In 2023, the City initiated a geospatial analysis to provide a framework for future NRMP planning and prioritization. MSCP Management Intern and Duke University graduate student Adam Skinner performed the study, with guidance from City biologists, with the intent to provide a data and equity-driven roadmap

for determining NRMP boundaries and prioritizing future NRMP preparation. Proposed NRMP boundaries were delineated based on several factors, including watershed, habitat connectivity, habitat type and MHPA designation. The preliminary prioritization is based on a geospatial analysis that included several metrics relevant to the MSCP and equity: connectivity-core size, connectivity-linkage length, species diversity of rare plants, species diversity of rare animals, socio-economic status/climate vulnerability and percent city-owned land. A full report (the NRMP Strategic Roadmap) detailing the methods, results and recommendations resulting from this analysis is currently in preparation and is expected to be included as an attachment in the 2024 MSCP Report. The City intends to complete the NRMPs that are currently in progress and then move forward with preparing NRMPs in the order recommended by the NRMP Strategic Roadmap. See below for a status update on the NRMPs currently in process.

- **Crest and Gonzales Canyons NRMP:** The NRMP Strategic Roadmap study strongly indicated that the areas known as Crest Canyon, North City West Open Space and Gonzales Canyon should be considered a single connected biological resource area as determined by multiple factors, including shared watershed, habitat connectivity and similarity of sensitive resources. Previously, Crest Canyon was being prepared as a separate NRMP, while North City West Open Space and Gonzales Canyon were included in the Pacific Highlands Ranch NRMP, which included additional MHPA areas south of Del Mar Heights Road. The result is that the relevant portions of the Pacific Highlands Ranch NRMP are now being combined with the Crest Canyon NRMP to create a new Crest and Gonzales Canyons NRMP. The Draft Crest and Gonzales Canyons NRMP is expected to be ready for agency review in late 2024.
- **Tecolote Canyon Natural Park NRMP:** The NRMP and Master Plan Update have been approved by the wildlife agencies and 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 the 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 completed in late 2025.
- **Pacific Highlands Ranch NRMP:** As previously noted, the North City West Open Space and Gonzales Canyon areas are now included in the Crest and Gonzales Canyons NRMP. The MHPA areas south of Del Mar Heights Road are expected to be included in a forthcoming addition to the Del Mar Mesa and Carmel Mountain NRMP, along with additional MHPA land adjacent to Carmel Mountain Preserve.
- **Otay Valley Regional Park NRMP:** Biological surveys have been completed. Draft document revisions are scheduled for fall 2024.
- **Lusardi and La Zanja Canyons NRMP:** The biological surveys are complete. The document is scheduled to be drafted in the summer of 2025.

#### **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 2023, 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 2023 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 2022 [MSCP Management Actions Report](#). PRD Open Space staff are currently updating the 2023 MSCP Management Actions Report. The final 2023 Management Actions report will be posted to the City's website upon completion, anticipated in summer 2024.

The City 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 has submitted rare plant monitoring data to SDMMP for inclusion in a regional database and is available at the following link: [2023 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 the 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 2023 HBP Summary Monitoring Report (Year 6) presents the results of activities conducted within the Heritage Brodiaea Preserve (HBP) during the period of January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. Activities discussed in this report include site maintenance activities, thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*) 2023 vegetative population counts and flowering data and native grassland mitigation implementation. The full 2023 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)





*Above: Spea hammondii*

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 was behind by one year. The 2022 VPHCP Summary Report was completed in 2023 and has been published on the City’s Biodiverse SD page. The most recent report is the [2022 VPHCP Summary Report](#) (2022 Summary Report) which utilizes an access database to translate ArcGIS Survey 123 data into a user-friendly document. The 2022 Summary Report included components such as private project VPMMP implementation, vernal pool “take” reporting, citywide changes in vernal pool management levels and funding mechanisms. Additionally, the City has developed an online portal to facilitate private property management reporting for vernal pools that launched in 2024. The 2022 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 2024 to discuss the results of the year 2022 and 2023 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 2023 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 2023 Summary Report will be available on the [Biodiverse SD](#) webpage.

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

The City Planning Department ensures implementation of the MSCP Subarea plan—in part through review of private and public development projects. In 2023, the City 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 twelve BLA meetings in 2023. 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 2023.

#### **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. There were two MHPA BLA approvals in 2023 as listed in Table 5 below.

#### **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.

Four MHPA BLCs were processed through review and approval of project specific entitlements in 2023 as listed in Table 5 below.

<b>TABLE 5 - MHPA BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENTS &amp; CORRECTIONS</b>				
<b>CALENDAR YEAR 2023</b>				
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project Submittal Date</b>	<b>BLA/BLC Approval Date</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
2662 Garnet Avenue Parcel	PTS-704493	December 1, 2022	November 22, 2023	The MHPA BLC removed a portion of the project (0.142 acres) that was legally permitted and developed in 1953. The project would not remove any sensitive habitat and would not impact any buffers or wildlife corridors.
Scripps Summit Pointe	PTS-699240	December 8, 2021	February 8, 2023	The BLC included a minor subtraction and addition to the MHPA resulting in the removal of 7.85 acres of legally permitted and developed.
One Alexandria North	PTS 691642	May 10, 2021	March 22, 2023	The MHPA BLC removed a portion of the project (0.2 acres) that was legally permitted and developed in 1980. The project would not remove any habitat and would not impact any buffers or wildlife corridors.
Otay Mesa Corporate Center	88-1144	May 3, 2023	June 20, 2023	The MHPA BLC removed a portion (2.33 acres) of legally permitted and developed land in 1992. The project would not remove any habitat and would not impact any buffers or wildlife corridors.
El Camino Memorial	PTS-670391	July 21, 2020	January 20, 2023	The El Camino Memorial Conditional Use Permit Amendment was an expansion of the cemetery development area. The MHPA BLA adjusted out 0.01 acres of Coast live oak woodland and 0.68 Diegan coastal sage scrub by adding 0.07 acres of coast live oak woodland, 0.74 acres of Diegan coastal sage scrub and 0.01 acres of Southern mixed chaparral.

Palm-Hollister	PTS-698277	October 28, 2021	January 25, 2023	The Palm-Hollister project was mapped as disturbed land and developed. The MHPA BLA adjusted out the 2.2 acres of MHPA covering disturbed land on the project site by offsetting through conservation of a 0.91 acre parcel in Otay Mesa and purchasing 5.16 acres of credit in the City's Habitat Acquisition Fund.
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**PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

The City Planning Department continues to explore opportunities to provide more easily accessible information related to the MSCP and the VPHCP. The City Planning MSCP program and webpage was revamped under the heading Biodiverse SD to highlight the biodiversity of the region and emphasize how the MSCP strengthens and protects our unique ecosystems and regional biodiversity. This webpage includes the [Multiple Species Conservation Program Covered Species Story Map](#), the [VPHCP Interactive Mapping Tool](#) and [MHPA interactive map](#) well as links to open space parks and the regulations for biological resources. This public facing webpage provides easy access to detailed information regarding the MHPA, vegetation mapping and conservation status. The City Planning Department includes a Public Engagement Program Manager and is continuing to develop innovative ways to equitably engage with the community.



**WELCOME CEREMONY OF THE MSCP 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WORKSHOP**

The annual MSCP Workshop is a requirement of the MSCP IA and is hosted by rotating jurisdictions every year. In 2023 the City hosted the 25<sup>th</sup> annual MSCP Workshop in-person at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center. The public and stakeholders were invited to attend to hear updates on the City and partnering jurisdictions various accomplishments during the 2022 reporting year and to celebrate 25 years of conservation planning. There were 16 booths hosted by partner jurisdictions and interested parties who have a focus and passion in preserving biodiversity and over 150 participants enthusiastically attended the event. The booths featured various games and prizes focused on conservation planning, from helping native animal species safely use wildlife corridors, native animal snake, tarantulas and raptors demonstrations, and showcasing the success of mitigation and restoration projects that were

completed. The event included a welcome ceremony, live animals and native plants demonstrations, preserved specimens, Mission Trail Visitor Center volunteer led trail hikes and an off-site visit to the Ambrosia Restoration Site.

**CONCLUSION**

The City continues to demonstrate commitment to the MSCP through comprehensive and innovative implementation. From project review and development permitting, to 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Heidi Vonblum".

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

KF/dmm/kg

- Attachments:
1. City of San Diego Habitrak Summary Tables 2023
    - 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 2023
  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. 2023 PUD Project Impacts by Habitat
  - b. 2023PUD Mitigation Assignments
  - c. 2023 Canyon Sewer Program Progress Report
  - d. 2023ECP MSCP Project Summary
  - e. 2023 SWD Impact Totals by Project and Habitat
5. 2023 PUD Resource Management Activities
  6. Heritage Brodiaea Preserve 2023 Annual Report

cc: David Zoutendyk, Division Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Jonathan Snyder, Assistant Field Supervisor, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Anita Eng, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ali Kalinowski, Environmental Scientist, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Heather Schmalbach, Senior Environmental Scientist, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife  
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