

TRANSNET EXTENSION ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM (EMP)

TransNet Ordinance Adopted June 2004

Attachment 1

1. The TransNet Extension Expenditure Plan shall include a funding allocation category entitled “Transportation Project Environmental Mitigation Program.”
2. The Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) shall include an allocation for the estimate direct costs for mitigation of upland and wetland habitat impacts for regional transportation projects included in the proposed TransNet Expenditure Plan, as well as for regional projects that are included in the adopted 2030 Regional Transportation Plan Mobility Network. The “mitigation costs,” including land acquisition, restoration, management, and monitoring, for these regional projects are estimated at approximately \$450 million. Funds for direct mitigation, management and monitoring of these projects shall be placed into a “Transportation Project Mitigation Fund,” where they can be used as partial funding for regional acquisition, habitat management and monitoring activities related to implementation of the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP), and future amendments thereto.
3. The EMP shall also include an allocation for the estimated direct costs for mitigation of upland and wetland habitat impacts for local transportation projects, in a total amount not to exceed \$200 million. Funds for direct mitigation of these projects shall also be placed in the “Transportation Project Mitigation Fund” outlined in Section 2 above.
4. The EMP shall also include a funding allocation for the estimated economic benefits of incorporating specified regional and local transportation projects into applicable habitat conservation plans, thereby allowing mitigation requirements for covered species to be fixed, and allowing mitigation requirements to be met through purchase of land in advance of need in larger blocks at a lower cost. The benefits of this approach are estimated at approximately \$200 million (\$150 million for regional projects and \$50 million for local projects). This amount will be allocated to a “Regional Habitat Conservation Fund,” which will be made available for regional habitat acquisition, management and monitoring activities necessary to implement the MSCP and MHCP described in Section 2 above. Therefore, the total funding allocation for the Environmental Mitigation Program shall be set at \$850 million.
5. SANDAG shall work with the Wildlife Agencies (California Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service) and permit holders under the MSCP and MHCP to establish a regional entity that will be responsible for the allocation of funding included in the “Regional Habitat Conservation Fund” in accordance with the goals and policies of said plans. In addition, this entity will provide recommendations regarding the structure and content of future funding measures as described in Section 10 below.
6. Land acquisitions, and management and monitoring activities, that result from the implementation of this program shall receive credit toward the “regional funding obligations,” if any, under the applicable habitat conservation plans, with the exception that land acquisitions in the MSCP planning area (as designated and permitted as of April 9, 2004) shall not count toward the regional funding obligation for land acquisition (currently estimated at 10,267 acres) established for that program.
7. In order to provide the economic benefits of the proposed EMP, the participating local jurisdictions shall apply for, and the Wildlife Agencies shall process, requests for any necessary amendments to the previously adopted MSCP and related agreements and permits, to include Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) transportation projects as “covered projects” under this plan pursuant to the standards in effect at that time for the remaining life of those plans. For projects in the planning areas of the MHCP and proposed MSCP North County Suburban for unincorporated North County, the participating local

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jurisdictions shall include RTP projects in their proposed plans and implementing agreements, and the Wildlife Agencies will process those plans and agreements so as to provide coverage for RTP projects for the life of those plans.

8. The expenditure of funds included in this allocation category shall be phased over time in order to allow goals of regional habitat acquisition, management and monitoring to be met, while also meeting the requirements for individual transportation projects. The timeframe by which the phasing will be done will allow for the early acquisition of land within the first 10 years of the permits and/or amended permits with corresponding funds available for management and monitoring. In addition, mitigation land for projects in the planning area covered in the proposed MSCP for unincorporated North County shall be purchased within the multiple habitat planning area designated for that plan, while mitigation for projects in the adopted MSCP and MHCP planning areas shall be purchased within the multiple habitat planning areas designated for those plans, unless otherwise approved by SANDAG, the Wildlife Agencies, and affected permit holders. As transportation projects are completed, if it is determined that the actual direct costs for mitigation of upland and wetland habitat impacts are less than those that were estimated in Section 2 above, those cost savings shall be transferred to the "Regional Habitat Conservation Fund" described in Section 4 above.

9. In addition to the direct economic benefits associated with inclusion of these projects in the MSCP and MHCP, SANDAG and the Wildlife Agencies both recognize the value of expedited processing of environmental documents for individual transportation projects by all involved Federal, State, and regional agencies. Therefore, SANDAG and the Wildlife Agencies shall actively support efforts to accomplish complete review of environmental documents within reduced timeframes. To the extent that the processing time required for such documents is reduced, the value of expedited processing shall be allocated equally between transportation-related expenditures and the "Regional Habitat Conservation Fund". SANDAG and the Wildlife Agencies will develop guidelines for implementing this principle within one year of the passage of the TransNet extension.

10. SANDAG agrees to act on additional regional funding measures (a ballot measure and/or other secure funding commitments) to meet the long-term requirements for implementing habitat conservation plans in the San Diego region, within the timeframe necessary to allow a ballot measure to be considered by the voters no later than four years after passage of the TransNet Extension. In the event that such future funding measures generate funding to fully meet regional habitat acquisition and management requirements, SANDAG is authorized to reallocate excess funds included in the "Regional Habitat Conservation Fund" to local transportation projects.

11. In the event that SANDAG and its member agencies are not able to obtain coverage for transportation projects the MSCP and MHCP in accordance with the principles set forth above, the funding allocations set forth in this program shall be made available to meet habitat mitigation requirements of transportation projects, either through an alternative program that is acceptable to SANDAG, its member agencies, and the Wildlife Agencies, or through environmental review and permitting of individual projects under existing regulatory procedures.