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MEMORANDUM

14 June 2000

To : MSHCP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

From : JUNE S. COLLINS, DUDEK

RE : MSHCP ALTERNATIVES DEFINITION PROCESS

This Memorandum describes the overall process for definition of alternatives to be analyzed as part of the MSHCP. The process is based on alternatives information previously provided to the MSHCP Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee recommendations from the June 1, 2000 meeting.

Previously Defined Alternatives

To date, two alternatives documents have been presented to the MSHCP Advisory Committee. These are the *Description of Preliminary Alternatives* (February 2000) and the *Preliminary Draft No Project/No MSHCP Alternative Description* (April 2000). Two alternatives are described in some detail in the February 2000 document – an *Existing Trends Alternative* and an *Open Space Designation Alternative*. As discussed previously with the Advisory Committee, these alternatives were anticipated to be the “bookends” within the range of alternatives to be analyzed as part of the MSHCP.

Ongoing Alternatives Definition Process

Since the February 2000 alternatives document was distributed, a variety of activities have been undertaken to assist in definition of MSHCP alternatives. These include the following: 1) Subarea Working Group meetings; 2) Policy Subcommittee meetings; 3)

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HTM review and analysis. As a result of these activities, the MSHCP Advisory Committee on June 1, 2000 recommended that HTM be evaluated in detail as an MSHCP alternative. (The complete recommendations of the Advisory Committee are attached to this Memorandum).

As a result of the Advisory Committee's recommendation, the following activities will be undertaken to further define the MSHCP alternatives.

1. Analysis of the *Existing Trends Alternative* and the *No Project/No MSHCP Alternative* will proceed. The *Existing Trends Alternative* analysis will assume a hard-line preserve based on existing public/quasi-public lands and existing General Plan open space designations. The analysis will evaluate the degree of species conservation that may result from this alternative.
2. The preliminary HTM zones map distributed at the June 1 Advisory Committee meeting will be refined by the consultant to incorporate biological criteria, safety nets and early warning triggers. In conjunction with these efforts, potential criteria to be incorporated in Area Plans and City Plans regarding MSHCP conservation objectives and permitted activities will also be developed. It is anticipated that the alternative resulting from this work will be a successor to the *Open Space Designation Alternative* described in the previous February 2000 document.

This information will first be assembled by DUDEK with input from the HTM consultant. It will then be reviewed by the Wildlife Agencies and Funding and Implementation Subcommittee prior to review by the MSHCP Advisory Committee. Following MSHCP Advisory Committee review, this information will be presented to the WRCOG MSHCP committee.

3. Other alternatives will be developed and refined as requested by the MSHCP Advisory Committee: This would include the information developed for the preliminary HTM zones map alternative as described above in Item 2. As noted in the attached Advisory Committee recommendations from the 6/1/00 meeting, alternatives that the Advisory Committee may wish to consider include a *Listed Species Only Alternative* and/or a *Listed Species Plus Strong Candidate Species Alternative*.

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The progress of these work efforts will be reported to the Advisory Committee at the July meeting. At the August meeting, it is anticipated that the complete definition of all alternatives to be analyzed as part of the MSHCP will be presented to the Advisory Committee for review and recommendation.