

Potential incremental indirect effects on the waters and sage scrub could occur should Alternatives 7a and 7b cause expansion of the planned community center due to improved transportation capacity.

A community center is planned along Winchester Road at the north end of the WT study area. Existing resources include Riversidean sage scrub and farmlands. Potential incremental indirect effects to the sage scrub habitat could occur should Alternatives 7a or 7b cause intensification of that community center development.

Potential intensification of planned land uses along Scott Road, Craig Avenue, and/or Patton Avenue could occur with implementation of Alternatives 7a or 7b. No sensitive resources would be affected should land uses be intensified along those roadways.

Alternatives 5a and 5b. A village center is planned in Temecula in the vicinity of Alternative 5a. Existing urban development, disturbed alluvial, a small amount of Riversidean sage scrub, and Temecula Creek are in the area of Alternative 5a. Potential intensification of this center could cause incremental indirect effects on these resources, the most sensitive of which is the creek and its associated sensitive habitats.

A community center is planned near Diamond Valley Lake along SR-79. In the vicinity of Alternatives 5a/5b, no sensitive resources would be affected indirectly by any expansion of this community center, should either corridor alternative facilitate that intensification.

Alternatives 5a and 5b could potentially cause intensification of planned low-density residential uses along Butterfield Stage Road in the southern portion of the WT study area. Nonnative grasslands and field crops are in this area. Therefore, potential expansion of this residential area would not cause a substantial indirect effect to biological resources.

4.11.2.12 Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Alternatives 5a and 5b would have the greatest biological impacts because they encompass the greatest amount of a diversity of native habitats, the most linear feet of streams within undeveloped buffer, the most listed species, the largest area of designated critical habitat areas, and would create the highest degree of habitat fragmentation. Alternatives 5a and 5b have the second highest degree of impacts to the MSHCP criteria area, ranked after Alternative 3.

Alternative 3 impacts relatively as much critical habitat area as the 5a and 5b alternatives, slightly fewer streams, less listed species, the same area of vernal pools, and less wildlife habitats. Habitat fragmentation is less due to its shorter extent and proximity to agricultural areas. Alternative 3 would be the most disruptive to the largest block of MSHCP criteria area within the Winchester to Temecula Corridor.

Alternative 1 impacts similar numbers of listed species to the 5a and 5b alternatives, but less critical habitat area and fewer streams than Alternative 3. Alternatives 1 and 7b impact the greatest area of vernal pools which support listed plant species. Wildlife habitat is present in relatively low total area and habitat fragmentation is also low.

The impacts associated with Alternative H are tempered by the fact that an existing 4-lane freeway, I-215, already exists within this alternative. Alternative H may impact several listed species, a relatively moderate amount of critical habitat areas, streams, and low relative area of wildlife habitat. Habitat fragmentation is minimal due to the existing freeway.

The presence of vernal pools and the associated listed plant species increases the relative biological impacts associated with Alternative 7b. All other impacts such as designated critical habitats, streams, and wildlife habitats are less than most of the alternatives.

The relative least amount of biological impact is associated with Alternative 7a. Fewer listed and sensitive species would be affected, very little critical habitat area would be disturbed, and very few streams in undeveloped areas, no vernal pools, no coastal sage scrub, and relatively smaller areas of wildlife habitats. Habitat fragmentation is minimal, since the alternative is primarily within agricultural lands.

4.11.3 Potential Mitigation Measures to be Considered in Tier 2

Potential direct impacts and potential mitigation measures are specified in Table 4.11.A.

4.11.4 Tier 2 Studies

Focused biological surveys that may be required for future construction-level project analysis under Tier 2 include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- C Update vegetation mapping
- C Surveys in accordance with USFWS protocol for listed species:
 - Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp
 - Riverside Fairy Shrimp
 - Quino Checkerspot Butterfly
 - Arroyo Toad
 - Red-legged Frog
 - Coastal California Gnatcatcher
 - Least Bell's Vireo
 - Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
- C Directed surveys for threatened and endangered plant species
- C Delineation of wetlands and jurisdictional waters of the U.S.