

## 2.0 Plan Area Description and Setting



Table 2-6 compares existing and planned land uses within the MSHCP Plan Area. As shown, planned land uses within the Plan Area indicate a shift in future use of land within Western Riverside County. At buildout, approximately 491,300 acres of currently vacant and agricultural lands are anticipated to shift to community development/rural uses. This shift in land use is planned to accommodate projected growth within the Plan Area. The MSHCP is being prepared to provide for maintenance of biological diversity within the Plan Area through assembly and management of an approximately 500,000-acre MSHCP Conservation Area in the context of this projected growth and anticipated land use shift.

**TABLE 2-6  
EXISTING vs. PLANNED LAND USE WITHIN WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

EXISTING LAND USE	ACRES	PLANNED LAND USE	ACRES
Developed	218,260	Community Development/Rural	709,560
Vacant*	871,040	Open Space	469,370
Agriculture	169,480	Agriculture	38,280
		American Indian Lands	41,570
<b>TOTAL*</b>	<b>1,258,780</b>		<b>1,258,780</b>

\* Includes American Indian Lands.

Sources: Existing Land Use: LSA Associates, 1999 with updates 2000, 2001.

Planned Land Use: County of Riverside General Plan Public Hearing Draft, April 5, 2002 and WRCOG City General Plan Land Use Database, October 2000.

## 2.3 DEMOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS

### 2.3.1 Historical Growth

Southern California has experienced periods of rapid growth over most of the past century. As the coastal regions of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties have built-out, much of the new growth has shifted to the inland regions of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. During the 1980s and 1990s, Riverside County led the region in population growth. During the 1990s, Riverside County was also a leader in job growth. In 1970, Riverside County's total population was 456,916; approximately 224,032 people lived within Western Riverside County Cities, and 178,591 lived within unincorporated areas (it is assumed a majority of unincorporated County occupants reside within Western Riverside County) (Population Estimates for California Cities and Counties, 1970-

## ***2.0 Plan Area Description and Setting***

---



1980, State of California, Department of Finance Web site at <http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/rependat.htm>, accessed April 2002). By 1980, Riverside County's total population increased to 663,199. Approximately 291,313 people lived in western County Cities, and 276,565 lived in the unincorporated County (Population Estimates for California Cities and Counties, 1970-1980, State of California, Department of Finance Web site, accessed April 2002). The County's total population grew from 663,199 in 1980 to 1,170,413 by 1990; western County Cities were populated by 594,046 people with an additional 385,384 people living in the unincorporated County (Revised Historical City, County, and State Population Estimates, 1991-2000, with 1990 and 2000 Census Counts, State of California, Department of Finance Web site, accessed April 2002). The County's total population grew from 1,170,413 in 1990 to 1,545,387 in 2000. By 2000, a total of 848,413 people resided in western County Cities, and an additional 420,721 resided in unincorporated County areas (Revised Historical City, County, and State Population Estimates, 1991-2000, with 1990 and 2000 Census Counts, State of California, Department of Finance Web site, accessed April 2002).

### **2.3.2 Forecast Growth**

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and Western Riverside County Cities have historically prepared regional growth forecasts in an effort to allocate resources in the most efficient manner. Forecasts include population, housing, employment, and other economic data. SCAG estimates that by 2025 almost 7 million people and 4 million jobs -- the equivalent of adding two cities the size of Chicago -- will be added to the Southern California region (SCAG 1998, with draft update 2001). This would bring Southern California's regional population from 16 million to 22.8 million (SCAG 2001). Most of the population growth is expected to occur in north Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties; however, experts believe job growth will also occur in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

SCAG released Riverside County's population forecasts for 2020 in 1998; Riverside's population is projected to reach upwards of 2.8 million. This population growth equates to approximately 2.8% a year from now until 2020. Population will continue to increase within the County beyond the 2020 horizon; the County's population will reach 3.5 million by 2030 and 4.5 million by 2040. A total of approximately 569,600 housing units will be needed to accommodate this anticipated growth (approximately 426,400 in Western Riverside County and approximately 143,200 in Eastern Riverside County).