

SECTION 3.0

CONSERVATION PLANNING PROCESS/DESCRIPTION AND AREA PLAN CRITERIA OF THE MSHCP CONSERVATION AREA

3.1 CONSERVATION PLANNING PROCESS

3.1.1 Process Background

The conservation planning process for the MSHCP Plan involved a variety of concurrent and sequential elements. These elements are listed below and summarized in this section.

- Identification of overall MSHCP goals in the context of prior conservation planning efforts, stakeholder objectives and regulatory requirements;
- Compilation of existing data and development of analysis tools;
- Identification of applicable conservation biology principles;
- Review of reserve selection models and methods;
- Development of initial Conceptual Conservation Scenario;
- Informal gap analysis;
- Identification of alternatives and selection of proposed alternative;
- Development and refinement of Conceptual Reserve Design/Criteria Based Plan;
- Description and analysis of selected alternative.

3.1.2 Overall MSHCP Goals and Conservation Planning Context

Sections 1.2.3 and 1.2.4 of this document summarize the overall planning and regulatory context within which the MSHCP conservation planning process proceeded. The range of stakeholder objectives to be addressed by the conservation planning process is presented in the planning context presented in *Section 1.2.3*. These various inputs resulted in the overall MSHCP goals and objectives presented in *Section 1.3* of this document and in the policy direction provided by the County Board of Supervisors as noted in *Section 1.3*.

3.1.3 Compilation of Existing Data

A description of the biological and physical databases is provided in *Section 2.1.1* of this document. In addition to these databases, a variety of other data were assembled as part of the overall RCIP