

### ***3.0 Conservation Planning Process/ Description and Area Plan Criteria of the MSHCP Conservation Area***

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#### **3.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSERVATION STRATEGIES CONSIDERED IN THE CONSERVATION PLANNING PROCESS**

A variety of alternatives were considered as part of the conservation planning process. The range of alternatives was defined by the MSHCP Advisory Committee and relates to the rough conservation locations, acreage estimates and species lists developed for the August 9, 1999?Draft MSHCP Proposal,” as reviewed by the Wildlife Agencies. The Alternatives definition was data driven and based on biological, land use, economic and regulatory consideration as well as the overall MSHCP planning principles described in *Section 1.0* of this document.

In addition to the alternatives identified by the stakeholders and described in detail below, a Description of Preliminary Alternatives was assembled and distributed to stakeholders in February 2000. Those alternatives were based on General Plan land use alternatives being developed as part of the RCIP General Plan Update. Those alternatives influenced the alternatives development process; however, it was decided to develop General Plan land use and MSHCP alternatives separately as part of the RCIP process, and the Preliminary Alternatives presented in the February 2000 document were not developed further.

##### **3.4.1 Listed, Proposed and Strong Candidate Species Alternative**

This alternative was developed at the request of the MSHCP Advisory Committee to depict a potential conservation scenario that would address listed, proposed and strong candidate species. A total of 32 listed and proposed species occur in the MSHCP Plan Area including the following: Swainson’s hawk, mountain plover, western yellow-billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell’s vireo, San Bernardino kangaroo rat, Stephens’ kangaroo rat, arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, mountain yellow-legged frog, southern rubber boa, Quino checkerspot butterfly, Delhi Sands flower-loving fly, Riverside fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, Santa Ana sucker, Mohave tarplant, Munz’s onion, Parish’s meadowfoam, San Diego ambrosia, San Jacinto Valley crowscale, Nevin’s barberry, thread-leaved brodiaea, Vail Lake ceanothus, slender-horned spine flower, Santa Ana River woollystar, San Diego button-celery, spreading navarretia, and California Orcutt