

4.0 Assembling the MSHCP Conservation Area



space. Critical regional infrastructure and facilities that will benefit current and future residents of these communities are being identified and planned for as part of the overall RCIP process. Local governments will direct mitigation for impacts of public projects they undertake and private projects they approve toward assembling, managing, and monitoring the MSHCP Conservation Area.

- ❑ **Private landowners.** Private landowners and developers benefit from the MSHCP because it establishes a local permitting process for the Incidental Take of Covered Species; this modified permitting process will reduce uncertainty about the future and eliminate the duplication of effort that often occurs when projects are reviewed and permitted piecemeal by the Wildlife Agencies. Private landowners and developers will direct mitigation efforts they undertake to address the impacts of their Development projects; these efforts will contribute to the assembly, management, and monitoring of the MSHCP Conservation Area.

- ❑ **Current and future residents of Riverside County.** Current and future residents of western Riverside County will benefit from the MSHCP because it establishes a process through which infrastructure projects that serve the County's residents can be undertaken and conserves the County's natural heritage for generations to come. Through the funding mechanisms identified in *Section 8.0* of this document, current and future residents of Riverside County will contribute to the assembly, management, and monitoring of the MSHCP Conservation Area.

4.1 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TO ASSEMBLE THE MSHCP CONSERVATION AREA

The MSHCP Conservation Area will contain approximately 500,000 acres of which approximately 282,000 acres are state or federal lands and approximately 56,000 acres are privately owned lands that will be acquired from willing sellers. Approximately 97,000 acres of private lands will be conserved through local Development processes, including mitigation for impacts to biological resources as a result of development projects in the Plan Area. The federal and state agencies will contribute a total of 338,000 acres (68%) of the MSHCP Conservation Area, private sector Development will contribute 72,000 acres (14%), public infrastructure projects will contribute 25,000 acres (5%), and local public lands will contribute about 65,000 acres (13%).

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The MSHCP Conservation Area will be assembled through a combination of the following methods:

CONSERVATION OF EXISTING PUBLIC LANDS. The MSHCP Conservation Area incorporates maximum use of existing Public/Quasi-Public Lands to achieve Conservation objectives.

LOCAL ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE LANDS. Private property rights will be fully respected and upheld. Where public funds are used to acquire lands for the MSHCP Conservation Area, the lands will be acquired from willing sellers at fair market value or upon terms mutually satisfactory to the buyer and the seller. The MSHCP has been designed to avoid any unnecessary acquisition of private lands.

FEDERAL AND STATE ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE LANDS. Federal and state agencies will acquire lands within the Plan Area using processes specified in federal and state laws. Lands acquired by federal and state agencies for Conservation purposes include lands acquired as mitigation for state and federal projects.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS. Private Development will contribute lands and/or funds for land acquisitions through the land-use entitlement process. *Section 6.1.1* of this document describes the local implementation strategy that provides the framework for Conservation resulting from private Development approvals.

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE. A goal of the MSHCP is to facilitate the timely Development of local and regional infrastructure. Mitigation efforts required as a result of these infrastructure projects will contribute to Reserve Assembly.

4.2 CONTRIBUTIONS OF EXISTING PUBLIC LANDS

4.2.1 Existing Federal and State Lands

Federal and state lands that contribute to the Conservation of Covered Species are summarized below. These lands total 282,198 acres, including approximately 247,789 acres of federal lands and 34,409 acres of state lands. Summary descriptions of these lands are included in the *Description of Existing Reserves, Western Riverside County MSHCP* (DUDEK 2000) on file with the County of Riverside Transportation and Land Management Agency.