

## 4.0 Assembling the MSHCP Conservation Area

---



### 4.5.2 Additional Reserve Assembly by Local Governments

The local jurisdictions participating in the MSHCP will be collectively responsible for assembling approximately 97,000 acres of land for the MSHCP Conservation Area. They will also be responsible for the management, monitoring, and administrative costs of these lands. Mechanisms for funding these responsibilities are described in *Section 8.0* of this document.

As described in *Section 8.0*, in the event that adequate regional funding for the MSHCP is not provided, the Wildlife Agencies will assess the impact of the funding deficiency on the scope and validity of the Take authorizations. The Wildlife Agencies and jurisdictions will meet and confer to develop a strategy to address the funding shortfall and will undertake all practicable efforts to maintain the level of coverage afforded by the Take authorizations under the program until the situation can be remedied.

**METHODS.** Securing funds for local acquisition of lands for the MSHCP Conservation Area will be carried out by the Regional Conservation Authority. The Regional Conservation Authority will purchase Habitat lands from willing sellers; funds will be obtained from one or more regional funding sources. Some lands will be acquired using the Habitat Acquisition and Negotiation Strategy (HANS) Process or other mechanisms described in *Section 6.1.1* of this document. Habitat lands may be purchased in fee or as less than fee interest; for example, a permanent Conservation easement may be recorded in favor of a public agency or qualified nonprofit Conservation organization. The standard Conservation easement form shown in *Appendix D* shall be used. Habitat preserved on private lands as a result of Development regulations that require the avoidance of impacts may be transferred in fee title to a government or nonprofit agency if the landowner voluntarily dedicates the land. Any mitigation lands contributed to the MSHCP Conservation Area shall be protected in perpetuity, and recorded documents shall provide rights of access for monitoring and management of the lands by the Wildlife Agencies or their designees on the property consistent with achieving the biological goals of the MSHCP. Lands may also be acquired through exchanges of local government lands or through a transfer-of-development-rights program.

**BASELINE MEASUREMENTS.** February 3, 2000, the date of execution of a letter agreement between the Wildlife Agencies and the County regarding land acquisitions for the MSHCP Conservation Area, is the baseline date for computing public acquisition by federal, state, and

## 4.0 Assembling the MSHCP Conservation Area



local governments. Lands acquired by the local jurisdictions or by federal and state governments that contribute to achieving the MSHCP Conservation goals and that are acquired after the baseline date will be credited toward meeting their respective acquisition obligations under the MSHCP. *Table 4-3* summarizes lands conserved between February 3, 2000, and July 31, 2002, that contribute to Reserve Assembly.

**TABLE 4-3**  
**MSHCP RESERVE ASSEMBLY**  
**LANDS CONSERVED BETWEEN FEBRUARY 3, 2000 AND JULY 31, 2002**  
*(Updated 8/05/02)*

Area Plan	Acquired in Fee (acres)	Conservation through development review (acres)	Total Lands Conserved between 2/3/00 and 7/31/02 (acres)
SWAP	1,742.0	171.0	1,913.0
Sun City/Menifee		74.0	74.0
Highgrove		251.4	251.4
Reche Canyon/Badlands	118.1	40.0	158.1
REMAP	1,004.4		1,004.4
Jurupa	186.0		186.0
Elsinore	40.0		40.0
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,626.9</b>

## 4.6 PRIVATE CONSERVATION OR MITIGATION AREAS/ CONSERVATION BANKS

A Conservation bank is land that is permanently conserved and managed for its natural resource values; it sells Conservation credits to private or public entities that are required to mitigate for their impacts on natural resources. A mitigation area is an area with resource value, where the owner records a Conservation easement on the property and sells mitigation credits prior to the execution of a mitigation banking agreement with the Wildlife Agencies. Mitigation areas are permanently conserved and managed for natural resource values. Conservation banks and mitigation areas are intended to protect resources in large, connected areas in advance of the need for mitigation and therefore are considered a valuable tool for assembling the MSHCP Conservation Area.