

6.0 MSHCP Implementation Structure



6.3.2 Additional Survey Needs and Procedures

In addition to the Narrow Endemic Plant Species listed in *Section 6.1.3*, additional surveys may be needed for certain species in conjunction with Plan implementation in order to achieve coverage for these species. This section discusses those additional survey needs and procedures. A complete summary of all MSHCP species survey requirements is provided in *Appendix E* to this document.

In order to receive species coverage, the MSHCP must meet the FESA issuance criteria for HCPs which require, among other things, that the HCP disclose the impacts likely to result from the proposed taking, and measures the applicant will undertake to avoid, minimize and mitigate such impacts. For the species discussed in this section for which coverage is sought under the MSHCP, existing available information is not sufficient to make findings necessary to satisfy these issuance criteria. For those species, survey requirements are incorporated in the MSHCP, to provide the level of information necessary to receive coverage for those species in the MSHCP.

Efforts have been made prior to approval of the MSHCP and will be made during the early baseline studies to be conducted as part of the MSHCP management and monitoring efforts to collect as much information as possible regarding the species discussed in this section. As data are collected and conclusions can be made regarding the presence of occupied Habitat within the MSHCP Conservation Area for species discussed in this section, survey requirements may be modified or waived.

Surveys will be conducted within suitable Habitat for the following species according to accepted protocols. For the plant species listed below, surveys will be conducted within the Criteria Area as shown in *Figure 6-2*. The habitat suitability assessment procedures described in *Section 6.1.3* may also be used for these plant species.

Plants:	Coulter's goldfields – <i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i>
	Davidson's saltscale – <i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i> davidsonii</i>
	heart-leaved pitcher sage – <i>Lepechinia cardiophylla</i>
	little mousetail – <i>Myosurus minimus</i>
	mud nama – <i>Nama stenocarpum</i>
	Nevin's barberry – <i>Berberis nevinii</i>
	Parish's brittlescale – <i>Atriplex parishii</i>
	prostrate navarretia – <i>Navarretia prostrate</i>
	round-leaved filaree – <i>Erodium macrophyllum</i>



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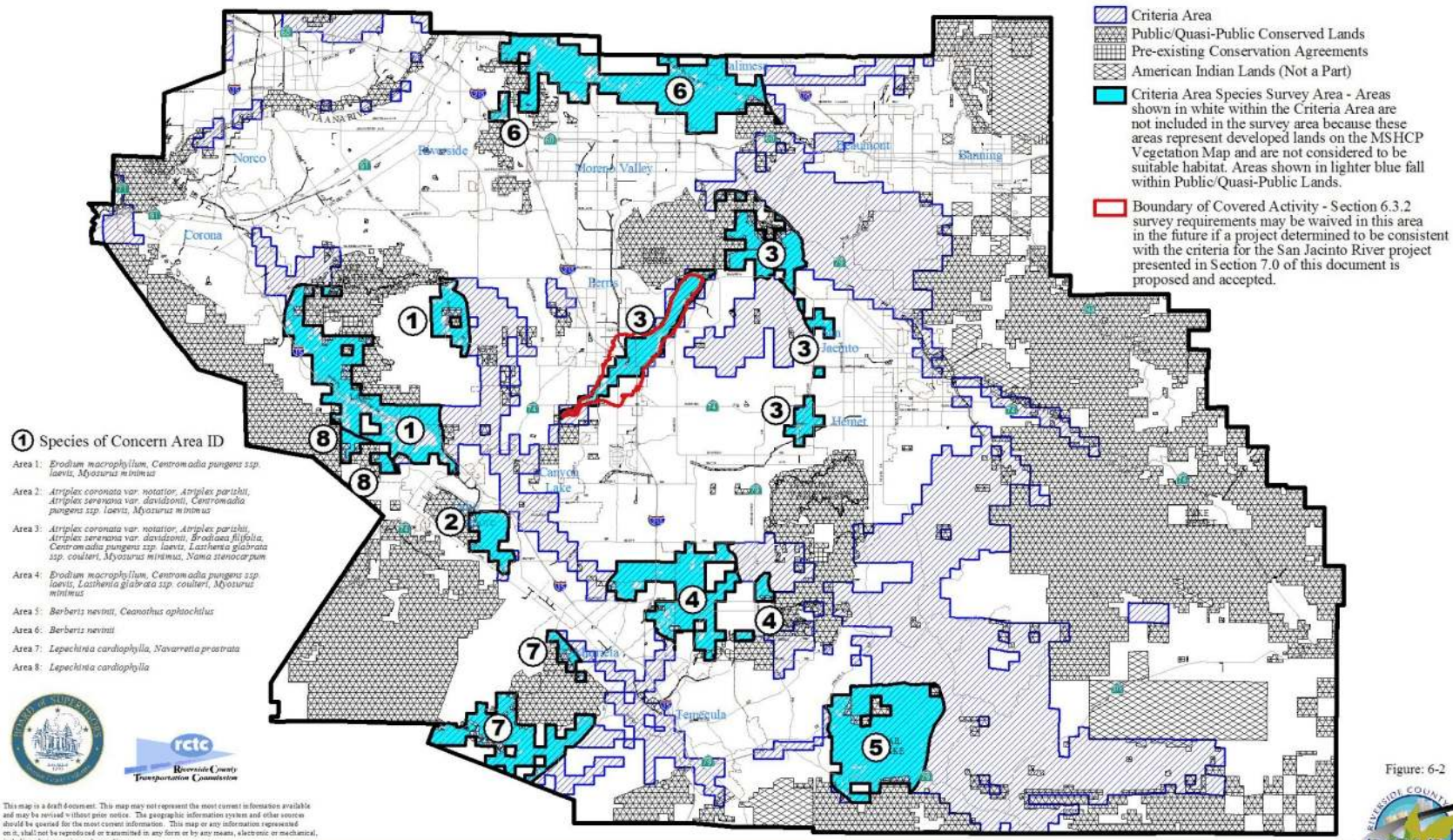
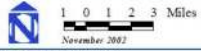


Figure: 6-2
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
RCIP
INTEGRATED PROJECT

6-62

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Criteria Area Species Survey Area

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San Jacinto Valley crownscale – *Atriplex coronata* var. *notatior*
smooth tarplant – *Centromadia pungens*
thread-leaved brodiaea – *Brodiaea filifolia*
Vail Lake ceanothus – *Ceanothus ophiochilus*

For the amphibian, bird and mammal species, surveys will be conducted within the survey areas shown on *Figures 6-3, 6-4 and 6-5*, respectively.

- Amphibians:** arroyo toad – *Bufo californicus*
California red-legged frog – *Rana aurora draytonii*
mountain yellow-legged frog – *Rana mucosa*
- Birds:** burrowing owl – *Athene cunicularia hypugaea*
- Mammals:** Aguanga kangaroo rat – *Dipodomys merriami collinus*
San Bernardino kangaroo rat – *Dipodomys merriami parvus*
Los Angeles pocket mouse – *Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*

For locations with positive survey results, 90% of those portions of the property that provide for long-term Conservation value for the identified species will be avoided until it is demonstrated that Conservation goals for the particular species are met. Individual species Conservation goals are presented in *Section 9.0* of this document. Findings of equivalency shall be made as outlined below demonstrating that the 90% standard has been met.

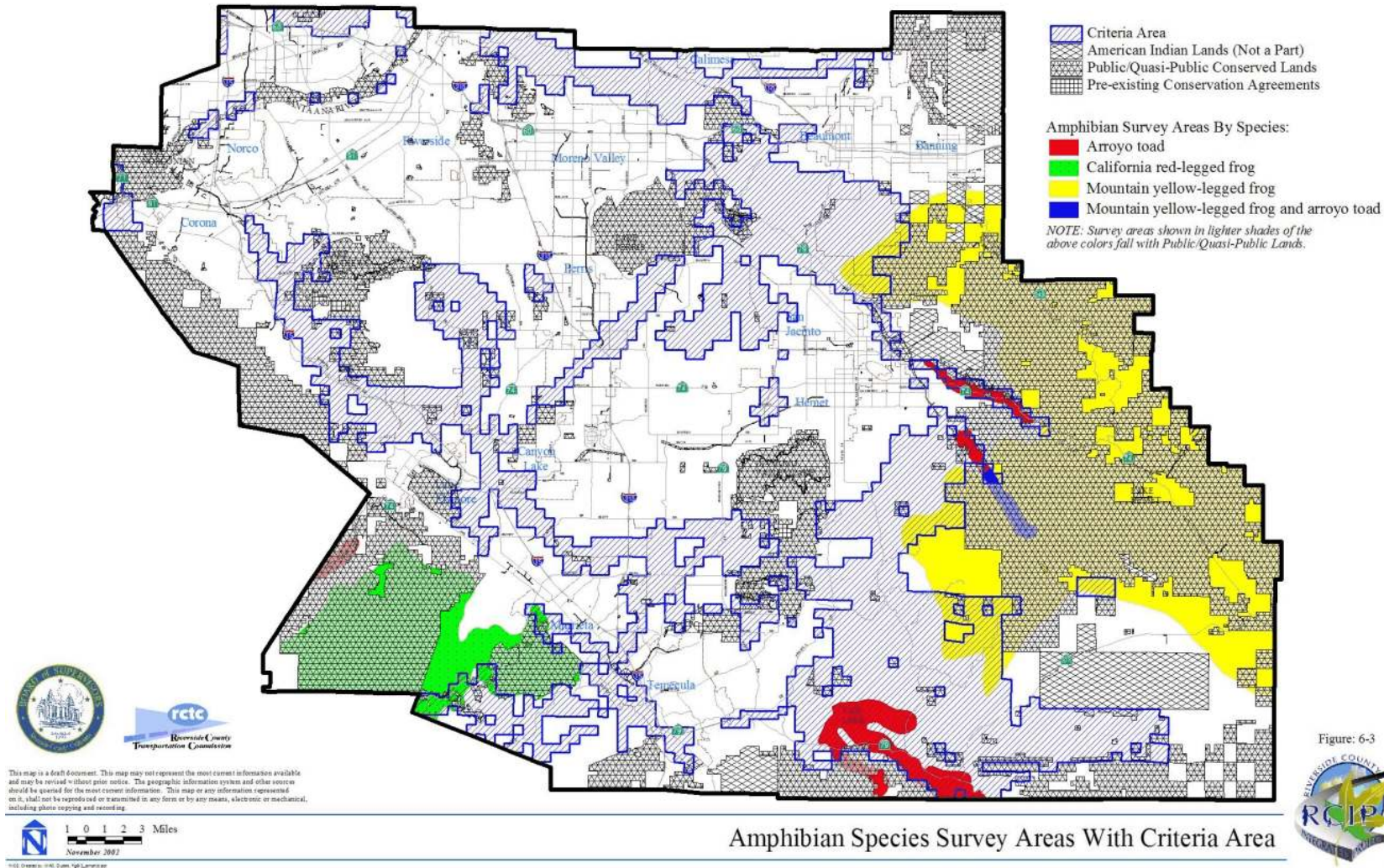
➤ **Equivalency Findings**

The following information shall be included in the equivalency findings to demonstrate that the 90% threshold has been met.

- Definition of the project area.
- A written project description.
- A written description of biological information available for the project site including the results of the species surveys.
- Quantification of unavoidable impacts to identified species associated with the project, including direct and indirect effects, documenting that the 90% threshold will be met.



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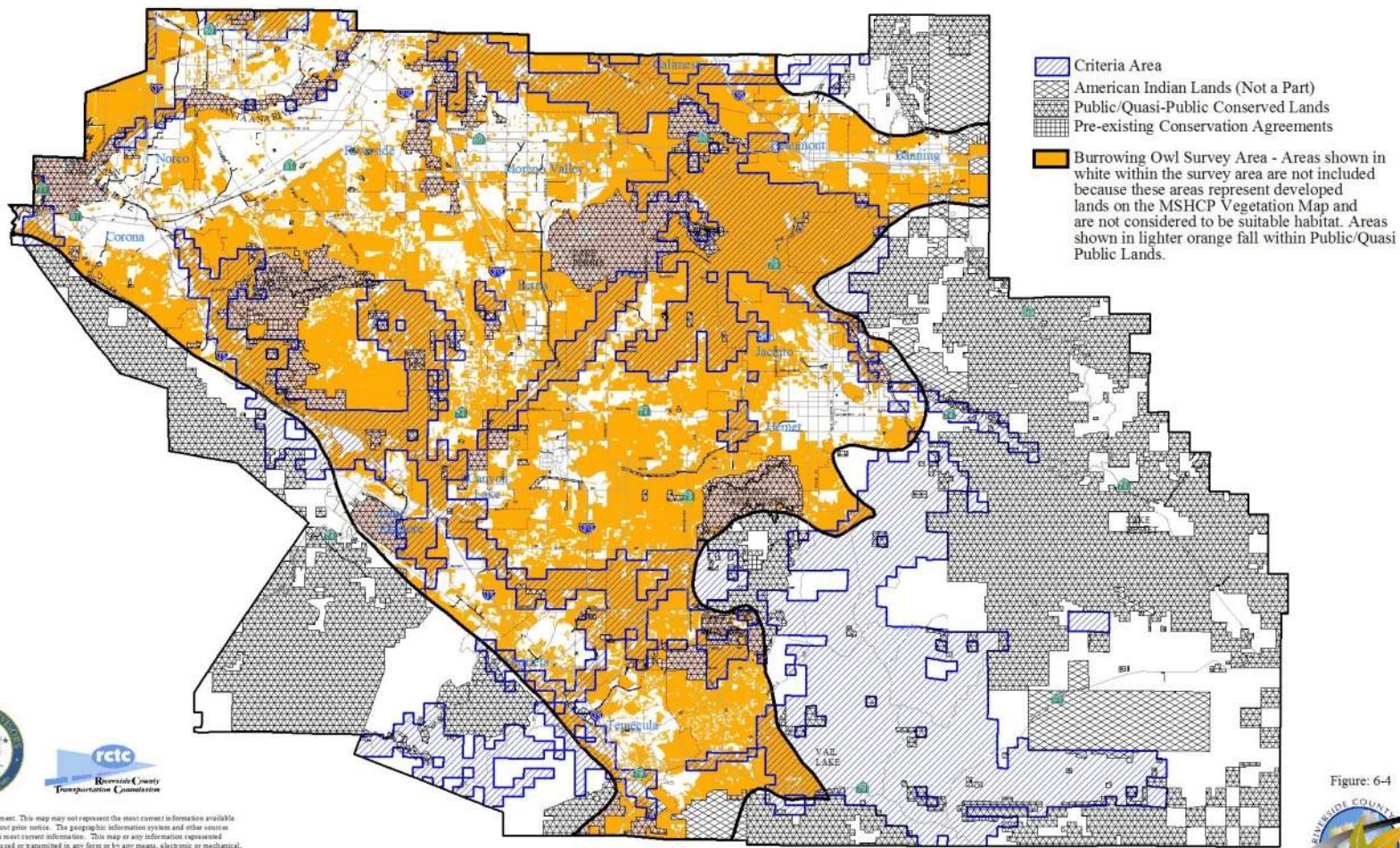
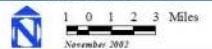


Figure: 6-4



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Burrowing Owl Survey Areas With Criteria Area



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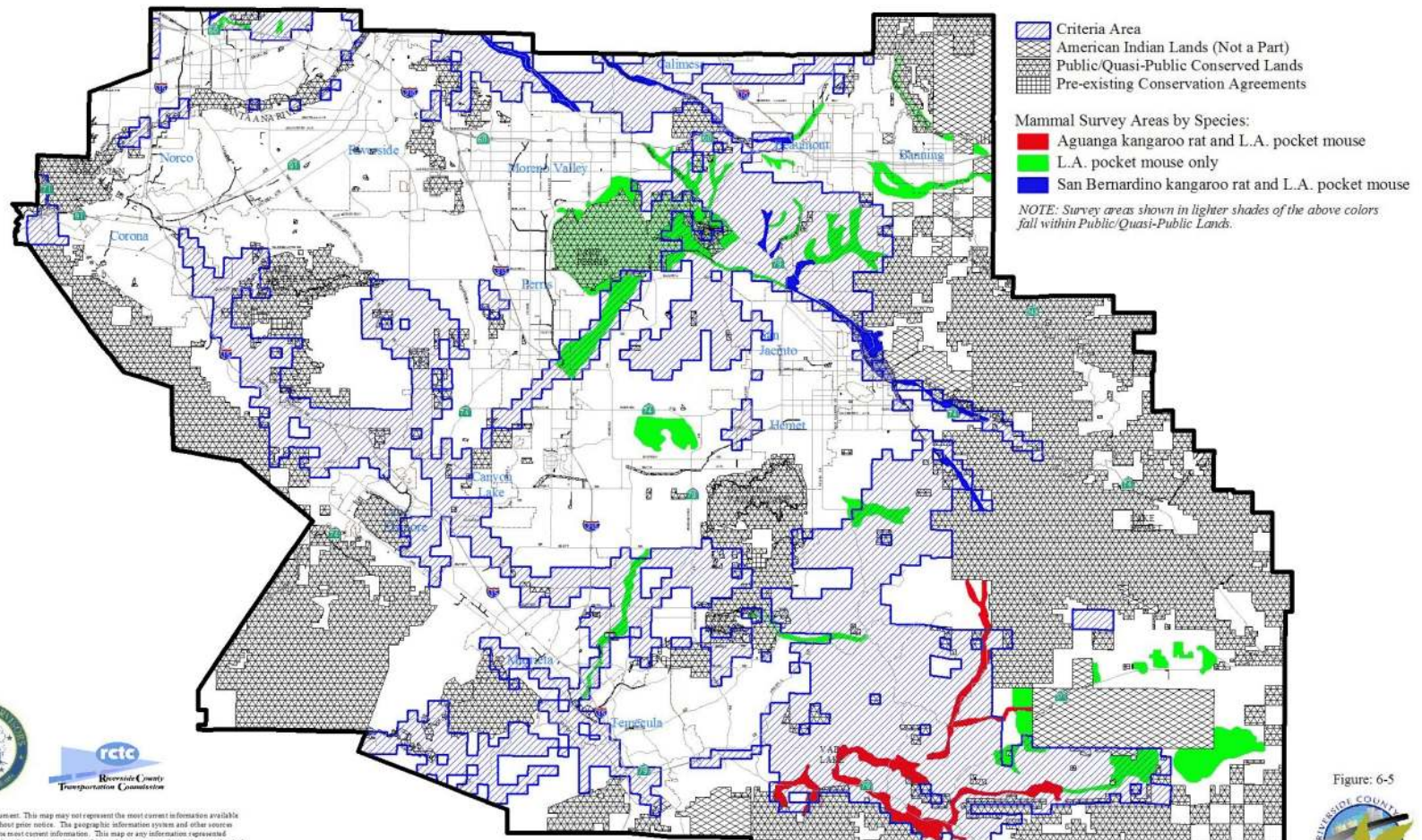


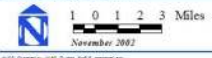
Figure: 6-5



6-66



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Mammal Species Survey Areas With Criteria Area



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- A written description of project design features that reduce indirect effects, such as edge treatments, landscaping, elevation differences; minimization and/or compensation through restoration or enhancement.
- A summary conclusion, including findings of consistency with the 90% threshold.

If it is determined that the 90% threshold cannot be met, the Permittee(s) must make a determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation as described below.

➤ Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation

Determination of biologically equivalent or superior preservation will be made if making the equivalency findings is determined to be infeasible. A determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation by the Permittee(s) will be based upon the criteria for findings of equivalency, as defined above, as well as an expanded written description of the project. The expanded project description shall include information demonstrating that although the proposed project would not achieve the 90% threshold, with proposed design and compensation measures, it would result in an overall MSHCP Conservation Area design and configuration biologically equivalent or superior to that which would occur under a project alternative within the impact threshold without these measures.

Demonstration that the biologically equivalent or superior alternative would provide benefits with respect to MSHCP Conservation Area design and configuration should be considered in the context of the following factors:

- effects on conserved Habitats supporting the identified species
- effects on the populations of the identified species
- effects on Habitat linkages and function of the MSHCP Conservation Area
- effects on MSHCP Conservation Area configuration and management

Prior to approval of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation determinations, the Wildlife Agencies shall be notified of such determinations and be provided with a 60-day review and response period. A written record of such determinations shall be maintained and shall be included in the annual reporting documentation prepared by the Permittees and submitted to the Wildlife Agencies as set forth in *Section 6.11* of this document.