

## **8.0 MSHCP Funding/Financing of Reserve Assembly and Management**

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Conservation of the lands. The HANS process will result in the creation of a list of properties to be acquired on a first-in–first-out basis as funding becomes available. In addition, acquisitions may occur outside of the HANS process as opportunities arise to conserve important properties that will benefit the MSHCP Conservation Area. Acquisitions may be used to fill in critical gaps in the MSHCP Conservation Area and strategically consolidate holdings in an area to allow the conservation value of previously conserved properties to be fully realized.

### **8.4.4 State Permittees' Acquisition of Additional Reserve Lands**

State Permittees will also acquire lands to meet their mitigation obligations under the MSHCP. These acquisitions may take the form of conservation banks or additions to existing state or federally owned conservation areas.

#### **► Caltrans Acquisition of Additional Reserve Lands**

Caltrans will be a State Permittee and will contribute to assembly of the Additional Reserve Lands and to management and monitoring of the Additional Reserve Lands. Within the first eight years of the Permit, Caltrans will acquire two Additional Reserve Land areas, one of approximately 2,000 acres in the eastern portion of the Criteria Area and one of approximately 1,000 acres in the western portion of the Criteria Area. The Additional Reserve Land areas shall, if at all Feasible, be acquired in close proximity to new highway projects, improvement projects for existing highways, or wildlife movement corridors. (The locations of the Additional Reserve Land areas shall be determined in consultation with the Wildlife Agencies and will be specified in the final Plan.)

The estimated costs for the acquisition of these lands is \$36,000,000. The western Additional Reserve Land area will be located within the Criteria Area in the vicinity of I-15, where land prices range from \$8,000 to \$40,000 depending on the level of entitlements. The estimated cost for establishing the western area, based on \$20,000 per acre, is \$20 million. In the eastern portion of the Criteria Area, land prices range from \$1,000 to \$12,000 per acre, and the estimated cost for the eastern area is \$16 million based on \$8,000 per acre. The estimated cost per acre for both areas is based on selecting a mid-range cost per acre and reflects cost per acre of recent acquisitions and/or appraisals funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board, the land acquisition arm of CDFG.

Caltrans will either establish endowments or transfer and fund three positions within the CDFG for the management and monitoring of Additional Reserve Lands. Two positions will be assigned primarily to management and one position to biological monitoring. The estimated funding for the

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three positions (salary and benefits for three Staff Environmental Scientists plus support funds) is \$350,000 annually in current dollars. As an alternative, Caltrans may establish an endowment account pursuant to the required Conservation Banking Agreement for the areas in the sum of approximately \$9.6 million (\$6.4 million for management and \$3.2 million for monitoring). A 5% annual return rate on funds deposited in the state investment fund was used to calculate the size of the endowment. In addition, the funding level anticipates approximately \$50,000 of the annual interest on the endowment will be returned to the principle to account for inflation over time. The specific amount of the management portion of the endowment will be determined at the time the specific Conservation Bank Lands are identified and the Conservation Banking Agreement is developed. The amount will be based on the analysis of the cost of management using the Property Analysis Report (Center for Natural Land Management, 1999) or similar methodology. Such a Conservation Banking Agreement will provide appropriate assurances to Caltrans regarding unused mitigation credits for their Covered Activities.

The funds used by Caltrans for the acquisition of Additional Reserve Lands would be from State Transportation Improvement Program funds.

### **➤ State Parks Acquisition of Additional Reserve Lands**

State Parks has the following obligations under the MSHCP and the IA:

- A. For Non-OHV activities, State Parks will implement the necessary requirements to fulfill the purposes of the Permits, the MSHCP and the IA for Covered Activities. Such requirements include: (1) compliance with the policies for the *Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools* as set forth in *Section 6.1.2* of this document ; (2) compliance with the policies for the protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species as set forth in *Section 6.1.3* of this document; (3) conduct surveys as set forth in *Section 6.3.2* of this document; (4) compliance with the *Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines* as set forth in *Section 6.1.4* of this document; and (5) compliance with the *Best Management Practices* and the *Siting Requirements and Design Criteria* as set forth in *Section 7.0* and *Appendix C* of this document.
- B. For OHV activities, prior to construction of the OHV Park, State Parks will contribute 3,000 acres of Additional Reserve Lands in the Badlands, within the Criteria Area, as mitigation for impacts associated with up to 600 acres of active riding areas resulting from the establishment of a State Vehicular Recreational Area in the Badlands. As discussed in

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*Section 7.3.6* of this document, the actual disturbed active riding area could expand by 100 acres for each additional 500 acres of Habitat conserved within the Criteria Area in the vicinity of the State Vehicular Recreation Area.

- C. For Non-OHC activities, State Parks' Take Authorization for Covered Activities is contingent on the preparation of unit management plans pertaining to each Covered Activity, which will reflect the scope of work and obligation of State Parks to manage and monitor State Parks land within the MSHCP Conservation Area pursuant to *Section 5.0* of this document. The unit management plans must be reviewed and approved by Wildlife Agencies.
- D. As provided in *Section 5.0* of this document, State Parks will provide for the management and monitoring of the 3,000 acres of Additional Reserve Lands referred to in (B) above, and any additional mitigation lands provided under that subsection. Management and monitoring will be accomplished by DPR through: (1) establishing an endowment with the CDFG to fund two positions for the management and monitoring of the Additional Reserve Lands; or (2) transferring and funding two positions within CDFG; or (3) dedicating and funding two DPR positions for the management and monitoring of the Additional Reserve Lands. One position will be assigned primarily to management and one position will be assigned to the MSHCP biological monitoring team. The estimated funding for the two positions (salary and benefits for two Staff Environmental Scientist plus support funds) is \$250,000 annually in current dollars.
- E. Participate as a member of the Reserve Management Oversight Committee as set forth in *Section 6.6* of this document.
- F. Carry out all other applicable requirements of the MSHCP, the IA and the Permits.

### **8.5 LOCAL FUNDING PROGRAM**

The following local funding plan describes the local commitment for funding Reserve Assembly, Management, and Monitoring.

The local funding program includes funding from a variety of sources, including but not limited to, regional funding resulting from the importation of waste into landfills in Riverside County, mitigation for regional public infrastructure projects, mitigation for private infrastructure projects,