

SECTION 9.0

CONSERVATION AND INCIDENTAL TAKE ESTIMATES

A Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is required to disclose impacts likely to result from the proposed Taking of species for which coverage is requested, and the HCP must also incorporate measures to minimize and mitigate the impacts of such Takings. This section presents overall impact and Take estimates associated with implementation of the MSHCP Plan. This section also summarizes measures incorporated in the MSHCP to minimize and mitigate the identified impacts, including Conservation estimates. These measures are described in greater detail throughout the MSHCP Plan. For example, *Section 3.0* of this document describes the MSHCP Conservation Area that will be assembled to offset the impacts of the proposed Taking. *Section 5.0* of this document describes proposed management and monitoring efforts within the MSHCP Conservation Area. *Section 6.0* discusses implementation measures incorporated in the Plan to minimize impacts and *Section 7.0* incorporates measures to minimize impacts associated with specific Covered Activities. Taken together, these measures represent minimization of identified impacts to the maximum extent practicable as summarized at the end of this section (*Section 9.3*).

9.1 OVERALL CONSERVATION AND IMPACT ESTIMATES OF VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

This Section provides the overall Conservation and impact estimates for Vegetation Communities with implementation of the MSHCP. *Table 9-1* summarizes anticipated Conservation and loss of the Vegetation Communities within the Plan Area. In general, the MSHCP tends to protect more sensitive upland, wetland and forest Vegetation Communities that support a larger number of sensitive species in the Plan Area.

Vegetation Communities may be considered within four broad categories: sensitive upland, wetland, forest and agriculture. Sensitive upland communities include chaparral, coastal sage scrub, desert scrub, grassland and Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub. Wetland communities include meadows and marshes, playas and vernal pools, riparian scrub/woodland/forest, cismontane alkali marsh and water. Forest communities include montane coniferous forest, and woodlands and forests. As shown in *Table 9-1*, implementation of the MSHCP generally would result in the greatest amount of protection for sensitive upland, wetland and forest communities because these Vegetation Communities generally tend to support a broader assemblage of sensitive species.