Chaparral is moderately over-represented in the MSHCP Conservation Area and coastal sage scrub and grassland are slightly under-represented. Juniper woodland and scrub, which comprises only 20 acres in the Bioregion, is not conserved. The other natural vegetation types have essentially the same percent representation in the Conservation Area as in the Bioregion. Agricultural land and developed or disturbed lands show reduced representation within the MSHCP Conservation Area.

3.3.2 Agua Tibia Mountains Bioregion

The Agua Tibia Mountains Bioregion comprises only 1% of the Plan Area, but supports eight of the 11 generalized vegetation types within the area. Overall, 80% of the Bioregion would be conserved, including almost 100% of Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub, 77% of coastal sage scrub, 82% of the chaparral, and 76% of the grassland. Excluding Agriculture and developed, overall conservation is 81%.

All of the vegetation types would be represented in the MSHCP Conservation Area (*Table 6*). With regard to relative conservation, the dominant vegetation conserved in the Agua Tibia Mountains Bioregion by far is chaparral (87%), with grasslands, woodlands and forests, riparian vegetation, coastal sage scrub, Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub and coniferous forest collectively making up only about 10% of the conserved vegetation. Chaparral would be slightly over-represented in the MSHCP Conservation Area in relation to its occurrence, but by-in-large, Conservation of natural Vegetation Communities is consistent with their occurrence in the Bioregion.

3.3.3 Riverside Lowlands Bioregion

The Riverside Lowlands Bioregion is by far the largest of the Bioregions, accounting for 55% of the Plan Area. Nine of the eleven generalized vegetation types are present within the Riverside Lowlands Bioregion and all of these are represented within areas to be conserved under the MSHCP (*Table 7*).

Unlike the Santa Ana and Agua Tibia Mountains Bioregions, the Riverside Lowlands Bioregion supports a more even distribution of vegetation types, with coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and grassland accounting for 16%, 12%, and 16% of the total land cover, respectively. The Riverside Lowlands Bioregion supports more existing Development and Agriculture than the other Bioregions, accounting for approximately 50% of the Bioregion. As shown in *Table 7*, however, the other natural vegetation types account for a substantial acreage of the Bioregion.

TABLE 6
CONSERVATION OF VEGETATION COMMUNITIES IN THE AGUA TIBIA MOUNTAINS BIOREGION

Vegetation Community	Additional Reserve Lands and Existing Public/Quasi-Public Lands		Bioregion		Percent Conserved under MSHCP	Change in Relative % Distribution
	Acres	Relative % Distribution	Acres	Relative % Distribution		
Chaparral	8,793	86.7	10,675	84.7	82.4	4.3
Grassland	540	5.3	712	5.6	75.8	-0.3
Woodlands and Forests	296	2.9	450	3.6	65.8	-0.7
Riparian Scrub, Woodland, Forest	126	1.2	226	1.8	55.8	-0.6
Coastal Sage Scrub	109	1.1	142	1.1	76.8	0.0
Montane Coniferous Forest	102	1.0	102	0.8	100.0	0.2
Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub	63	0.6	63	0.5	99.8	0.1
Developed or Disturbed Land	62	0.6	96	0.8	64.6	-0.2
Agricultural Land	37	0.4	126	1.0	29.4	-0.6
Meadows and Marshes	11	0.1	11	0.1	100.0	0.0
TOTAL	**10,139**	**99.9**	**12,605**	**100.0**	**80%**	

TABLE 7
CONSERVATION OF VEGETATION COMMUNITIES IN THE RIVERSIDE LOWLANDS BIOREGION

Vegetation Community	Additional Reserve Lands and Existing Public/Quasi-Public Lands		Bioregion		Percent Conserved under MSHCP	Change in Relative % Distribution
	Acres	Relative % Distribution	Acres	Relative % Distribution		
Coastal Sage Scrub	50,565	30.3	108,614	15.7	46.6	16.3
Chaparral	33,668	20.2	83,355	12.1	40.4	8.1
Grassland	27,461	16.4	111,493	16.2	24.6	0.2
Agricultural Land	17,351	10.4	145,972	21.2	11.9	-10.8
Water	9,570	5.7	11,113	1.6	86.1	4.1
Developed or Disturbed Land	8,970	5.4	201,841	29.3	4.4	-23.9
Riparian Scrub, Woodland, Forest	8,017	4.8	10,756	1.6	74.5	3.2
Playas and Vernal Pools	6,720	4.0	7,882	1.1	85.3	2.9
Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub	2,809	1.7	4,533	0.7	62.0	1.0
Woodlands and Forests	814	0.5	2,856	0.4	28.5	0.1
Peninsular Juniper Woodland and Scrub	517	0.3	926	0.1	55.8	0.2
Meadows and Marshes	342	0.2	402	0.1	85.1	0.1
TOTAL	**166,804**	**99.9**	**689,744**	**100.0**	**24%**	

More than 50% of five of the vegetation types would be conserved under the MSHCP: riparian, playas and vernal pools, Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub, juniper woodland, and meadows and marshes. The remaining four - chaparral, grassland, coastal sage scrub, and woodlands and forests - would have less than 50% conservation. Overall Conservation in the Bioregion would be 24%. However, excluding Agriculture and developed, overall conservation is 41%.

All of the natural vegetation types would be slightly to moderately over-represented in the MSHCP Conservation Area. Coastal sage scrub shows the largest relative increase, comprising 30% of the MSHCP Conservation Area compared to 16% of the Bioregion. The over-representation of natural vegetation in the MSHCP Conservation Area mostly is a result of the low percentage of Agriculture and developed in the area.

3.3.4 San Jacinto Foothills Bioregion

The San Jacinto Foothills Bioregion comprises 9% of the Plan Area and supports nine of the eleven generalized vegetation types within the area (*Table 8*). All of these types would be represented in the MSHCP Conservation Area.

Almost 50% of the Bioregion is chaparral, and chaparral and coastal sage scrub together comprise about 73% of the cover in the Bioregion. Grassland accounts for about 11% of the cover. As would be expected in this generally rugged and rural area, Agriculture and developed only account for about 9% of the total cover.

Overall conservation levels of natural Vegetation Communities in this Bioregion are high. With the exception of woodland and forest, the MSHCP Conservation Area includes more than 50% of each vegetation type. Overall conservation is 65%. Excluding Agriculture and developed, overall conservation is 68%.

Representativeness of the natural vegetation types in the MSHCP Conservation Area ranges from slightly under-represented (grassland at -2.5%) to slightly over-represented (coastal sage scrub at +3.5%), but generally representation in the MSHCP Conservation Area is consistent with representation in the Bioregion.