

2.11.2 Conditionally Compatible Uses

The following uses are considered conditionally compatible with the overall conservation goals and objectives of the proposed MSHCP and are covered within the reserve subject to the guidelines and criteria detailed in Chapter 7.0 of the MSHCP, Volume I.

Public Access and Recreation

While the main goal of the proposed MSHCP reserve is to protect biological resources, another primary objective is to provide recreational and educational activities within the reserve. Because it gives the public an opportunity to experience and appreciate the natural environment that is being protected, public access is an important component of the proposed MSHCP. Public access, while permitted, would be via trails and potential future opportunities for nature centers. These activities are not part of the MSHCP and would be funded separately. By increasing awareness and appreciation for natural resources within the reserve, local residents and visitors can learn the importance of and practice of environmental stewardship. The covered public access uses within the proposed MSHCP reserve would consist of trail facilities and passive recreational activities.

Transportation Facilities

Two classifications of roadways have been identified and evaluated for the proposed MSHCP: existing and planned roadways. Existing roadways refer to those for which ongoing maintenance and safety improvements may be needed, but no new construction or widening involving addition of lanes is needed. Planned roadways are defined as existing facilities that require improvements (i.e., widening) or as new facilities to be constructed. Planned roadways include those types of roadways that have been identified as part of the General Plan Circulation Element.

Necessary operation and maintenance activities conducted for safety purposes shall be permitted in the reserve. These uses or activities include, but are not limited to: signage, pavement repairs, weed control, dust stabilization, accident response, repair of natural disaster damage, roadway resurfacing, bridge maintenance, and roadway widening.

Planned roadways, which include improvements to existing roadways and construction of new roadways, would not occur within the reserve. With different alternatives, roads may be conditionally covered. These roads were anticipated in existing General Plans of the 14 cities within western Riverside County and in existing approved projects. Planned roadways include the following:

- Roadways proposed as part of the General Plan Circulation Element;
- The Highway 79 Realignment Corridor;
- Freeways operated and maintained by Caltrans; and

- The two CETAP transportation corridors within the western Riverside County and the “out-of-county” corridor proposed to connect San Bernardino County with Moreno Valley.

Water-Related Activities

Water-related activities can be separated into two categories: flood control and water/wastewater activities. Flood control activities include projects with the main purpose of protecting people and property from flooding. Water/wastewater activities include most other water-related activities such as wastewater treatment, water storage, and pipeline projects.

For both water-related categories, covered activities within the proposed MSHCP reserve would consist of operations and maintenance activities at existing facilities and construction of new projects by water districts or agencies.

Covered flood control activities within the proposed MSHCP reserve would consist of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District’s (Flood Control District) future planned projects and operations, maintenance, and emergency activities at existing and planned flood control facilities. Existing flood control facilities include lined channels, unlined channels (including levees), basins, and dams throughout western Riverside County. Maintenance activities at existing facilities are essential to maintain hydraulic capacity and ensure public safety. Existing maintenance activities are carried out per an agreement with CDFG.

Water districts would also be allowed to continue operations and maintenance activities at existing facilities. These existing facilities include filtration plants, reservoirs and appurtenant facilities, aqueducts, canals, pipelines, power plants and pumpback facilities, and water tanks.

Utilities

The main utility providers in western Riverside County are Southern California Edison (SCE) and Southern California Gas Company (The Gas Company). These utilities must be allowed to perform their operations, maintenance, and emergency activities to provide reliable and quality gas and electric service.

Existing facilities include generating facilities, substations, transmission (500 and 230 kilovolt [kV]) lines, subtransmission (115 and 66 kV) lines, and distribution (33, 12, and 4 kV) lines that were operational as of 2002. There are several potential future subtransmission projects planned by SCE that may need to be located within the reserve. Proposed transmission line improvements would involve improvements to existing lines. In some cases, the existing facilities that would be improved traverse portions of the proposed reserve. The MSHCP puts forth a mechanism to utilize “take” permits; however, future facilities are not covered.

Covered utilities activities within the proposed MSHCP reserve would also comprise operation, maintenance, and emergency activities at the Gas Company’s existing and planned facilities and pipelines. Because specified maintenance of natural gas

pipelines is required by State and federal law to protect public safety, the Gas Company must have access to and be able to maintain all of their existing rights-of-way and to install new pipe where needed.

Waste Management

The Riverside County Waste Management Department is charged with the responsibility for meeting the solid waste disposal needs of all Riverside County residents by providing an integrated and cost-effective waste management system of facilities and programs that operates in compliance with federal, State, and local environmental and land use laws and regulations. The covered activities for the Waste Management Department would include operations and maintenance activities at its active, inactive, or closed landfills and other planned public waste facilities and/or expansion of existing facilities.

Operations and maintenance activities at existing waste management facilities would be covered if performed within the existing boundaries of these facilities. Existing and future waste management facilities would receive coverage and be provided mitigation with the MSHCP. Although El Sobrante Landfill may be located within the proposed MSHCP reserve, activities at El Sobrante Landfill will be dictated by its approved HCP. Landfill operations and maintenance activities will be carried out in a manner consistent with regulatory authorizations and/or permits.