

A. MSHCP Conservation Area Description



**TABLE 14
RESULTS OF EDGE ANALYSIS**

Edge Category	Existing Plan Area		Plan Area after Buildout		Circle (theoretical shape)	
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
Urban/Agricultural Land	420,671	--	779,293	--	--	--
< 250 feet (high edge)	114,260	14	51,645	11	2,576	< 1
251 to 600 feet (moderate edge)	126,005	15	72,107	15	4,316	< 1
> 600 feet (low or no edge)	597,812	71	355,703	74	481,467	99
Total Acres	1,258,748	--	1,258,748	--	488,359	--

Under existing conditions in the Plan Area, approximately 29% of the area is subject to high or moderate edge, and 71% has low or no edge. Under buildout of the MSHCP Conservation Area, the amount of high and moderate edge would be reduced to about 26% of the area, while the area with low or no Edge Effect would increase to 74% of the Plan Area. The reduction in high and moderate edge reflects the focus on developing currently fragmented Habitat and conserving existing areas with low or no current edge. In other words, it reflects the focus of Conservation on existing large, intact Habitat areas. Typically the ratio of edge-affected lands is lower with larger Habitat areas. However, because much of the urban portion of the Plan Area has many existing Habitat fragments, the Conservation of less fragmented Habitat in the MSHCP Conservation Area results in an improvement in the configuration of the MSHCP Conservation Area with respect to Edge Effects, even though the overall acreage of natural Habitats is reduced in the MSHCP Conservation Area buildout scenario.

As described above, an ideal reserve design for minimizing the edge-to-area ratio is a perfect circle. As shown in *Table 14*, a circle with roughly the same area as the proposed MSHCP Conservation Area would have almost 99% percent of its area unaffected by edge.

The spatial distribution and acreages of edge-affected lands under the MSHCP Conservation Area by Bioregion is shown in *Table 15*.