

A. MSHCP Conservation Area Description



area, whereas it comprises only 42% of the Plan Area. On the other hand, grassland comprises 15% of the Plan Area, but only 9% of the MSHCP Conservation Area. Thus, if a conservation goal is to provide a typical representation of a vegetation type in the MSHCP Conservation Area (*i.e.*, representativeness) as an index of diversity, chaparral is “over-represented” by approximately 12% and grassland is under-represented by more than 6%. It is important to understand that the relative percentages are arithmetically dependent. That is, purposely omitting large areas of Agriculture from the MSHCP Conservation Area will tend to cause the other relative percentages to increase. Generally, it is desirable to have neutral to positive changes in the relative percentages of the natural Vegetation Communities. Negative changes indicate that proportionally less of a community would be conserved.

TABLE 2. VARIATION IN RELATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF VEGETATION COMMUNITIES BETWEEN AREAS TO BE CONSERVED UNDER THE MSHCP AND THE PLAN AREA

Vegetation Community	MSHCP Conservation Area		Plan Area		Percent Conserved under MSHCP	Change in Relative % Distribution
	Acres	Relative % Distribution	Acres	Relative % Distribution		
Chaparral	272,280	54.5	434,930	41.9	62.6	12.6
Coastal Sage Scrub	81,720	16.3	156,440	15.1	52.2	1.2
Grassland	42,820	8.6	154,140	14.8	27.8	-6.2
Woodlands and Forests	23,500	4.7	34,320	3.3	68.5	1.4
Montane Coniferous Forest	20,500	4.1	29,910	2.9	68.5	1.2
Agricultural Land	20,020	4.0	169,460	16.3	11.8	-12.3
Riparian Scrub, Woodland, Forest	11,190	2.2	15,030	1.4	74.5	0.8
Playas and Vernal Pools	6,750	1.4	7,920	0.8	85.2	0.6
Water	10,340	2.1	12,210	1.2	84.7	0.9
Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub	5,230	1.0	7,940	0.8	65.9	0.2
Desert Scrubs	4,990	1.0	14,560	1.4	34.3	-0.4
Meadows and Marshes	510	0.1	1,020	0.1	23.7	0.0
Cismontane Alkali Marsh	40	< 0.1	1,260	0.1	3.2	0.0