



A Stakeholder Driven Process

To complement the conservation and management duties assigned to the County and other agencies, a property owner-initiated habitat evaluation and acquisition negotiation process has also been developed for the Western Riverside County MSHCP. The Habitat Evaluation and Acquisition Process applies to property which may be needed for inclusion in the MSHCP Reserve or subjected to other MSHCP criteria. Under the incentive-based MSHCP program, the County or other Agency may obtain interests in property needed to implement the MSHCP over time. The County or acquiring agency does not need to own the property in fee. If it is determined that all or a portion of a property is needed for the MSHCP Reserve, various incentives may be available to the property owner in exchange for the conveyance of property. Incentives are intended to provide a form of compensation to property owners who convey their property. As a property interest is obtained, it will become part of the MSHCP Reserve.



The Western Riverside County MSHCP affects the following area plans:

- Eastvale
- Elsinore
- Harvest Valley/Winchester
- Highgrove
- Jurupa
- Lake Mathews/Woodcrest
- Lakeview/Nuevo
- Mead Valley
- Reche Canyon/Badlands
- REMAP
- San Jacinto Valley
- Southwest (SWAP)
- Sun City/Menifee Valley
- Temescal Canyon
- The Pass

Relationship to Area Plans

Each area plan that is affected by the Western Riverside County MSHCP contains maps that identify the areas potentially affected by the MSHCP, identification of wildlife and plant species addressed in the plan, key biological issues of identified conservation sub-units within the potential reserve areas, and the general configuration of the reserve. Consult the area plans for further information.

Full documentation of the Western Riverside County MSHCP can be found in its Implementing Agreement.

Policies:

- OS 17.1 Enforce the provisions of applicable County MSHCP Implementing Agreements when conducting review of development applications for discretionary activities. (AI 10)
- OS 17.2 Enforce the provisions of applicable County MSHCP Implementing Agreements when developing transportation or infrastructure projects that have been designated as permitted activities in the MSHCPs. (AI 10)
- OS 17.3 Enforce the provisions of applicable County MSHCP Implementing Agreements when conducting review of possible general plan amendments and/or zoning changes. (AI 10)

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS

The County's multipurpose open space system will be created and maintained using several different techniques, all related to preservation of significant environmental resources. By preserving multi-species habitat; by creating and maintaining active and passive parks, recreation areas and trail systems; by conserving natural and scenic resources; and by avoiding natural hazard areas; a complete system of open space will be achieved that ensures the County's "remarkable environmental setting" remains intact for future generations of citizens to enjoy. This section identifies policies for the preservation of



environmentally sensitive land within the County of Riverside, including, but not limited to, the land to be preserved through the MSHCPs.

 Also refer to the Open Space, Habitat and Natural Resource Protection policies in the Land Use Element and the policies in the Safety Element that seek to preserve environmentally sensitive lands subject to natural hazards.

Policies:

- OS 18.1 Preserve multi-species habitat resources in the County of Riverside through the multi-species habitat conservation planning process. (AI 10)
- OS 18.2 Provide incentives to landowners that will encourage the protection of significant resources in the County beyond the preservation and/or conservation required by policy. (AI 9)

CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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The California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) contains information from surveys of archaeological and cultural resources as well as the built environments. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) coordinates a statewide network of Information Centers that manage and make available survey information for environmental review, planning, and research needs.

Cultural resources consist of places (historic and prehistoric archaeological sites), structures or objects that provide evidence of past human activity. They are important for scientific, historic, and/or religious reasons to cultures, communities, groups or individuals. The cultural history of Riverside County is divided chronologically into three periods: prehistory, ethnohistory and history. Native American cultures predominate in the prehistorical and ethnohistorical periods of County history. The Relative Archaeological Sensitivity of Diverse Landscapes in the County has been mapped and is shown in Figure OS-6. Three classifications have been used: high, undetermined, and low. Properties with high potential include those listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The historical period includes settlement from 1774, with the expedition of Juan Bautista de Anza into the region, to 45 years before the present as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). An inventory of Historical Resources in the County has been completed and mapped, as shown in Figure OS-7.

Riverside County has also been inventoried for geologic formations known to potentially contain paleontological resources. Paleontological resources are the fossilized biotic remains of ancient environments. They are valued for the information they yield about the history of the earth and its past ecological settings. Lands with low, undetermined or high potential for finding paleontological resources are mapped on Figure OS-8, the Paleontological Sensitivity Resources map. This map is used in the environmental assessment of development proposals and the determination of required impact mitigation. Riverside County has an extensive record of fossil life starting in Jurassic time, 150 million years ago.

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A major thrust of the multipurpose open space system is the preservation of components of the ecosystem and landscape that embody the historic character and habitat of the County, even though some areas have been impacted by man-made changes.

Policies follow that are intended to ensure the preservation of cultural, historical, archaeological, paleontological, geological, and educational resources in the County.

Policies:

- OS 19.1 Make available programs that educate students about the rich natural and manmade environment of the County, and offer them to local schools. (AI 3, 75, 76)

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– RCIP Vision Statement