

SOUTH SACRAMENTO HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN PROJECT SUMMARY

Scope of the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan

The South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) is a regional approach to addressing urban development, habitat conservation in concert with agricultural/rangeland preservation and regulatory compliance. The boundary of the SSHCP is Highway 50 on the north, Interstate 5 on the west and the County boundary on the east and south. It encompasses approximately 341,000 acres, excluding the City of Sacramento, Galt and its Sphere of Influence.

Oversight and Partnerships

The SSHCP is overseen by a Steering Committee. Its membership includes the development community, the environmental community, state and federal regulators, the farming/ranching community, the County of Sacramento, the City of Elk Grove and the City of Rancho Cordova. The Biological Subcommittee reports to the Steering Committee and an Economic Subcommittee will be formed in the near future.

Funding has been received from the following partners: US Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Foundation, AKT, Teichert, California Department of Fish and Game, Packard Foundation, Great Valley Center, Sacramento County, Sacramento County Water Agency, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Habitat Conservation

The SSHCP will mitigate for habitat loss by protecting and restoring habitat for 41 species, 12 of which are state or federally listed. The SSHCP will consolidate and direct mitigation to the most suitable areas, thereby enhancing species recovery and long-term viability.

Regulatory Relief

Multiple permits are anticipated for the SSHCP including:

- Federal Endangered Species Act Section 10 permit
- State Endangered Species Act Section 2081 permit
- Federal Clean Water Act Section 404 permit
- State Clean Water Act Section 401 permit
- State 1600 Master Streambed Alteration Permit

The SSHCP will also provide coverage for species that require mitigation measures in the California's Environmental Quality Act review process. The permitting process will be streamlined by providing a predictable mitigation/compensation process to comply with environmental regulations. The plan will include an endowment fee that will be used to protect and manage habitat.

Preliminary Project Assumptions

Participation in the SSHCP will be voluntary. The predominant habitat is vernal pool grasslands. The plan anticipates providing 1:1 open space mitigation. The plan will provide compliance with federal and state endangered species regulations and may streamline regulatory compliance for wetlands. The participating local governments would hold applicable state and federal permits for their respective jurisdictions. Habitat would be purchased only from willing sellers and mostly through purchasing easements. The SSHCP will protect about 50% of the existing vernal pools inside the Urban Services Boundary (USB) and the plan assumes no changes in the USB. The SSHCP will be in place until build out within the USB or about 50-70 years.