



# Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan

Draft Environmental Impact Report

SCH# 2013091071

## **Appendices A and B**

*prepared by*

**County of San Luis Obispo**  
Planning and Building Department  
976 Osos Street  
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

*prepared with the assistance of*

**Rincon Consultants, Inc.**  
1530 Monterey Street, Suite D  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

**September 2019**



**RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.**  
Environmental Scientists | Planners | Engineers  
[rinconconsultants.com](http://rinconconsultants.com)

# Appendix A

---

Notice of Preparation and Comments Received During Public Scoping Period



# NOTICE OF PREPARATION – Draft Environmental Impact Report/NEPA Document & Scoping Meeting Notice

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING  
976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5600  
*Promoting the Wise Use of Land • Helping to Build Great Communities*

**DATE:** 9/20/13

**TO:** Responsible Agencies,  
Trustee Agencies and  
Interested Parties

**FROM:** Department of Planning & Building  
976 Osos St., Room 300  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

**PROJECT TITLE:** Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an integrated Draft Environmental Impact Report and National Environmental Policy Act documentation for the Los Osos Community-Wide Habitat Conservation Plan and Implementing Agreement (the proposed project) and Notice of Scoping Meeting ED13-061

**PROJECT APPLICANT:** County of San Luis Obispo

**NOP/NOI RESPONSES DUE BY:** 11/20/13

**SCOPING MEETING DATE:** Two Meetings as follows: October 8, 2013 between 3:30PM and 5:30PM and 7:00PM and 9:00PM

An integrated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document is proposed to evaluate the environmental effects from the draft Los Osos Community-Wide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Implementing Agreement (IA).

This notice: (1) provides an overview of the proposed action and possible alternatives; (2) is soliciting comments from Responsible and Trustee Federal, State and local agencies on the County's intent to prepare a Draft EIR/NEPA document; (3) is soliciting public participation in and notification of a Public Scoping Meeting and the initiation of a 60 day public scoping period relating to the scope of environmental issues and alternatives to be included in the Draft EIR/NEPA document.

## **NOTICE OF PREPARATION - ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS**

The County of San Luis Obispo will be the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency and will be preparing an integrated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the proposed project (see Project Element description below). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will be the lead agency under NEPA and will be recommending either the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project. The Service is concurrently publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register for the preparation of the NEPA portion of the document. This integrated EIR/NEPA document will meet the requirements of CEQA and NEPA.

Contact Information. For Responsible and Trustee Federal, State and local agencies, please provide your comments, questions and responses by the NOP/NOI date specified above and address all inquiries to:

John McKenzie  
County of San Luis Obispo  
Planning and Building Department  
976 Osos Street, Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
e-mail: [jdmckenzie@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:jdmckenzie@co.slo.ca.us)

The County requests the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR/NEPA document prepared by the County when considering your permit or other approval(s) for the project.

Please provide the following information at your earliest convenience, but not later than the comment period due date specified above.

1. NAME OF CONTACT PERSON. (Please include address, e-mail and telephone number)
2. PERMIT(S) or APPROVAL(S) AUTHORITY. Please provide a summary description of these and send a copy of the relevant sections of legislation, regulatory guidance, etc.
3. ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION. What environmental information must be addressed in the EIR/NEPA document to enable your agency to use this documentation as a basis for your permit issuance or approval?
4. PERMIT STIPULATIONS/CONDITIONS. Please provide a list and description of standard stipulations (conditions) that your agency will apply to features of this project. Are there other conditions that have a high likelihood of application to a permit or approval for this project? If so, please list and describe.
5. ALTERNATIVES. What alternatives does your agency recommend be analyzed in the EIR?
6. REASONABLY FORESEEABLE PROJECTS, PROGRAMS or PLANS. Please name any future project, programs or plans that you think may have an overlapping influence with the project as proposed.
7. RELEVANT INFORMATION. Please provide references for any available, appropriate documentation you believe may be useful to the County in preparing the EIR/NEPA document. Reference to and/or inclusion of such documents in an electronic format would be appreciated.
8. FURTHER COMMENTS. Please provide any further comments or information that will help the County to scope the document and determine the appropriate level of environmental assessment.

The general project description, location, and the probable environmental effects are contained in the following materials.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, **but not later than the due date specified above.**

## **SCOPING MEETINGS**

Two public scoping meetings on the Draft EIR/NEPA document will be held on **October 8, 2013** with the first between **3:30PM and 5:30PM** and the second between **7:00PM and 9:00PM** at the South Bay Community Center located at 2180 Palisades Avenue, Los Osos, California. The purpose of the public scoping meetings are to solicit the views of interested parties, responsible agencies, agencies with jurisdiction by law, trustee agencies and involved federal agencies, as to the appropriate scope and content of the Draft EIR/NEPA document. Representatives from the County and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be present to offer a summary of and answer questions regarding the proposed project. All inquiries about this process or written comments submitted should be made to Trevor Keith (see contact information above). **Written public comments will be due no later than 11/20/13.**

## **PROJECT – RELATED ELEMENTS/CONTRIBUTING FACTORS**

The following factors have contributed to the preparation of the Los Osos Communitywide HCP: local, state and federal regulations that have focused on the protection of sensitive plant and wildlife species; unique characteristics within the coastal community of Los Osos that support several threatened or endangered species; and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) establishing a Prohibition Area (and subsequent construction of the Los Osos sewer, which was predicated on the completion and implementation of a communitywide HCP). Approval and implementation of the HCP will establish a process to allow future development while providing adequate measures to ensure protection of the listed species evaluated under the HCP. The EIR/NEPA document will evaluate the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the HCP and IA. Additional details regarding these factors are described in the following sections.

### **Regulatory Background-Sensitive Species**

**Federal Endangered Species Act.** Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations prohibit the take of animal species listed as endangered or threatened. The term “take” is defined under the Act as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, listed wildlife species, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. “Harm” is defined by Service regulation (50 CFR 17.3) to include significant habitat modifications or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavior patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering. For certain circumstances, under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act, the Service may issue permits to authorize “incidental take” of listed wildlife species. “Incidental take” is defined by the Act as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing permits for endangered and threatened species are at 50 CFR 17.22 and 50 CFR 17.32.

Individuals and State and local agencies proposing an action that is expected to result in the take of federally listed species are encouraged to apply for an incidental take permit under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act to be in compliance with the law. Such permits are issued by the Service when take is not the intention of and is incidental to otherwise legal activities. An application for an incidental take permit must be accompanied by a habitat conservation plan, commonly referred to as an HCP. The regulatory standard under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act is that the effects of authorized incidental take must be minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable. Under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act, a proposed project also must not appreciably

reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild, and adequate funding for a plan to minimize and mitigate impacts must be ensured.

**California Endangered Species Act.** The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) prohibits take of species listed as threatened or endangered by the California Fish and Game Commission, including birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and plants; invertebrates cannot be designated as threatened or endangered (CESA Section 2080). In CESA, take is defined as any action or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill a listed species; take does not include loss or degradation of habitat alone or the impacts of the taking.

Like the Act, CESA allows exceptions to the prohibition for take that occurs during otherwise lawful activities. As described in Section 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code, incidental take of state-listed species may be authorized if an applicant submits an approved plan that minimizes and fully mitigates the impacts of take.

### **Los Osos**

Los Osos is an unincorporated community ten miles northwest of the City of San Luis Obispo and five miles south of the City of Morro Bay in San Luis Obispo County, California. Los Osos is situated on an ancient dune complex. The sandy soil, known as the Baywood Fine Sands, combine with the region's maritime climate to create a mosaic of natural communities including coastal scrub, maritime chaparral, and coast live oak woodland, that support unique and diverse assemblages of plants and animals, including four endemic species with limited distribution.

- Morro Bay kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys heermanni morroensis*);
- Morro shoulderband snail (*Helminthoglypta walkeriana*);
- Morro Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos morroensis*); and
- Indian Knob mountainbalm (*Eriodictyon altissimum*).

Due to their small geographic range, narrow habitat parameters, and small and declining populations, these four species have been listed as either threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act and/or California Endangered Species Act. In order to comply with these laws, landowners and others seeking to conduct projects that would impact these species or their habitats must receive an incidental take permit, as described previously.

The proposed project is part of an application by the County to obtain programmatic incidental take permits from the Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department); the agencies that implement the respective federal and state endangered species acts. The County, as the applicant, is requesting a permit term of 25 years to authorize take of covered species associated with covered activities in the Habitat Conservation Plan area, which is approximately 3,560 acres bounded by the Los Osos Urban Reserve Line. As the permittee, the County will have the ability to issue certificates of inclusion to confer incidental take coverage to landowners and other entities as long as their activities are included on the incidental take permit(s).

The Habitat Conservation Plan component of the proposed project identifies the suite of activities that will be covered by the permit (covered activities), their anticipated impacts to the listed species covered by the permit (covered species), and the steps that the County and other plan participants will take to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of the covered activities

on the covered species (the conservation strategy). Covered activities included in the Habitat Conservation Plan are:

- Commercial and residential development and redevelopment on privately-owned parcels;
- Public entity and private utility company facility and infrastructure development projects;
- Public entity and private utility company activities to operate and maintain, including repair and replace, existing facilities; and
- Activities conducted to implement the Habitat Conservation Plan conservation strategy.

The purpose of issuing a programmatic incidental take permit is to allow the County to authorize the covered activities while conserving the covered species and their habitats. Implementation of a programmatic, multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan, rather than a species-by-species or project-by-project approach, will maximize the benefits of conservation measures for covered species and eliminate potentially expensive and time-consuming efforts associated with processing individual incidental take permits for each project within the proposed Habitat Conservation Plan area. It is important to note that completion of the Los Osos wastewater treatment plant, rather than adoption of the Habitat Conservation Plan and issuance of the incidental take permit(s) to the County, is the action that will trigger lifting of the moratorium and allow new or expanded development to proceed subject to receipt of the required permits. Adoption of the Habitat Conservation Plan and issuance of the incidental take permit(s) would facilitate a streamlined permitting process and also provide a cohesive conservation strategy managed by one entity with a single funding source, but is not a requirement for activities covered in the Habitat Conservation Plan to proceed.

### **Project Location**

The study area for the Draft EIR/NEPA document will be the unincorporated community of Los Osos, which is located on the central coast of California in San Luis Obispo County, approximately ten miles west of San Luis Obispo and five miles south of Morro Bay (see Figure 1). The study area borders the Morro Bay Estuary to the west, Morro Bay State Park to the north, Los Osos Creek to the east, and Montana de Oro State Park to the south. The study area coincides with the Urban Reserve Line for Los Osos.

### **Los Osos Sewer/RWQCB Prohibition Area**

In 1983, the RWQCB adopted a Discharge Prohibition Area for large portions of the Los Osos/ Baywood Park community to reduce water quality pollution in the Los Osos area. This Prohibition Area has severely limited the County from issuing permits for new sources of sewage discharge or increases in the volume from existing sources. Subsequently, the County Board of Supervisors identified Los Osos as having a ‘Level of Severity III’ for inadequate sewage capacity, further restricting new development.

The solution to reduce this water quality problem was the construction of a public sewer system, which is now currently underway outside of Los Osos on Turri Road. Once operational, the wastewater treatment facility will provide service to 5,147 parcels within the 1,584-acre wastewater service area, including lots that are currently vacant (approximately 577 lots) (see Figure 2). As the Prohibition Area did not cover the entire community, there are 866 parcels located outside of the sewer service area that will continue to utilize septic systems for on-site sewage treatment and disposal.

## **PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT TOPICS**

As required by CEQA and NEPA, the Draft EIR/NEPA document will identify and evaluate any potentially significant adverse impacts, whether direct or indirect, that may result from the proposed project. The Draft EIR/NEPA document will also determine whether mitigation measures and/or alternatives can be implemented that will mitigate those impacts to a level that is less than significant. The alternatives for analysis in the document may include, but not be limited to, variations in the covered activities and the footprint of the actions within the approximately 3,560-acre planning area. All impacts will be evaluated against existing conditions in the study area as of the date of the issuance of this NOP.

The Draft EIR/NEPA document will address the following environmental issues, including, but not limited to:

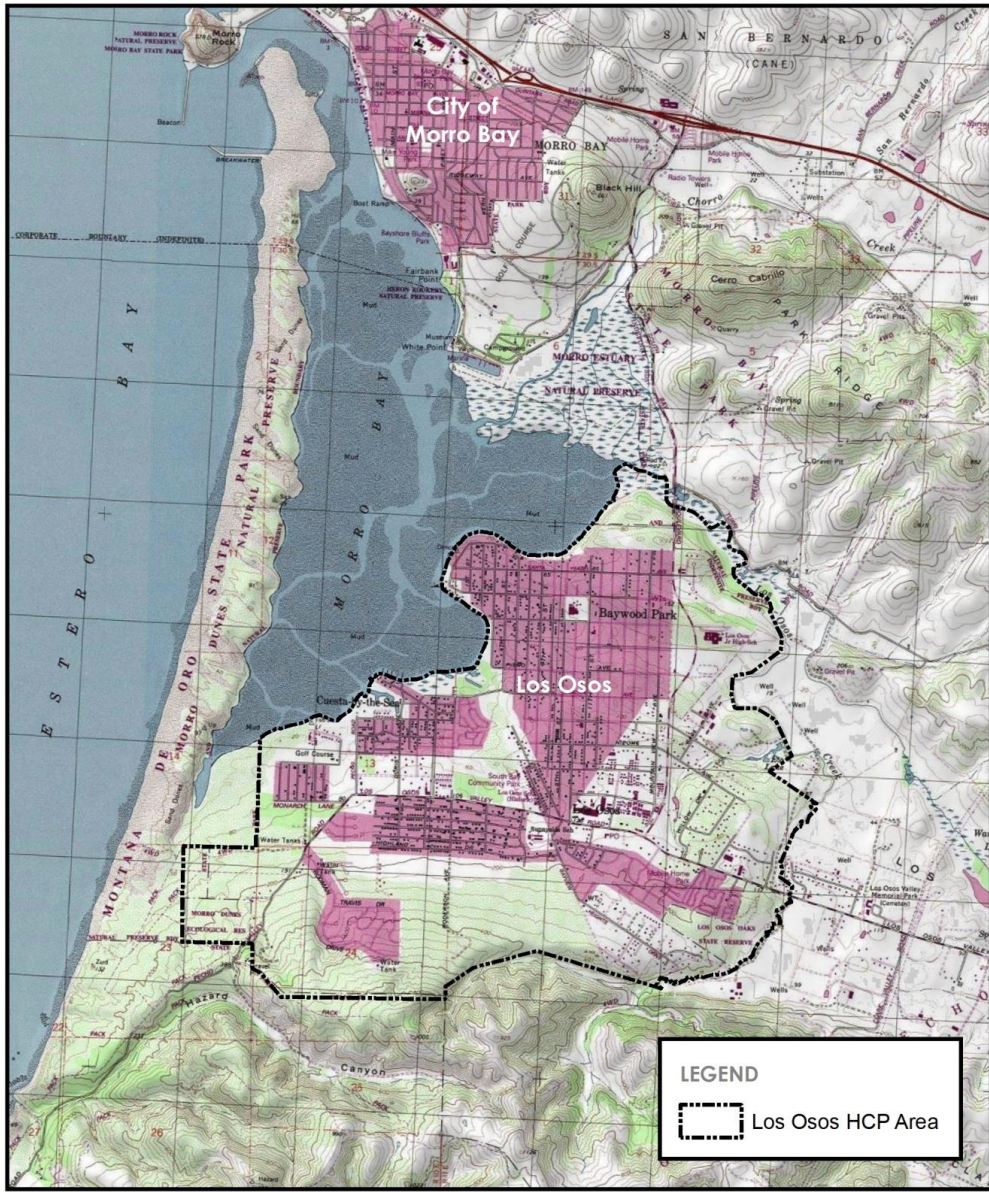
- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Zoning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice
- Transportation and Circulation
- Utilities and Service Systems

### **Attachments**

Figure 1 – HCP Study Area

Figure 2 – Wastewater Treatment Plant Service Area







**LOS OSOS HABITAT  
CONSERVATION PLAN**

0 0.25 0.5 1

---

Miles



**FIGURE 1 – HCP STUDY AREA**

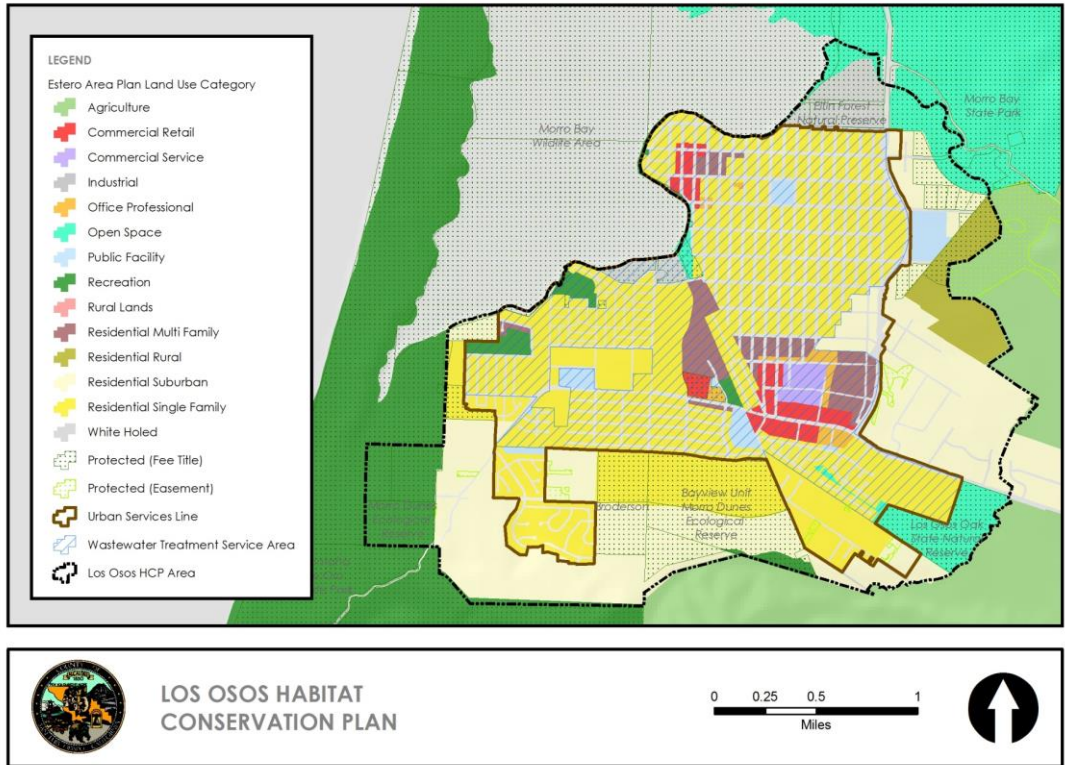


FIGURE 2 – LOS OSOS SEWER – SERVICE AREA



and Federal agencies and the public on the following permit requests.

**Applicant**

Permit No. TE-062121

*Applicant:* Ryan R. Young, Wrightwood, California.

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (harass by survey and locate and monitor nests) the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in conjunction with survey and population monitoring activities throughout the range of the species in California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Colorado for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-205609

*Applicant:* Lawrence P. Kobernus, San Francisco, California.

The applicant requests a permit renewal and amendment to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, and release) the callippe silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria callippe callippe*) and California tiger salamander (Santa Barbara County DPS) (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of each species within the jurisdictional area of the Sacramento Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-022183

*Applicant:* Los Angeles World Airports, Los Angeles, California.

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (harass by survey and conduct maintenance, restoration, and habitat enhancement activities) the El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*) in conjunction with restoration and habitat enhancement activities on lands owned and operated by the Los Angeles World Airport, Los Angeles County, California, for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-086267

*Applicant:* Channel Islands National Park, Ventura, California.

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (survey, capture, handle, measure, determine sex, insert passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags, radio-collar, vaccinate, collect biological samples, conduct veterinary care, transport, and release to the wild) the San Miguel Island fox (*Urocyon littoralis littoralis*), Santa Rosa Island fox (*Urocyon littoralis santarosae*), and Santa Cruz Island fox (*Urocyon littoralis santacruzae*) in conjunction with surveys, population monitoring, and

scientific research on San Miguel Island, Santa Rosa Island, and Santa Cruz Island, Ventura County, California, for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-815537

*Applicant:* Swaim Biological, Incorporated, San Francisco, California.

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, mark, collect tissue, insert passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags, and release) the San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*) and take (harass by survey, capture, handle, and release) the California tiger salamander (Santa Barbara County DPS and Sonoma County DPS) (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with survey activities and scientific research throughout the range of each species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-075898

*Applicant:* Sue Orloff, San Rafael, California.

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (harass by survey, capture, handle, mark, and release) the California tiger salamander (Santa Barbara County DPS and Sonoma County DPS) (*Ambystoma californiense*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of the species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

Permit No. TE-053598-4

*Applicant:* Nicole M. Kimball, Spring Valley, California.

The applicant requests a permit renewal to take (survey by pursuit) the Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) and take (capture, collect, and collect vouchers) the Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), longhorn fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta longiantenna*), Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) in conjunction with survey activities throughout the range of each species in California for the purpose of enhancing the species' survival.

**Public Comments**

We invite public review and comment on each of these recovery permit applications. Comments and materials we receive will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address

listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: September 13, 2013.

**Larry Rabin,**

*Acting Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.*

[FR Doc. 2013-22776 Filed 9-18-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS-R8-ES-2013-N167; FF08ESMF-FXES112080000-134]**

**Habitat Conservation Plan for the Community of Los Osos, San Luis Obispo County, CA; Notice of Intent**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent; notice of public scoping meeting; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, intend to prepare either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (NEPA), for the proposed Los Osos Community-wide Habitat Conservation Plan (LOHCP or plan). The LOHCP is being prepared by the County of San Luis Obispo (County or applicant) in support of its application for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The decision to prepare an EA or EIS will be, in part, contingent on the complexity of issues identified during, and following, the scoping phase of the NEPA process. The proposed permit would authorize the incidental take of threatened and endangered wildlife species that could result from the activities covered under the LOHCP and would include conservation measures to an endangered plant species that would also be covered under the plan. We announce meetings and invite comments from other agencies, Tribes, and the public.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration of any written comments, please send by

November 4, 2013. Two public scoping meetings will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2013; the first from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and the second from 7 to 9 p.m. For the public meeting address, see "Scoping Meetings" below.

**ADDRESSES:** To request further information or submit written comments, please use one of the following methods and note that your information request or comment is in reference to the Los Osos Community-wide Habitat Conservation Plan.

- *U.S. Mail:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003.
- *In Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pick-Up:* Call 805-644-1766 to make an appointment during regular business hours to drop off comments or view received comments at the U.S. mail address above.

- *Facsimile:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 805-644-3958, Attn: Julie M. Vanderwier.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie M. Vanderwier, Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist, or Douglass M. Cooper, Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor, by phone at 805-644-1766 or by U.S. mail at the above address. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf, please call the Federal Information Relay Service at 800-977-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), publish this notice under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; NEPA), and its implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR 1506.6, as well as in compliance with section 10(c) of the Act. We intend to prepare either a draft EA or EIS, hereafter referred to as the NEPA document, to evaluate the impacts of several alternatives related to the potential issuance of an incidental take permit (ITP) to the applicant, as well as impacts of the proposed Los Osos Community-wide Habitat Conservation Plan.

The LOHCP is a comprehensive plan designed to provide long-term conservation and management of sensitive species and the habitats upon which those species depend within the Los Osos plan area, while accommodating other important land uses.

### Background

Section 9 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations prohibit the "take" of wildlife species listed as endangered or

threatened. The Act defines the term "take" as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect listed wildlife species, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Harm includes significant habitat modifications or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavior patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3(c)). Pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act, we may issue permits to authorize "incidental take" of listed wildlife species. "Incidental take" is defined by the Act as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Service regulations governing permits for endangered and threatened species are promulgated at 50 CFR 17.22 and 50 CFR 17.32, respectively.

Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act contains provisions for issuing such ITPs to non-Federal entities for the take of endangered and threatened wildlife species, provided the following criteria are met:

- The taking will be incidental to an otherwise lawful activity;
- The applicant will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impact of such taking;
- The applicant will develop a proposed habitat conservation plan (HCP) and ensure that adequate funding for the plan is provided;
- The taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild; and
- The applicant will carry out any other measures that the Service may deem necessary or appropriate for purposes of implementing the HCP.

Thus, the purpose of the proposed ITP is to authorize the County of San Luis Obispo to incidentally take covered wildlife species associated with development and other covered activities within the Los Osos plan area provided such take is minimized and mitigated through an HCP (the LOHCP) that meets the requirements of the Act. Implementation of an HCP for multiple species can maximize the benefits of conservation measures and eliminate expensive and time-consuming efforts associated with processing of individual species ITPs. The Service expects the County will request a permit term of 25 years.

### Plan Area

The LOHCP plan area includes approximately 3,560 acres in the unincorporated community of Los Osos. It is largely coterminous with the Los Osos Urban Reserve Line—the boundary

separating suburban and rural land uses in the region, within which land use is guided by the Estero Area Plan. The plan area borders the Morro Bay Estuary to the west, Morro Bay State Park to the north, Los Osos Creek to the east, and Montana de Oro State Park to the south. This area includes suitable habitat for the covered species that is anticipated to be impacted by the activities covered in the LOHCP.

### Covered Activities

Four main categories of covered activities were identified through the outreach conducted by the County to prepare the LOHCP:

- *Private development:* Commercial and residential development and redevelopment (including remodels) on privately owned parcels;

- *Capital Projects:* Public and private utility company facility and infrastructure development projects, such as building or expanding roads, libraries, and parks;

- *Facilities Operations and Maintenance:* Public and private utility company activities to operate and maintain, including repair and replace, existing facilities, such as roads, drainage basins, and water systems; and

- *Conservation Strategy Implementation:* Activities conducted to implement the LOHCP conservation strategy, including restoration, management, maintenance, and monitoring of conservation lands used to mitigate the effects of the other covered activities.

As the permittee, the County would have the ability to issue certificates of inclusion to confer take coverage to landowners and other entities for covered species and activities.

The LOHCP will include measures necessary to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the effects of the taking for three wildlife species covered by the plan that result from private development, capital projects, facilities operation and maintenance, and implementation of the conservation strategy within plan area. The LOHCP will also include measures to conserve one endangered plant species covered by the plan.

### Covered Species

We anticipate that four federally listed species will be included as covered species in the proposed LOHCP: Morro Bay kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys heermanni morroensis*; federally endangered), Morro shoulderband snail (*Helminthoglypta walkeriana*; federally endangered), Indian Knob mountainbalm (*Eriodictyon altissimum*; federally endangered), and

Morro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos morroensis*; federally threatened).

“Take” under the Act does not apply to listed plant species. Consequently, the Act does not prohibit take of listed plant species, and take of listed plant species cannot be authorized under an ITP. The LOHCP proposes to include a listed plant species on the permit in recognition of the conservation benefits provided for them under the LOHCP. Additionally, inclusion of protections for federally listed plant species in an HCP assists us in meeting our regulatory obligations under section 7(a)(2) of the Act.

The applicant would receive assurances under the Service’s “No Surprises” regulations found in 50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5) for all species included on the ITP.

#### Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement

Before deciding whether or not to issue the requested ITP, the Service will prepare a draft NEPA document to analyze the environmental impacts associated with issuance of this permit. In this document, we will consider the following alternatives: (1) The proposed action, which includes the issuance of take authorizations consistent with the proposed LOHCP under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act; (2) no-action (no permit issuance); and (3) a reasonable range of alternatives that could include variations in impacts, conservation, permit duration, covered species, covered activities, permit area, or a combination of these elements.

The NEPA document will identify and analyze potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of permit issuance and the implementation of the proposed LOHCP on biological resources, land uses, utilities, air quality, water resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics and environmental justice, recreation, aesthetics, climate change and greenhouse gases, and other environmental issues that could occur with the implementation of each alternative. The Service will also identify measures to avoid or minimize any significant effects of the proposed action on the quality of the human environment.

Following completion of the environmental review, the Service will publish a notice of availability and a request for comment on the draft NEPA document and the applicant’s permit application (which will include the proposed LOHCP.)

#### Public Comments

We request data, comments, new information, and suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, Tribes, industry, or any other party on this notice. We will consider these comments in developing a draft NEPA document and in the development of the LOHCP and ITP. We particularly seek comments on the following:

1. Biological information concerning the species proposed to be covered in the LOHCP, including information on range, distribution, population sizes, and population trends;
2. Relevant information concerning impacts of proposed covered activities on these species;
3. Information on other current or planned activities in the plan area and their possible impacts on the species;
4. The presence of archaeological sites, buildings and structures, historic events, sacred and traditional areas, and other historic preservation concerns, which must be considered in project planning by the National Historic Preservation Act;
5. A range of alternatives to be included in the NEPA document; and
6. Any other environmental issues that should be considered with regard to the proposed development and permit action.

You may submit your comments and materials by any one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Comments and materials we receive, as well as supporting documentation we use in preparing the draft NEPA document, will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at the Service’s Ventura address (see **ADDRESSES**). Please note that all comments and materials we receive, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

#### Scoping Meetings

The scoping meeting will be held at the South Bay Community Center, located at 2180 Palisades Avenue, Los Osos, CA; see **DATES** for the dates and

times of the meetings. The purpose of scoping meetings is to provide the public with a general understanding of the background of the proposed LOHCP and activities it would cover, alternative proposals under consideration for the draft EA or EIS, and the Service’s role and steps to be taken to develop the draft NEPA document for the proposed LOHCP; and also to solicit suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives for the Service to consider when drafting the EA or EIS. Written comments will be accepted at the meetings. Comments can also be submitted by the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Once the draft NEPA document and proposed LOHCP are complete and made available for public review, there will be additional opportunity for public comments on the content of these documents.

#### Scoping Meetings Location Accommodations

Persons needing reasonable accommodation in order to attend and participate in the public meetings should contact Julie M. Vanderwier at 805-664-1766 as soon as possible. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, a request should be submitted no later than 1 week before the public meetings.

#### Authority

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and NEPA implementing regulations (40 CFR 1501.7, 40 CFR 1506.6, and 40 CFR 1508.22).

Dated: September 13, 2013.

**Alexandra Pitts,**

*Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, CA.*

[FR Doc. 2013-22778 Filed 9-18-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

[GX13LR000F60100]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (1 Form)

**AGENCY:** U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of an extension of a currently approved information collection (1028-0059).

**SUMMARY:** We (the USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection request (ICR) described





November 1, 2013

County of San Luis Obispo  
Planning & Building Department  
Attention: John McKenzie  
976 Osos Street, Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

**President**  
Leonard A. Moothart

**Vice President**  
Craig V. Baltimore

**Directors**  
David S. Vogel  
Marshall E. Ochylski  
R. Michael Wright

**General Manager**  
Kathy Kivley

**District Accountant**  
Amparo Haber

**Fire Chief**  
Robert Lewin

**Battalion Chief**  
Phill Veneris

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 6064  
Los Osos, CA 93412

**Offices:**  
2122 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 102  
Los Osos, CA 93402

**Phone:** 805/528-9370  
**FAX:** 805/528-9377

[www.locsd.org](http://www.locsd.org)

RE: Comments - Los Osos Community-Wide HCP

Dear Mr. McKenzie

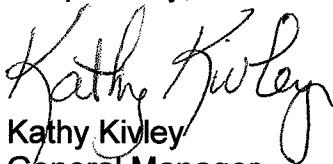
In response to your public notice letter dated 9/20/13 (<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Assets/PL/environmental/Los+Osos+Communitywide+Habitat+Conservation+Plan/NOP.pdf>), this letter is to provide comments related to required Fire Department activities that should be included in the analysis of this EIR/NEPA document. These are routine activities that may fall under facilities use that should be addressed under the HCP and authorized under the terms of the eventual Incidental Take Permit. Please see responses below to the eight informational items requested:

1. **NAME OF CONTACT PERSON.** (Please include address, e-mail and telephone number)  
Battalion Chief Phill Veneris  
South Bay Fire Station  
2315 Bayview Heights Drive, Los Osos CA 93402  
[Phil.Veneris@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Phil.Veneris@fire.ca.gov), 528-1053
2. **PERMIT(S) or APPROVAL(S) AUTHORITY.** Please provide a summary description of these and send a copy of the relevant sections of legislation, regulatory guidance, etc.
  - Title 4 - LOCSD Fire Code
  - CCR Title 19, Division 1, §3.07(b)
  - PRC 4291
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION.** What environmental information must be addressed in the EIR/NEPA document to enable your agency to use this documentation as a basis for your permit issuance or approval?  
Potential impacts to listed species from the activities described in #4 below.

4. **PERMIT STIPULATIONS/CONDITIONS.** Please provide a list and description of standard stipulations (conditions) that your agency will apply to features of this project. Are there other conditions that have a high likelihood of application to a permit or approval for this project? If so, please list and describe.
- Routine Fire Department activities include:
1. Hydrant maintenance involving flushing of large quantities of water
  2. Vegetation clearance around hydrants
  3. Enforcement of the local weed abatement ordinance which requires residents to maintain defensible space around structures by removing excess vegetation.
  4. Enforcement of local hazard abatement, which requires landowners to abate fire hazards on unimproved parcels.
  5. Complete large scale hazard abatement projects contained within the Los Osos Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
5. **ALTERNATIVES.** What alternatives does your agency recommend be analyzed in the EIR?  
None
6. **REASONABLY FORESEEABLE PROJECTS, PROGRAMS or PLANS.** Please name any future project, programs or plans that you think may have an overlapping influence with the project as proposed.  
None
7. **RELEVANT INFORMATION.** Please provide references for any available, appropriate documentation you believe may be useful to the County in preparing the EIR/NEPA document. Reference to and/or inclusion of such documents in an electronic format would be appreciated.  
None
8. **FURTHER COMMENTS.** Please provide any further comments or information that will help the County to scope the document and determine the appropriate level of environmental assessment.

Thank you for consideration of these comments. Inclusion of these activities in the HCP will improve our ability to continue to serve the community while providing necessary environmental protections for these species.

Respectfully,



Kathy Kivley  
General Manager

Los Osos Community Services District

**J. H. EDWARDS COMPANY**  
A REAL PROPERTY CONCERN

November 14, 2013

San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department  
County Government Center, Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: (FWS-R8-ES-2013-N167; FF08ESMF – FXES11120800000-134)  
Habitat Conservation Plan for the Community of Los Osos, San Luis Obispo County,  
California. Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment

Attention: John McKenzie

Dear Mr. McKenzie

Please include these comments on the project listed above.

With regard to the Morro shoulderband snail (MSS), the Los Osos Waste Water Project (LOWWP) monitoring data should be included in the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Recent surveys suggest that MSS presence reaches considerably further east of original surveys done on the Morro Bay sandspit. Personal observations include finding MSS as far east as Turri Road. Its distribution may extend throughout the Morro Bay watershed.

The MSS was downlisted in 2006 to "Threatened." With the new data indicating its abundance and broad distribution, it begs the question, as to whether or not it is indeed threatened or endangered. Perhaps the MSS should be delisted altogether.

The Morro kangaroo rat should be a covered species in the HCP. At a minimum, it should be a covered species within the Urban Services Line. The basis for this is the historical trapping both in the urban area as well as the rural areas.

The covered activities as presented include Capital Projects. The activities should expressly include those water resource development and distribution projects as identified in the Los Osos Basin Plan action programs.

(<http://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/Reports/pdf/Basin%20Plan%20Public%20Review%20Draft%208.1.2013.pdf>)

It should also include the potential for surface water discharge (NPDES permit) in Los Osos Creek as it relates to groundwater basin recharge and management by the Los Osos Community Services District and Golden State Water Company.

The HCP discusses invasive plant species and the management of them. One invasive that is not included in the HCP is devastating in its effects on the Coast Live oak



**J. H. EDWARDS COMPANY**  
A REAL PROPERTY CONCERN

woodland habitats and requires attention. The invasive is *Asparagus asparagoides*, commonly known as Bridal creeper, Bridal-veil creeper, Gnarboola, Smilax or Smilax asparagus Bridal creeper is a herbaceous climbing plant of the family Asparagaceae and is native to tropical and southern Africa. This plant is choking out the root systems of the pygmy oaks in and around the Elfin Forest as an example. Please see the attached photograph of Bridal creeper. Oak woodlands are a key component of the Los Osos Greenbelt. Please incorporate the 2005 Los Osos Greenbelt study prepared by the San Luis Obispo Land Conservancy into the HCP.

The growth inducement section including Housing and Population should reflect the limitations associated with water availability in Los Osos. It is uncertain if any of the suggested Programs in the Los Osos Basin Plan will be implemented. The first tier of Programs would allow for about 850 new dwelling units over a twenty year time horizon. This equates to an increase in population of just over 2,000 people. Additional Programs would require implementation to produce additional water resources to accommodate further development.

Finally, the term of the Section 10(a)(1)(B) permit should be 30 years which may be a better reflection of the time horizon needed for the buildout of the community.

Sincerely,

*Jeff Edwards*

Jeff Edwards

From the Desk of Julie Tacker

November 14, 2013

San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department  
County Government Center, Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: (FWS-R8-ES-2013-N167; FF08ESMF – FXES11120800000-134)  
Habitat Conservation Plan for the Community of Los Osos, San Luis Obispo County,  
California. Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment

Attention: John McKenzie

Dear Mr. KcKenzie

As the communitywide Habitat Conservation Plan works its way through the process, it occurs to me that the Los Osos Community Services District and Los Osos Fire Safe Council Focus Group should be included in a companion Section 7.

Section 7(a)(1) requires Federal agencies to use their authority to further the conservation of listed species. Section 7(a)(2) requires Federal agencies to consult with the Service to ensure that they are not undertaking, funding, permitting, or authorizing actions likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat. Other paragraphs of this section establish the requirement to conduct conferences on proposed species; allow applicants to initiate early consultation; require FWS and NMFS to prepare biological opinions and issue incidental take statements.

Section 7 also establishes procedures for seeking exemptions from the requirements of section 7(a)(2) from the Endangered Species Committee. [ESA §7]

The County's preparation of the Communitywide Habitat Conservation Plan under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act will cover much of the same areas and similar activities. The work of fuel reduction crews are 'not likely to adversely affect' determinations. I respectfully request informal consultation under Section 7 of the ESA for the Los Osos Community Services district to commission thinning of vegetation in an effort to protect the community from the devastating effect of wildland fire.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Tacker

P.O. Box 6070, Los Osos, CA 93402  
julietacker@charter.net 805-528-3569

## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

725 FRONT STREET, SUITE 300  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
VOICE AND TDD (831) 427-4863  
FAX (831) 427-4877



November 20, 2013

John McKenzie  
County of San Luis Obispo  
Planning and Building Department  
976 Osos Street, Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: **Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report for the Los Osos Community-Wide Habitat Conservation Plan**

Dear Mr. McKenzie:

Thank you for soliciting input from the California Coastal Commission (Commission) on the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Los Osos Community-Wide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The HCP would cover activities and actions within an approximately 3,560-acre planning area, bounded by the Morro Bay Estuary to the west, Morro Bay State Park to the north, Los Osos Creek to the east, and Montana de Oro State Park to the south. The HCP is one component of a three part process (along with a Local Coastal Plan Amendment) necessary to allow future development and provide wastewater treatment service to undeveloped parcels within Los Osos.

It is imperative that the EIR evaluates the HCP boundaries as they would be amended through the eventual Local Coastal Plan Amendment. This analysis will help to ensure infill boundaries correspond with the wastewater treatment service areas and other applicable boundaries for planning, like the Urban Services Line (USL) and the greenbelt area lines within the URL, and that potential changes to the USL based in part on the HCP, will be described in detail. The project location on page 5 of the NOP indicates that the study area coincides with the Urban Reserve Line (URL) for Los Osos, yet, for example, certain areas of the "core," e.g., are outside the current USL. Please ensure such areas are clearly described and evaluated in terms of how and why the USL and/or the URL may be amended to include or exclude certain areas.

In addition, Condition 92 of the Los Osos Wastewater Treatment Plant (LOWWP) coastal development permit requires that the "HCP shall identify the habitat resources and the quality of those resources on the remaining vacant properties within the South Bay Urban Area and the Los Osos Greenbelt" (see full citation below). Commission staff looks forward to continuing to work in coordination with the County on this critical component of the HCP, and to ensure consistency with the existing conditions of the LOWWP.

The Notice of Preparation identifies 17 "environmental issues" to be evaluated in the EIR. These proposed impact topics generally cover the applicable Coastal Act issues raised by the proposed HCP. While we may have additional comments upon release of the EIR, we request that you specifically address the following in developing the EIR:

### **Biological Resources**

The EIR/NEPA document should include a map and discussion of the physical characteristics of the study area including the topography, soil types, migration corridors, and overall climate and micro-climates of the HCP planning area. The document must include the results from a current biological assessment and wetland delineation of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Area. The following information should be included in the EIR/NEPA document:

- A list of sensitive species and habitats that are known to occur and that could occur in the HCP area. The California Natural Diversity Data Base, the California Native Plant Society, and other reliable source(s) should be queried to ensure that the list is as accurate as possible.
- Protocol-level survey results for those sensitive species likely to occur within the HCP area.
- Habitat maps (sensitive plant and animals species locations should be included on maps).
- Discussion of seed banks.
- Observed and estimated wildlife use of the HCP area.
- Nesting bird survey results including locations of rookeries/heronries. Protocol-level surveys must be conducted for sensitive species. If raptors occur in the HCP area, raptor protocol nesting and wintering surveys should be conducted.
- Location of trees suitable for nesting or roosting and location of significant foraging habitat.
- A wetland delineation (performed using Commission criteria) report and associated maps that show the boundaries of all delineated wetlands. Please include the wetland data sheets in the document.

In addition, the EIR/NEPA document should include an analysis of the frequency of wildfires, floods, or other natural disasters affecting the HCP area and the length of time since the last fire, flood, etc. The document should discuss how the HCP will avoid and minimize impacts to natural resources and should include appropriate mitigations for any impacts.

Lastly, the EIR/NEPA document should provide an analysis of the historical ecology of the HCP area that includes habitat maps (including the U.S Coast Survey "T-sheets" of the area, if available) that identify the types, locations, and patterns of habitat and where possible, and location of species through time. This historical ecology analysis, along with the current biological assessment and wetland delineation findings of the HCP area, will be invaluable for evaluating the efficacy of the proposed HCP.

**LOWWP Condition #92**

Condition #92 of the LOWWP is relevant to the HCP. Please ensure compliance with the requirements of this condition and ensure that the requirements are included within the scope of the EIR. The full text of the condition is shown below:

*Prior to providing wastewater treatment service to undeveloped parcels, the County, in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS), San Luis Obispo County and the California Coastal Commission shall prepare and implement a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the long-term preservation of habitat remaining within the Los Osos Greenbelt, including habitat remaining on individual vacant lots. The HCP shall:*

- a. identify the habitat resources and the quality of those resources on the remaining vacant properties within the South Bay Urban Area and Los Osos Greenbelt;*
- b. specify measures to avoid and minimize impacts to ESHA from buildout of the Service area, and to mitigate unavoidable impacts through acquisition, protection, and/or restoration of equivalent habitat within the planning area; and*
- c. implement such measures through an amendment to the Estero Area Plan that integrates the HCP, as approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Department and Fish and Game, with LCP standards for development in the South Bay Urban Area. This LCP amendment must become fully effective, and all permits required by state and federal Endangered Species Acts shall be issued, before County makes any final commitment to provide wastewater treatment service to undeveloped properties.*

*The range of potential conservation programs to be considered in the HCP shall include, but not be limited to the following:*

- a. New development programs and standards that maximize preservation of sensitive biological resources in the Los Osos area, such as:*
  - i. Transfer of development credits*
  - ii. Clustering Board of Supervisors – Adopted Findings and Conditions of Approval*
  - iii. Avoidance of sensitive resources in site design*
  - iv. Changes in density and land use*
  - v. Incorporation of open space into the design*
  - iv. Changes in density and land use*
  - v. Incorporation of open space into the design of new development*
- b. Programs aimed at facilitating coordination among agencies and organizations involved in management and conservation/preservation of sensitive resources, including USF&WS, CDFG, California Coastal Commission, San Luis Obispo County, MBNEP, Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, and others;*

*c. The creation of a land bank program to facilitate the purchase of properties with high quality habitat within the Greenbelt, to be repaid over time from fees on new building permits; and*

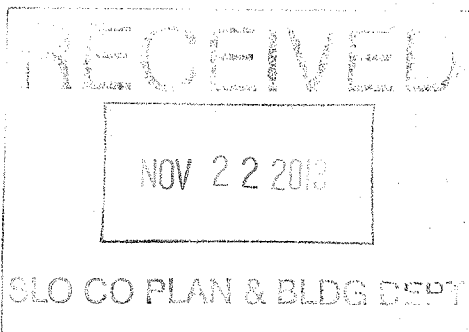
*d. Programs for the acquisition of properties within the Greenbelt that contain significant habitat resources.*

Thank you for your consideration of the comments included above. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me (831) 427-4863.

Sincerely,



Daniel Robinson  
Coastal Planner  
Central Coast District Office





November 20, 2012

John McKenzie  
County of San Luis Obispo  
Planning and Building Department  
976 Osos Street, Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: Comments Submitted in Response to the Notice of Preparation Issued 9/20/13 Regarding Los Osos HCP  
EIR/NEPA Draft Document Preparation

1. Name of Contact Person – Lexie Bell, Assistant Director, Morro Bay National Estuary Program  
Address: 601 Embarcadero, Suite 11, Morro Bay CA 93402  
Email: [lbell@mbnep.org](mailto:lbell@mbnep.org)  
Phone: 805-772-3834, ext. 16
2. Approval Authority – The Morro Bay National Estuary Program is required by the Federal Clean Water Act to have an up-to-date, approved (by the governor of the state of California and the U.S. EPA) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (Plan). Section 320(b)(7) of the Clean Water Act requires that each National Estuary Program review federal programs, as consistent with Executive Order 12372, to assess whether those programs are consistent with the Plan. The requirement consists of two parts: (a) a one-time review of current federal activities or financial assistance for consistency with the Plan, and (b) the development of a process for continued, ongoing future review of future activities. The Morro Bay National Estuary Program conducted its initial review when drafting the first Plan in 2001. The Morro Bay National Estuary Program currently meets its federal consistency requirement by using the California Coastal Commission's existing federal consistency review process. The Coastal Commission has agreed to notify the Morro Bay National Estuary Program of any federal activities that may affect the coastal area in or near Morro Bay and its watershed.

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program has no direct permitting or approval authorities.

The regulations referenced are as follows:

Federal Clean Water Act, Section 320 -

[http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/nep/upload/2007\\_04\\_09\\_estuaries\\_neprimeruments\\_srAppendixA.pdf](http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/nep/upload/2007_04_09_estuaries_neprimeruments_srAppendixA.pdf)

Executive Order 12372 - <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/rgeo12372.pdf>

3. Environmental Information – The Morro Bay National Estuary Program would expect that the EIR/NEPA documentation would meet all requirements of the California Coastal Commission.
4. Permit Stipulations/Conditions – None applicable.
5. Alternatives – No specific recommendations at this time.

[Type text]

6. Reasonably Foreseeable Projects, Programs or Plans – The Morro Bay National Estuary Program would expect to engage in a number of restoration and conservation projects related to our mission “to protect and restore Morro Bay for people and wildlife” in the Los Osos area in the future. Activities in the future might include land acquisitions and/or easements (as primary entity or supporting other nonprofit efforts), restoration to native habitats on property held by the Morro Bay National Estuary Program or our partners, work to bolster the use of Mutt Mitts in Los Osos, water quality monitoring in various locations, and education and outreach about Morro Bay and the surrounding environment. The Morro Bay National Estuary Program is also currently engaged in creating a restoration and conservation plan for the Morro Bay watershed to prioritize our efforts in the area. The plan will be complete by early 2015. The Morro Bay National Estuary Program does on occasion apply for environmental permits for restoration and monitoring work in and around the study area for the Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan. Currently, our staff and volunteers monitor water quality in the wet season at two sites on Los Osos Valley Road that are within the HCP boundaries. Additionally, we sometimes complete dry season monitoring within Los Osos and are planning on monitoring freshwater seeps in Sweet Springs in the coming year. Bacteria monitoring data is shared with various local entities, including the Regional Water Board and the County of San Luis Obispo. Additional data may be shared as requested or seen in our data summary reports (see more information on these reports in question 7).
  
7. Relevant Information – The Characterization Report for the Morro Bay Estuary that was completed in preparation for the drafting of the 2001 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan may be useful. It can be obtained through our office at 601 Embarcadero, Suite 11, Morro Bay CA. Phone number – 805-772-3834. The final version only exists in hard copies. The characterization included a number of background studies on the Morro Bay estuary that are also available through our office. In addition, the Morro Bay National Estuary Program completes an annual or semiannual data summary report on all monitoring efforts throughout the watershed, including water quality, suspended sediment, and eelgrass. The most recent reports can be found on our website at [http://mbnep.org/Library/data\\_summaries.html](http://mbnep.org/Library/data_summaries.html). Older reports can be obtained by contacting our office.

The current version of our Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (referenced in question 2 above) can be found on our website at <http://mbnep.org/Library/ccmp.html>.

8. Further Comments – None at this time.

Sincerely,

Lexie Bell  
Assistant Director



# Appendix B

---

Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan