

News Release

Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, California 92008
Phone: 760-431-9440
www.fws.gov/carlsbad



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Contact: Jessica D'Ambrosio, jessica_dambrosio@fws.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service releases draft environmental assessment for amendment to San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program

Carlsbad, *Calif.*— Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the receipt of an application from the County of San Diego to amend its 1996 Multiple Species Conservation Program subarea plan permit. A draft environmental assessment of the proposed amendment is available for a 30-day public review and comment period.

The County is requesting an amendment for the proposed Otay Ranch Village 14 and Planning Areas 16 and 19 development project; including changing the footprint of the project, and adding incidental take coverage for the federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly and San Diego fairy shrimp.

A land exchange is also part of the project analyzed in the draft EA, as follows:

- Disposal/transfer of 219.4 acres of land managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to the project proponent in exchange for 339.7 acres of land in fee title;
- Reclassifying 44.5 acres of the Subarea Plan from “Otay Ranch areas where no ‘take permits’ will be authorized” to “take authorized area,” to allow for future development;

Reclassifying 2.2 acres of the Subarea Plan from “hardline preserve” to “take authorized area”; and

Designating 531.2 acres as “hardline preserve.”

The proposed project encompasses 1,543 acres in southwestern San Diego County.

A copy of the draft EA and proposed amendment is available online at https://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/HCP_Docs.html.

Comments on the draft EA and proposed amendment will be accepted until August 24, 2020. You may submit comments electronically to fw8cfwocomments@fws.gov; or by mail to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, 2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250, Carlsbad, CA 92008. Please reference Otay Village 14 in the subject of your comments.

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