



## Orange County Southern Subregion HCP

### Balancing Economic Development and Wildlife Conservation

The Orange County Southern Subregion Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is the most recent plan to be completed in southern California. It represents a voluntary program that established a **permanent habitat reserve and perpetual land management program**. Public and private interests came together to create a plan which responsibly addressed long-term land use and natural resource conservation. In the planning stages for more than a decade, this regional HCP includes large tracts of adjoining lands owned by the family-held Rancho Mission Viejo (RMV) and the County of Orange.

#### The benefits provided by this HCP are:

- 1) Creation of a subregional habitat Reserve System;
- 2) Formulation of a Habitat Reserve Management Program (HRMP) which will ensure long-term management and monitoring of biological resources within the Reserve;
- 3) Funding for the HRMP is projected to be about \$325.7 million over the next 75 years;
- 4) Newly dedicated conservation lands will include Major portions of the San Mateo Watershed, one of the last coastal watersheds in southern California that remains undeveloped; and
- 5) Conservation of 80 percent of the coastal California gnatcatcher population located on RMV lands primarily in Chiquita Canyon

#### Just the Plan Facts:

- Plan was approved in 2007 – 75 year permit
- Participating jurisdictions: County of Orange, Rancho Mission Viejo, and Santa Margarita Water District
- Planning area covers 132,000 acres
- Plan creates a preservation area totaling 32,818 acres, including 16,536 acres of newly dedicated conservation lands, some of which were not previously conserved and managed
- 32 animal species and 10 vegetation communities covered, including 7 federally listed species
- Habitat and species covered under the plan include: coastal sage scrub, grasslands, oak woodlands, coastal California gnatcatcher, arroyo toad, San Diego fairy shrimp



Belding's savannah sparrow  
USFWS/Loren Hays



arroyo toad  
USFWS/Kurt Roblek

#### Carlsbad Field Office

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May 2007