

News Release

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Date: December 9, 2019

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Draft Upper Santa Ana River Wash Conservation Plan Released for Public Comment; Public Meetings Scheduled

Carlsbad, *Calif.* - Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the [availability](#) of a draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and associated draft environmental documents for the Upper Santa Ana River Wash. The San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District and San Bernardino County Flood Control District have applied to the Service for a 30-year permit for activities in a portion of the Upper Santa Ana River Wash in San Bernardino County.

The Service strives to be a good neighbor and, wherever possible, balance the needs of wildlife with the needs of local communities and the economy. We have been working collaboratively with the Water Conservation District and others for more than a decade to bring this planning effort to fruition.

The draft HCP encompasses 4,892 acres and proposes to cover water conservation, aggregate mining, and recreation and other infrastructure and public services. Species proposed for coverage under the HCP include the federally endangered San Bernardino kangaroo rat, slender-horned spineflower and Santa Ana River woolly-star.

Comments on the draft HCP, Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report will be accepted until January 23, 2020.

Public meetings are scheduled for January 9, 2020, from 2-4 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m., at the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District Office, 1630 West Redlands Avenue, Redlands, Calif. 92373.

The documents are available online at [the Carlsbad Office](#) or the [Water District](#). You may also view them at the following public libraries:

- A.K. Smiley Library at 125 West Vine St, Redlands, Calif.
- Highland Branch Library, 7863 Central Ave, Highland, Calif.

Comments can be submitted electronically at fw8cfwocomments@fws.gov.

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