



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

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