

County of San Diego
Butterflies Habitat Conservation Plan
“Butterflies HCP”

Public Workshop
July 11, 2023

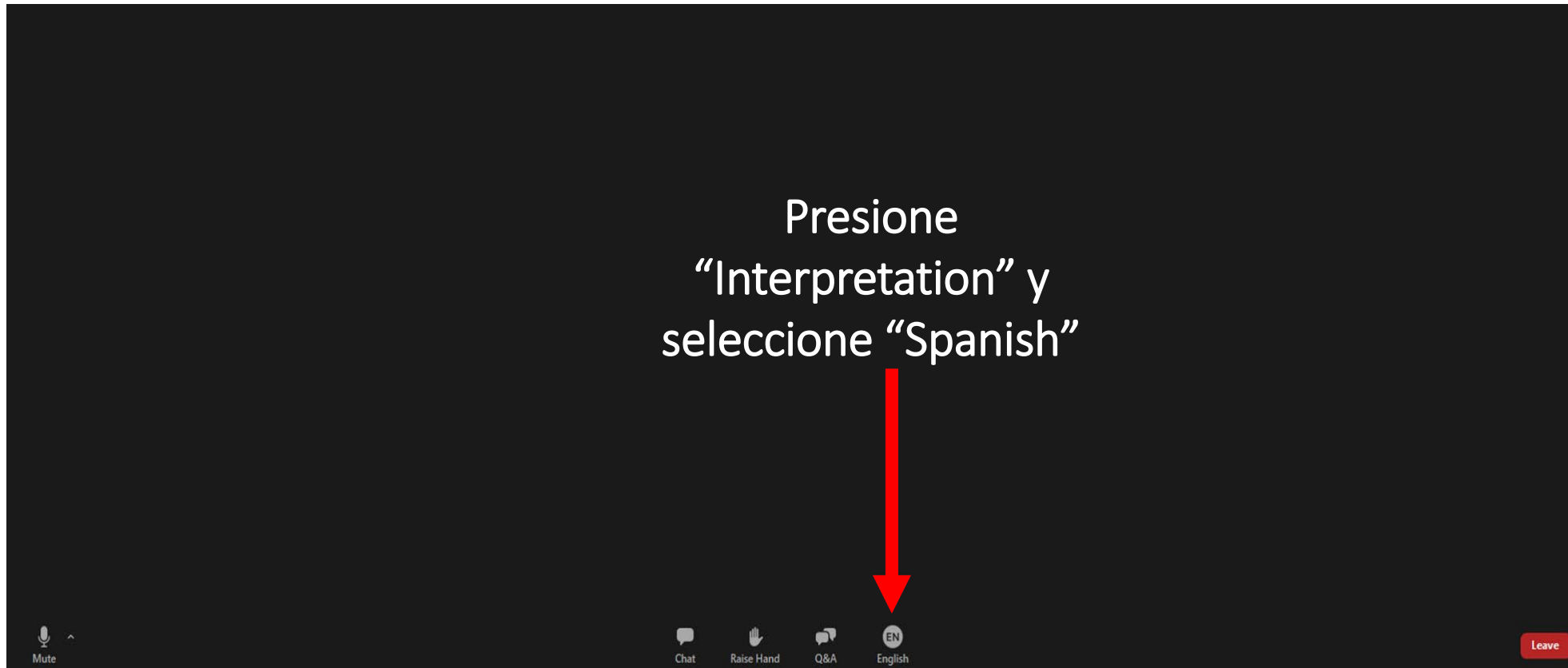


Butterflies HCP

Traducción simultánea en español

Si necesita traducción simultánea:

Presione
“Interpretation” y
seleccione “Spanish”



Mute Chat Raise Hand Q&A English Leave



Purpose of Today's Public Workshop

- To provide information about the Butterflies HCP, its purpose, and what it will cover
- To hear from you! Your questions, comments, and concerns are critical to the preparation of the Butterflies HCP



Agenda

1 Introduction

- Project Team
- Workshop Logistics

2 Butterflies HCP

- Overview and Background
- Covered Species
- Study Area

3 Questions & Answers/Comments/Input



Meet the Project Team



Autumn Viglione

Land Use/Environmental
Planner III

Planning & Development
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County of San Diego



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Land Use/Environmental
Planner II

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Land Use/Environmental
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Parks and Recreation
County of San Diego



Beth Principe

MSCP Program
Coordinator

Parks and Recreation
County of San Diego



Terah Donovan

Senior Principal
Conservation Biologist

ESA



How to Participate



Submit Comments/Questions using the Q&A feature at the bottom of the Zoom Screen

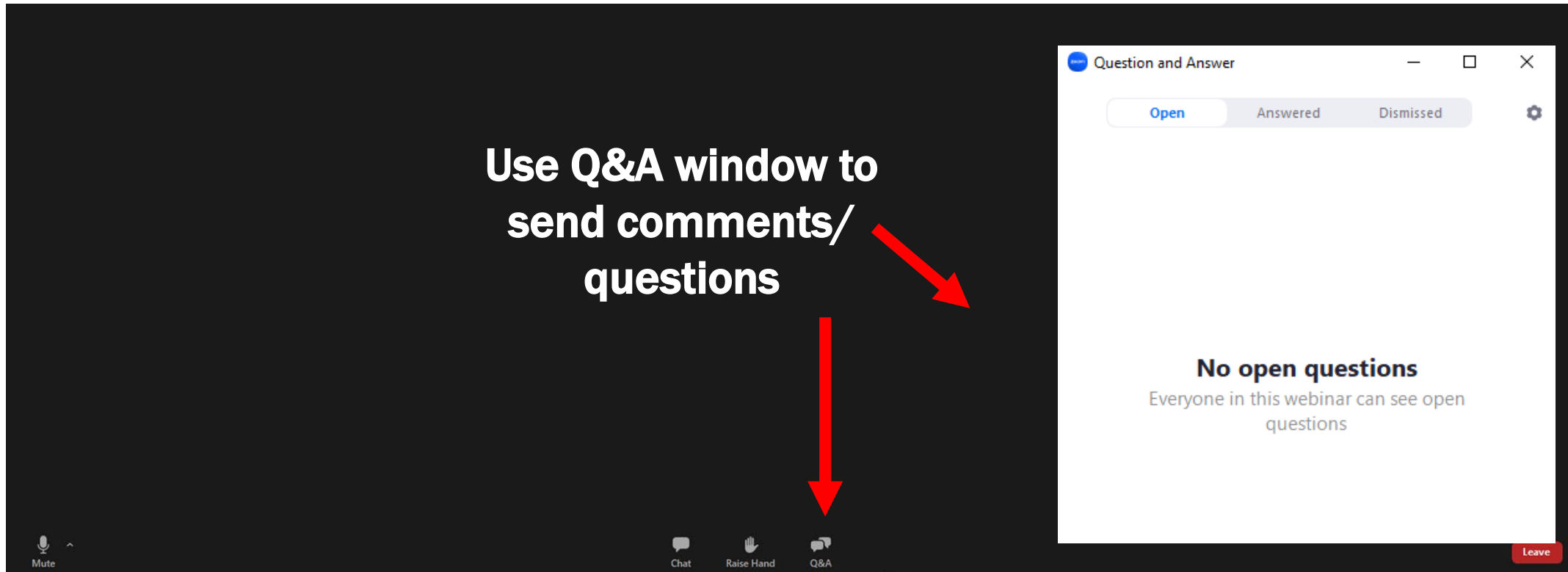


Raise Hand for Verbal Comments at the End of the Meeting



Zoom Meeting Controls – Desktop

Use Q&A window to send comments/questions



Mute Chat Raise Hand Q&A Leave

Question and Answer

Open Answered Dismissed

No open questions
Everyone in this webinar can see open questions



Interactive Feedback

Poll Everywhere

?

Zoom Comments/Questions? Send message using Chat feature



To Participate:

▶ Scan QR Code with your smart phone camera

OR:

▶ Type in pollev.com/SDCoSustainable681 in your browser (Chrome, Firefox, or Edge)

▶ Enter your name or click Skip

▶ Wait to be re-directed to the event



Question #1



What brought you here today? In a few words, please explain your interest in the Butterflies HCP.

Butterflies HCP

Overview and Background

Covered Species

Study Area

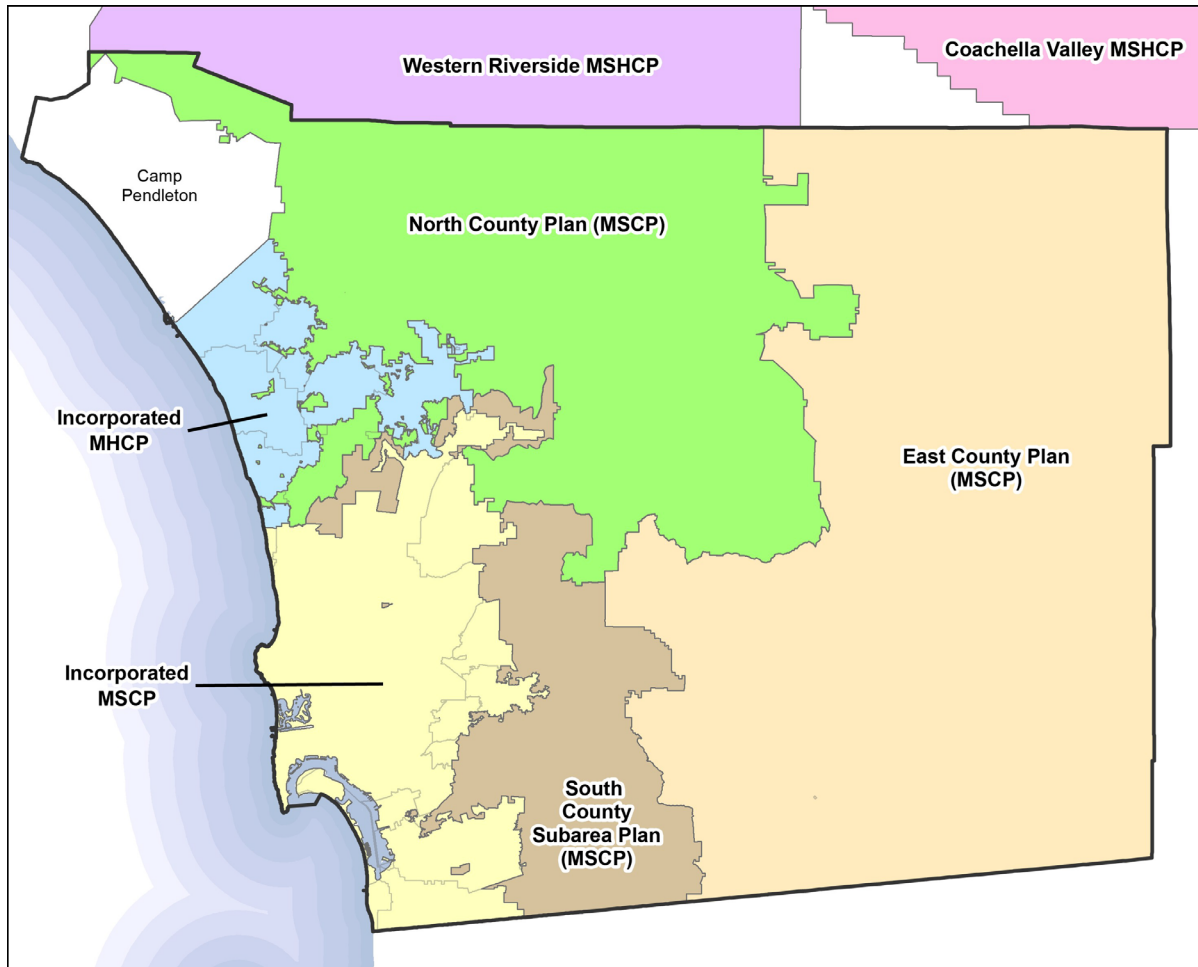


Purpose

- To protect, restore, and enhance habitat for the recovery of sensitive butterfly populations
- To establish an efficient regulatory permitting process for landowners, agricultural operators, businesses, and residents



Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP)



- Enacted by the County in 1997 with 11 other jurisdictions
- Incorporated Cities
 - MSCP (south coastal)
 - MHCP (north coastal)
- Unincorporated Area
 - South County Subarea Plan
 - North County Plan
 - East County Plan



Existing Threats to Butterflies

- **Butterflies are experiencing decreases in population from key threats including:**
 - More frequent and extreme droughts
 - Increased fires
 - **Ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation**
 - Increased isolation
 - Degraded habitat
- **In order to make sure that the butterfly species don't go extinct, there are federal laws and rules that protect some of the species**
 - These can be complied with through impact avoidance or federal permits



Question #2



Is the protection of butterflies important to you?

Yes

No

Unsure

Grant Funding

- In 2022, the County Board of Supervisors accepted a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Fiscal Year 2021 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund: Habitat Conservation Plan Planning Assistance grant
- Grant funding will support preparation of a County Butterflies Habitat Conservation Plan to protect sensitive butterfly species including:
 - Harbison's dun skipper
 - Federally listed threatened Hermes copper butterfly
 - Federally listed endangered Laguna Mountains skipper
 - Federally listed endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly





Federal Endangered Species Act

Purpose

Conserve and protect plant and animal species at risk of extinction and conserve and protect the ecosystems upon which they depend

- **Including species already listed as threatened or endangered, AND those in decline that might become listed in the future**

“Take”

Under this law, cannot "take" listed species or remove habitat of a listed species

- **“Take” generally means to harm, harass, or kill a species and can include removing habitat**

Compliance

Development projects or landowners may need to obtain an Incidental Take Permit to move forward when engaging in activities that will likely impact a listed species or their habitat



Question #3



Have you ever tried to obtain an incidental take permit for a butterfly?

Yes

No

Question #4

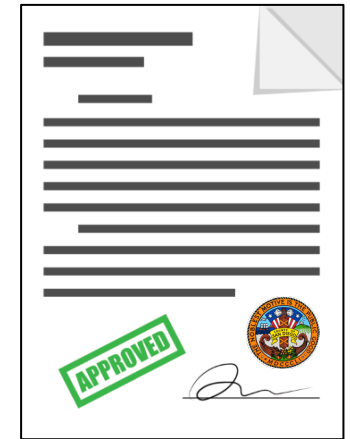


If you answered yes, please briefly explain your experience.

How can the Butterflies HCP help?



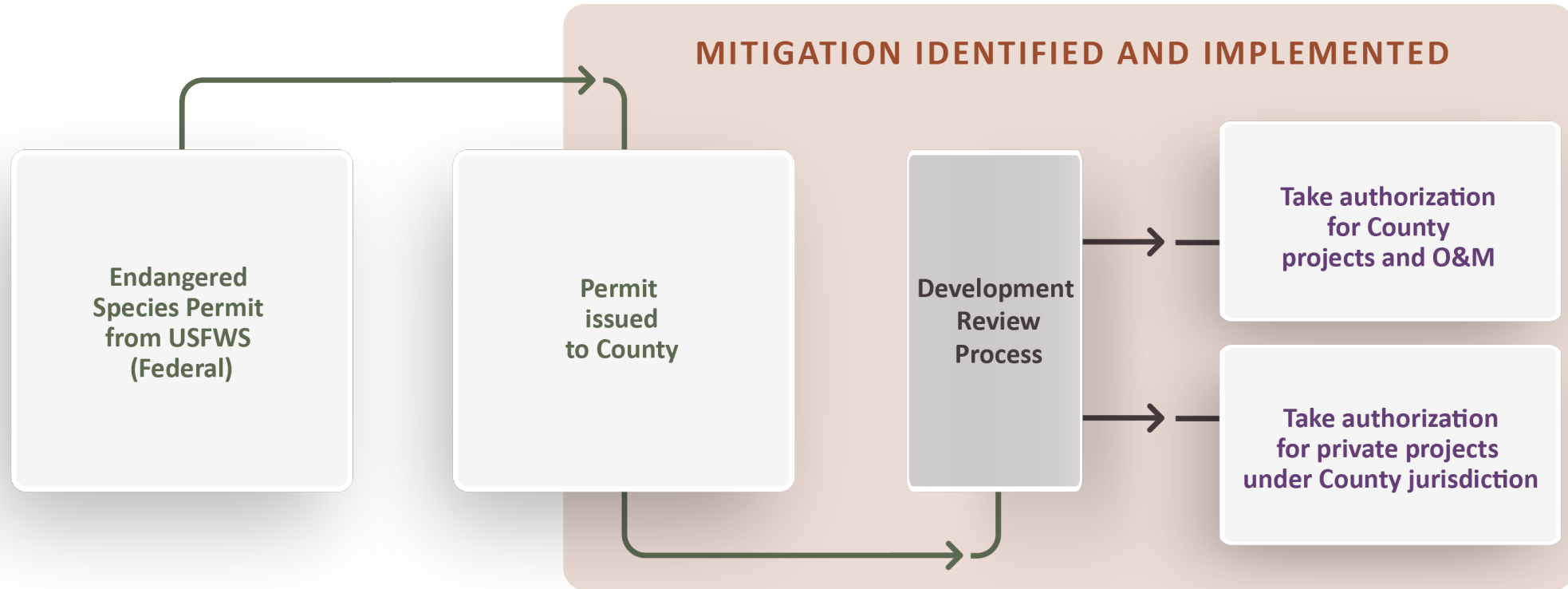
Federal Incidental Take Permit



- Expedite County and Landowners compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act
- Large-Scale Conservation Program



Permit Streamlining Process



Butterflies HCP



Anticipated Benefits

Community

- Simplifies federal compliance for projects and local landowners by transferring decision making to the local level
- Preserves open space
- Provides passive recreational opportunities while protecting sensitive resources

Economic

- Reduces project processing and approval timelines
- Provides federal regulatory assurances
- Simplifies CEQA and NEPA compliance for biological resources

Environmental

- Protects and enhances species' habitat
- Protects landscape connectivity
- Provides comprehensive and consistent long-term management and monitoring



Question #5



Of the anticipated benefits, select the dot point that is most important to you.

Community

- Simplifies Federal compliance for projects and local landowners by transferring decision making to the local level
- Preserves open space
- Provides passive recreational opportunities while protecting sensitive resources

Economic

- Reduces project processing and approval timelines
- Provides federal regulatory assurances
- Simplifies CEQA and NEPA compliance for biological resources

Environmental

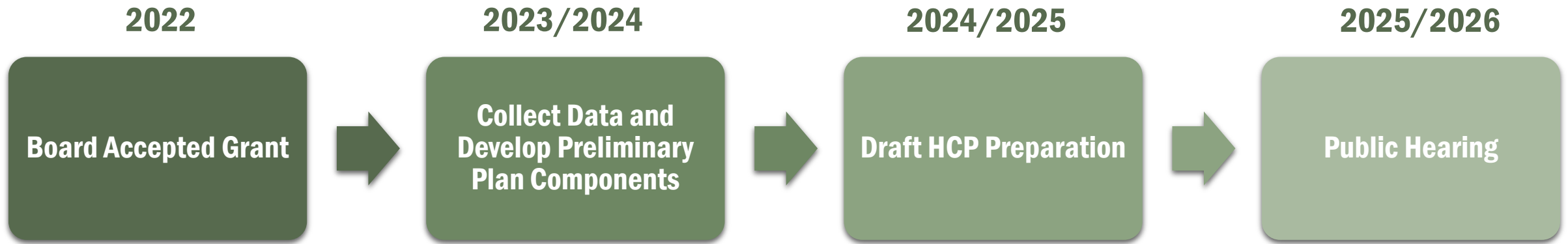
- Protects and enhances species' habitat
- Protects landscape connectivity
- Provides comprehensive and consistent long-term management and monitoring

Question #6



Are there any benefits you can think of that are not captured in the previous list?

Butterflies HCP Timeline



Butterflies HCP

Overview and Background

Covered Species

Study Area



Species Considered

Grant Butterfly Species:

- Harbison's dun skipper
- Hermes copper butterfly
- Quino checkerspot butterfly
- Laguna Mountains skipper

Other Sensitive Butterfly Species Considered:

- Monarch butterfly
- Alkali skipper
- Thorne's hairstreak butterfly
- Wandering skipper



Criteria for the Covered Species List



Range

Does the species occur in the Study Area?



Status

Is the species listed, or is it likely to become listed during permit term?



Impact

Will the species be impacted by covered activities?



Data

Do we have enough information on the species to assess impacts and prepare a conservation strategy?



MSCP

Is the species covered by the South County Plan or will it need coverage in multiple MSCP planning areas?

Covered Species criteria were then applied to the list of species considered



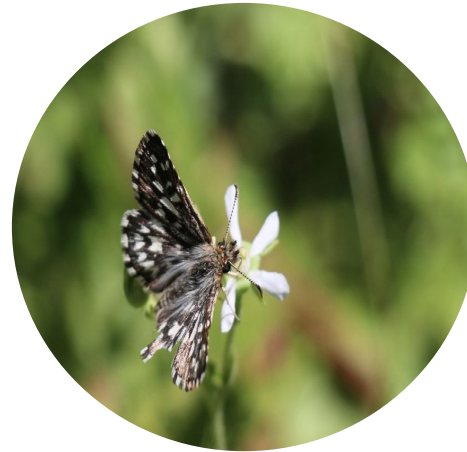
Draft Covered Species List



**Harbison's dun
skipper**



**Hermes copper
butterfly**



**Laguna Mountains
skipper**



**Quino checkerspot
butterfly**



Monarch Butterfly

✓ Range

✓ Status

✓ Impact

× Data

✓ MSCP

- Data is not available to assess impacts and develop mitigation ahead of the species' listing
- The monarch butterfly will not be covered under the Butterflies HCP



Question #7



Which of the Covered Species are you most concerned about?



**Harbison's dun
skipper**



**Hermes copper
butterfly**



**Laguna Mountains
skipper**



**Quino checkerspot
butterfly**

Butterflies HCP

Overview and Background

Covered Species

Study Area



Study Area

- Includes all the area where the Covered Species could be impacted and/or conserved
- Factors Considered:
 - Covered Species distribution and ranges
 - Predicted habitat
 - Connectivity
 - MSCP planning areas
 - Ecoregions
 - Need for protection
 - Jurisdictional boundaries

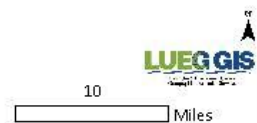


County of San Diego

Butterflies HCP

Project Boundary

- Incorporated Area
- Community/Subregional Planning Area
- ▭ Study Area



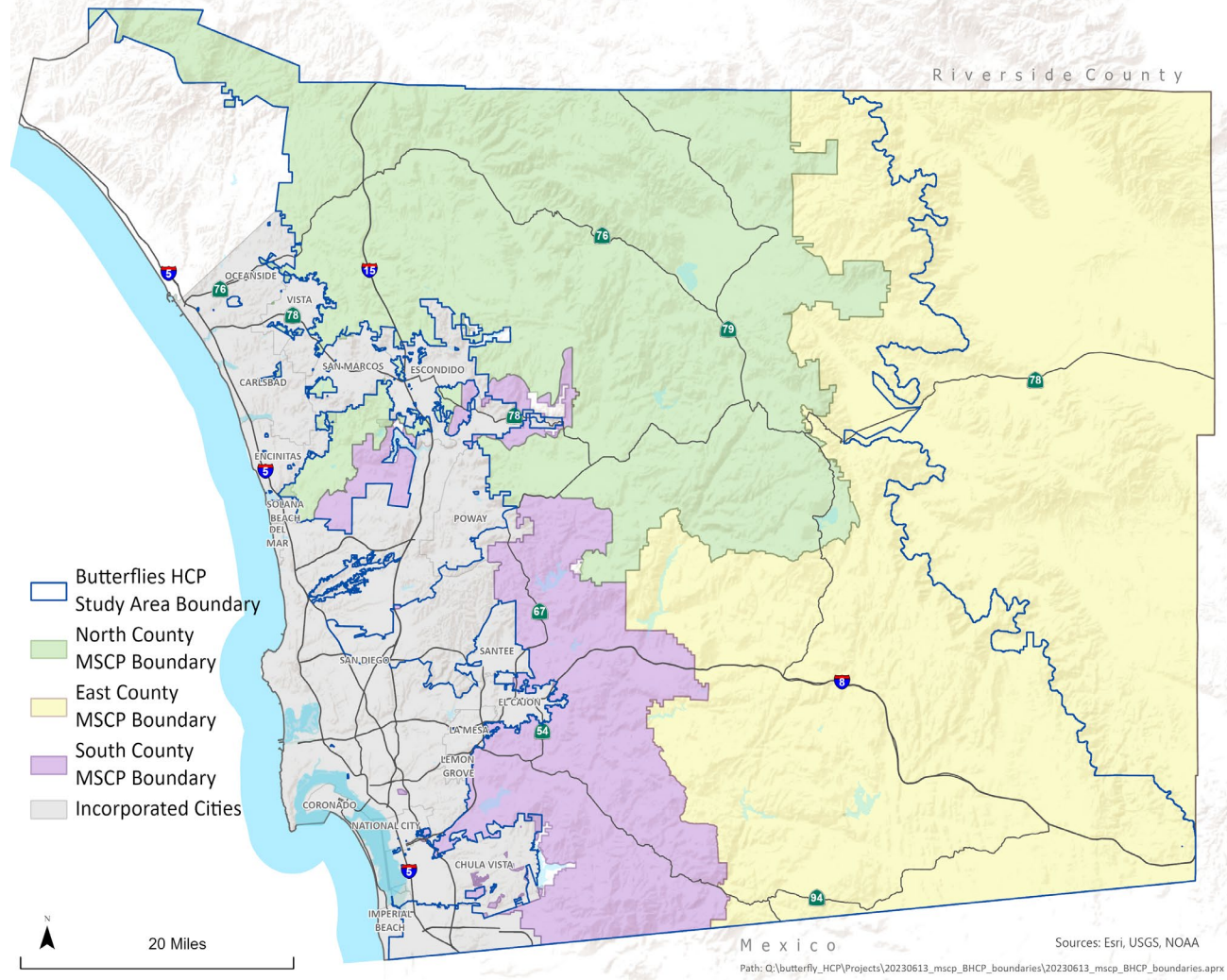
SanGIS, Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS

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Butterflies HCP

Butterflies HCP Study Area and MSCP Plan Areas



Plan Area and Permit Area

- **Plan Area**

- Includes all the land necessary for the HCP to be implemented
- Area where all the covered activities (impacts) and conservation program will occur

- **Permit Area**

- Includes all the land that may need incidental take permit coverage
- Area where all the covered activities (impacts) will occur



Q&A/Comments/Input



Butterflies HCP

Next Steps

Plan Development

- Plan Area
- Permit Area
- Covered Activities
- Impact Analysis

Outreach

- Tribal Consultation
- Public Engagement
- Community Planning Groups
- Industry Groups



Questions and Comments

Project Contact:

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Project website:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/mscp/bhcp.html>

