

North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (North County Plan)

Public Workshop

December 6, 2021



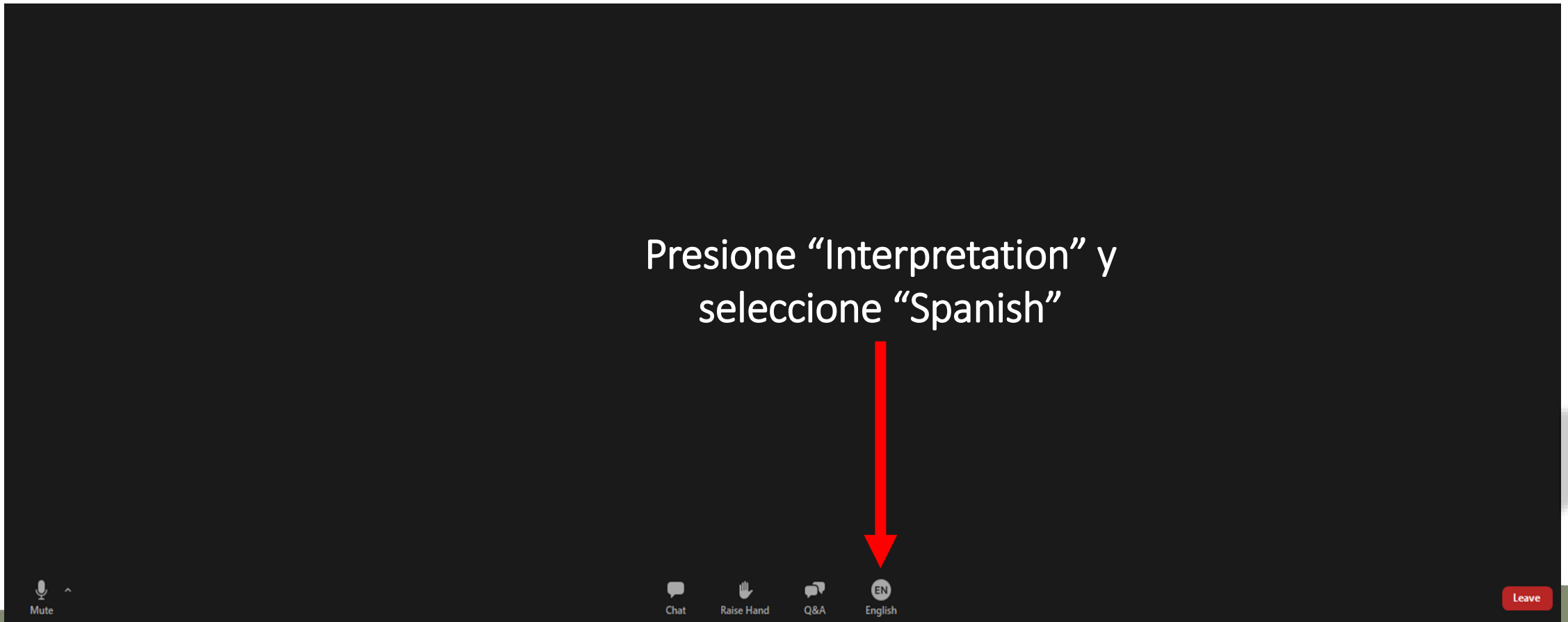
North County Plan



Traducción simultánea en español

Si necesita traducción simultánea:

Presione "Interpretation" y
seleccione "Spanish"

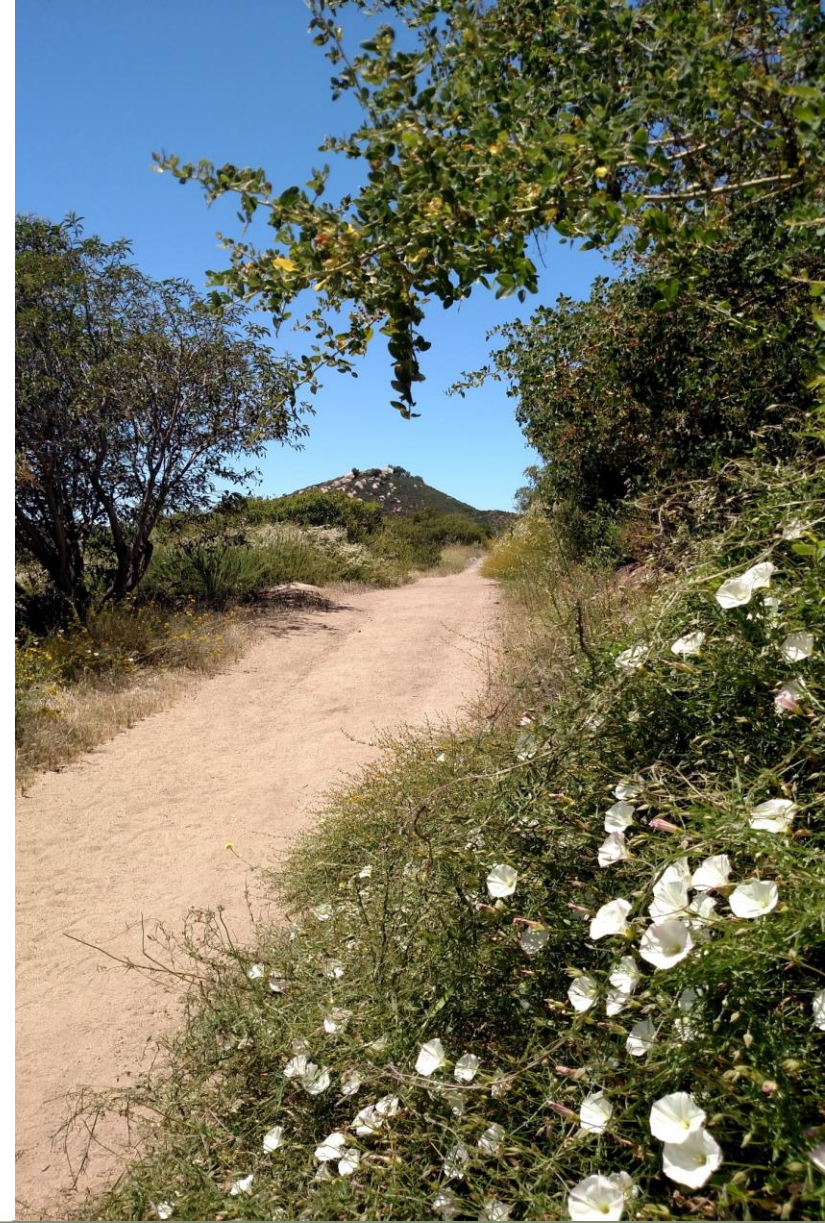


North County Plan



Agenda

- Workshop Logistics
- Overview & Background
- Plan Area
- Preserve Design
- Covered Species
- Q&A



North County Plan



How to Participate

? Zoom Comments/Questions? Send message using using the Chat or Email mscp@sdcounty.ca.gov



Submit Comments/Questions
During the Meeting



Having Issues With Zoom
During The Meeting?

**Use the Chat feature at the
bottom of your screen**

Or email: mscp@sdcounty.ca.gov



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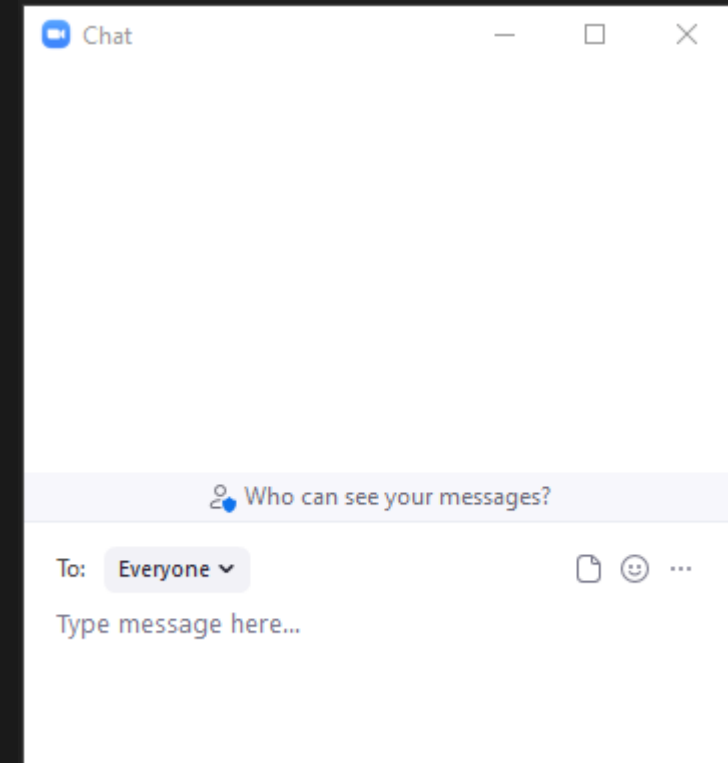


Zoom Meeting Controls - Desktop

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Zoom Comments/Questions? Send message using the Chat or Email mscp@sdcounty.ca.gov

Use Chat window to
send comments/
questions



Mute

Chat

Raise Hand

Q&A

Leave



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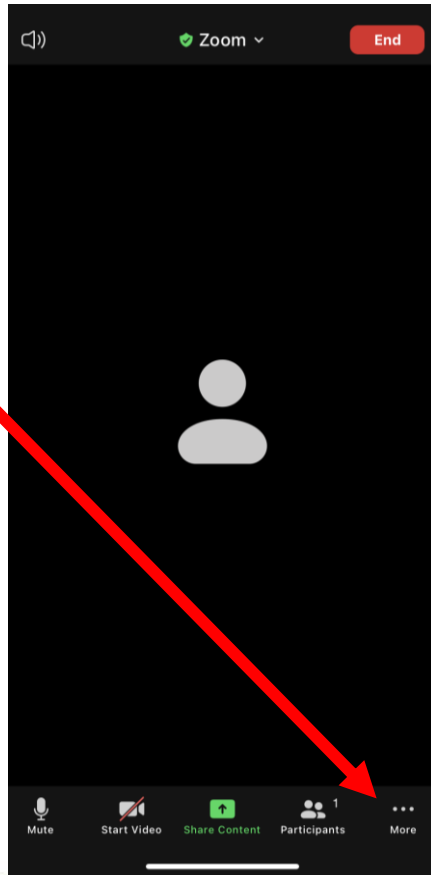


Zoom Meeting Controls – Mobile Device

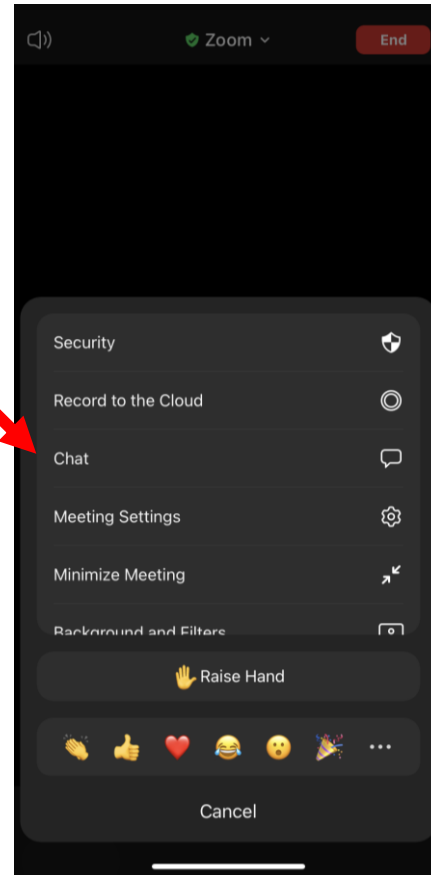
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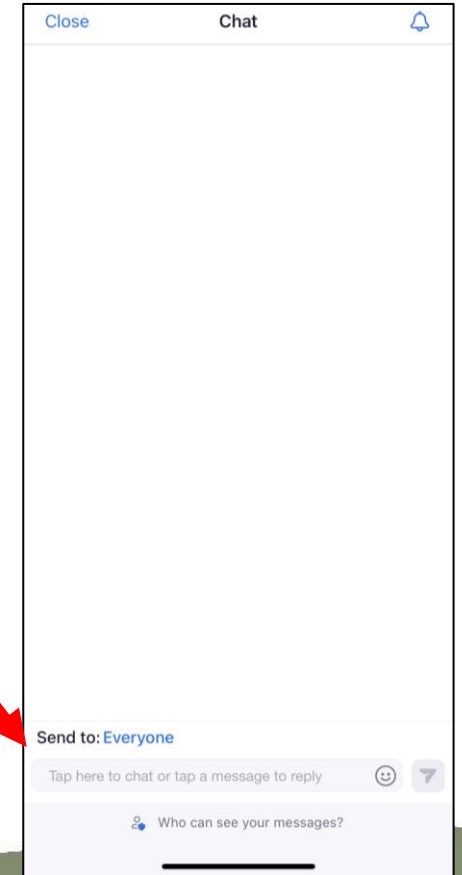
First select
“More”



Then Select
“Chat”



Access the
Chat window
to send
comments/
questions



North County Plan



What is the North County Plan?

- Tool to help the County and Landowners comply with existing endangered species laws
- Large-scale habitat conservation program



How does it work?

- Balances protection of biological resources with development and infrastructure
- Provides long-term regulatory assurances
- Streamlines access to permits for the County and Landowners



North County Plan



North County Plan is an HCP/NCCP

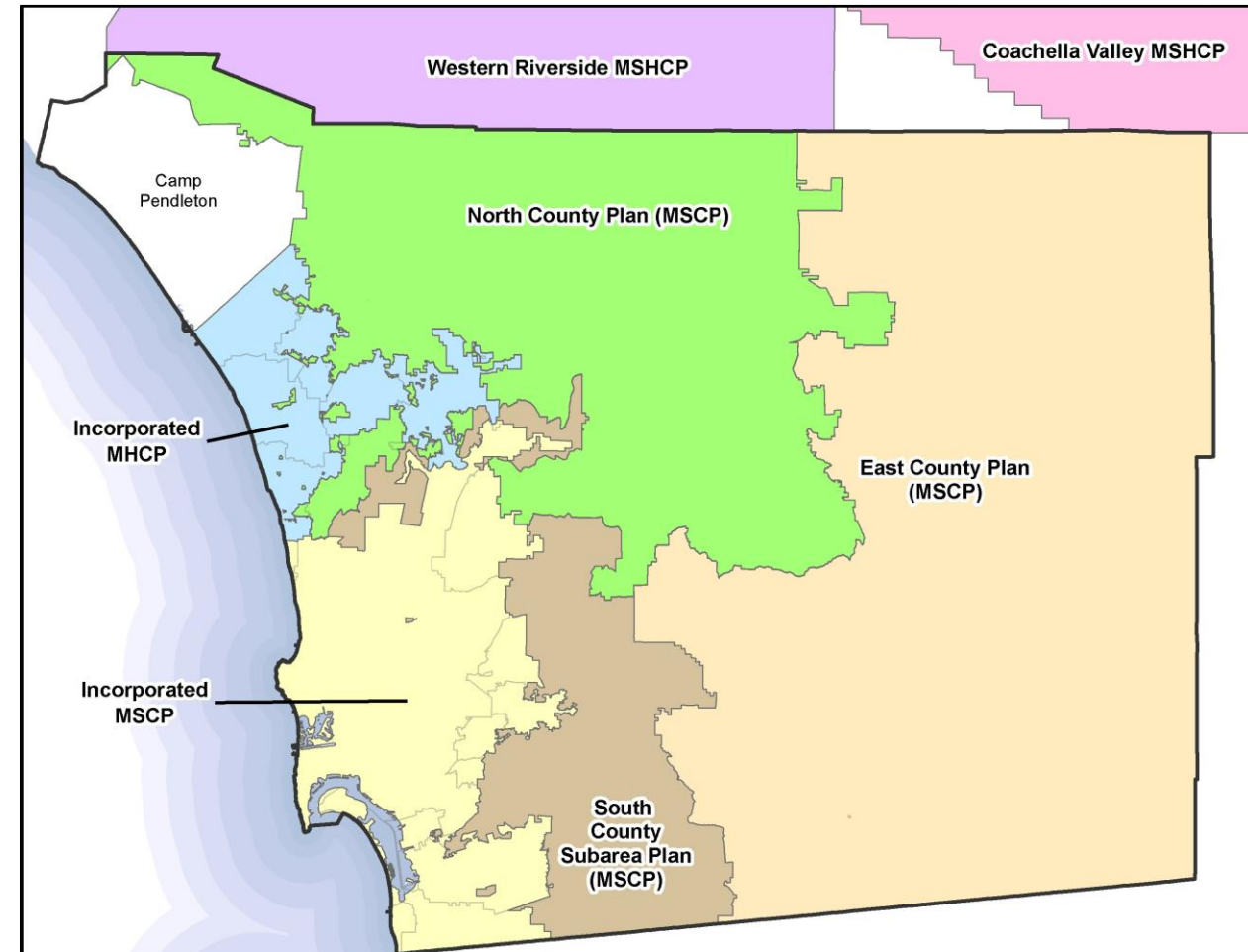
- Provides Federal and State Endangered Species Permits (Incidental Take Permits)
 - Federal permits: Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
 - State Permits: Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP)
- Permits available for use by County and Landowners everywhere the County has land use jurisdiction
- Part of the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP)

Unincorporated County

- North County Plan
- South County Plan
- East County Plan

Incorporated Cities

- MSCP (south coastal)
- MHCP (north coastal)

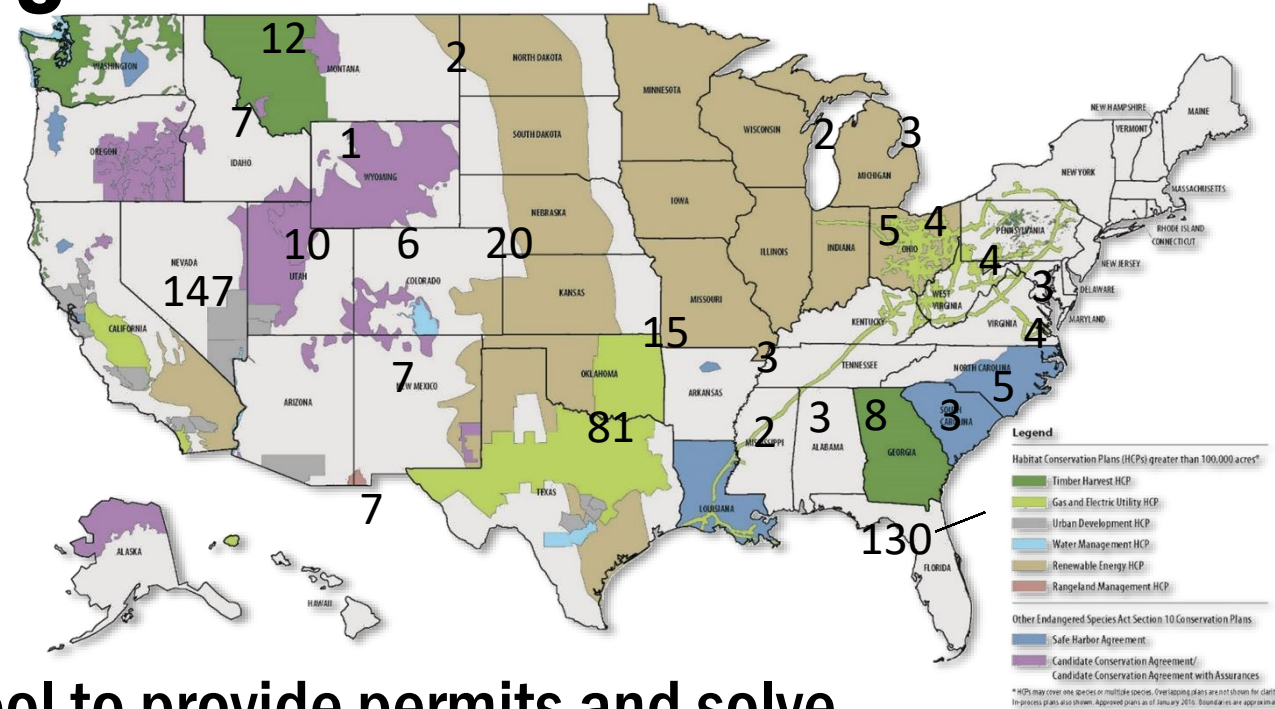
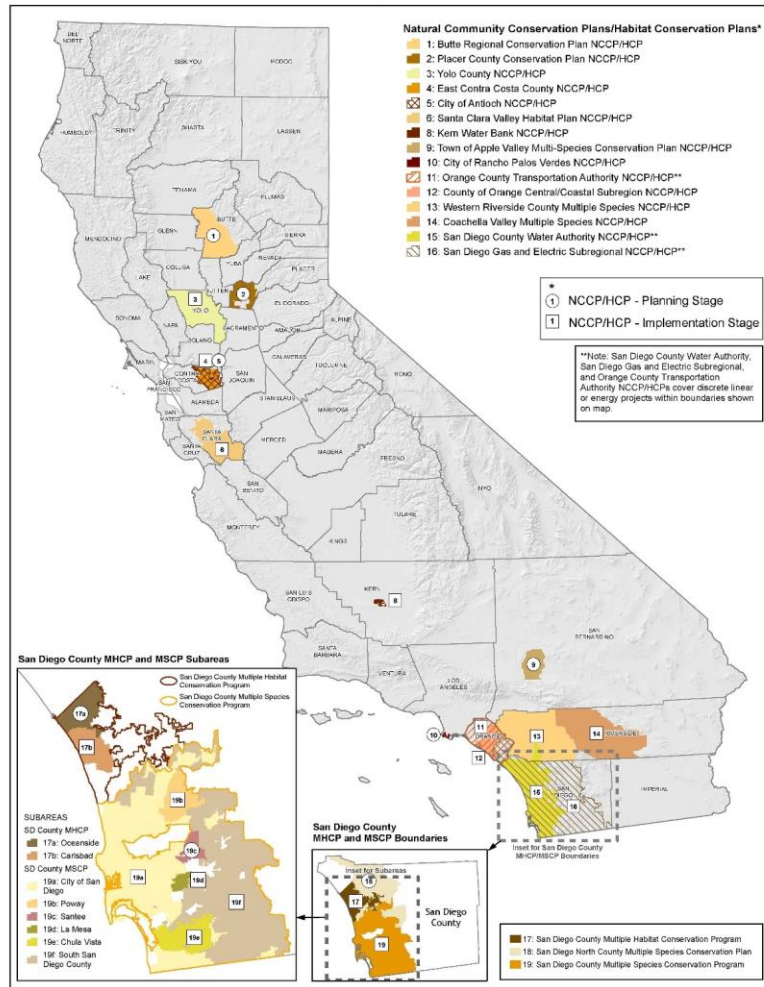


North County Plan



Regional HCPs and NCCPs

CALIFORNIA NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLANS
July 2019



Common tool to provide permits and solve endangered species conflicts

- Where development pressure and listed species overlap
- 715 HCPs (2020)
- 16 NCCPs (2019)



North County Plan

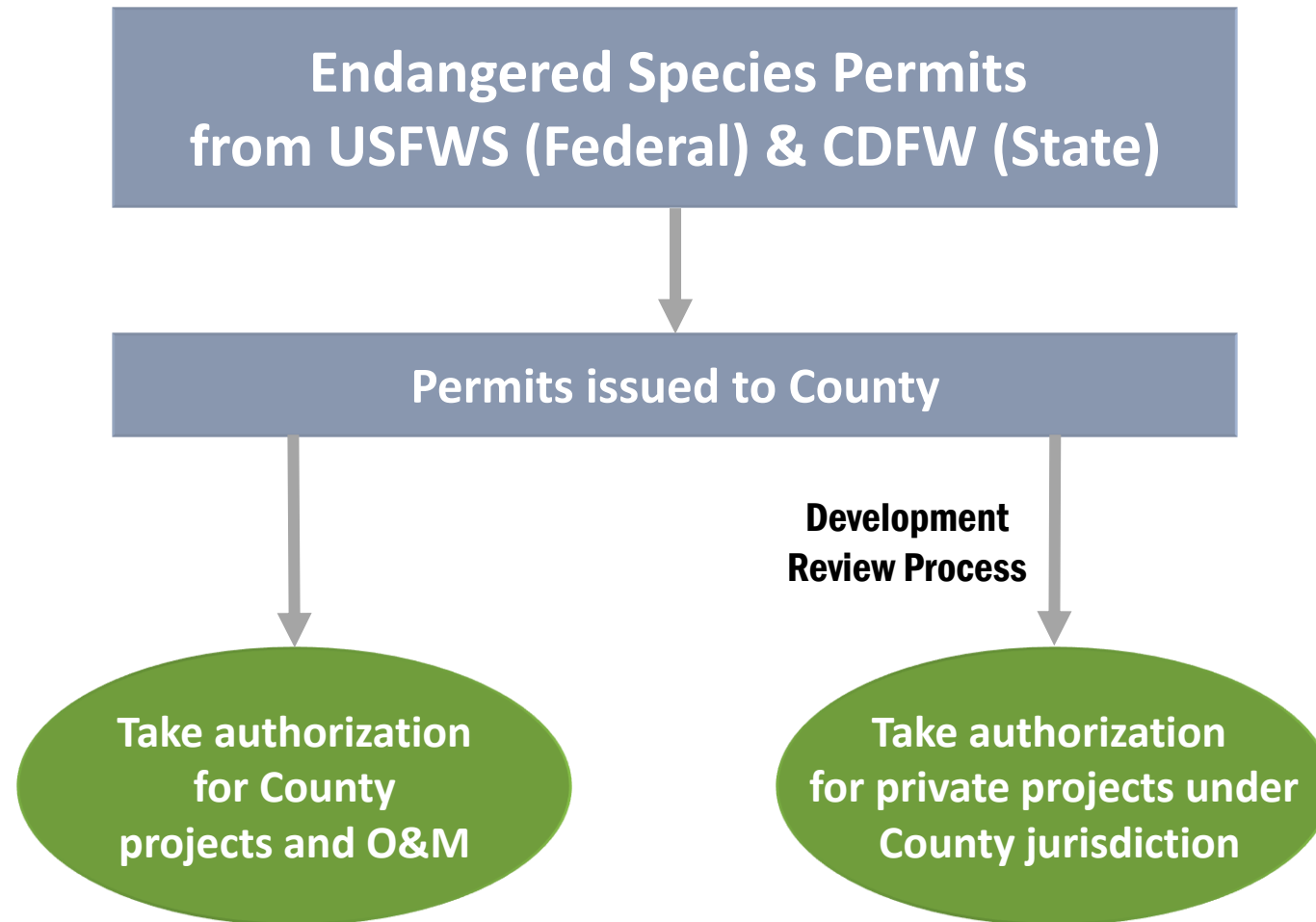


Federal and California Endangered Species Acts

- **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
- **What does that mean?**
 - 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
- **How can development projects or other activities move forward when impacting listed species and habitat?**
 - Obtain an Incidental Take Permit
 - Federal permit: Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
 - State permit: Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) or 2081 permit



Permit Streamlining Process



North County Plan History & Challenges

1998
Launch

2011
Included in
General
Plan

2017
Draft
Presented

2019
Options
Assessed

2020
Board
Direction



North County Plan



Board of Supervisors' Direction

- In October 2020, the Board voted unanimously to direct County staff to proceed with preparation of an HCP/NCCP for the North County Plan Area
- Board also directed that Rancho Guejito not be part of the Plan
- Board's direction was informed by feedback from:
 - North County Plan Stakeholder Working Group
 - Individual North County Plan Stakeholders
 - General public, Community Planning Groups & Private Property Owners
 - Wildlife Agencies (USFWS and CDFW)
- In Spring 2021, the County contracted with ICF to move forward with Plan development



North County Plan

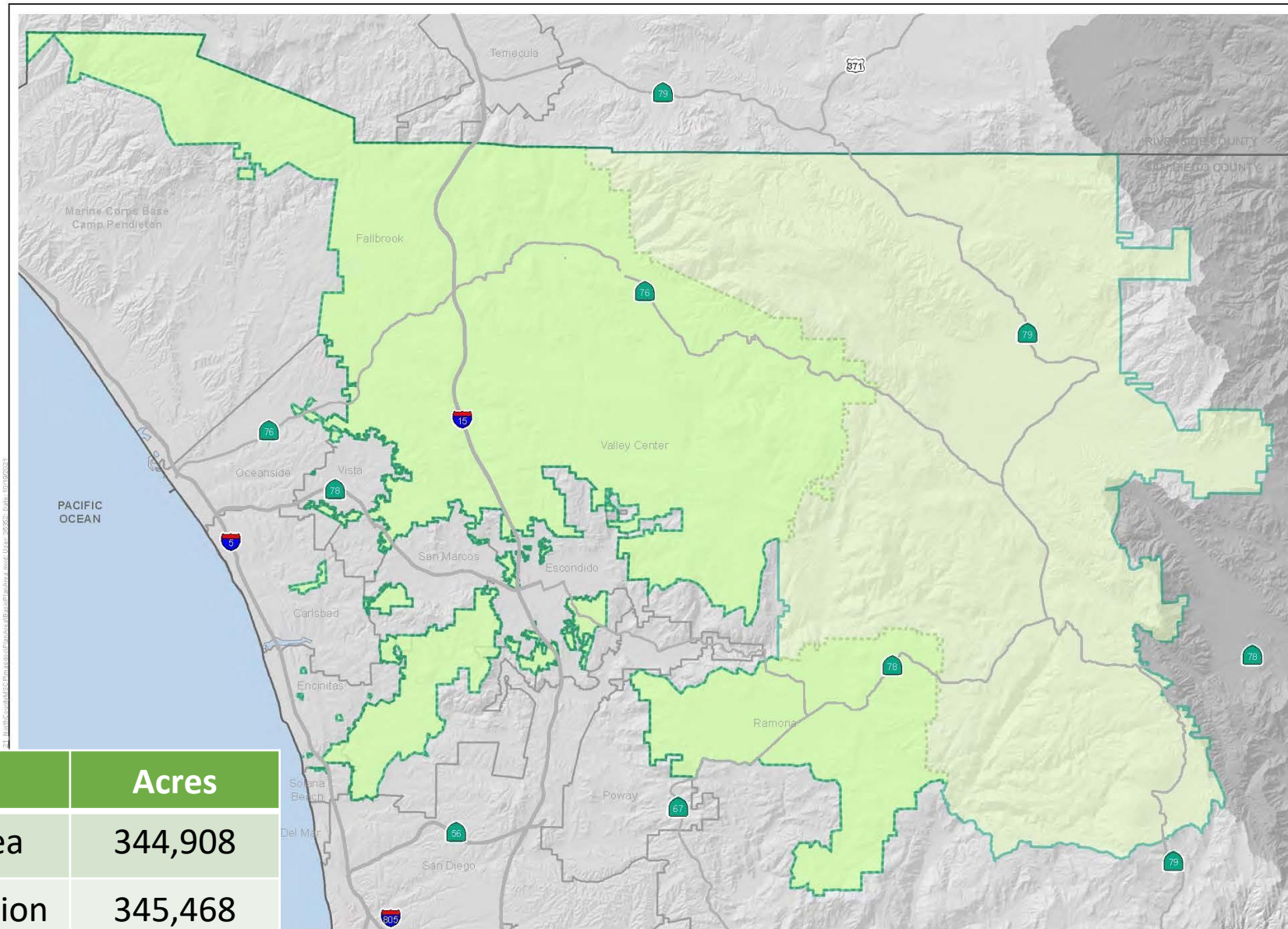


Plan Area Revisions

- **Why reevaluate the Plan Area?**
 - Replace habitat and species occurrences found on Rancho Guejito
 - Expand conservation areas and regional linkages
 - Provide mitigation exemptions to additional property owners
- **Criteria used to draw Plan Area boundaries:**
 - Watersheds
 - Baseline Preserve lands
 - Parcels and specific ownerships
 - Connectivity
 - Vegetation and covered species distribution
- **Four scenarios were evaluated**



Revised Plan Area Boundary

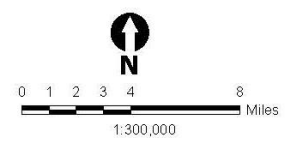


Plan Area

Multiple Species Conservation Program
North County Plan

LEGEND

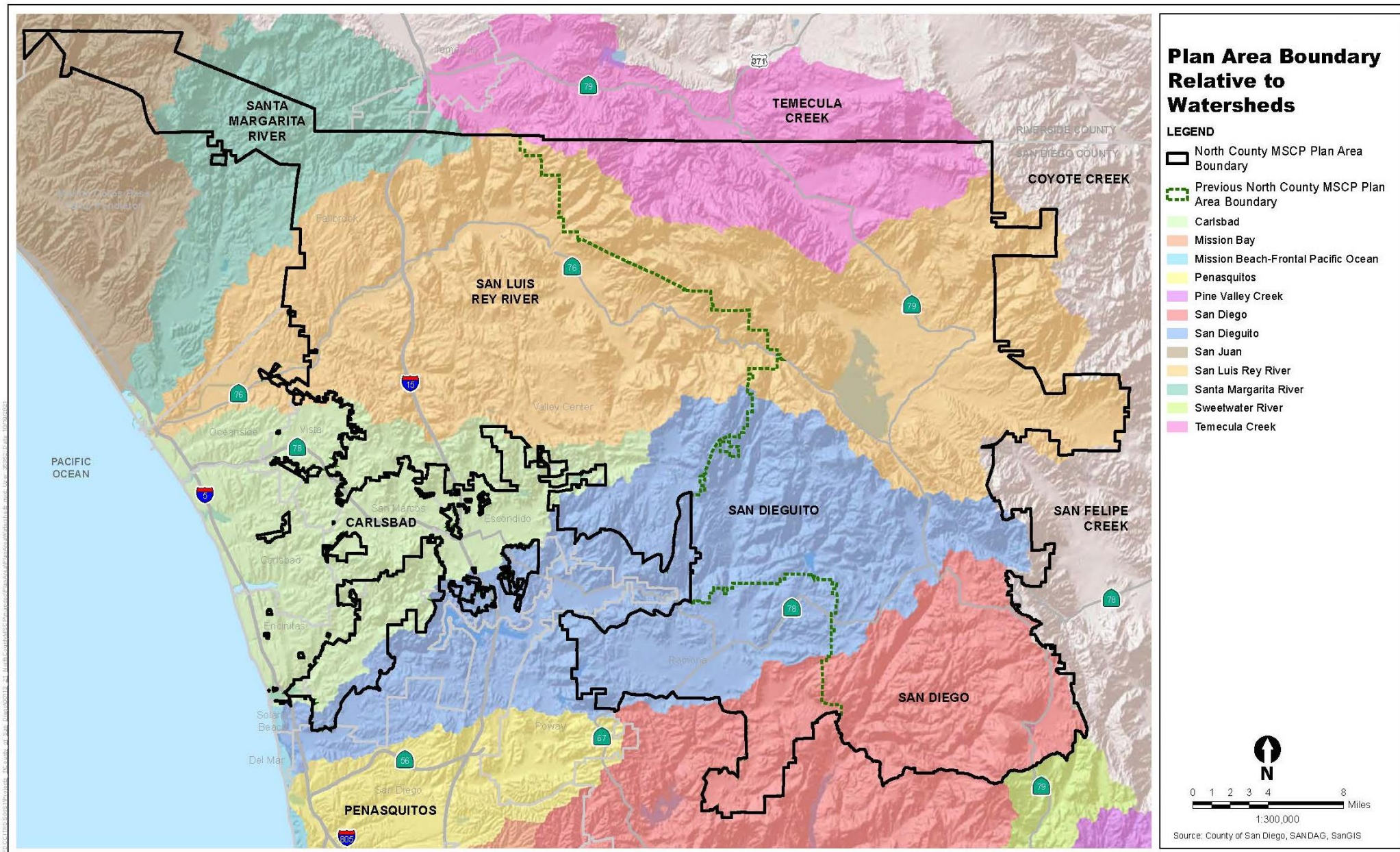
- North County MSCP Plan Area Boundary
- Previous North County MSCP Plan Area Boundary
- Desert
- Coastal



Source: County of San Diego, SANDAG, SanGIS

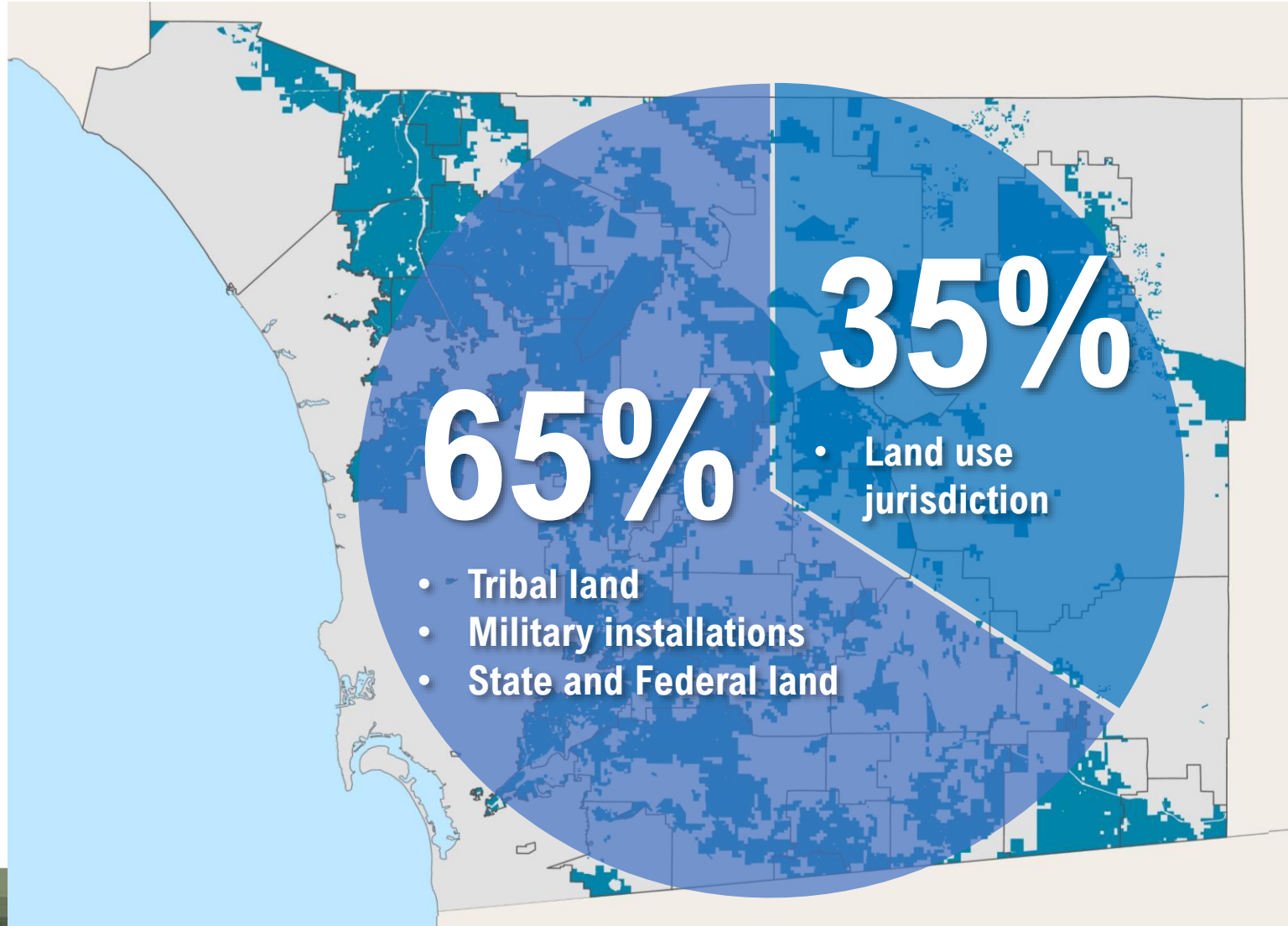
Plan Area	Acres
Previous Plan Area	344,908
Plan Area Expansion	345,468
Total Plan Area	690,376

North County Watersheds

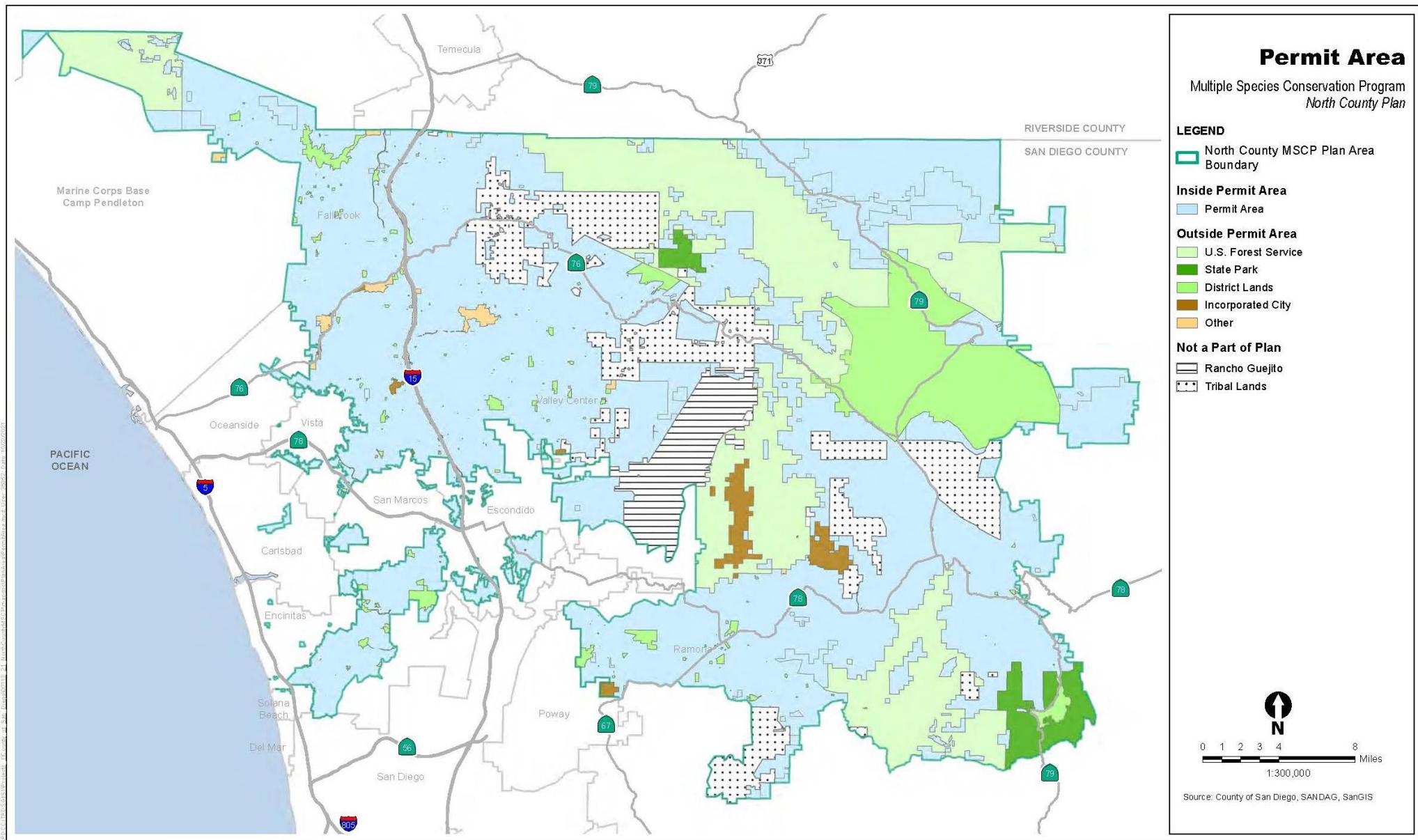


Where Does the County Have Land Use Jurisdiction?

- San Diego County area:
2.9 million acres
- Unincorporated area:
2.2 million acres
 - Land use jurisdiction:
over 772,239 Acres or 35%
- North County Plan:
 - Total Plan Area:
690,376 acres
 - Permit Area
(Land use jurisdiction):
407,788 acres (59%)



Revised Permit Area



Plan Area/ Permit Area Adjustment Advantages

- Adds large blocks of undisturbed habitat to the Plan Area
- Expands east-west connection across the full extent of the North County Plan Area
- Greater ability to address climate change with elevation gradients
- Connects Ramona to the rest of the Plan Area
- Includes important critical habitat and core populations for a number of key species
- Offset the loss of habitat conservation opportunities on Rancho Guejito
- Expands Covered Species list by a reasonable number (4 species)
- Adds important County DPR Preserves (Santa Ysabel, Vulcan Mtn) to baseline preserves
- Includes opportunities for coverage of residential and agriculture expansion in rural lands



North County Plan



Preserve Design Approach

- Merge North County Pre-approved Mitigation Areas (PAMA) and East County Focused Conservation Area (FCA)
 - Rename: Priority Conservation Area (PCA)
- Advantages:
 - Maximizes value to previous work to date
 - Preserve boundaries previously vetted
 - Fastest and most cost-effective strategy
 - Solid science foundation from North and East County preserve design methods

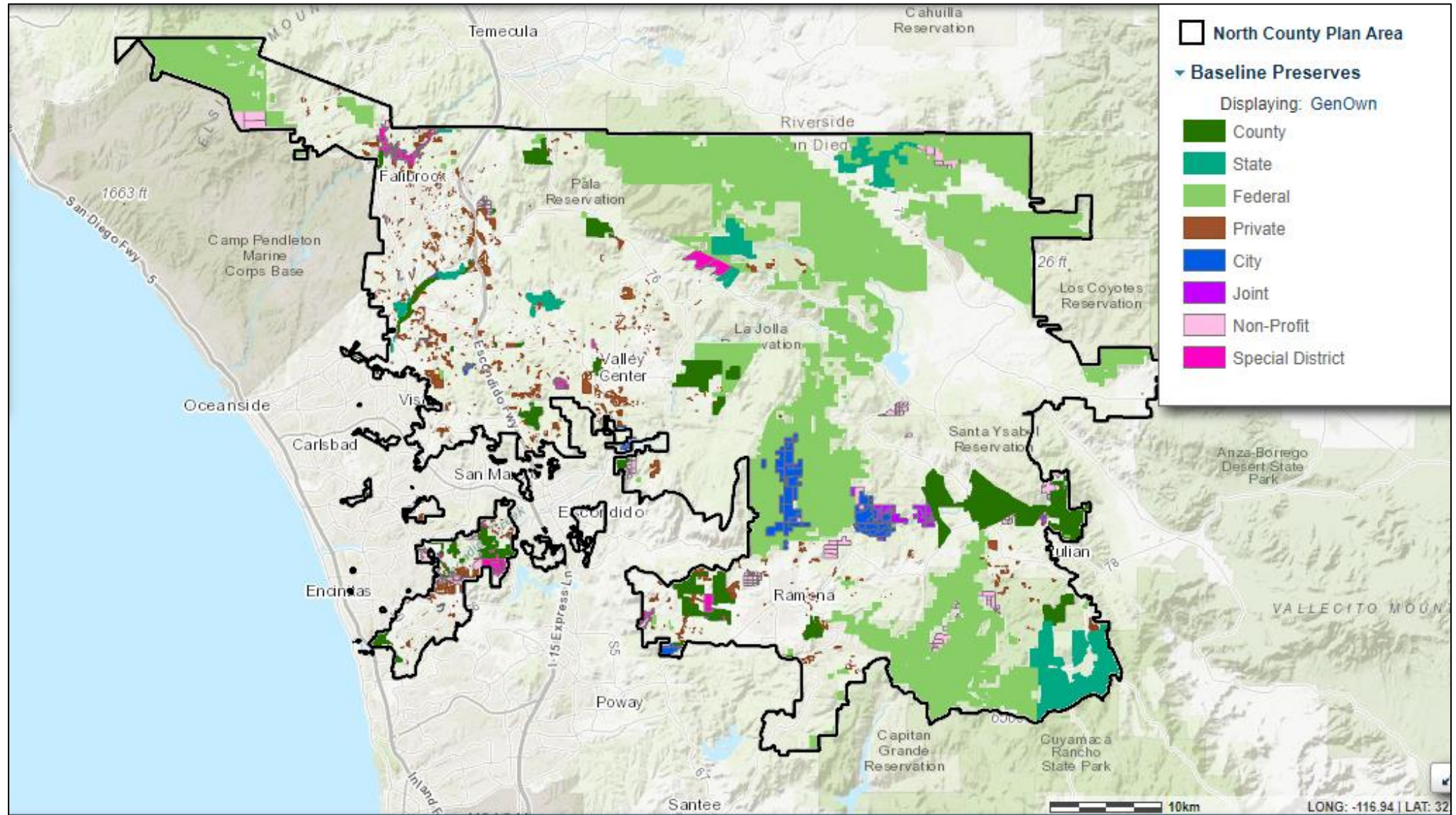


What is a Priority Conservation Area?

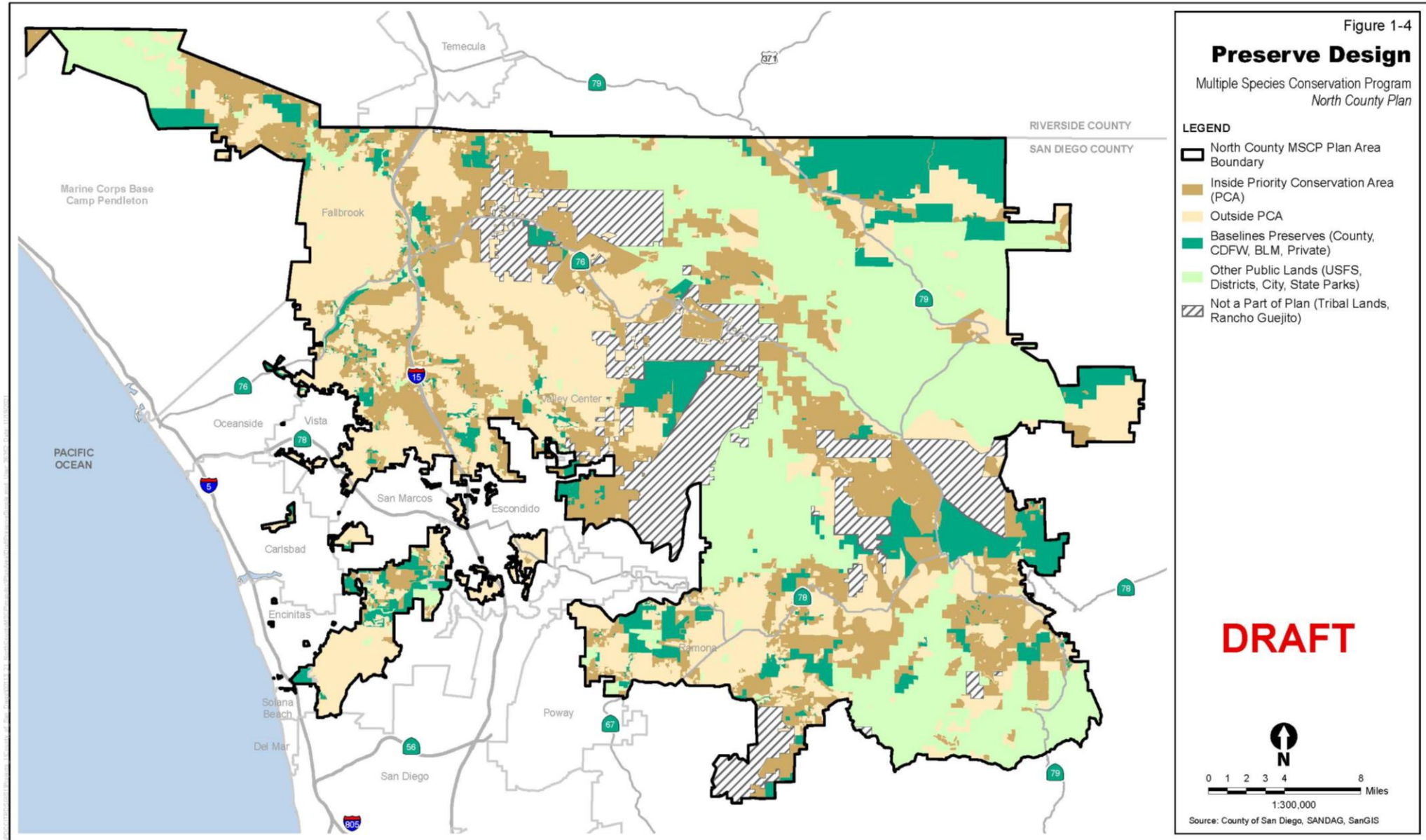
- Identifies areas with the highest biological value and best areas to assemble a habitat Preserve
- The North County Plan will set forth policies and approaches to encourage preservation within Priority Conservation Areas (PCA)
- While development is not restricted within the PCA, the mitigation requirements incentivize conservation within the PCA
- The PCA will also serve as a map to guide conservation actions towards areas within the PCA using County, State, and Federal funding sources



Baseline Preserves



Draft Preserve Design



What Species Are Covered by the North County Plan?

Covered species are identified because they meet the following criteria:

- Occur in the North County Plan Area
- Already listed as threatened or endangered, or are declining and may be listed in the future
- There is a likelihood of impact (“take”) to the species from future projects or operations and maintenance
- The species is understood well enough to evaluate the potential “take” and to create a conservation strategy to offset and balance that “take”



Revised Covered Species List

Invertebrates	Birds	Plants
Riverside fairy shrimp	Coastal cactus wren	Del Mar manzanita
San Diego fairy shrimp	Coastal California gnatcatcher	Encinitas baccharis
Amphibians/Reptiles	Golden eagle	Engelmann oak
Arroyo toad	Least Bell's vireo	San Diego ambrosia
Western spadefoot toad	Southwestern willow flycatcher	San Diego button-celery
Southwestern pond turtle	Tricolored blackbird	San Diego thornmint
Coast horned lizard	Western burrowing owl	Spreading navarretia
California red-legged frog*	Western yellow-billed cuckoo	Thread-leaved brodiaea
Mammals	Bald eagle*	Mojave tarplant*
Stephens' kangaroo rat		
Pallid bat		Species Removed from 2017 List:
Townsend's big-eared bat		Orcutt's spineflower
Mountain lion*		

New Species Proposed*

Pending Covered Species - Butterfly HCP

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



Next Steps

- **Outreach on Today's Topics**

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

- **Plan Development**

- Preserve Buildout Analysis
- Conservation Analysis
- Covered Activities & Exemptions
- Preserve Assembly Tools

Next Public Engagement Meetings – Spring/Summer 2022



North County Plan



Questions and Comments



Project Contact: Chelsea Oakes
MSCP@sdcounty.ca.gov



Project website:
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/mscp/nc.html>

