

# Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) - Update

FORA Board meeting  
August 10, 2018

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*Principal Planner*



- HCP Background
- 2017 Screencheck Draft HCP and EIS/EIR
- CDFW June 2018 Comments
- DoI Secretary Order on NEPA
- JPA Formation Discussions
- Recommendations

- ▶ 1997 Habitat Management Plan (HMP)
  - Allowed Army to transfer Fort Ord property
  - Established Fort Ord Habitat Reserve System
  - Did not authorize “Take” of special status species
  - Signatories agreed to take on habitat mgmt. of reserves
  
- ▶ 2019 Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
  - Funding to manage habitat reserve system, meeting jurisdictions’ HMP responsibilities
  - Federal and State Take Permits
  - New Joint Powers Authority to manage annual expenditures and ensure HCP compliance

- ▶ US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) July 29, 2016 letter
  - USFWS provided nine general recommendations for HCP changes
  - 2017 Screencheck Draft HCP addressed these concerns
    - Updated take analysis for Federal Permit
    - Limited species to currently Threatened or Endangered status
    - Added mitigation measures to implement on Fort Ord National Monument (FONM) and adaptive measures for several species
  
- ▶ Schedule
  - *Planned to* receive permittee and wildlife agencies' feedback by January 2017
  - *Planned to* publish Public Review Draft HCP by May 2017

- ▶ All comments in on time except CDFW, who took 11 months
  
- ▶ CDFW comments were unexpected (for Screencheck review) and have required extensive discussion and edits
  - BLM assurances
  - USFWS/CDFW approach on California Tiger Salamander mgmt.
  - ITP for Sand Gilia
  
- ▶ Delayed Schedule – new schedule is attached to Board Report
  - USFWS solicitor will review when all comments are addressed

- ▶ Department of Interior April 27<sup>th</sup> Memorandum
  - Pushes EIS completion for those with EIS Notice of Intent published to one year hence (April 2019)
  - Requires reduction in EIS document size (300 pages)
- ▶ Good news for meeting tight timeline for HCP completion
- ▶ Targeting Permits by May 2019



- ▶ TTF members expressed desire to tie up loose ends
  - Transition Plan should have a recipient organization for HCP responsibilities in place in LAFCO document
  - Preference for a JPA set up in next few months, in case the 2019 HCP JPA is not in place by June 2020
  
- ▶ Staff elevated it to the Board Transition Workshops
  
- ▶ It now comes to the FORA Board as an option to form the JPA, as an entity to implement the HMP
  - Requires voluntary sign-on of member jurisdictions
  - JPA could amend its purpose in the future to implement the HCP, if that effort is successful

- ▶ Receive this HCP status report
- ▶ Consider scheduling an HCP Board Workshop
- ▶ Consider directing staff to work with jurisdictions on feasibility of forming of a JPA to implement base-wide habitat management activities required by the 1997 HMP



# Questions?

