

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) - Update

FORA Board meeting
August 10, 2018

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- 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 27th 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?

