

CHAPTER 4: COVERED ACTIVITIES

4.1 Introduction

This chapter describes covered activities for which authorization for the incidental take of South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) covered species is being sought through the issuance of a federal Endangered Species Act section 10 (a) (1) (B) incidental take permit and state Endangered Species Act section 2081 (b) permit.

Generally speaking a covered activity is a ground disturbing project, activity or action located within the Urban Development Area (UDA) requiring discretionary or ministerial approval from a local government agency. Some activities located outside of the UDA will also be covered but only in specific areas where public infrastructure or agricultural-residential development is expected to occur as illustrated within the County's current General Plan. A project proponent may seek coverage under the SSHCP provided that the project, activity or action for which coverage is being requested falls into one of the categories listed below as a covered activity and is not otherwise prohibited from utilizing the SSHCP. Map 4-1 shows areas within and outside of the UDA where covered activities can occur.

The types of activities covered under the SSHCP are wide ranging and are divided into three categories: covered activities within the UDA, covered activities located outside of the UDA and activities that must be covered as part of plan implementation. Within each of the three aforementioned categories a general description of activities to be covered has been provided. In some instances where detailed project descriptions are currently available, a more thorough depiction of the project will be provided.

Activities initiated by local governments or private entities which also have a federal nexus, i.e. those activities that, are implemented on land owned by federal agencies, require federal permitting or projects implemented with federal funding, will be covered under the SSHCP. Project applicants with a federal nexus wishing to utilize the SSHCP are, however still required to enter into the Endangered Species Act section 7 (a) (2) consultation process.

4.2 Covered Activities Located Within the UDA

A majority of the activities covered under the SSHCP will occur within the UDA. Since this area is where a vast majority of the impacts will occur and it makes little difference as to the exact nature of the impact; only general descriptions of covered activities have been provided with some exceptions for projects that are anticipated to have a large area of impact such as the Elk Grove - El Dorado Transportation Corridor project.

Development: This category includes public and private residential, commercial, and industrial construction approved pursuant to county and city general plans and associated

infrastructure such as, but not limited to, roads, sidewalks, bike paths, parking lots, gas, sewer, water, electric, and communication lines.

Transportation: This category includes both construction and maintenance projects approved pursuant to the circulation element of county and city general plans. The project may consist of construction, extension, widening and maintenance of highways, freeways, interstates, public and private roadways, and bridges not identified within county or city general plan documents.

Within Sacramento County, it is anticipated that the roadway system, including roadway crossing structures and culverts of creeks and drainage courses, identified on the Transportation Plan of the 2006 General Plan will be fully constructed and implemented within the HCP's 50-year permit period.

Construction of roadways, bridges, and culverts will typically have temporary impacts to the land adjacent to the project. These construction impacts are generally limited to fifteen feet beyond the final roadway width, and generally fifty feet beyond the final bridge width. Bridges may also require roadway embankments and slope protection near the abutments.

Thoroughfare roadways have a normal width of 108 feet, arterial roadways and rural collectors a normal width of 84 feet, and urban collector roadways a normal width of 60 feet. At the intersection of thoroughfares, arterial, and collector roadways, a widening of the roadway is necessary to accommodate additional turning lanes. For a thoroughfare, this intersection widening generally occurs within 400 feet of the intersection with an increased roadway width of 130 feet. Intersection widening for an arterial generally occurs within 400 feet of the intersection with an increased roadway width of 110 feet. Intersection widening for an urban collector generally occurs within 300 feet of the intersection with an increased roadway width of 75 feet.

Specific maintenance activities within existing and future rights-of-way or easements include reconstruction of existing roadways, pavement resurfacing, pavement repairs, roadway striping, sweeping, guardrail and fence repair, signage repair, traffic control device repairs, street lighting repairs, ditch clearing, tree trimming, repair or replacement of culverts/drop structures, grading of existing roadways and shoulders, repair of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks, and dust stabilization.

Water: This category includes projects approved pursuant to county or city adopted master drainage plans as well as construction, installation, extension, and maintenance of surface water intake facilities, pumping plants, water treatment facilities, groundwater recharge and reclamation facilities, wells, water supply pipelines, canals, and aqueducts not identified within county or city general plans.

Specific maintenance activities within existing rights-of-way or easements include the inspection, cleaning, rehabilitation, repair, and/or replacement of SCWA facilities. These

facilities include, but are not limited to, maintenance holes, access vaults, pipelines, force mains, pumping stations, booster pumps, valves, gates, weirs, flow monitoring equipment, telemetry equipment, electrical power and control equipment, storage tanks, access roads, and other miscellaneous structures. Other activities required to accomplish the work, such as traffic control, are also included.

Waste Water: This category includes projects approved pursuant to the County Sanitation District 1 Sewerage Facilities Expansion Master Plans, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) Interceptor Master Plans, and SRCSD's Water Recycling Master Plan. This also includes the construction, installation, replacement, and maintenance of sewage treatment facilities, water treatment facilities, and other water and wastewater facilities including pumping stations, force mains, gravity interceptor and trunk sewer pipelines, recycled water pipelines, access roads, and tunnel launching and receiving pits.

Specific maintenance activities within existing rights-of-way or easements include the inspection, cleaning, rehabilitation, repair, and/or replacement of SRCSD and CSD-1 facilities. These facilities include, but are not limited to, maintenance holes, access vaults, pipelines, force mains, pumping stations, booster pumps, valves, gates, weirs, flow monitoring equipment, telemetry equipment, electrical power and control equipment, odor control systems, storage tanks, wastewater treatment facilities, access roads, and other miscellaneous structures. Other activities required to accomplish the work, such as traffic control, are also included.

Flood Control: This category includes projects approved pursuant to county or city adopted flood control plans as well as construction, installation, and maintenance of pumping stations, pressure control structures, levees, dikes, detention basins, and storm water channels that are not identified within county or city adopted flood control plans.

Specific maintenance activities within existing rights-of-way or easements include removal of debris and sediment from channels or ditches through dredging, weed abatement (application of herbicides not covered), repairs to channels, levees, dikes, and basins.

Sanitation: This category includes construction, expansion and maintenance of landfills, transfer stations, and recycling stations.

Public Facilities: This category includes construction and maintenance of fire stations, police stations, hospitals, schools, community centers, cemeteries, and administration centers.

Recreation Facilities: This category includes construction and maintenance of recreation facilities such as parks, sports complexes, recreation trails, restrooms, trailheads,

playgrounds, golf courses, racetracks, campgrounds and recreational infrastructure associated with education and interpretation.

Utility Services: This category includes construction, installation, and maintenance of generating facilities, transmission substations, transmission and distribution lines, gas lines, and telecommunication lines.

Specific maintenance activities within existing rights-of-way or easements include maintaining existing roadways, signage repair, ditch clearing, tree trimming, repair maintenance or replacement of transmission, telecommunication or gas pipelines and dust stabilization.

Mining: This category includes extraction of aggregate resources and construction, and maintenance of mining pits, processing sites, and aggregate transfer systems such as conveyors and access roads.

Species Surveys and Relocation: Activities will occur that result in the loss of habitat occupied by covered plant or animal species or will cause habitat to become so degraded as to cause species to be extirpated from a given location. In this case it may be necessary and/or desirable to relocate or transplant various covered species to locations within the HCP preserve system to help ensure the preservation of that species.

Elk Grove – El Dorado Transportation Corridor project: [Detailed project description to come.](#)

Recycled Water Projects:

SRCSA's Water Recycling Master Plan identifies potential water recycling projects to provide recycled water service from the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP) to three different areas located in the south portion of the City of Sacramento and the City of Elk Grove. Recycled water in this region is to be used for non-potable (non-drinking) purposes, including the irrigation of parks, school yards, landscaped roadway corridors and freeway interchanges. The potential recycled water projects to serve these areas are described below:

- Phase II Expansion Project: The Phase II Expansion Project is located in the City of Elk Grove and will provide recycled water from the SRWTP to the area identified as the SCWA Demonstration Project – Phase II. This area includes the East Franklin and Laguna Ridge Developments. The proposed developments at Lent Ranch, which is located just south of the Laguna Ridge Area in the City of Elk Grove, is also anticipated to be served by recycled water. The recycled water for these areas will be provided via water recycling pipelines (purple pipes), booster pumps, flow control valves, storage tanks, etc. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project

requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include..... Exhibits 1A and IB identify these areas.

- South City of Sacramento Projects: The potential water recycling projects identified for the south City of Sacramento area include providing recycled water from the SRWTP to the existing Bart Cavanaugh Golf Course and Bill Colin Park, the proposed Delta Shores development and the future road extension for Cosumnes River Boulevard. The recycled water for these areas will be provided via water recycling pipelines (purple pipes), booster pumps, flow control valves, etc. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include.....Exhibit 2 identifies the location for these projects.
- South Sacramento Agricultural Lands Project: A portion of the recycled water pipeline for this project is located inside of the existing Urban Services Boundary (USB) and the other portion outside of the USB. This section only describes the section of the project located within the USB. The portion located outside of the USB is described in section 4.3 of this chapter. This project includes a recycled water pipeline starting at SRWTP, the pipeline then heads south of SRWTP through the City of Elk Grove and eventually reaches the USB located south of the city. The pipeline will convey service to southern Sacramento County permanent agricultural lands. Recycled water in this region is to be used for the irrigation of agricultural lands and the improvement of environmental lands that could benefit aquatic and terrestrial habitat. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include..... Exhibit 3 identifies a potential project alignment for this project.

SRCSD's Water Recycling Master Plan also identifies potential water recycling projects to provide recycled water service areas located near the vicinity of the City of Rancho Cordova, the Mather area, Glenborough, and the Folsom Sphere of Influence. Since this region is located at a significant distance from the SRWTP, which is located in Elk Grove, recycled water for these projects is anticipated to be produced using satellite treatment facilities or scalping plants, storage tanks, booster pumps, transmission and distribution pipelines, etc. Recycled water in this region is to be used for non-potable (non-drinking) purposes, including the irrigation of parks, school yards, landscaped roadway corridors and freeway interchanges. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include.....Exhibit 4 identifies a potential project alignment for this project.

SRCSD Laguna Creek Interceptor Project: Detailed Project Description to be provided separately.

4.3 Covered Activities Located Outside of the UDA

While a majority of the activities covered under the SSHCP will occur inside the UDA, the SSHCP will also cover specific activities that occur outside of these areas. Projects located outside of the UDA will be described in specific detail concerning the level of take and specific take avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures implemented to avoid significant impact to covered species and habitats.

Transportation: This category includes projects approved pursuant to the circulation element of the county general plan.

Road Widening Projects: The County of Sacramento intends to widen Jackson Highway from Grant Line Road to the Cosumnes River to an average width of 84 feet. A schedule for project initiation and completion does not yet exist for this project, but will be undertaken within the HCP's 50-year permit period. The project is located on X acres of which approximately X acres will be impacted by grading activities and the installation of pavement. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include.....

Road Shoulder Widening Projects: The County of Sacramento plans to widen the pavement of several roads located outside of the Urban Service Boundary. The County intends to widen the following roads from their current width to a width of 36 feet. While specific dates for project initiation are not available, these projects will be completed as needed and will occur within the HCP's 50-year permit period.

- Franklin Road from the Urban Service Boundary to the County line. The project is located on X acres of which approximately X acres will be impacted by grading activities and the placement of pavement. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include.....
- Twin Cities Road from Highway 99 to the County line. The project is located on X acres of which approximately X acres will be impacted by grading activities and the placement of pavement. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include.....
- Alta Mesa Road from Twin Cities Road to Dillard Road. The project is located on X acres of which approximately X acres will be impacted by grading activities and the placement of pavement. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y

habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include.....

- Green Road from Dillard Road to Wilton Road. The project is located on X acres of which approximately X acres will be impacted by grading activities and the placement of pavement. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include.....
- Wilton road from Dillard Road to Grant Line Road. The project is located on X acres of which approximately X acres will be impacted by grading activities and the placement of pavement. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include.....
- Dillard Road from Highway 99 to Jackson Highway. The project is located on X acres of which approximately X acres will be impacted by grading activities and the placement of pavement. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include.....
- Valensin Road from Highway 99 to Jackson Highway. The project is located on X acres of which approximately X acres will be impacted by grading activities and the placement of pavement. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include.....

Realignment Projects: The County of Sacramento's circulation element identifies the need for the realignment of two roads located outside of the County's USB.

- Alta Mesa Road from the intersection of Alta Mesa Road and Pond Road to the intersection of Dillard Road and Green Road. The project is located on X acres of which approximately X acres will be impacted by grading activities and the placement of pavement. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include.....
- Wilton Road from the intersection of Davis Road and Dillard Road to approximately 0.5mile northwest following Wilton Road. The project is located on X acres of which approximately X acres will be impacted by grading activities and the placement of pavement. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include.....

Waste Water: This category includes projects approved pursuant to the SRCSD Water Recycling Master Plan.

Recycled Water Projects: SRCSD's Water Recycling Master Plan identifies a potential water recycling pipeline project to provide recycled water service from the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant to southern Sacramento County permanent agricultural lands (So County Ag) and mitigation lands located outside of the County's USB. The So County Ag area is assumed to include approximately 1,800 irrigated acres (2,000 acres of total are of development). Recycled water in this region is to be used for the irrigation of agricultural lands and the improvement of mitigation lands that could benefit aquatic and terrestrial habitat. This project will result in the take of X acres of Y habitat. Mitigation for this project requires the preservation of X acres of Y habitat. Specific take avoidance measures include..... Exhibit 3 identifies a potential project alignment for this project.

Agricultural-Residential Development located outside of the UDA: Any activity that occurs outside of the UDA but within designated Agricultural-Residential areas as illustrated by the 2006 Sacramento County General Plan Land Use Diagram, may utilize the SSHCP under the following conditions: (1) the activity is consistent with current zoning; (2) the activity is the building of a residential structure, accessory dwelling unit or barn.

4.4 Plan Implementation Covered Activities

Most implementation activities occurring within the SSHCP Study Area are related to the management and monitoring of preserve systems, the restoration of habitat to enhance ecosystems and ultimately aid in the recovery of a covered species or species and habitat surveys that are required before construction or as part of a preserve documentation report. In some circumstances preserves may be located in areas where infrastructure currently exists. This infrastructure may include existing and future roadways. Specific guidelines have been established that will allow limited maintenance of infrastructure facilities while ensuring the overall integrity of the preserve system.

Management, monitoring, surveying, and adaptive management practices as established by the SSHCP or through an annual work plan approved by the USFWS and/or CDF&G occurring within a preserve system must be authorized by the SSHCP implementing entity and must be performed by implementing entity personnel or by contractors employed by the implementing entity.

Maintenance of infrastructure projects and passive recreational activities that occur within preserves must be overseen by implementing entity personnel and must have a comprehensive plan approved by the implementing entity prior to engaging in any activity.

Preserve Management, Monitoring, and Research: Activities associated with management, monitoring, and surveying may result in the take of covered species. Management actions

may include but are not limited to vegetation control through, livestock grazing, prescribed burns, application of herbicides, or mowing; alteration of hydrology through the creation of berms, levees, channels and ditches; access within a preserve by motorized and non-motorized vehicles; and relocation or transplantation of species.

Monitoring actions may include, but are not limited to, species surveys, which may require the capture and handling of animals to establish species identity; to band, tag, or mark individuals; and to measure physical features.

Habitat Restoration and Construction: Activities associated with restoration and construction of habitat may result in the taking of covered species. Restoration will occur in areas where habitat has been degraded but where covered species may still remain. Even though every effort will be made to minimize or avoid injury to covered species in areas where restoration activities are occurring take may still occur. Temporal losses of habitat during implementation of restoration projects and during habitat maturation may also result in the take of covered species.

Species Surveys and Relocation: Activities will occur that result in the loss of habitat occupied by covered plant or animal species or will cause habitat to become so degraded as to cause species to be extirpated from a given location. As part of the SSHCP's take avoidance and minimization measures it may be necessary and/or desirable to conduct preconstruction surveys and to relocate or transplant various covered species to locations within the HCP preserve system. Although these measures are designed to avoid and minimize take, the actions associated with such measures may result in the take of a species and therefore will be covered under the SSHCP.

Emergency Response Activities: This category includes all activities that are necessary for federal, state or local law enforcement agencies to enforce the law. In addition, unconditional access to the preserve will be granted to agencies or entities that are responding to emergency situations. Those actions may include, but are not limited to, fire fighting, rescue operations, medical assistance, flooding or any activity that protects public health, safety and welfare.

Infrastructure Maintenance: Preserves may contain existing infrastructure and facilities that are essential to providing vital services such as water, sewer, and energy. Repair and maintenance of these facilities will be necessary to provide uninterrupted service to residents of the region. To ensure the integrity of the preserve system, each project, activity, or action associated with the repair or maintenance of existing infrastructure and/or facilities that are located within the SSHCP preserve system will be subject to review by the SSHCP implementing entity and the local land use authority. Infrastructure related repairs and maintenance activities that occur within the SSHCP preserve system will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and must meet the following criteria:

1. The project, activity, or action does not prevent attainment of any of the biological goals or objectives of the SSHCP.
2. The project, activity, or action does not obstruct or hinder the successful implementation and continuing management or operation of the preserve system.
3. The project, activity, or action must be sited and designed in a manner consistent with SSHCP conservation objectives.

4.5 Activities Not Covered By the SSHCP

General Agricultural Practices: General agricultural practices are routine activities, which are necessary to maintain a functioning agricultural operation. Such activities may include but are not limited to tilling fields, harvesting crops, mowing firebreaks, etc. These activities are not covered by the plan at the request of the agricultural community.

Development within Rancho Murrieta: Development within Rancho Murrieta was not covered by the SSHCP as it is anticipated that most development would be permitted prior to implementation of the SSHCP.

Mining Operations: There are currently three applications for quarry mines located in eastern Sacramento County outside of the UDA.

Rural Residential Development: Rural development located outside of the UDA that is not implicitly discussed in this chapter will not be covered under this plan. Rural development has the potential to result in significant impacts that would be beyond the scope of the SSHCP to mitigate.