

SACRAMENTO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
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August 4, 2010

TO: Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission

FROM: Peter Brundage, Executive Officer

RE: South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan Presentation

CONTACT: Don Lockhart, AICP, Assistant Executive Officer (916) 874-2937

RECOMMENDATION

Information only, no action is recommended. The presentation this evening will be provided by Ms. Jennifer T. Buckman.

PRESETNER BACKGROUND

Ms. Buckman joined the environmental law firm of Somach Simmons & Dunn as a shareholder in May 2008. Her practice focuses on water and land use issues, and she regularly advises clients and litigates matters relating to California water law, CEQA, the federal and state Endangered Species Acts, the Williamson Act, and other water and land use laws such as SB 610/SB 221 and the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg LAFCo Act. Ms. Buckman also has extensive administrative experience and has negotiated complex matters with regulatory agencies such as the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Conservation. Ms. Buckman earned her J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1995, and is a member of both the California and Oregon State Bars.

SUMMARY

The South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) has implications regarding both the City of Elk Grove, and City of Galt Sphere of Influence Amendment applications. The Study Area excludes the City of Sacramento, the City of Folsom and Folsom's Sphere of Influence, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and the Sacramento County community of Rancho Murieta. Sacramento County is partnering with the cities of Rancho Cordova, Galt, and Elk Grove as well as the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, Sacramento County Water Agency and the Capital Southeast Connector JPA to further advance the regional planning goals of the SSHCP.

The proposed SSHCP is in the initial stages of environmental review. A significant step in the environmental review process is identifying and analyzing conservation alternatives in the

Environmental Impact Statement. The SSHCP must balance the need to conserve sensitive habitat with urban growth.

The SSHCP is a regional approach to addressing issues related to urban development, habitat conservation and agricultural protection. The SSHCP will consolidate environmental efforts to protect and enhance wetlands (primarily vernal pools) and upland habitats to provide ecologically viable conservation areas. It will also minimize regulatory hurdles and streamline the permitting process for development projects. The SSHCP will cover 40 different species of plants and wildlife including 10 that are state or federally listed as threatened or endangered. The SSHCP will be an agreement between state/federal wildlife and wetland regulators and local jurisdictions, which will allow land owners to engage in the "incidental take" of listed species (i.e., to destroy or degrade habitat) in return for conservation commitments from local jurisdictions. The options for securing these commitments are currently being developed and will be identified prior to the adoption of the SSHCP. The geographic scope of the SSHCP includes U.S. Highway 50 to the north, Interstate 5 to the west, the Sacramento County line with El Dorado and Amador Counties to the east, and San Joaquin County to the south.