

**NOTICE OF INTENT/ NOTICE OF PREPARATION
OF
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ REPORT**

**Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan
(BHCP)**

(SCH No. TBD)

LEAD AGENCY:



City of Bakersfield
Community Development Department
Planning Division
1715 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Primary Contact:
Kristin Pittack, Associate Planner I
Email: kpittack@bakersfieldcity.us | Phone: (661) 326-3778

January 2017

Notice of Intent (NOI)/Notice of Preparation (NOP) of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Report (EIR)

DATE: January 9, 2017

TO: Agencies & Interested Parties
(See Attached Mailing List)

FROM: City of Bakersfield
Community Development
Department Planning Division

SUBJECT: Public Comment Period and Scoping Meeting for the Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan (BHCP and the Notice of Intent/ Notice of Preparation to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/ Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The City of Bakersfield (City), as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has determined in accordance with CEQA Sections 15060 and 15081, that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required for the Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan). In accordance with Section 15060(d) an Initial Study is not required. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the federal Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Plan. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is a Responsible and Trustee Agency for CEQA.

Agencies: We request input from your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental impact analysis relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities and interests in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIS/EIR prepared jointly by the City and Service when considering any required permits issued by your agency or when authorizing other approvals for the project.

Interested Parties: Comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with implementation and approval of this project are requested from organizations and individuals.

Comments Due: A 45-day public review of this Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation begins on **January 9, 2017**. Any comments must be received **no later than 5 P.M. by February 23, 2017**. Please include your contact information and the name of your organization (if applicable) with your comment(s). Comments should be sent to:

Kristin Pittack, Associate Planner I
City of Bakersfield, Planning Division
1715 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Fax: (661) 852-2136

Email or online comments to:

bakersfieldhcp@bakersfieldcity.us or at <http://bakersfieldhcp.us/>

Scoping Meeting: A public scoping meeting will be held on **January 24, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.**, at the City's Community Development Department Conference Room, 3rd Floor, at 1715 Chester Avenue. Attendance is open to the public. The meeting will provide a brief description of the project, a brief overview of the NEPA and CEQA process, and will provide a forum for submittal of public comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis that will be provided within the EIS/EIR.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| American Institute of Architects (AIA) | Bakersfield City Traffic Division | California State University – Bakersfield |
| American Telephone & Telegraph (AT&T) | Bakersfield City Waste Water Division | California State University – Bakersfield, Archeological Information Center |
| Audubon Society, Harry Love | Bakersfield City Water Resources Department | Chumash Council of Bakersfield |
| Bakersfield Board of Realtors | Bakersfield College | City of Shafter |
| Bakersfield Board of Trade | Bakersfield Downtown Business Association | Fred Chynoweth, CNPS |
| Bakersfield Builders Exchange | Bakersfield Homebuilders Association, Dave Dmohowski | Golden Empire Transit District (GET) |
| Bakersfield Building Trades Council | Bakersfield Bluffs and Trails, Michelle Beck | Greater Bakersfield Grade Sep. District |
| Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce | Bear Mountain Park District | Grimmway Farms, Patty Poire |
| Bakersfield City Building Department | Bright House Networks | Kern Community College District |
| Bakersfield City Councilmembers (All) | Burlington Northern | Kern Council of Governments (KCOG) |
| Bakersfield City Fire Department | CA Department of Fish & Wildlife Service, Abimael Leon | Kern County Administrative Office |
| Bakersfield City General Services Division | CA Department of Fish & Wildlife Service, Central Region (R4), Julie Vance | Kern County Airports |
| Bakersfield City Parks and Recreation Department | CA Department of Fish & Wildlife Service, Southern San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region, Craig Bailey | Kern County Beale Library |
| Bakersfield City Police Department | Cal Stead | Kern County Board of Supervisors (All) |
| Bakersfield City Public Works Department | California Department of Fish & Wildlife | Kern County Community Development |
| Bakersfield City Solid Waste Division | California State Clearing House | Kern County Fire Department |
| Bakersfield City Streets Division | | Kern County Health Department |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Kern County Housing Authority | McIntosh & Associates, Roger McIntosh | Southern California Edison (SoCal Edison) |
| Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department | MH Wolfe & Associates Environmental Consulting, Inc. | Southern California Edison Gas Company (SoCal Gas) |
| Kern County Public Works Department | Native American Heritage Commission | Tejon Indian Tribe |
| Kern County Sheriff Department | Nature Conservancy | Thomas Roads Improvement Program (TRIP) |
| Kern County Superintendent of Schools | North of the River (NOR) Recreation & Park District | Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians |
| Kern County Waste Management Division | North of the River (NOR) Sanitation District | Tubatulabals of Kern Valley |
| Kern High School District | Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) - Bakersfield | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Justin Sloan |
| Kern Mosquito Abatement District | Pacific Gas & Electric Gas (PG&E) - Transportation Lines | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, San Joaquin Valley Branch, Thomas Leeman |
| Kern River Parkway Foundation, Bill Cooper | Pamela Elisheva | Union Pacific Railroad |
| Kern Valley Indian Council | Panorama Vista Preserve, Joe & Carolyn Belli | United States Department of Fish & Wildlife |
| Kern Valley Indian Council | Quad Knopf Inc., Steve Esselman and Jamie Brawer | Westminster Capital, Inc., Keenan Behrle |
| Kevin Fahey | San Fernando Band of Mission Indians | Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band |
| Kitanemuk & Yowlumne: Tejon Indians | San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) | |
| Lennar Homes of California, Inc., Mike Miller or Bill Walls | Santa Fe Railroad | |
| Linda Jay | Santa Rosa Rancheria | |
| Linda Parker | Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Lorraine Unger | |
| Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) | Smart Growth Coalition of Kern County | |
| Lucy G. Clark | | |

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan

Lead Agency: City of Bakersfield

Contact Person: Kristin Pittack

Mailing Address: 1600 Truxtun Avenue

Phone: (661) 326-3778

City: Bakersfield

Zip: 93301

County: Kern

Project Location: County: Kern

City/Nearest Community: Bakersfield

Cross Streets: N/A

Zip Code: N/A

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 35 ° 22 ' 34.23" N / 119 ° 1 ' 19.56" W Total Acres: 259,000

Assessor's Parcel No.: N/A

Section: N/A

Twp.: N/A

Range: N/A

Base: N/A

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 33, 46, 58, 65, 99, 119, 151

Waterways: Kern River

Airports: Meadows Field, Bakersfield M

Railways: BSFN, UP, SJV

Schools: All in Metro Bakersfield

Document Type:

CEQA: [X] NOP

[] Draft EIR

NEPA: [X] NOI

Other: [X] Joint Document

[] Early Cons

[] Supplement/Subsequent EIR

[] EA

[] Final Document

[] Neg Dec

(Prior SCH No.)

[] Draft EIS

[] Other:

[] Mit Neg Dec

Other:

[] FONSI

Local Action Type:

[] General Plan Update

[] Specific Plan

[] Rezone

[] Annexation

[] General Plan Amendment

[] Master Plan

[] Prezone

[] Redevelopment

[] General Plan Element

[] Planned Unit Development

[] Use Permit

[] Coastal Permit

[] Community Plan

[] Site Plan

[] Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)

[X] Other: Habitat Conserv

Development Type:

[] Residential: Units _____ Acres _____

[] Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____

[] Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____

[] Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____

[] Educational: _____

[] Recreational: _____

[] Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____

[] Transportation: Type _____

[] Mining: Mineral _____

[] Power: Type _____ MW _____

[] Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____

[] Hazardous Waste: Type _____

[X] Other: Habitat Conservation Plan

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

[X] Aesthetic/Visual

[] Fiscal

[X] Recreation/Parks

[] Vegetation

[X] Agricultural Land

[] Flood Plain/Flooding

[] Schools/Universities

[X] Water Quality

[X] Air Quality

[X] Forest Land/Fire Hazard

[] Septic Systems

[] Water Supply/Groundwater

[X] Archeological/Historical

[X] Geologic/Seismic

[] Sewer Capacity

[] Wetland/Riparian

[X] Biological Resources

[X] Minerals

[X] Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading

[X] Growth Inducement

[] Coastal Zone

[X] Noise

[] Solid Waste

[X] Land Use

[] Drainage/Absorption

[X] Population/Housing Balance

[X] Toxic/Hazardous

[X] Cumulative Effects

[X] Economic/Jobs

[X] Public Services/Facilities

[X] Traffic/Circulation

[X] Other: Climate Change/G

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

All Zoning and General Plan Designations covered under the Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan.

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

Please see attached page for full project description.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region #4 _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>U.S. Fish & Wildlife, San Joaquin Valley Branch</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date January 9, 2017 Ending Date February 23, 2017

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

| | |
|--|--|
| Consulting Firm: <u>ICF International</u> | Applicant: <u>City of Bakersfield</u> |
| Address: <u>620 Folsom Street</u> | Address: <u>1600 Truxtun Avenue</u> |
| City/State/Zip: <u>San Francisco, CA 94107</u> | City/State/Zip: <u>Bakersfield, CA 93301</u> |
| Contact: <u>Troy Rahmig</u> | Phone: <u>(661) 326-3778</u> |
| Phone: <u>(206) 801-2823</u> | |

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 1/4/2017

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

1.0 PROJECT SUMMARY

The project is the Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan, referred to herein as the “Plan.” The Plan is intended to serve a specified permit area generally within Metropolitan Bakersfield (See Figure 1, Regional Location) as a habitat conservation plan (HCP) pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Plan is being prepared under the combined efforts of the City and the Service, in coordination with the County and the CDFW. The Plan is designed to streamline and coordinate existing processes for review and permitting of public and private activities that potentially affect protected plant and animal species and to provide greater certainty on mitigation requirements. These species are referred to as “covered species.”

To meet this goal, the Plan sets out a conservation strategy that includes measures to ensure that impacts to covered species and habitats related to covered activities are avoided, minimized, and/or mitigated, as appropriate. These covered activities encompass the range of existing and future activities that the City, County, private developers, or other permittees will implement within the permit area. These activities, called “covered activities,” include urban and rural development and a variety of road, water, and other needed public infrastructure, construction and maintenance activities (see Covered Activities below). The Plan is further intended to facilitate the role and responsibility of local government in overseeing local land use planning and decision-making while protecting endangered species in the area.

Based on the implementation horizon for covered projects, the ongoing regulatory requirement of operation and maintenance activities, and the need for adequate funding, the Permit Applicants have determined that a 30-year permit term will best address regulatory and biological considerations. Covered species are those species addressed in the Plan for which conservation actions will be implemented and for which the Permit Applicants will seek incidental take authorization for a period of 30 years. Table 1 lists the species proposed for coverage in the Plan and includes 13 listed and non-listed species composed of seven (7) animal species and six (6) plant species. These covered species are expected to be named on the ESA permit. In exchange, the Plan will provide long-term conservation and management of these species.

1.1 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Plan will achieve the specific project objectives listed below.

1. Provide an effective framework to protect, enhance, and when necessary, restore natural resources in the general area addressed by the Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan, while streamlining the environmental permitting process for impacts on threatened and endangered species.
2. Provide comprehensive, coordinated, and standardized mitigation and take minimization for endangered species such that regulations on public and private actions will be applied equally and consistently, reducing delays, expenses, and regulatory duplication.
3. Protect the appropriate plant and animal communities within the study area to mitigate impacts on species listed or likely to be listed by the state or federal governments.
4. Allow issuance of permits to the Permit Applicants for lawful incidental take of species listed as threatened or endangered pursuant to ESA and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

5. Provide a means for the local agencies receiving permits to extend the incidental take authorization to private entities subject to their jurisdiction, bringing endangered species permitting more under local control.
6. Streamline and simplify the permitting process for future incidental take authorization of currently non-listed species that may become listed during the permit term.
7. Standardize avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and compensation requirements of the ESA, CESA, CEQA, NEPA, and other applicable laws and regulations relating to biological and natural resources in the planning area, so that public and private actions will be governed equally and consistently, thus reducing delays, expenses, and regulatory duplication.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The study area of the Plan is defined as the larger area in which all covered activities would occur, impacts would be evaluated, and conservation activities would be implemented. The study area proposed is 2,259,627 acres, or 3,530 square miles. The permit area, the area where all covered activities will take place, encompasses approximately 258,406 acres or 404 square miles in central and western Kern County at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley within the study area. The permit area stretches from the foothills of the southern Sierra Nevada west through the existing Bakersfield urban center to Interstate (I-) 5, and from Bear Mountain Boulevard in the south to the northern Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan boundary. Figure 1 shows the proposed project's regional location.

2.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

In the early 1990's, the City and County prepared the Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan (MBHCP) to provide incidental take authorization for urban and rural development and associated infrastructure in the Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan area. The MBHCP was the first multi-species HCP in the state of California. The Service granted a Section 10(a)(1)(B) permit and the CDFW granted a Section 2081 permit to the City and the County that began in 1994 for a 20-year time horizon. These permits expired in 2014, but a short-term 5-year extension was granted. The Service and CDFW have indicated to the City and County that a new plan must replace the original plan (rather than amending the original plan) because the original plan is missing several important components now required by federal regulation, namely biological goals and objectives, a monitoring and adaptive management plan, and no-surprises assurances.

Preparing a new plan also provides the City and County an opportunity to expand the benefits of the plan to new participants as permittees (e.g. California State University, Bakersfield, Bakersfield College, and local school districts), adjust and clarify the species and activities addressed by the Plan, and incorporate improvements based on the lessons learned from implementing the original plan for more than 21 years. The Permit Applicants do not consider this Plan to be a continuation of the MBHCP, but rather a new plan that builds on the strength and successes of the MBHCP. The Plan retains the original goal outlined in the MBHCP to protect and enhance native habitats which support threatened and endangered species, while allowing projects to proceed as set forth in other local planning documents.

2.3 PERMIT APPLICANTS

The Plan addresses state and federal endangered species compliance requirements for the City of Bakersfield and in the unincorporated County of Kern generally within the boundaries of the Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan area, including the unincorporated communities of Oildale, Lamont, and Weedpatch; the California State University-Bakersfield, Bakersfield College, and various school districts (pending) collectively known as Permittees for activities and projects in the permit area that they conduct or approve. The Permittees will apply for a Section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit from the Service for all species in the Plan and a Section 2835 or a Section 2081 permit from CDFW for all state-listed species in the Plan.

2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The Permit Applicants began the planning process by defining a broad area—the study area—in which all planning would occur for the Plan (Figure 2), followed by a permit area, which is where the focus of covered activities will take place (Figure 3). Both the study area and permit area are discussed below.

2.4.1 Study Area

The study area is defined as the area in which all covered activities would occur, impacts would be evaluated, and conservation activities would be implemented. The study area proposed is 2,259,627 acres or 3,530 square miles. This study area was developed to ensure that the natural resources that might be affected by covered activities can be adequately assessed at a regional scale and that sufficient mitigation opportunities are available.

The northern boundary of the study area is defined by the Kern County border with Tulare and Kings Counties. The boundary encompasses land acquisition opportunities near existing protected areas on the southern San Joaquin Valley floor (e.g., Buttonwillow Ecological Reserve, Semitropic Ridge Natural Area, Kern National Wildlife Refuge [NWR], Allensworth Ecological Reserve, and Pixley NWR). Protection of natural and retired agricultural lands surrounding these protected areas, with the objective of expanding and connecting these areas, is identified as an important action for the recovery of the blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*), the Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides*), and the San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1998). Conservation in this area provides landscape-level linkages between these protected areas for covered species.

The western boundary of the study area runs along the shared border of Kern County and San Luis Obispo County. Protection of natural and retired agricultural lands in western Kern County, especially in the vicinity of the Lokern Natural Area, between Kettleman Hills and the valley's edge, and the natural lands west of Highway 33 and east of the Coast Range is identified as an important action for the recovery of the blunt-nosed leopard lizard and the San Joaquin kit fox (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1998). Protection of these lands also supports the recovery of the San Joaquin antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelson*) and the giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1998). This portion of the study area also provides conservation opportunities in riparian and wetland habitat suitable for the Buena Vista Lake shrew (*Sorex ornatus relictus*) in areas around the existing Kern Water Bank area, along Buena Vista Slough, Goose Lake Slough, and the Kern River west of Bakersfield (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1998).

Bakersfield HCP

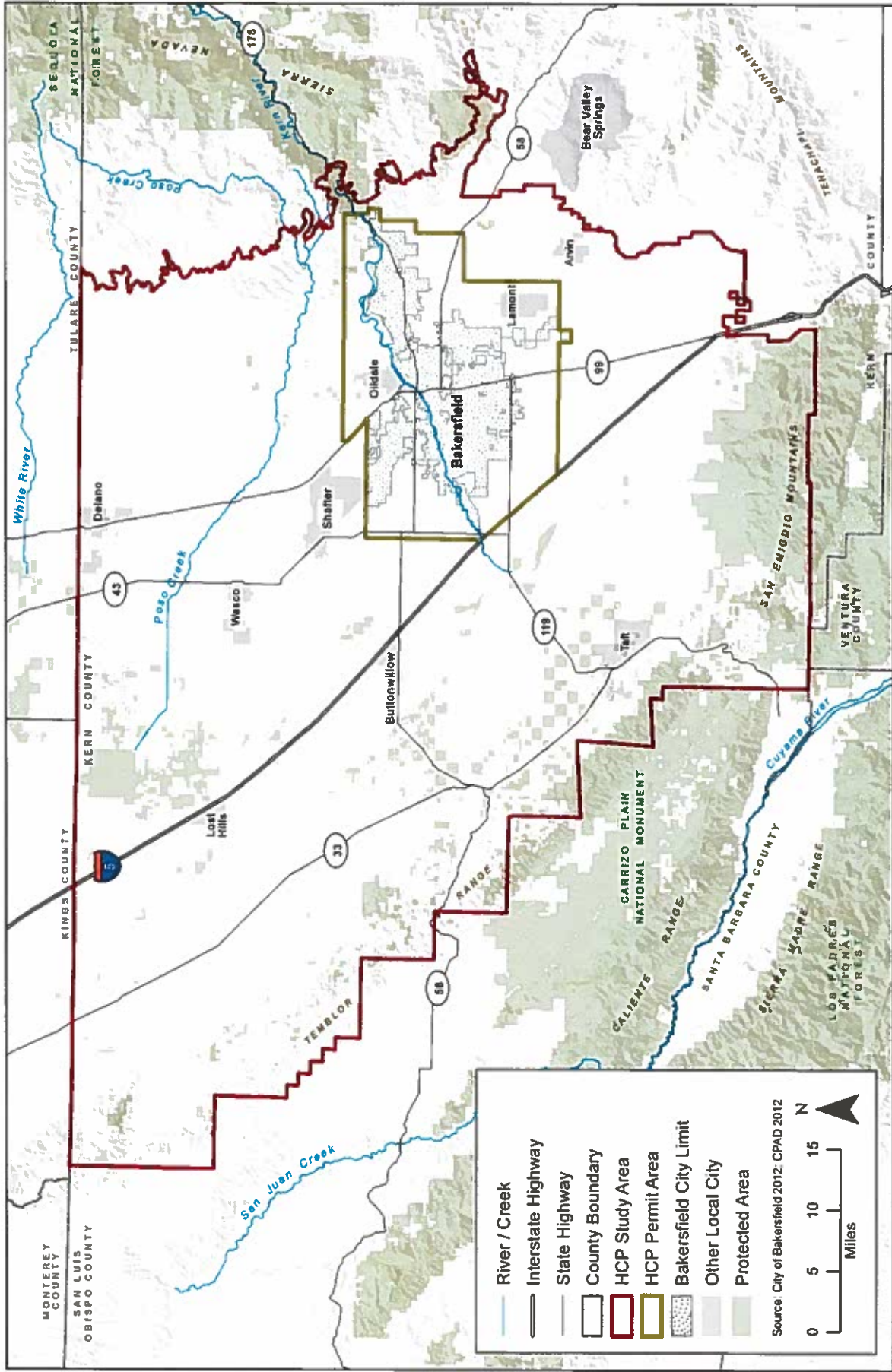


Figure 2
Study Area

Bakersfield HCP

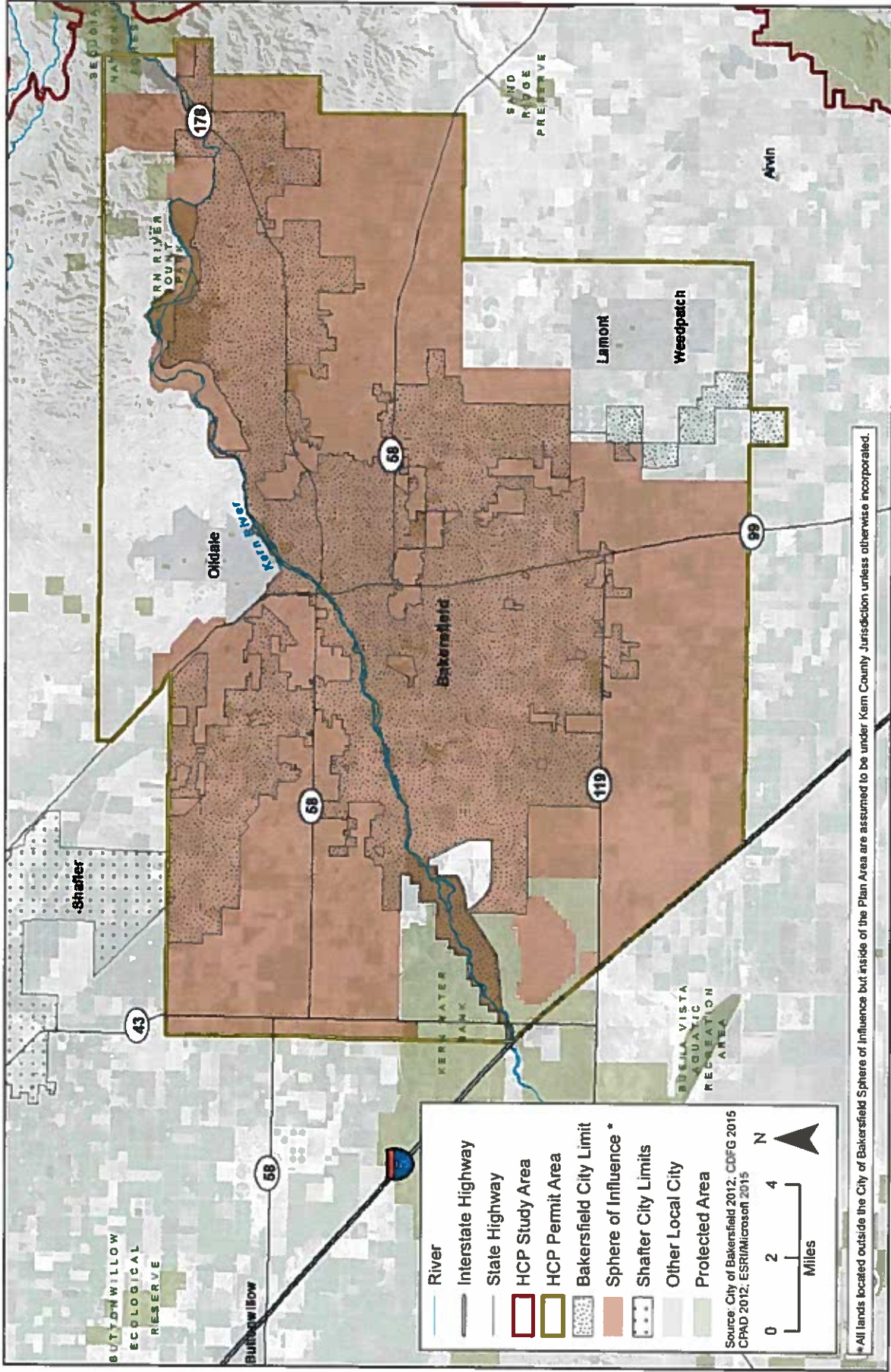


Figure 3
Permit Area

The southwestern boundary of the study area extends to the boundary with San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The southern and southeastern boundary then follows the northern boundary of the Tehachapi Uplands Multi-Species HCP, which covers most of Tejon Ranch.

Beyond the Tehachapi Uplands Multi-Species HCP, the eastern boundary follows the ecological boundary between annual grassland and oak woodland as shown in data digitized by the Endangered Species Recovery Program from California State University–Stanislaus. This ecological boundary encompasses the southern and eastern extent of the Great Valley Ecoregion. It provides conservation opportunities for scrub and grassland habitats suitable for many of the covered species, including the San Joaquin kit fox, the blunt-nosed leopard lizard, and the Bakersfield cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*). There are currently only a few small protected areas that include habitat for these species east of Bakersfield. It is assumed that extant populations of San Joaquin kit fox and blunt-nosed leopard lizards occur in areas east of Bakersfield and protecting habitat in that area would result in the persistence of both species.

2.4.2 Permit Area

The permit area is the area in which the Permit Applicants are requesting take authorization from the Service and CDFW for activities and projects covered by this Plan. Covered activities will occur within the permit area, though conservation actions, including management and monitoring of mitigation sites, could occur within the larger study area. The permit area is approximately 258,406 acres or 404 square miles. The boundaries of the permit area are generally the boundaries of the Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan.

2.5 COVERED SPECIES

The permits issued by the Service must name specific species that are either currently listed as threatened or endangered or that may become listed during the permit term and for which take from the impacts of covered activities is authorized. These species, called covered species, are either currently listed as threatened or endangered or may become listed during the permit term. Although the primary intent of this Plan is to provide mitigation for impacts on covered species, it will also contribute to the protection of native biological diversity, habitat for native species, natural communities, and local ecosystems. This broad scope will conserve a wide range of natural resources including native species that are common and those that are rare.

As stated previously and listed in Table 1 below, the Plan proposes coverage for 13 listed and non-listed species, which include seven (7) animal species and six (6) plant species. These covered species are expected to be named on the ESA (Section 10) permit. In exchange, the Plan will provide long-term conservation and management of these species. The 13 covered species were identified on the basis of an initial assessment of the effect of covered activities and conservation measures on 183 species that are listed or that could become listed during the permit term in the study area.

The Plan includes conservation measures to protect all 13 covered species, whether or not they are currently listed. Under both permits, any nonlisted species addressed by the Plan's conservation strategy will not require additional conservation within the study area should that species become listed during the permit term.

Table 1. Species Recommended for Coverage in the Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Status ^a | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|----------|
| | | State/CNPS | Federal |
| Amphibians and Reptiles | | | |
| 1 Blunt-nosed leopard lizard | <i>Gambelia silus</i> | SE, FP | FE |
| Birds | | | |
| 2 Western burrowing owl | <i>Athene cunicularia hypugea</i> | CSC | MBTA |
| 3 Least Bell's vireo | <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> | SE | FE, MBTA |
| Mammals | | | |
| 4 Buena Vista Lake shrew | <i>Sorex ornatus relictus</i> | CSC | FE |
| 5 San Joaquin antelope squirrel | <i>Ammospermophilus nelsoni</i> | ST | -- |
| 6 Tipton kangaroo rat | <i>Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides</i> | SE | FE |
| 7 San Joaquin kit fox | <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> | ST | FE |
| Plants | | | |
| 8 Alkali mariposa-lily | <i>Calochortus striatus</i> | -/1B | - |
| 9 Rose-flowered larkspur | <i>Delphinium purpusii</i> | -/1B | - |
| 10 Recurved larkspur | <i>Delphinium recurvatum</i> | -/1B | - |
| 11 San Joaquin woollythreads | <i>Monolopia [Lembertia] congdonii</i> | -/1B | FE |
| 12 Bakersfield cactus | <i>Opuntia treleasei</i> | SE/1B | FE |
| 13 Shevock's golden-aster | <i>Heterotheca shevockii</i> | -/1B | - |

Source: California Department of Fish and Game. 2012. California Natural Diversity Database, RareFind 4. [Kern County]. Available: <<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/mapsanddata.asp>>. Accessed: [March 2012].

^a Status

State

- FP = fully protected.
- SE = state listed as endangered.
- ST = State listed as threatened.
- SR = state listed as rare.
- CSC = California special concern species (January 2011 list).
- = no state status.

Federal

- MBTA = Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- FE = federally endangered.
- FT = federally threatened.
- PDT = Proposed delisted threatened
- = No federal status.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rank

- 1A = Presumed extinct in California.
- 1B = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere.
- 2 = Rare or endangered in California, more common elsewhere
- 3 = Plants about which more information is needed.

2.6 COVERED ACTIVITIES

A primary goal of this Plan is to protect species and their habitats in order to obtain authorization for incidental take of covered species under the ESA for certain types of activities in the Plan area, in accordance with approved land use plans. Covered activities are those that the City and County, California State University-Bakersfield, Bakersfield College, and individual school districts (pending) within the Plan area will implement in the permit area. Covered activities include projects or ongoing activities that will receive incidental take authorization by the ESA permit and fall into eight general categories:

1. Urban development
2. Transportation and circulation infrastructure
3. Flood control
4. Sewer and water treatment facilities
5. Landfills
6. Airports
7. Conservation strategy implementation
8. Operations & maintenance (O&M) activities

The activities broadly define all of the different types of activities covered by the Plan. In some cases, specific projects are identified as examples to illustrate the general category. However, if a given project meets the guidelines for covered activities as described in the Plan, then that project is a covered activity. Conservation strategy implementation involves the activities within the lands managed, enhanced, restored, and monitored to conserve the natural resources targeted by this Plan. All conservation actions will take place within the Plan study area.

Activities or projects that do not fall clearly within the criteria provided in the Plan will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Permit Applicants. If the Permit Applicants determine that a specific type of project or activity is not included within the descriptions in the Plan, then it will not receive coverage under the Plan.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Implementing the HCP by the Service will specifically require NEPA review whereas approval of the project itself requires CEQA review. The City, County and the Service will prepare a joint document in compliance with CEQA and NEPA. The City and County will be responsible for the scope and content of the document for CEQA purposes, and the Service will be responsible for the scope and content of the document for NEPA purposes.

The EIS/EIR will consider the proposed action (issuance of ESA permits) and a reasonable range of alternatives. A detailed description of the proposed action and alternatives will be included in the EIS/EIR. It is anticipated that several alternatives will be considered, which may include alternatives that vary by the level of conservation, impacts caused by the proposed activities, permit area, covered species, or a combination of these factors.

3.1 Study of Probable Environmental Impacts of Project

The EIS/EIR is anticipated to address potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and beneficial effects on the following environmental issues: aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, climate change/greenhouse gas emissions, cultural resources, geology/soils/mineral resources, hazards/hazardous materials, water resources/hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation/open space, socioeconomics, environmental justice, traffic/transportation, and utilities/service systems.

For potentially significant impacts, the EIS/EIR will identify mitigation measures, where feasible, to reduce these impacts to the extent possible.

4.0 PROPOSED DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS/ REQUIRED APPROVALS

Implementation of the project may require certain discretionary actions and approvals including, but not limited to, the following:

4.1 Federal

- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Section 10 Incidental Take Permit and Approval of Habitat Conservation Plan
 - Certification of the Environmental Impact Statement
- US Army Corps of Engineers
 - Section 404 Permit

4.2 State

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
 - Section 1600 et seq. permits (Streambed Alteration Agreements)
 - Section 2081 Permit (State-listed endangered species) (if required)

4.3 Local

- City of Bakersfield
 - Adoption of final Bakersfield HCP
 - Certification of the Environmental Impact Report
 - Adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

5.0 DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

A copy of the NOI/NOP is available for review at the following locations:

- Kern County Clerk, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
- Bakersfield City Clerk, 1600 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
- City of Bakersfield Community Development Department, Planning Division, 1715 Chester Avenue, 2nd Floor, Bakersfield, CA 93301
- City's Project Website located at <http://www.bakersfieldhcp.org/>
- Kern County Beale Memorial Library, 701 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301
- Kern County Library–Wilson Branch, 1901 Wilson Road, Bakersfield, CA 93304
- Kern County Law Library, 1415 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301

For additional information regarding the BHCP, please visit the following website:
<http://www.bakersfieldhcp.org/>



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City of Bakersfield Community Development Department

January 9, 2016
Date