

Ventura River Multi-Species HCP

Presentation to: Ventura River Watershed Council

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What is an HCP?

- Legal agreement to permit activities under Section 10 of the ESA
- Covers actions by non-federal parties
- Asks: Will proposed action result in take of a listed species or its habitat?
- Formal consultation in form of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

What is an HCP?

- Focuses on activities of Cooperating Agencies
- Includes public involvement
- Results in long-term conservation & mitigation measures; implementation agreements



What an HCP isn't

- Comprehensive watershed analysis
 - Water quality assessment
 - Land use analysis
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- These are included in environmental setting & resources



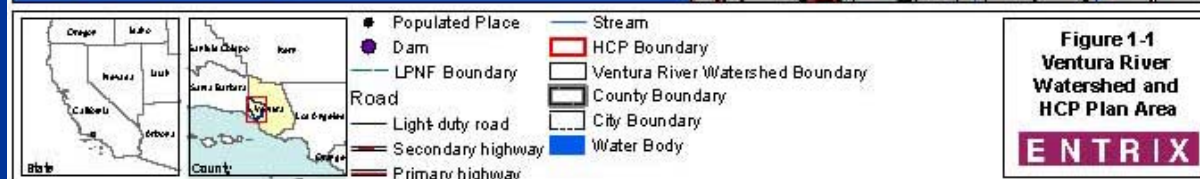
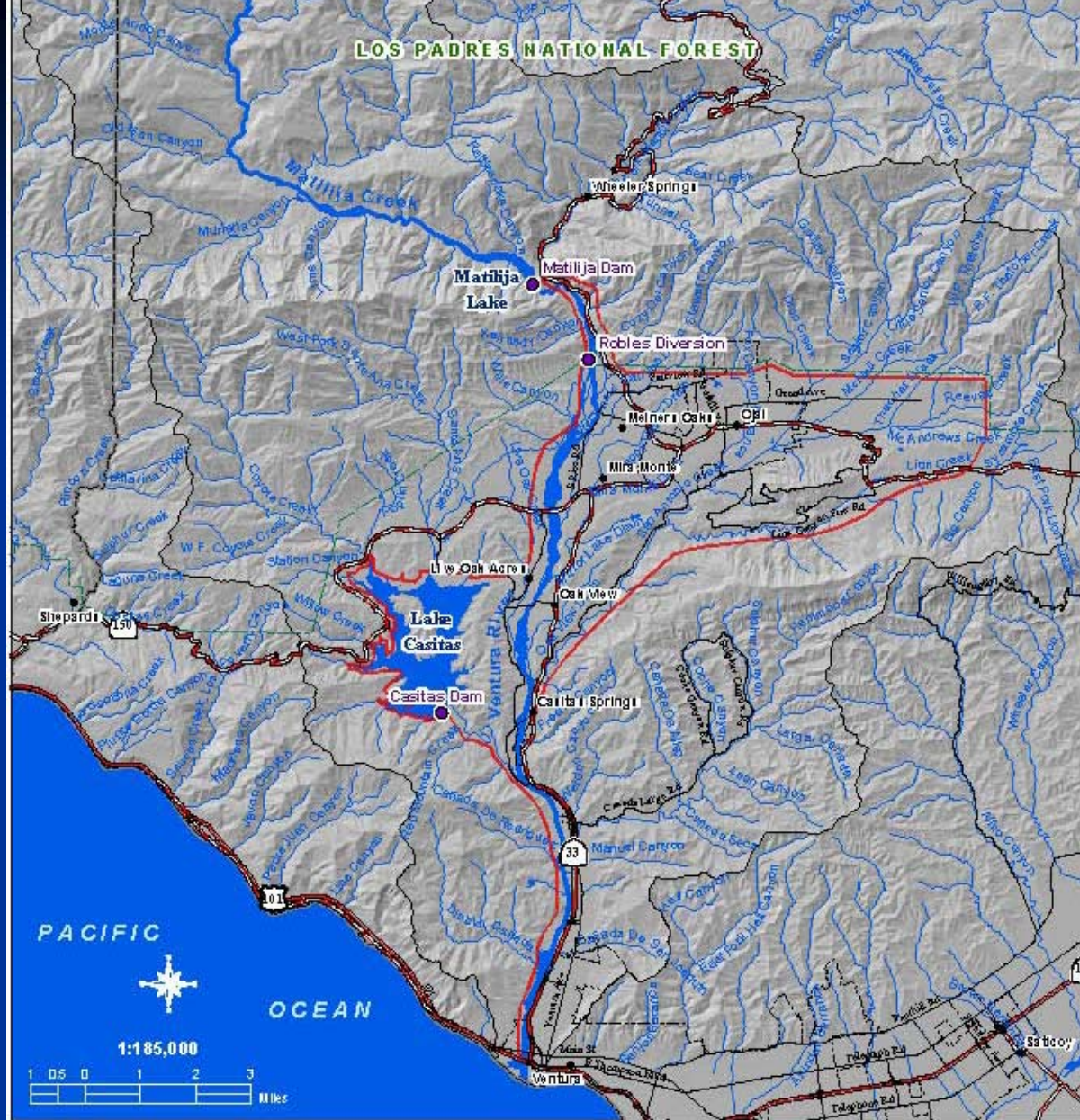
Ventura River MSHCP

Regional Approach

- Regional, multi-agency, multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan
- Allow the Cooperating Agencies to provide vital services to their customers and citizens of western Ventura County
- Protect listed species and their habitat
 - overall net positive benefit to listed species

Cooperating Agencies

- Casitas Municipal Water District
- City of Ventura
- Golden State Water Company
- Meiners Oaks County Water District
- Ojai Valley Sanitary District
- Ventura County Parks Department
- Ventura County Watershed Protection District
- Ventura River County Water District



Covered Species

Southern California Steelhead



Covered Species

Tidewater Goby



Covered Species

California Red-legged Frog



Covered Species

Least Bell's Vireo



Operations & Maintenance HCP

- O&M of existing facilities
- provide essential services to communities within the Ventura River watershed
- Actions are currently underway
- No new land development activities

Covered Activities

■ Water Supply and Use

- water diversions
- groundwater pumping
- water treatment plants
- water/wastewater pipelines
- tertiary treated wastewater discharge



Covered Activities

■ Flood Control Facilities

- levees
- flood control channels bridges and culverts
- debris basins
- instream vegetation removal
 - Parks
 - OVSD WWTP



Covered Activities

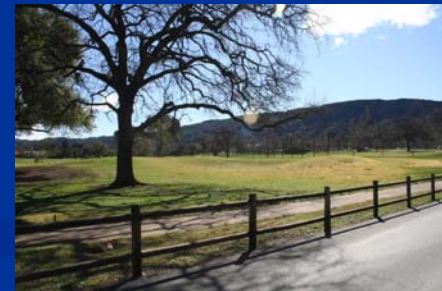
- Recreational Facilities
 - Lake Casitas
 - Foster Park
 - Soule Park and Golf Course
 - Camp Comfort



Covered Activities

■ Future projects

- Upgrade Nye Well Field and water diversion facilities at Foster Park
- Repair Bridges in Soule Park
- Upgrade Ojai Valley Trail Arizona Crossing
- New & replacement wells and pipelines
- Flood Protection at WWTP



Quantifying Impacts to Species

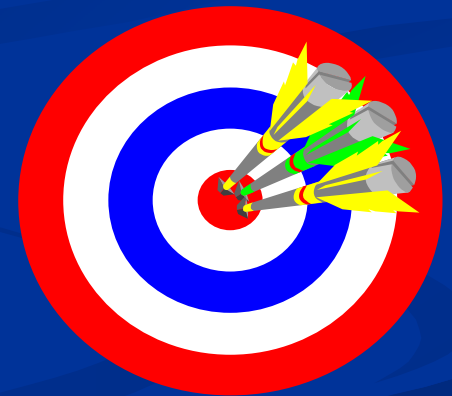
- Habitat Based HCP
- Consistent with Matilija Dam Removal assessment approach
- Potential Effects Model
 - Science-based approach for assessing habitat
 - Method to quantify professional judgment
 - Transparent approach

Proposed Mitigation Measures

- Range of opportunities for improving habitat and/or access to habitat
- Focus on long-term solutions and projects
- Based on recommendations in the species Recovery Plans and the Ventura River Steelhead Restoration and Recovery Plan
- Goal to improve recovery potential for each of the four Covered Species

Next Steps

- Pre-application Review
- NEPA Review
- Public Notification and meetings
- Implementation Agreements
- Incidental Take Permits



Watershed Planning Resources

- Technical appendices: hydrology & groundwater, species distributions, habitat assessments, migration passage barriers
- Extensive Bibliography of relevant studies
- Coordinate opportunities
- Public Participation



Questions?

