

Assurances: Mutual agreements and covenants contained in the Implementation Agreement that bind the parties to specified actions and provide each party with benefits. The benefits include, for example, authorization for incidental take of species in accordance with this Subarea Plan, and conservation of species resulting from actions to implement this plan.

Authorizations: Permits for incidental take of species in accordance with this Subarea Plan.

Conserve: To keep from loss, decay or depletion; maintain, protect. Conservation and preservation are similar terms and are used in much the same way Preservation connotes the act of securing the land and its values, whereas conservation generally is more broad and includes activities such as management of the land and its resources.

Conservation: As defined in the Federal ESA, the use of all methods and procedures that are necessary to bring any endangered or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided pursuant to the Act are no longer necessary (ESA, Section 3[3]). In this plan, the term “conservation” also applies to all actions related to providing a viable habitat reserve system in the City.

Corridor: A defined tract of land, usually linear, through which a species must travel to reach habitat suitable for reproduction and other life-sustaining needs.

Covered species: A species for which take authorization would be provided because long-term viability was determined adequately maintained under a particular reserve design. The Federal action addressed in this document is the issuance of incidental take permits from all species on the covered species list whether they currently are listed or are to be listed in the future.

Ecologically Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA): Coastal Act term used to define areas within the Coastal Zone that is precluded from impact except for lands uses specifically specified by the local coastal plan.

Endangered Species: Any plant or animal in danger of extinction in all or a significant part of its range.

Endangered Species Act: Federal Act of 1973, as amended 16 USC Sections 1531-1543; and California Act of 1984, as amended, California Fish and Game Code, Sections 2050-2098.

Habitat: The combination of environmental conditions of a specific place occupied by a species.

Harass: A form of incidental take under the Federal ESA; defined in Federal regulations as an intentional or negligent act or omission that creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns that include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3).

Harm: A form of incidental take under the Federal ESA; defined in Federal regulations as an act that actually kills or injures wildlife. Such acts may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3).

Implementing Agreement: A binding legal agreement between the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game providing assurances to

all three parties and providing authorization to the City for incidental take of species in accordance with this plan.

Incidental Take: The taking of a federally listed wildlife species, if such taking is incidental to and not the purpose of carrying out otherwise lawful activities. (Also see “Take.”)

Linkage (Habitat): A component of the reserve system established under this Subarea Plan, consisting of conserved habitat that provides connectivity between Cores and to natural communities within the region with opportunities for breeding where generational movement is required.

Major Amendment Areas: Private property containing sensitive species and/or native vegetation that could be included in the City’s Subarea Plan at a later date solely upon request of the private property owner.

Major Population: A population considered sufficiently large to be self-sustaining with at least active or intensive management intervention (especially for plants) or that at least support enough breeding individuals to contribute reliably to the overall metapopulation stability of the species (especially for animals). Also includes smaller populations that nonetheless are considered important to long-term species survival.

Mesopredators: Middle-sized (meso=middle) meat eaters such as gray fox, raccoon, skunk, and opossum.

Metapopulation: A network of semi-isolated breeding populations of a species that have some level of regular or intermittent migration and gene flow among them. (See also Population).

Mitigation: Measures undertaken to diminish or compensate for the negative impacts of a project or activity on the environment.

Population: A group of individuals of a given species that inhabits a relatively well defined geographic area and has the opportunity to interbreed freely.

Reserve: An area set apart for the protection of wildlife and natural resources. Reserve and preserve are similar terms and are often used interchangeably. A Reserve reflects an action taken in an urbanizing area, whereas reserve reflects setting aside land in undeveloped areas.

Project(s): Any activity that has biological impacts and is undertaken by the City or involves the issuance of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement by the City.

Public Lands: Properties owned by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes or another governmental agency or special purpose district that are being addressed in this plan. Note: Some properties owned by governmental agencies are not included in the Plan at this time. These properties are noted on maps as “not a part.”

Rare: A species (plant or animal) existing in such small numbers throughout all or a significant portion of its range that it may become endangered or threatened (as defined by CESA or FESA) if its environment worsens.

Section 7: A section of the Federal ESA that provides for a consultation between a Federal agency (often the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat or such species. In the case where a Section 7 consultation occurs between the USFWS and the ACOE, the ACOE assumes the lead and the USFWS assumes an advisory role.

Species: Any distinct population of organisms (plant or animal) that interbreed when mature.

Take: As defined in the Federal ESA, to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect a listed species, or attempt to do so. Under the California ESA, take of a listed or candidate species means “to hunt, pursue, capture, or kill or attempt the same.” (See also Incidental Take.)

Threatened Species: Any species or subspecies likely to become endangered.