



Paul McNamara, Mayor
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October 8, 2020

Greg Cox, Chair
Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego CA 92101

RE: North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan Status Review and Options Assessment – Support for Option 5

Dear Chairman Cox and Members of the Board:

As Mayor of Escondido, I support regional planning that establishes certainty for conservation of species and ecosystems, infrastructure, and development. San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Plan has set an example for the state and nation. Here in Escondido, we look forward to completing our own Subarea Plan under the umbrella of the Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan, and hope that we can complement the existing MSCP and a future North County MSCP.

The ICF report before you presents a thoughtful analysis of five options. Importantly, it has provided costs and benefits that can be compared. I support Option 5, Revised North County Plan (HCP/NCCP). This is the most comprehensive approach, providing the most permitting benefits to private and public parties, as well as the greatest environmental benefit. Despite having the most benefits, its costs are comparable to lesser options, meaning it is cost-effective. It can build upon the work already started and will be the best fit with Escondido's future subarea plan.

In conclusion, I strongly recommend moving forward with Option 5. The City of Escondido would be honored to work and coordinate with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul McNamara". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Paul McNamara
Mayor

cc: City Council Members