

Components of a Conceptual Mitigation/Restoration Plan

1.0 Project Impacts and Mitigation

- Mitigation required by local, state, and federal regulations; specific mitigation ratios in San Diego County

2.0 Restoration Purpose and Goals

- Target functions and services, for example, is the goal to support a specific species?
- Create self-sustaining habitat

3.0 Responsible Parties

- Often, there will be a Restoration Ecologist, Installation Contractor, and Maintenance Contractor.
- Must have at least 5 years *demonstrated* experience with *successful* native habitat restoration within southern California, including the habitat to be restored on this project.
- Must be able to identify native species and non-native species
- Herbicide treatment can only be used by applicator licensed in the state of California

4.0 Implementation Plan

- a. Site Preparation – soils: nutrient content, texture, pH; amendments; decompacting; weed grow-kill; mycorrhizal fungi inoculation; irrigation; fencing and signage
- b. Planting Palette – based on reference site and/or habitat requirements or goals
- c. Planting Technique (hydroseeding, planting, irrigation, erosion control, etc.) –cuttings, seeds, propagules collected from within 25 miles to avoid genetic pollution (local adaptation)
- d. Schedule

5.0 5-year Maintenance Plan

- a. 120-day Installation Period – uniform germination, successful establishment
- b. 5-year maintenance Period
 - Ultimately taking the habitat to self-sustaining condition
 - Methods (irrigation, pest management, weed control, trash removal, access control etc.)

6.0 Monitoring Program

- a. Qualitative Monitoring – overall condition of site; photo-monitoring
- b. Quantitative Monitoring – usually percent cover of native and non-native plants; % survival of plantings/cuttings; species richness (number of species in a given area).
 - Include discussion of methods. There are different ways to perform quantitative monitoring.
- c. Reporting – Annual reports submitted to agencies; meet annual success criteria; make corrections

7.0 Final Performance Standards

- Should incorporate reference site for comparison, - ambient conditions, species diversity, % cover
- Should be mindful of climate change (not necessarily targeting past conditions anymore)
- Should reflect species requirements if necessary

8.0 Completion of 5-year Program

- a. Notification of Completion – need agency sign-off
- b. Contingency Measures – discuss how you will address unexpected events.
- c. Long-term Management – all mitigation areas in San Diego County require long-term (permanent) management to be funded and established prior to impacts.