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**Riverside County
Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan
Interim Management Evaluation and Recommendations**

SITE NAME: ANZA1

EDA NAME: ROTH

I. SITE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

1.A. Site Physical Location & Access:

The Anza1 project site is located in the Sage / Aguanga area of Riverside County. It is a more-or-less rectangular-shaped parcel, in the upland area between Weber Valley and Reed Valley. Weber Valley represents the headwater for Tocalota Creek, while Reed Valley represents the headwater for Wilson Creek. The site is located approximately 250 meters south of Stanley Road, a graded dirt road. There is no public access to the site. Local residents have gated and locked the utility road from Stanley Road, which could supply access to the southeastern corner. The site is generally located at:

6375028E, 2159008N State Plane Coordinates (NAD-83, Feet)

512799E, 3716565N UTM (NAD-27, Meters)

NE1/4 Section 3, T7S, R1E (SBBM)

1.B. APN & Acreage:

571-090-031 80.00 acres

1.C. Topography:

The site represents the high area of a wide ridge forming the barrier between Weber and Reed Valleys. It includes the crest of this ridge, and a portion of the gentle west-facing slope. Below the site to both the west and east, the land drops away more steeply into these two drainages. Several small tributaries to Tocalota Creek invade the site from the west. Large boulders are common throughout the site.

1.D. Surrounding Land Use:

The area surrounding the site is mostly natural open space, privately held in low-density ranchettes. Many of these parcels have not yet been developed, while several observed nearby appeared to have once supported mobile homes or houses, but have now fallen into disrepair.

2. BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The site lies in a biologically interesting area. The Aguanga / Sage area represents a mixing zone of Colorado Desert species, inland valley species and coastal mountain species. As such, it is expected that species diversity is relatively high in this area.

2.A. Plant Communities:

The site supports chaparral vegetation. Typical shrub species include red shanks (*Adenostoma sparsifolium*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), yucca (*Yucca whipplei*), scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), and beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*). Non-native grasses (e.g., *Bromus* spp.) and some mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) have invaded disturbed areas around the site. Vegetation in places is thick and impenetrable.

2.B. Likely Animal Species:

It is expected the site, by virtue of its mostly pristine condition and lack of surrounding infrastructure, supports most species that are associated with chaparral habitat. These could include the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*), various bat species, brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*), western rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*), rosy boa (*Lichanura trivirgata*), California whipsnake (*Masticophis lateralis*), San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvellerii*), western whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*), coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum*), granite spiny lizard (*Sceloporus orcuttii*), California towhee (*Pipilo fuscus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*), speckled towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*), California valley and possible Gambel's quail (*Callipepla californica*, *C. gambelii*, respectively), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), and scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*).

2.C. Other Habitat or Wildlife Features:

The presence of large boulders and rock outcrops can supply important roosting habitat for many bat species, including the western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis*).

2.D. Target Species:

Please see Appendix A for a qualitative checklist of MSHCP target animal species, and Appendix B. for plant species.

3. IMPACTS AND CURRENT CONDITIONS

3.A. Current Uses:

The site is currently undeveloped and unused.

3.B. Fencing & Access Controls:

The site does not support any fencing. Currently no access controls are needed because the adjacent residents have gated the only access road to the site.

3.C. Off-Road Vehicle (OHV) Use / Damage:

None.

3.D. Illegal Dumping:

None.

3.E. Target Shooting & Hunting

Little or none.

3.F. Weed Abatement::

Weed abatement is not currently necessary on this site.

3.G. Other Recreational Opportunities and Constraints:

None. Any possible recreation opportunities are constrained by the locked gate.

3.H. Special Conditions of Purchase:

None.

4. RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES

4.A. Target Species:

Since the site is in essentially pristine condition, little in the way of restoration activities are needed. Some minor disturbance in the extreme southeastern corner is visible on aerial photos, and some invasive exotic control may be advisable there (e.g., fusillade of non-native grasses, hand removal of mustard).

4.B. Multi-Species Aspects:

None required.

5. RESERVE DESIGN AND CONNECTIVITY

5.A. Boundary, Edge and Community Location:

This relatively small site composes a portion of MSHCP Proposed Core Area 7; the largest block of proposed conserved habitat southwest of the San Jacinto Mountains and connecting them with the Palomar Mountains. Although the rectangular shape of the parcel presents a good deal of edge, the surrounding areas are also mostly pristine, and biological edge effects, for the most part, are not a problem.

5.B. Connectivity:

This site represents a portion of the MSHCP Proposed Core Area 7, the largest single core area proposed.

5.C. Nearby Existing Reserves:

The Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) Wilson Valley Mitigation Bank is located approximately 4 kilometers to the south of the site.

5.D. Priority for Future Purchases:

Priority should be given to acquiring the parcels immediately north of the site; between it and Stanley Road, thus providing a manageable boundary. However, because the site is small and surrounded by areas all desirable for addition to Proposed Core 7, any of the surrounding parcels represent priorities. In the larger picture, this site could serve as a nexus for expansion either to the San Jacinto Mountains to the northeast, or the CNLM Wilson Valley site to the south. If this is the case, any such intervening parcels should be considered desirable.

6. INTERIM MANAGEMENT

6.A. Public Issues:

There are currently no public issues on the site except a lack of access for management crews. It is recommended to contact the neighboring residents and seek cooperation in placing our own lock on their gate. Fencing is not currently required on this site, and "low key" signs could be placed at the southeastern corner only.

6.B. Biological Issues:

There are no pressing interim biological management issues. In the long run, biological surveys for focused species should be conducted.

6.C. Recommended Interim Management Scenario:

- 1) Contact adjacent residents and request to interlock our lock with theirs on the access road.
- 2) Post low key signs identifying ownership and restricted activities.
- 3) Check on the site every three weeks to insure a lack of impacts or the need for exotic control at the southeastern corner.

7. SUGGESTED YEARLY INTERIM BUDGET

Please see Appendix C. for suggested budget for interim management.

8. MAPS – Appendix D.

9. SITE PHOTOGRAPHS – Appendix E.