

# Species of the Month

## Riverside Fairy Shrimp

### *Streptocephalus woottoni*



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# Riverside Fairy Shrimp

- Member of the order crustacean
- Federally endangered
- Native to Southern California
- Lives in vernal pools
- Require deep pools that retain water for at least 3-4 months
- Are filter feeders
- Threats to the species include loss of habitat, loss of supporting watershed, prolonged drought and warmer temperatures



# Riverside Fairy Shrimp

- Mature adults are between a half inch to one inch long, with males being slightly larger
- Males have long secondary pair of antennae which are used for mating
- Females can be identified by the shape of their egg sacs and the absence of long secondary antennae



# Riverside Fairy Shrimp

- Females can produce several hundred cyst per wet season
- Fertilized eggs fall to the pool bottom and if environmental condition are favorable some will hatch the following year
- Cysts can last for decades and withstand drying out
- Cysts can hatch within 7- 12 days of inundation and can take up to 2.5 months to reach maturity



# Monitoring and Management

- Include in the MSHCP Conservation Area at least 11,942 acres of landscape habitat which might contain suitable vernal pool habitat for Riverside Fairy shrimp
- Include in the MSHCP Conservation Area at least 5 Core areas of occupied vernal pools, and their watersheds
- Monitoring the distribution of the species at least once every 8 years and maintain species presence and continued use at 75% of identified core areas





# Thank You



Steven Mcsweeney