



# LAND USE SERVICES DEPARTMENT PLANNING STAFF REPORT



HEARING DATE: January 5, 2012

AGENDA ITEM NO: 3

## Project Description:

**Applicant:** Land Use Services Department

**Proposal:** A) A General Plan Conservation Element Amendment to revise the text of the General Plan to adopt the databases of federal and state agencies relative to biotic resources thus allowing the County to adequately maintain the Biotic Resources Overlay Maps and to revise the Biotic Resources Overlay Maps to recognize the current distribution of endangered, threatened and sensitive flora and fauna species.  
B) A General Plan Open Space Element Amendment to revise the Policy OS 5.3 of the Open Space Element to add the Historic Route 66 from Oro Grande to the Arizona state line as a scenic route.  
C) A General Plan Safety Element Amendment to revise the text of the General Plan to adopt the FEMA database relative to flood hazards thus allowing the County to adequately maintain the Hazard Overlay Maps.

**Community:** Countywide

**Project No:** L616

**Staff:** Jim Squire

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## BACKGROUND:

### Conservation Element Amendments

The comprehensive General Plan Update (GPU) was adopted in March of 2007 with an effective date of April 12, 2007. The General Plan contains seven mandatory elements as required by state law and one optional element. The eight elements of the General Plan include numerous goals, policies and programs, which collectively, serve to guide development within the unincorporated portions of the County. Goals define a desired state or condition relative to each element, policies establish the practice or guidance relative to achieving the specified goal, and programs describe a method or action necessary to implement the related policy. Certain policies and programs were also considered in the GPU Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as mitigation for potential environmental impacts that may result from future development of the County.

In order to implement certain programs that will assist in carrying out the direction of the General Plan and fulfill mitigation requirements identified in the EIR, additional work is required on the part of County staff. One such action is proposed in this General Plan Amendment.

Several programs related to policies within the Conservation Element call for a comprehensive update of the Biological Resources Overlay. The following goals, policies and programs direct the County to adopt updated mapping of the Biotic Resources Overlay

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Action taken by the Planning Commission on this item may be appealed to the Board.  
Note: Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors are not appealable.

Yes  No

Map: Goal CO 1/Policy CO 1.1/ Program 2, Goal CO 1/Policy CO 1.2/ Programs 1 and 2, and Goal CO2/Policy CO 2.1/ Programs 3 and 5 (see Exhibit C).

These programs all require developing, funding and implementing a geographic information and web-based database system for identifying important biological resources and wildlife corridors within the County. Because of the recognized expertise of the Biological Resources section of the County Museum (SBCM), the GPU identified the Museum as the appropriate entity to complete this program.

The current biological mapping was carried over from the previous General Plan which was originally developed in the 1980's. This mapping had been subsequently amended three times in the early 1990's with the Fourth Cycle 1991 and the First and Second Cycles 1992 General Plan Amendments. Since the original series of Biotic Resources Maps were produced, a host of focused biological studies have been conducted in the County that have produced an improved understanding of the distributions of threatened and endangered species in the County. Furthermore, since the Biotic Resource Maps were last amended, several additional species have been listed as threatened or endangered. Additionally, various agencies both federal and state have developed "Sensitive Species" designations which were also integrated in this present mapping effort.

The County Museum's Biological Science Division staff has been conducting biological investigations in the region for more than twenty-five years. These studies have been instrumental in constructing accurate species distributions for threatened, endangered and "Sensitive Species" for San Bernardino County. Furthermore, a significant benefit for constructing biological maps for the current General Plan is that the County Museum, through its Board-approved mission, is a regional repository for significant biological specimen collections that spans over a hundred years and that provides a rich database for past and present distributions of flora and fauna in the County.

Precise resource mapping is essential to San Bernardino County to promote public awareness of the locations of threatened, endangered or sensitive species in the preparation of development plans and for staff to assist in the review of proposed development projects. Currently, several different series of maps are used by staff in reviewing proposed projects within the County, many of which are not readily available to the public. This makes it difficult for project proponents to assess the possible hurdles that must be overcome in the development review process. Associated with this project review is the determination of the appropriate mitigation requirements and the monitoring of potential temporal project effects needed to protect these species.

Last year, the County Museum began conducting a methodical investigation for the biological mapping. These efforts included reviewing approximately 200,000 Museum specimen locations germane to the County, reviewing over a hundred general and focused biological reports conducted Countywide, reviewing and transcribing field biologist notebooks for specific biological studies undertaken by SBCM, and evaluating the biological databases of all agencies within San Bernardino County that maintain and update data. These include Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service), Department of Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park

Service, Bureau of Reclamation), Department of Defense, California Department of Fish and Game, SANBAG, and various water agencies in the County. Furthermore, a variety of biologist and regulatory personnel were contacted to seek relevant information regarding species distributions. In addition, SBCM contacted all regional museums regarding specimen data from San Bernardino County, including San Diego Natural History Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, California Academy of Sciences, and Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at University of California, Berkeley.

SBCM staff coordinated with the County Information Services Department/GIMS (Geographic Information Management System) Team in the preparation of the proposed map revision. Using the current County data sets relative to streets and jurisdictional boundaries as a base map, GIMS staff added all biological data sets published by the various agencies listed above. SBCM staff confirmed the data from all other resources to produce the most accurate delineation of species distribution as possible.

In conjunction with the newly-drafted resource maps, the federal and state resource agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game) occasionally adopt revised databases, along with the resulting new distribution maps, as new species are identified as being endangered, threatened or sensitive or as the distributions of existing sensitive species are amended. Since these new maps need to be incorporated into the County's mapping system as soon as possible to ensure optimal planning responses for resource management and protection, staff is recommending that the Board of Supervisors adopt these new databases and maps as they currently exist and as they are updated in the future allowing for automatic map updates as new data are adopted and published by a higher authority. This will ensure that the distribution of all such species is incorporated into the County's Biotic Resources Overlay maps in a timely manner without the necessity of each and every incremental change being approved by the Board. To support this concept, staff is proposing that the General Plan text of the Conservation Element be amended to clarify the description of the Biotic Resource Overlay Maps and to amend Program 5 under Policy CO 2.1 to confirm the County's desire to maintain up-to-date mapping for these important resources.

### **Open Space Element Amendments**

The current General Plan designates a number of road segments throughout the County as scenic highways, nineteen of which are located within the Desert Region. These include much of Interstates 15 and 40, Amboy Road, Black Canyon Road, Cedar Canyon Road, Cima Road, Essex Road, etc. However, most of the Historic Route 66 does not have this designation; the only portion that does is from Oro Grande to Lenwood. Exhibit D displays the scenic highways in the County, and it reveals that Route 66 is one of the few major highways in the region that does not have this designation along its entire delineation. This important historic resource provides vistas comparable to those scenic highways already listed in the General Plan. Scenic points of interest along the road include the Amboy Crater, the Lavic Lake volcanic field, and Pisgah Crater. Historic Route 66 traverses eight states and four of them, Arizona, Illinois, New Mexico and Oklahoma, have applied for and received a federal scenic byway designation under the National Scenic Byway Program. This program is administered by the Federal Highway

Administration and was established by Congress in 1991 to preserve and protect the nation's scenic but often less-traveled roads and promote tourism and economic development.

Historically, U.S. Highway 66, popularly known as "Route 66," is significant as the nation's first all-weather highway linking Los Angeles to Chicago. Even though it was not the nation's oldest or longest transcontinental corridor, Route 66 is distinctive in that it was the shortest, year-round route between the Midwest and the Pacific Coast. U.S. Route 66 reduced the distance between Los Angeles and Chicago by more than 200 miles, which made Route 66 popular among thousands of motorists who drove west.

The period of outstanding historical significance for Route 66 is 1926 to 1970. Its importance began to diminish as the new Interstate system of highways was constructed. Finally, after the last segment of road was bypassed by interstate highway, the road was decommissioned in 1985. Following this time, federal and state agencies, private organizations, and numerous members of public realized that remnants of the road were quickly disappearing, and that the remaining significant structures, features, and artifacts associated with the road should be preserved. In 1990, the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 102-400, the Route 66 Study Act of 1990. The act recognized that Route 66 "has become a symbol of the American people's heritage of travel and their legacy of seeking a better life." The legislation resulted in the National Park Service conducting the Route 66 Special Resource Study to evaluate the significance of Route 66 in American history, and to identify options for its preservation, interpretation, and use.

As mentioned earlier, Historic Route 66 passes through eight states, and all eight have made various efforts to preserve the unique character of the corridor. This historic perspective of the highway, combined with the scenic panoramas that are present along the route, adds weight to the proposal to help preserve the historic Route 66 as a scenic highway.

This designation will mean that applicants for projects located along Route 66 will have to meet the standards of the Open Space Overlay which includes the following:

- The applicants may need to prepare a special viewshed analysis if it is determined that the proposed project may have a significant negative impact on the scenic values of the subject parcel. This determination will be made during the environmental analysis for the project.
- Structure placement for these projects shall be compatible with and shall not detract from the visual setting or obstruct significant views.
- Intensive land development proposals shall be designed to blend into the natural landscape and maximize visual attributes of the natural vegetation and terrain.
- Right-of-way access drives shall be minimized.
- The removal of native vegetation shall be minimized and replacement vegetation and landscaping shall be compatible with the local environment.
- A large-scale development should restrict the number of access points by providing common access roads. Parking and outside storage areas shall be screened from view, to the maximum extent feasible.



- Utilities shall be constructed and routed underground except in those situations where natural features prevent the underground siting or where safety considerations necessitate above ground construction and routing.
- The alteration of the natural topography of the site shall be minimized and shall avoid detrimental effects to the visual setting of the designated area and the existing natural drainage system.
- Off-site freestanding signs (billboards) greater than 18 square feet are prohibited.

### **Safety Element Amendments**

On February 9, 2010, the Board adopted the First Cycle 2010 Safety Element General Plan Amendment (Item #77) which included the authorization to allow staff to publish updated Hazard Overlay Maps as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) updates its database on flood hazards within the County. At the time, the General Plan text was not amended to reflect this authorization. Consequently, staff is now proposing to amend the text of the Safety Element to clarify the description of the Hazard Overlay Maps and to add Program 7 under Policy S 5.2 to confirm the County's desire to maintain up-to-date mapping for flood hazards. This will support the Board's action in 2010 and will help the public and staff work with the most current data relative to these hazards.

### **FINDINGS FOR THE GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT:**

1. The proposed amendment is internally consistent with all other provisions of the respective plan, the General Plan or an applicable specific plan;
2. The proposed amendments would not be detrimental to the public interest, health, safety, convenience, or welfare of the County in that they simply recognize all of the current federal and state natural biological resources and amends the County's Biotic Resources Map to ensure an accurate depiction of distribution of these resources for their long-term protection, they allow for the automatic updates of the Biotic Resources Maps and the Hazard Overlay Maps as agencies of the federal or state governments adopt revised databases, and they add the historic Route 66 as a scenic highway along with the additional development standards and environmental review that is associated with that designation; and
3. The proposed amendments are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Class 8 Categorical Exemptions of the CEQA Guidelines that states an action is exempt from CEQA when that action "consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment."

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Planning Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors:

- A. ADOPT the proposed resolution to amend the text of the General Plan Conservation and Safety Elements and adopt amendments to the Biotic Resources Overlay Maps of the Conservation Element.
- B. ADOPT the findings as contained in the staff report; and
- C. FILE the Notice of Exemption.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Exhibit A: Proposed General Plan Conservation, Open Space and Safety Elements Text Amendments
- Exhibit B: Proposed General Plan Conservation Element Biotic Resources Overlay Map Amendments
- Exhibit C: General Plan Goals, Policies and Program Relative to the Biotic Resources Overlay Map
- Exhibit D: Scenic Points of Interest along Historic Route 66

# **EXHIBIT A**

## **Proposed General Plan Conservation, Open Space and Safety Elements Text Amendments**

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# I. INTRODUCTION

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## B. GENERAL PLAN DOCUMENTS

**General Plan:** The General Plan contains the goals and policies that will guide future development within the County. It also identifies a full set of implementation measures that will ensure the policies of the plan are carried out. It describes the planning area, provides an overview of existing conditions, summarizes the issues raised during the preparation of the General Plan, and identifies the environmental resources and constraints associated with the General Plan.

In addition to this text, the General Plan also includes a separately bound Housing Element and the following maps:

1. Land Use Zoning District Maps (series of over 125 maps):

These maps are published using the Assessor Parcel Map as the base map. They show the designated land use zoning district for each parcel. Three overlays – Additional Agriculture, Agricultural Preserve, and the Sign Control – are also shown on these maps as a suffix to the land use zoning district.

2. Hazard Overlay Maps (series of over 90 maps):

These maps are published using the street network as the base maps because the delineations of the various hazards are not intended to be parcel specific. The hazards included on these maps include airport safety, dam inundation, fire, flood, and noise. The flood hazards delineated on these maps are based upon the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mapping. The FEMA database of these hazards is also adopted as part of the Hazard Overlay Maps; therefore, revised maps may be published without requiring a General Plan Amendment as FEMA updates its database or publishes a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

3. Geologic Hazard Overlay Maps (series of over 70 maps):

These maps are published using the street network as the base maps because the delineations of the various hazards are not intended to be parcel specific. The hazards included on these maps include State and



county designated earthquake fault zones, generalized landslide susceptibility, generalized liquefaction susceptibility, and rockfall/debris-flow hazard areas.

4. Circulation Maps (series of five maps):

These maps show the road designations for all roads with the following classifications throughout the County: Freeway, Major Arterial Highway, Major Divided Highway, Major Highway, Secondary Highway, Controlled/Limited Access Collector, Mountain Major Highway And Mountain Secondary Highway.

5. Resource Overlay Maps

These maps show various natural resources that have been mapped throughout the County. They include the following:

Biotic Resources Overlay Maps (several maps):

These maps are published using the street network as the base maps because the delineations of the various resources are not intended to be parcel specific. The resources included on these maps ~~to date~~ include a variety of endangered, threatened and sensitive flora and fauna species ~~the Desert Tortoise, the Mojave Ground Squirrel, the Bald Eagle, the Southern Rubber Boa and the Delhi Flower-Loving Sand Fly~~. As additional species are listed or as the distribution of these species are amended by a federal or state resource protection agency, they will be added to these maps without requiring a General Plan Amendment for adoption.

Open Space Overlay Map (two maps):

These maps are published using the street network as the base maps because the delineations of the various resources are not intended to be parcel specific. The resources included on these maps include wildlife corridors, major open space policy areas, regional trails, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and the delineation of the scenic corridors listed in the Open Space Element.

Cultural Resources Sensitivity Overlay Maps (two maps to date):



These maps are published using the street network as the base maps because the delineations of the resource sensitivity are not intended to be parcel specific.

Paleontologic Resources Sensitivity Overlay Map:

These maps have not been prepared electronically to date. Once the digitized maps are complete, they will be published using the street network as the base maps because the delineations of the resource sensitivity are not intended to be parcel specific.

Mineral Resources Overlay Map (Not available yet):

These maps have not been prepared electronically to date. Once the digitized maps are complete, they will be published using the street network as the base maps because the delineations of the resource locations are not intended to be parcel specific.

6. Alternate Housing Overlay Map:

This map shows those areas in the Desert Region where alternate housing standards apply.

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## 1. Biological Resources

**GOAL CO 2. The County will maintain and enhance biological diversity and healthy ecosystems throughout the County.**

### Policies

**CO 2.1** The County will coordinate with state and federal agencies and departments to ensure that their programs to preserve rare and endangered species and protect areas of special habitat value, as well as conserve populations and habitats of commonly occurring species, are reflected in reviews and approvals of development programs.

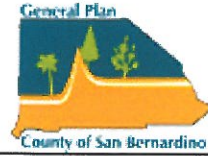
### Programs

1. All County Land Use Map changes and discretionary land use proposals, for areas within the Biotic Resource Overlay or Open Space Mapping on the Resources Overlay, shall be accompanied by a report that identifies all biotic resources located on the site and those on adjacent parcels, which could be adversely affected by the proposal. The report shall outline mitigation measures designed to eliminate or reduce impacts to identified resources. An appropriate expert such as a qualified biologist, botanist, herpetologist or other professional “life scientist” shall prepare the report.
2. The County shall require the conditions of approval of any land use application to incorporate the County’s identified mitigation measures in addition to those that may be required by state or federal agencies to protect and preserve the habitats of the identified species. This measure is implemented through the land use regulations of the County Development Code and compliance with the CEQA, CESA, ESA and related environmental laws and regulations.
3. The County shall coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to create a specific and detailed wildlife corridor map for the County of San Bernardino. The map will identify movement corridors and refuge area for large mammal, migratory species, and desert species dependent on transitory resource based on rainfall. The wildlife corridor and refuge area map will be used for preparation of biological assessments prior to permitting land use



conversion within County jurisdictional areas. The mapping will be included in the Open Space and Biological Resource Overlays.

4. The County shall coordinate with state and federal agencies and departments to ensure that their programs to preserve rare and endangered species and protect areas of special habitat value, as well as conserve populations and habitats of commonly occurring species, are reflected in reviews and approvals of development programs. This coordination shall be accomplished by notification of development applications and through distributed CEQA documents.
5. The San Bernardino County Museum (Museum) will review and update the Biological Resources Overlay and Open Space Overlay to provide accurate and current spatial data based on rare, threatened, endangered species and the habitats that they rely on. An updated database that integrates CNDDDB data with other occurrence data from the Museum and other sources such as the USFWS, CDFG, USFS, BLM, National Park Service, California Native Plant Society to identify areas where biological surveys are required. Overlay maps will identify movement corridors and refuge area for large mammal, migratory species, and desert species dependent on transitory resource based on rainfall. South Coast Wildlands Corridor Project and other data from the resource agencies will be consulted as an information reference base. The wildlife corridor and refuge area map will be used for preparation of biological assessments prior to permitting land use conversion within County jurisdictional areas. The mapping will be included in the Open Space and Biological Resource Overlays. As a federal or state agency revises its database of endangered, threatened, or sensitive species of flora and fauna, the County may publish new Biotic Resources Overlay Maps to reflect new species or a revised distribution of the species already included on the maps without requiring a General Plan Amendment to be adopted by the Board of Supervisors.



OS 5.3 The County desires to retain the scenic character of visually important roadways throughout the County. A “scenic route” is a roadway that has scenic vistas and other scenic and aesthetic qualities that over time have been found to add beauty to the County. Therefore, the County designates the following routes as scenic highways and applies all applicable policies to development on these routes (see Figures 2-4A through 2-4C of the Circulation and Infrastructure Background Report):

**Valley Region:**

- a. Beaumont Avenue within the Loma Linda SOI.
- b. Citrus Avenue within the Redlands SOI.
- c. Colton Avenue within the Redlands SOI.
- d. Crafton Avenue within the Redlands SOI.
- e. Fifth Avenue within the Redlands SOI.
- f. Highland Avenue within the Redlands SOI.
- g. I-10 from the City of Redlands to the City of Yucaipa.
- h. Mentone Boulevard within the Redlands SOI.
- i. San Bernardino Avenue within the Redlands SOI.
- j. Sand Canyon Road between Crafton Avenue and the City of Yucaipa.
- k. San Timoteo Canyon Road in the Loma Linda SOI.
- l. State Route 71 — All of the route in unincorporated County area.

**Mountain Region:**

- a. Crest Forest Drive from State Route 18 west to Sawpit Canyon Road.
- b. Dart Canyon Road.



- c. Devil’s Canyon Road.
- d. Grass Valley Road.
- e. Green Valley Lake Road/101 Mile Drive.
- f. Kuffel Canyon Road.
- g. Lake Drive from Knapps Cutoff northeast to Dart Canyon Road.
- h. Lake Gregory Drive.
- i. Lone Pine Canyon Road.
- j. Mt. Baldy Road from Los Angeles County line northeast to Mt. Baldy.
- k. North Road from Lake Gregory Drive northeast to State Route 189.
- l. Oak Glen Road.
- m. Old Waterman Canyon Road
- n. Playground Drive.
- o. Rim of the World Drive from Green Valley Lake Road to State Route 38.
- p. San Moritz Drive.
- q. Sawpit Canyon Road/Sawpit Creek Road.
- r. State Route 2 from State Route 138 southwest to the Los Angeles County line.
- s. State Route 330 from the San Bernardino National Forest boundary northeast to State Route 18.

**Desert Region:**

- a. Amboy Road from Bullion Mt. Road northeast to Amboy.





- b. \*Black Canyon Road.
- c. \*Cedar Canyon Road from Kelso Cima Road southeast to Lanfair Road.
- d. \*Cima Road from Interstate 15 southeast to Cima.
- e. \*Essex Road from Essex northwest to Mitchell Caverns.
- f. Historic Route 66 (National Trails Highway or Main Street) from Oro Grande northeast and east to the Arizona state line, excepting those areas with incorporated cities.
- f.g. Interstate 40 from Ludlow northeast to Needles.
- g.h. \*Kelbaker Road from Interstate 15 southeast to Interstate 40.
- h.i. \*Kelso-Cima Road from Kelso northeast to Cima.
- i.j. Lanfair/Ivanpah Road.
- j. ~~National Trails Highway from Oro Grande northeast to Lenwood.~~
- k. Park Blvd. / Quail Springs Road from State Route 62 southeast to Joshua Tree National Park.
- l. \*Parker Dam Road from Parker Dam southwest to the Colorado River Indian Reservation.
- m. Pioneer Town Road from Pipes Canyon Road to the Town of Yucca Valley.
- n. State Route 127 from Interstate 15 at Baker northwest to Inyo County line.
- o. State Route 247 (Old Woman Springs Road/Barstow Road) from the Town of Yucca Valley north to Barstow.
- p. State Route 62 (Twentynine Palms Highway) from the Riverside County line northeast to the Town of Yucca Valley; from the Town of Yucca Valley east to Twentynine Palms; from Twentynine Palms southeast to the Riverside County line and from the Riverside County line northeast to state line.



**Multiple Regions:**

- a. Baldwin Lake Road from State Route 18 southeast to Pioneer Town Road; continuing east on Pioneer Town Road to Burns Canyon Road; continuing southeast on Burns Canyon Road to Rimrock Road; and continuing southeast on Rimrock Road to Pipes Canyon Road.
- b. Coxe Truck Trail from Bowen Ranch Road southeast to Rim of the World Drive.
- c. Interstate 15 from the junction with Interstate 215 northeast to the Nevada state line, excepting those areas within the Barstow Planning Area and the community of Baker where there is commercial/industrial development; those portions within the Yermo area from Ghost Town Road to the East Yermo Road overcrossing on the south side only and from First Street to the East Yermo Road overcrossing on the north side; and all incorporated areas.
- d. State Route 18 from San Bernardino northeast to the City of Big Bear Lake; from Big Bear Lake northwest to Apple Valley; within the Victorville sphere of influence; and from Victorville and Adelanto to the Los Angeles County line.
- e. State Route 38 from Garnet St. in Mentone northeast to Big Bear Dam
- f. State Route 138 from Crestline cutoff at State Route 18 northwest to Los Angeles County line.
- g. State Route 173 from State Route 18 northwest to Hesperia.

\*Starred items in the list above have been designated by the BLM as a part of their Back Country Byway Program, a component of the National Scenic Byway System.

**GOALS 5. The County will provide adequate flood protection to minimize hazards and structural damage.**

**Policies**

**S 5.2** Update data and maps with newly identified flood hazard areas in the County, as new information becomes available.

**Programs**

1. As new overflow studies and mapping are completed and approved by either the County's Land Development Engineer or the San Bernardino County Flood Control District, they will supplement the FEMA mapping and will be incorporated into Flood Hazard Overlay mapping.
2. Initiate and finance programs for the continuous evaluation and designation of floodway, floodplain, and drainage areas.
3. Timely application for FEMA mapping changes will be initiated to reflect any additions to or alterations in identified Floodways or Floodplains by the County Floodplain Management Administrator.
4. Continued evaluation of all County areas through application of development conditions in the preconstruction flood hazard inspection process.
5. Site studies will be conducted where development is proposed in areas tentatively identified as subject to flooding.
6. Construction will comply with study recommendations as described in site study required under FL-2f.
- 6.7. Adopt the FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map database as published by FEMA as it currently exists and as updated in the future for the County allowing for automatic map updates as new data are published by FEMA.



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## **EXHIBIT B**

# **Proposed General Plan Conservation Element Biotic Resources Overlay Map Amendments**

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## **EXHIBIT C**

# **General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs Relative to the Biotic Resources Overlay Map**

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## **General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs Relative to the Biotic Resources Overlay Map**

**Goal CO 1** The County will maintain to the greatest extent possible natural resources that contribute to the quality of life within the County.

**Policy CO 1.1** The County will coordinate with appropriate agencies and interested groups to develop, fund and implement programs to maintain the County's natural resources' base.

### **Programs**

2. The County will coordinate with appropriate agencies (e.g., USFWS, California Natural Diversity Data Base, BLM, National Park Service, California Native Plant Society, and so forth) and interested groups (e.g., Audubon Society, San Bernardino County Museum) to develop, fund and implement a geographic information and web-based database system for identifying important biological resources and natural open space areas within the Valley, Mountain, and Desert Regions of the County. The implementation of the aforementioned geographic information and database system is a commitment to update and enhance the Biological and Open Space Overlays within a specific area prior to approval of any subsequent development plans. This program includes the maintenance of the web-based database with completed Biological Opinions that will contribute to the evaluation of cumulative impacts from previously approved projects. Furthermore, the County shall quarterly fund the San Bernardino County Museum (Museum) to review and update the Biological Resources and Open Space Overlays to facilitate an accurate and current spatial data based on local, state, and federally protected species and their habitats.

**Policy CO 1.2** The preservation of some natural resources requires the establishment of a buffer area between the resource and developed areas. The County will continue the review of the Land Use Designations for unincorporated areas within one mile of any state or federally designated scenic area, national forest, national monument, or similar area, to ensure that sufficiently low development densities and building controls are applied to protect the visual and natural qualities of these areas.

## Programs

1. The County shall coordinate with state and federal agencies for the identification of buffering techniques and the creation of mitigation banks for sensitive species within the Valley, Mountain, and Desert Regions. The County shall work with local governments to conserve critical habitat and minimize recreational use in sensitive areas supporting local, state, or federally protected species. As feasible, the County shall work with ACOE, USFWS, and CDFG to establish mitigation banks or conservation easements for unincorporated areas supporting local, state, or federally protected species as a better long-term solution to habitat fragmentation and piece-meal mitigation.
2. The County will coordinate with appropriate agencies (e.g., USFWS, California Natural Diversity Data Base, BLM, National Park Service, California Native Plant Society, and so forth) and interested groups (e.g., Audubon Society, San Bernardino County Museum) to develop, fund and implement a geographic information and web-based database system for identifying important biological resources and natural open space areas within the Valley, Mountain, and Desert Regions of the County. The implementation of the aforementioned geographic information and database system is a commitment to update and enhance the Biological and Open Space Overlays within a specific area prior to approval of any subsequent development plans. This program includes the maintenance of the web-based database with completed Biological Opinions that will contribute to the evaluation of cumulative impacts from previously approved projects. Furthermore, the County shall quarterly fund the San Bernardino County Museum (Museum) to review and update the Biological Resources and Open Space Overlays to facilitate an accurate and current spatial data based on local, state, and federally protected species and their habitats.

**Goal CO 2      The County will maintain and enhance biological diversity and healthy ecosystems throughout the County.**

**Policy CO 2.1**      The County will coordinate with state and federal agencies and departments to ensure that their programs to preserve rare and endangered species and protect areas of special habitat value, as well as conserve populations and habitats of commonly occurring species, are reflected in reviews and approvals of development programs.

## Programs

3. The County shall coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to create a specific and detailed wildlife corridor map for the County of San Bernardino. The map will identify movement corridors and refuge area for large mammal, migratory species, and desert species dependent on transitory resource based on rainfall. The wildlife corridor and refuge area map will be used for preparation of biological assessments prior to permitting land use conversion within County jurisdictional areas. The mapping will be included in the Open Space and Biological Resource Overlays.
  
5. The San Bernardino County Museum (Museum) will review and update the Biological Resources Overlay and Open Space Overlay to provide accurate and current spatial data based on rare, threatened, endangered species and the habitats that they rely on. An updated database that integrates CNDDDB data with other occurrence data from the Museum and other sources such as the USFWS, CDFG, USFS, BLM, National Park Service, California Native Plant Society to identify areas where biological surveys are required. Overlay maps will identify movement corridors and refuge area for large mammal, migratory species, and desert species dependent on transitory resource based on rainfall. South Coast Wildlands Corridor Project and other data from the resource agencies will be consulted as an information reference base. The wildlife corridor and refuge area map will be used for preparation of biological assessments prior to permitting land use conversion within County jurisdictional areas. The mapping will be included in the Open Space and Biological Resource Overlays.

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## **EXHIBIT D**

### **Scenic Points of Interest along Historic Route 66**

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## Scenic Points of Interest along Historic Route 66

### Amboy Crater

This Cinder cone crater is estimated to be around 6,000 years old and was formed in layers of mostly vesicular pahoehoe - possibly in the Holocene geological period. The interior has a lava lake. Lava flows as old as Amboy Crater itself blanket the surrounding area. According to the BLM interpretive sign the last eruption could have been as recently as 500 years ago.

The crater is 944 ft (288 m) above sea level, about 250 ft (76 m) above the surrounding basalt lava plains. The scenic and solitary Amboy Crater was a popular sight and stop for travelers on U.S. Route 66 in California before the opening of Interstate 40 in 1973. Other than a stretch of U.S. Route 66 in New Mexico, Amboy Crater was one of few extinct volcanoes along the entire route, so generations of U.S. Route 66 travelers from the 1920s through the 1960s could boast that they had climbed a real volcano. Visits decreased after I-40 opened, but have increased in recent years with the nearby Mitchell Caverns, Mojave National Preserve, and renewed historical tourism interest in "old Route 66."



## Lavic Lake volcanic field

The Lavic Lake volcanic field is a volcanic field with extinct cinder cones in the Mojave Desert, in San Bernardino County, California, United States. The lava field, at 1,495 m (4,905 ft) elevation, and its cones can be seen from historic Route 66 and from Interstate 40, between Barstow to the west and Needles to the east, and is located southeast of Ludlow, California.

## Pisgah Crater

Pisgah Crater is the most prominent feature of the Lavic Lake volcanic field, which contains four Quaternary cinder cones. The 100-m-high Pisgah Crater, seen here from the NW, and its surrounding 100-sq-km lava field are easily seen from nearby Interstate highway 40. The crater and nearby vents were the source of dominantly pahoehoe lava flows that traveled as far as 18 km NW over alluvial-fan and playa-lake deposits. Pisgah Crater was initially considered to be Holocene in age, but more recent dating indicates it is about 25,000 years old.

The NE rim of Pisgah Crater provides a view of the 100-sq-km lava field surrounding the crater. The basaltic lava field was erupted from the crater and nearby vents and is dominantly formed of pahoehoe lava, although aa lavas were erupted on the eastern side. Interstate highway 40 skirts the northern margins of the lava flow, below the Cady Mountains in the distance. The lavas were erupted onto alluvial-fan and playa-lake deposits.





View from Pisgah Crater



## National Scenic Byway Program

A National Scenic Byway is a road recognized by the United States Department of Transportation for its archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and/or scenic qualities. The program was established by Congress in 1991 to preserve and protect the nation's scenic but often less-traveled roads and promote tourism and economic development. The program is administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

The most scenic of the roads in the program are designated All-American Roads. The designation means they have features that do not exist elsewhere in the United States and are scenic enough to be tourist destinations unto themselves. As of November 2010, there are 120 National Scenic Byways and 31 All-American Roads, located in 46 states (all except Hawaii, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Texas).

The Historic Route 66 has been designated scenic byway in Arizona, Illinois, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

### Requirements

National Scenic Byways must go through a nomination procedure, and must already be designated as a state scenic byway in order to be nominated (However, roads that meet all criteria and requirements for National designation but not State or designation criteria may be considered for national designation on a case-by-case basis).

To be considered for designation as a National Scenic Byway "a road or highway must significantly meet at least one of the six scenic byways intrinsic qualities". To be designated as an All-American Road, a road must meet at least two of the six qualities. The qualities are:

- **Scenic Quality** is the heightened visual experience derived from the view of natural and manmade elements of the visual environment of the scenic byway corridor. The characteristics of the landscape are strikingly distinct and offer a pleasing and most memorable visual experience.
- **Natural Quality** applies to those features in the visual environment that are in a relatively undisturbed state. These features predate the arrival of human populations and may include geological formations, fossils, landform, water bodies, vegetation, and wildlife. There may be evidence of human activity, but the natural features reveal minimal disturbances.
- **Historic Quality** encompasses legacies of the past that are distinctly associated with physical elements of the landscape, whether natural or manmade, that are of such historic significance that they educate the viewer and stir an appreciation for the past. The historic elements reflect the actions of people and may include buildings, settlement patterns, and other examples of human activity.
- **Cultural Quality** is evidence and expressions of the customs or traditions of a distinct group of people. Cultural features include, but are not limited to, crafts, music, dance, rituals, festivals, speech, food, special events, or vernacular architecture.

- **Archeological Quality** involves those characteristics of the scenic byways corridor that are physical evidence of historic or prehistoric human life or activity. The scenic byway corridor's archeological interest, as identified through ruins, artifacts, structural remains, and other physical evidence have scientific significance that educate the viewer and stir an appreciation for the past.
- **Recreational Quality** involves outdoor recreational activities directly association with and dependent upon the natural and cultural elements of the corridor's landscape. The recreational activities provide opportunities for active and passive recreational experiences. They include, but are not limited to, downhill skiing, rafting, boating, fishing, and hiking. Driving the road itself may qualify as a pleasurable recreational experience. The recreational activities may be seasonal, but the quality and importance of the recreational activities as seasonal operations must be well recognized.

Map of Scenic Highways in the County

