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**COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**  
*TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY*

**Environmental Programs Department**

**Determination of Biologically Equivalent or  
Superior Preservation Report Guidelines**

**(MSHCP Section 6.1.2)**

*Revised: October 5, 2005*

Environmental Programs Department (EPD) requires a Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) Report as required by the Western Riverside Multiple-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRMSHCP) for impacts to Riparian/Riverine Areas/Vernal Pools as defined by the WRMSHCP (see Section 6.1.2, pages 6-21 and 6-22). Projects that prepare a DBESP are still subject to all other State and Federal regulations related to wetland habitats, streambeds and "waters".

The DBESP Report shall include, but not be limited, to the following:

1. Definition of project area
2. A written project description, demonstrating why an avoidance alternative is not feasible.
3. A written description of biological information available for the project site including the results of resource mapping.
4. Map(s) of Riparian/Riverine/Vernal Pool areas as defined by the WRMSHCP indicating area(s) of impact (i.e. proposed project overlaid on the Riparian/Riverine/Vernal Pool areas).
5. Analysis in the following areas should be addressed:
  - a. 100% avoidance
  - b. Alternatives
  - c. Minimization of direct and indirect effects.
  - d. Hydrologic regime
  - e. Flood storage
  - f. Flood flow modification
  - g. Nutrient retention and transformation
  - h. Sediment trapping and transport
  - i. Toxic trapping
  - j. Public use
  - k. Wildlife habitat
  - l. Aquatic habitat
6. Quantification of unavoidable impacts to riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools associated with the project, including direct and indirect effects. Indicate the amount of habitat left intact on the site, if any.
7. Functions and values assessment shall focus on how they will affect downstream values related to Conserved Species.
8. Habitat assessments for least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, western yellow-billed cuckoo, Riverside fairy shrimp, and vernal pool fairy shrimp. If the site supports suitable habitat focused surveys will also be required.
9. A written description of project design features and mitigation measures that reduce indirect effects, such as edge treatments, landscaping, elevation difference, minimization and/or compensation through restoration or enhancement.

10. Written discussion of edge treatments (WRMSHP, Section 6.1.4) and their relation to the functions and values to be conserved. The discussion should consider:
  - a. Lighting
  - b. Noise
  - c. Trash/debris
  - d. Urban and storm water runoff
  - e. Toxic material
  - f. Exotic plant and animal infestations
  - g. Dust
  - h. Trampling and unauthorized recreational use
11. Mitigation measures should ensure long-term conservation through deed restriction, conservation easement or other appropriate mechanism. Mitigation measures may coincide with State and Federal regulations. Mitigation measures should consider:
  - a. Restoration and/or enhancement of on-site habitat
  - b. Restoration and/or enhancement of off-site habitat
  - c. Habitat that is restored or enhanced will be able to provide biological, hydrological, and biogeochemical functions to a level consistent with those being lost on-site.
  - d. Upon reaching maturity and satisfying the criteria established for mitigation areas, the goals for mitigation shall include:
    - i. All habitat mitigation areas will be self-sustaining in perpetuity and contribute to regional biodiversity
    - ii. All habitat mitigation will not require outside input for recruitment and propagation of plant species
    - iii. Nutrients will be cycled within the mitigation areas through natural processes
    - iv. The entire range of biological components, processes, and interactions will be present in each community.
    - v. Natural processes of ecological succession will be allowed to occur
12. A finding demonstrating that although the proposed project would not avoid impacts, with proposed design and compensation measures, the project would be biologically equivalent or superior to that which would occur under an avoidance alternative without these measures, based on one or more of the following factors:
  - a. effects on Conserved Habitats;
  - b. effects on the species listed in section 6.1.2 of the WRMSHCP; and
  - c. effects on riparian Linkages and function of the MSHCP Conservation Area.
13. Topography/Hydrology assessment
14. USGS 7.5' Quadrangle, Section, Township, Range
15. Soils Description/analysis/Map
16. Site Photographs
17. Observed Species List
18. Acreage of Site Surveyed
19. Surveyor Name(s)
20. Survey Date(s) and Time(s)
21. Case #(s)
22. APN(s)

Please refer to the EPD web site, <http://www.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/epd>, for the most up-to-date policies and procedures. To view the WRMSHCP online go to <http://www.rcip.org/conservation.htm>.

The EPD requires biological consultants to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on file with the County prior to any work being performed for an applicant.

3 original wet-signed copies of any reports shall be submitted to the assigned Planner for this case along with the transmittal from the consultant who prepared the reports, which will be forwarded to the EPD to review and clear.