



Beneficial Ecological Restoration Projects

Board of Supervisors Hearing
January 8, 2008

Beneficial Ecological Restoration Project Requirements -- Purpose

- Encourage habitat restoration
- Define restoration activities
- Establish processing requirements



Public Hearing Process

- Consideration of amendments
- Required by County CEQA Environmental Guidelines and Thresholds documents
- Commission Review & Board Adoption

Board of Supervisors Directive



Restoration example photo

- 2006 Permit Appeal – Arroyo Hondo
- Questioned Mitigation Ratio (3:1) habitat replacement
- P&D directed to create 1:1 Mitigation Ratio

Stakeholder Involvement

- Property owners
- NRCS/RCD
- Dept of Fish & Game
- Coastal Conservancy
- SB Land Trust
- EDC
- CEC
- Co Ag Comm. Office



Restoration Definition



- Not a Development Project
- Primary/Secondary ecological benefits
- Restoration activity examples
- Minimum 1:1 ratio

Project Requirements

- Applicant's technical expertise
- Project documentation
- County/State/Federal requirements
- Does not change permitting and CEQA



Stakeholder Viewpoints

- Types of restoration activity
- Documentation
- Implementation and monitoring

Planning Commission Revisions

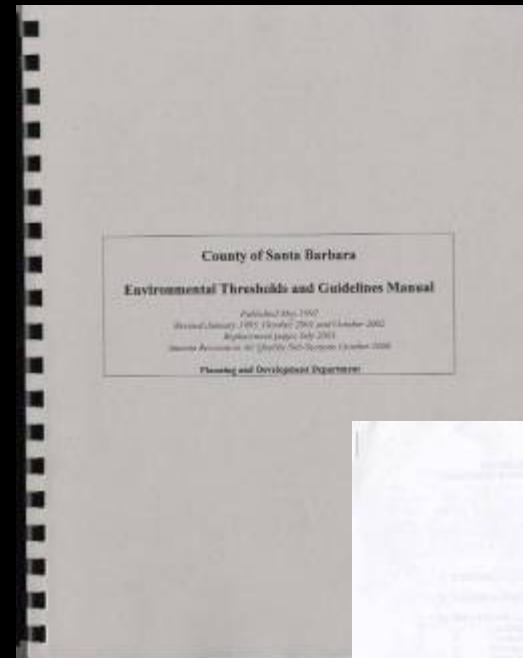
- “Species of concern” status
- No net loss of habitat
- USFWS – regulatory role/coordination



Amendment Documents

County CEQA Documents:

- Implementation Guidelines
- Thresholds & Guidelines Manual



County Policy Consistency



- Conservation Element
- Land Use Element
- Montecito Community Plan
- Coastal Land Use Plan

Staff Recommendation

- Adopt Amendment Resolutions
 - Implementation Guidelines
 - Environmental Thresholds Manual
- Find Amendments CEQA Exempt

CEQA Exemption

- 15378(a) and PRS 21065 – not a project
- No change in permitting requirements
- Beneficial projects, depending on scope, may require CEQA compliance