

San Bernardino Associated Governments

**Countywide Habitat
Preservation/Conservation
Framework Study**

**For the Environment Element Group
September 24, 2014**



PURPOSE

- **SANBAG lead on Countywide Preservation/Conservation Framework Study**
- **SANBAG contracted with Dudek**
- **Emphasis of Scope of Work:**
 - Exploring more comprehensive approaches to conservation – is project-by-project best?
 - Desired outcome – a framework and principles that define path forward
 - Scope does not assume specific mechanisms
 - Goal is a sustainable environment that can support expected population and economic growth

PURPOSE

- **Dudek to conduct Study:**
 - **Documentation of Existing and Past Efforts**
 - **Identification of Data Gaps**
 - **Evaluate potential areas for conservation efforts**
 - **Subarea evaluations**
 - **Create conservation/preservation principles**
 - **Provide next steps analysis**

WHAT IT IS; WHAT ITS NOT

- **WHAT THIS STUDY INCLUDES:**
 - Documentation of existing conservation efforts
 - Unbiased evaluation of existing data
 - Data gap analysis
 - Evaluation of listed species demographics
 - Identification of potential sub areas
- **WHAT THIS STUDY DOES NOT INCLUDE:**
 - Creating a Habitat Conservation Plan
 - Providing analysis of Covered Activities
 - Identifying lands to be set aside for conservation/preservation
 - Evaluating each city, town or agency for lands to be set aside

WHAT WE HAVE COMPLETED

■ Data Collection

- Collected surveys from LAFCO, PDTF, EE Group
- Gathered GIS Data on existing conservation areas and other conservation-related info
- Compiled an Inventory on collected GIS information
- Compiled a GIS Database
- Collected SCAG Information

■ Meetings

- Conducted 12 separate meetings/conference calls
- Compiled a Meeting Summary

■ Sub Area Analysis

■ Drafted Principles

DATA COLLECTION

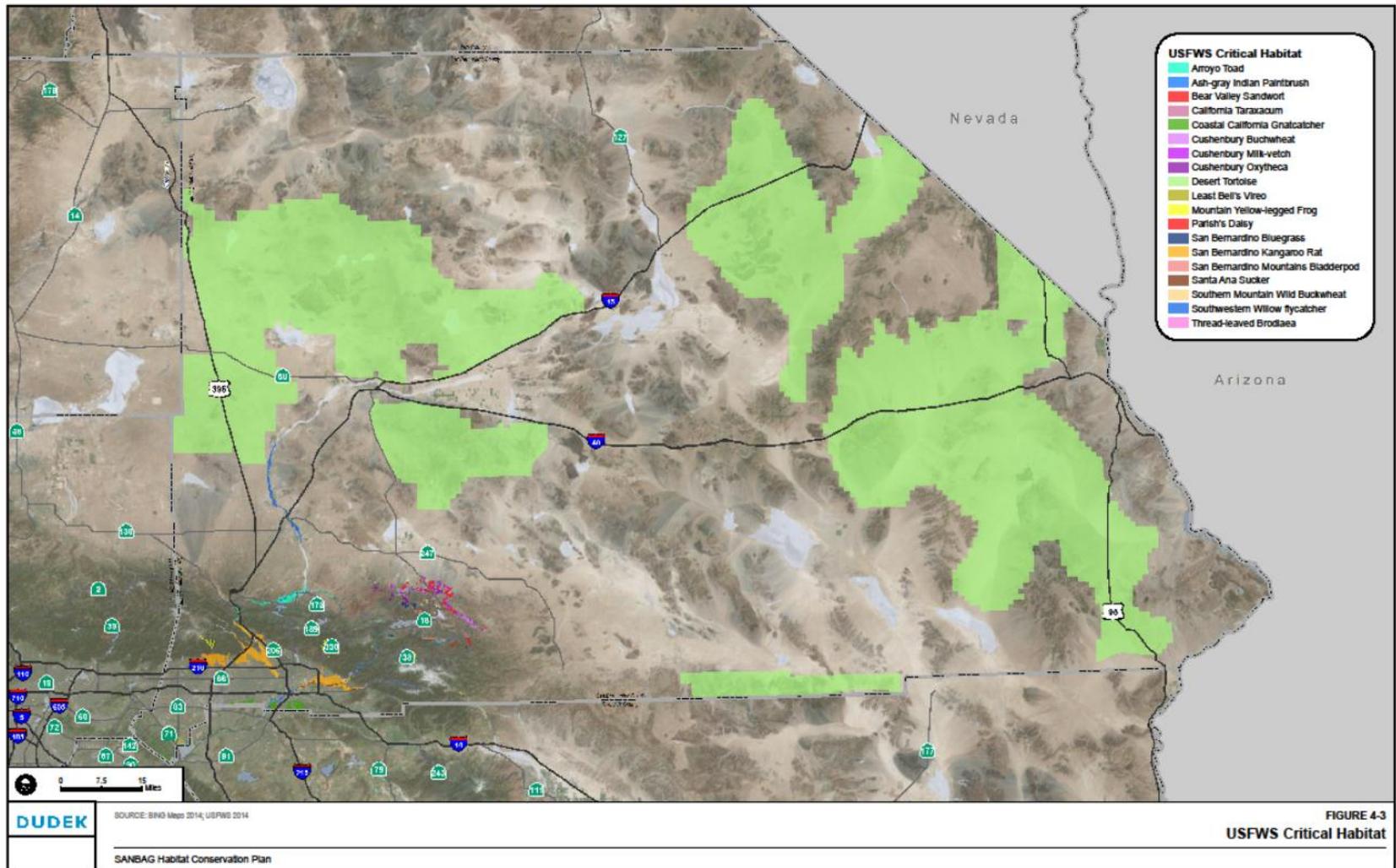
■ Data Sources

- Cities, Towns
- County Departments
- Infrastructure Entities
- Environmental Groups/Resource Conservation Districts
- Regulatory Agencies
- BLM & Forest Service
- Others

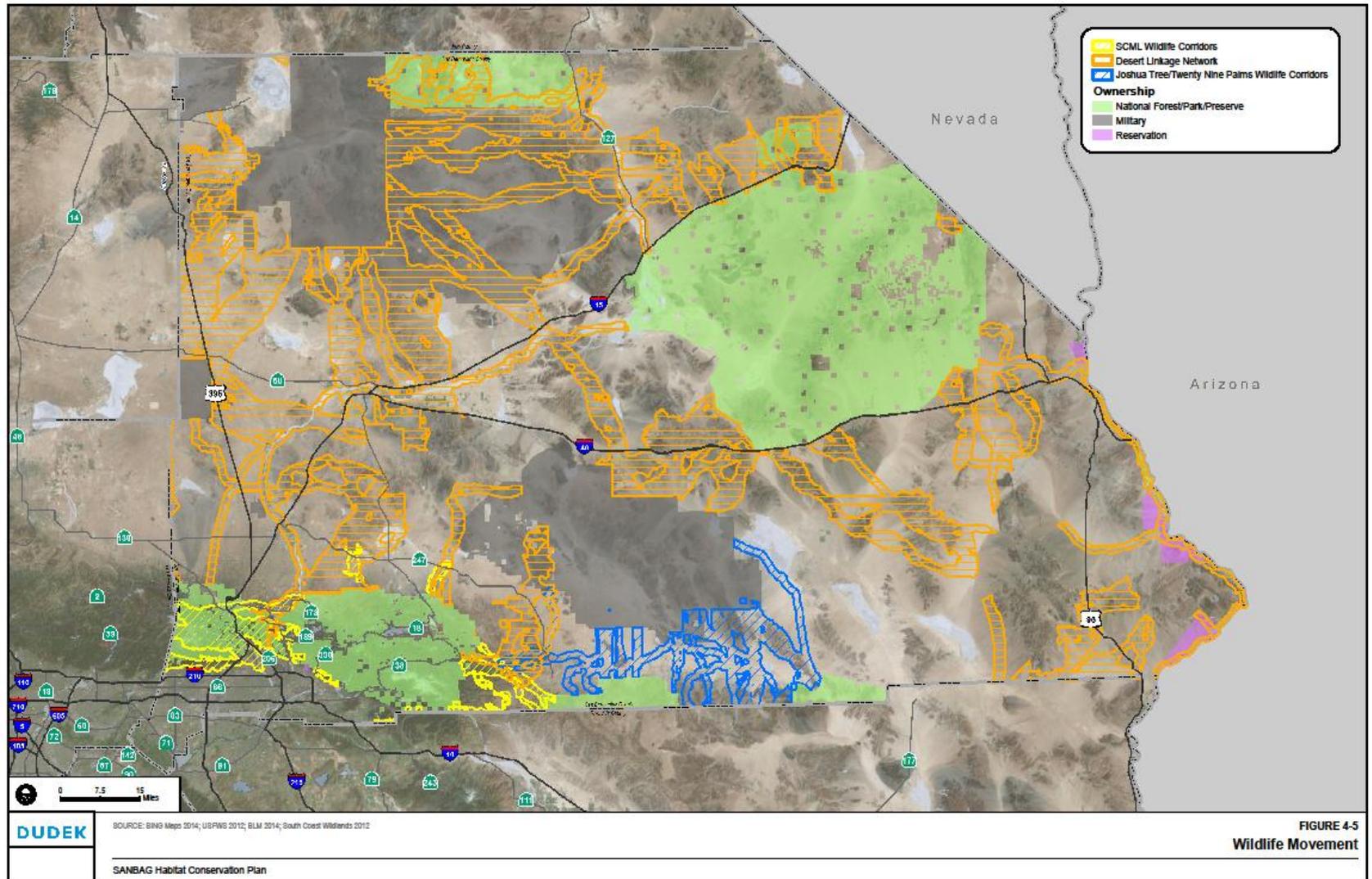
DATA COLLECTION

- **Data Categories Collected (See Workbook)**
 - Existing HCP info
 - Areas of existing conservation lands (easements, fee title)
 - Areas of open spaces
 - Wildlife movement data
 - Hillside Ordinances
 - General Plan/Land Use Data
 - Planned large developments

Critical Habitat Designations



Wildlife Movement



MEETINGS SUMMARY

Entity	Category	Contact Person	In person Mtg	Phone	Email
Adelanto	City	Mark de Manincor		5/21/2014 760-246-2300 X3001	mdemanincor@ci.adelanto.ca.us
Barstow	City	Jennifer Riley		5/21/2014 760-255-5153	riley@barstowca.org
Big Bear Lake	City	Jim Miller		5/21/2014 909-633-2391	miller@citybigbearlake.com
Chino	City				
Chino Hills	City	Joann Lombardo	6/3/2014 by Phone	909 364 2741	lombardo@chinhills.org
Colton	City	Mark Tomich		5/28/2014 909-370-5185	mtomich@ci.colton.ca.us
Fontana	City	Shannon Casey		5/29/2014 909-350-7608	scasey@fontana.org
Grand Terrace	City				
Hesperia	City	David Reno	6/2/2014 by phone	760-947-1253	dreno@cityofhesperia.us
Highland	City	Larry (Lawrence) Mainez		5/28/2014 909-864-6861	lmainez@cityofhighland.org
Loma Linda	City				
Montclair	City				
Needles	City				
Ontario	City	Richard Ayala		5/29/2014 909-395-2421	ravala@ontario.ca.us
Rancho Cucamonga	City	Tom Grahm		5/29/2014 909-477-2750	tom.grahm@cityofrc.us
Redlands	City	Kalani Paltoa		5/28/2014 909-987-7555	kpaltoa@cityofredlands.org
Rialto	City				
San Bernardino	City				
Twentynine Palms	City				
Upland	City				
Victorville	City	Michael Szarzynski		5/21/2014 760-955-5135	mszarzynski@ci.victorville.ca.us
Yucaipa	City	Joe Lambert		5/28/2014 909-797-2489	lambert@yucaipa.org
Apple Valley	Town	Lori Lamson		5/21/2014 760-240-7000 X7204	llamson@applevalley.org
Yucca Valley	Town	Shane Stueckle		5/21/2014	stueckle@yucca-valley.org
County Land Use Services	County	Gia Kim		5/29/2014 909-252-5105	gia.kim@lus.sbcounty.gov
County Land Use Services	County	Terri Rahhal		5/29/2014 909-387-4518	terri.rahhal@lus.sbcounty.gov
County Land Use Services	County	George Kenline		5/29/2014 909-387-4105	george.kenline@lus.sbcounty.gov
County Land Use Services	County	Tom Hudson		5/29/2014 909-252-5105	tom.hudson@lus.sbcounty.gov
County Public Works - Transportation	County	Menat Mikhail		5/29/2014 909-387-7940	mmikhail@dpw.sbcounty.gov
County Public Works	County	Gerry Newcombe		5/29/2014 909-387-7906	gnewcombe@dpw.sbcounty.gov
County Public Works	County	Kevin Blakeslee		5/29/2014 909-387-7919	kblakeslee@dpw.sbcounty.gov
County Special Districts	County	Jeff Rigney		5/29/2014 909-387-5967	rigney@sbcounty.sdd.gov
SCE	Infrastructure				
So Cal Gas	Infrastructure	Justin Meyer	7/16/14 by Phone	714-634-5015	
San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District	Infrastructure	Daniel Cozad		7/24/2014 909-793-2503	dcozad@sbwccd.com
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District	Infrastructure	Douglas Headrick		7/24/2014 909-387-9226	dougash@sbvmwd.com
US FWS	Regulatory	Karin Cleary-Rose		6/11/2014	karin_cleary-rose@usfws.gov
CDFW	Regulatory	Leslie MacNair		6/11/2014	lmacnair@dfg.gov
BLM	Federal Governemnt	Terri Raml, Russell Schofield	8/6/2014 by Phone	951-697-5203	traml@blm.gov
US Forest Service	Federal Governemnt	Scott Eliason	5/27/2014 by phone	909-382-2830	seliason@fs.fed.us
Inland Empire Resource Conservation District	RCD	Mandy Parkes		8/19/2014	mparkes@iercd.org

INSIGHTS FROM MEETINGS

- **There are some HCPs already underway or being prepared**
- **Some jurisdictions do not see major need for large-scale ESA permitting based on their development plans**
- **A number of jurisdictions have Hillside Ordinances that will in effect create conservation areas**
- **A number of jurisdictions, including County, have General Plan policies that call for setting aside open space**

INSIGHTS FROM MEETINGS

- The “edge” cities like Highland and Yucaipa, have large-scale development projects that are setting aside open space as part of the entitlement process
- Some jurisdictions prefer using existing conservation-entities such as the IERCD
- Some High Desert jurisdictions had bad experiences before, not interested in repeating them
- CSA 120 is an interesting case study

INSIGHTS FROM MEETINGS

- **Wildlife Agencies want to see connected and comprehensive approach to conservation in County**
- **DRECP will create framework for future ESA permitting processes that could help jurisdictions in the future**
- **The County has proactively approached their ESA permitting needs by starting the programmatic permitting process with Regulatory Agencies**
- **County does not have large-scale transportation projects that would need ESA permits**

INSIGHTS FROM MEETINGS

- **There are lands already conserved in County**
- **There are areas that can be looked at more closely for protection in the “urban areas”**
- **Good models for how conservation planning is and has worked in County**
- **Long term management of conservation lands needs to be looked at**
- **Agencies prefer comprehensive solutions vs. individual solutions**

SUB AREA ANALYSIS

■ Potential Sub Area Approaches

- Biogeographic

 - Regions (i.e. Valley, Mountains, Desert)

 - Ecoregions (i.e USDA ecoregions – San Gorgonio Mtns, San Gabriel Mtns)

- Hydrologic

 - Watersheds

- Jurisdictional

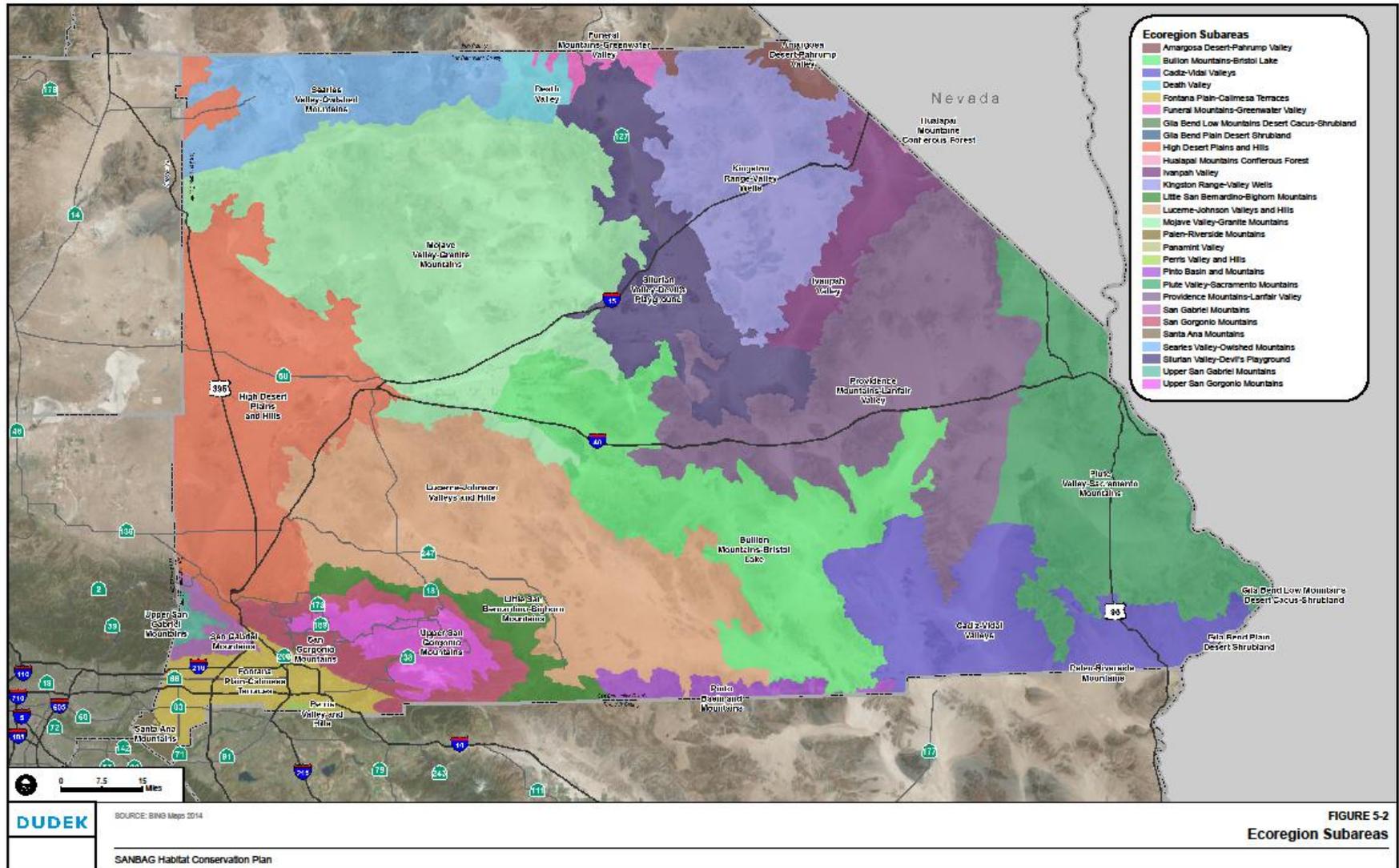
 - Cities, Towns, County

■ Criteria for Evaluation

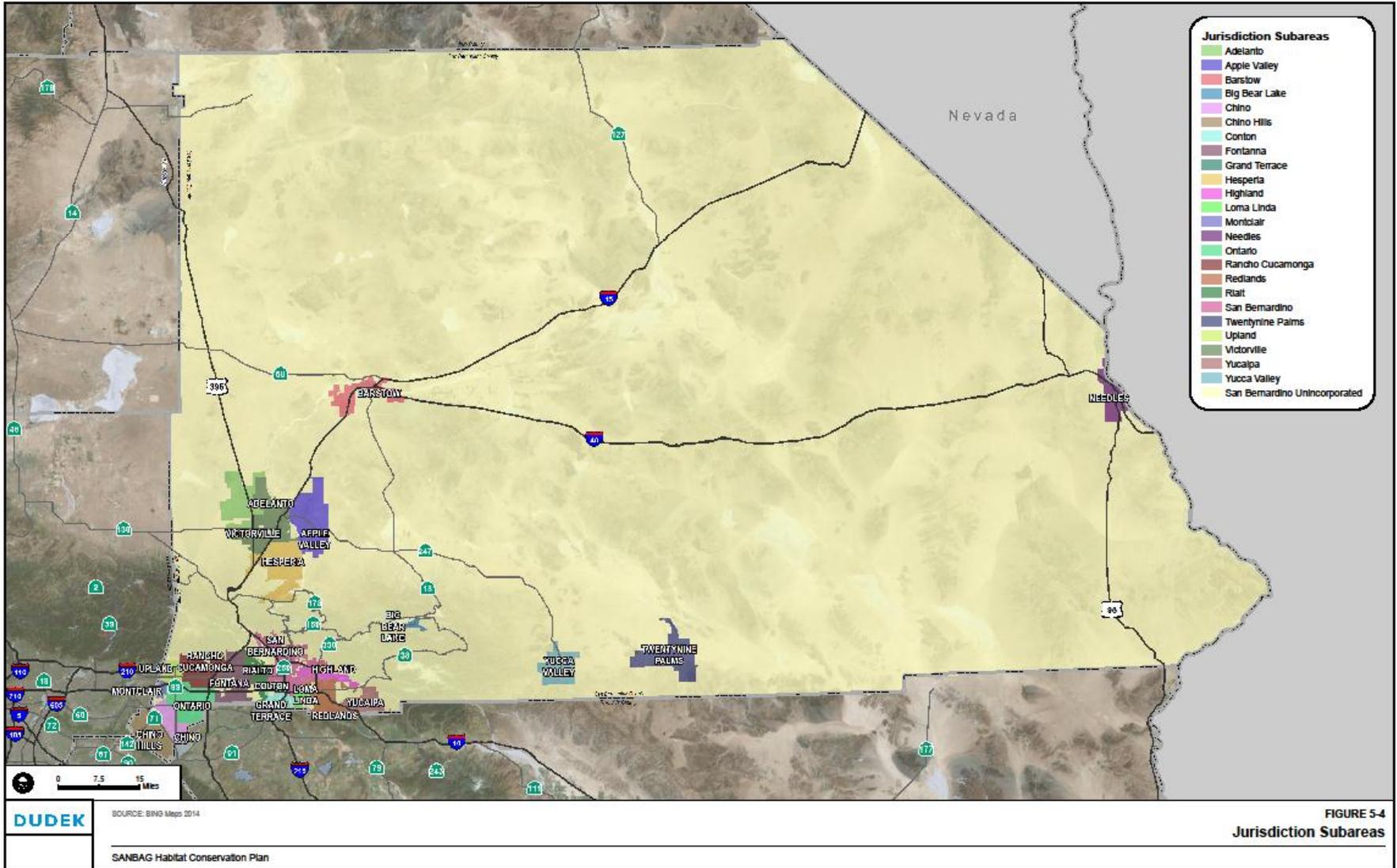
- Usefulness

- Practicality

Ecoregions



Jurisdictions



SUB AREA ANALYSIS

- **Subareas by Regions is favorable**
 - Regions are logical geographic units that reflect landscape-level biogeographic and physical zones
 - Regions were used as structural/organizational unit for San Bernardino County General Plan
 - Regions generally align with coarse-level land ownership and ownership and use patterns
 - Regions have manageable number of geographic units
 - Regions will have similar habitats and species
- **Hybrids of Regional Subareas**
 - Eco-regions
 - Regional-jurisdictional

DRAFT POLICY PRINCIPLES

Principle 1: Increase certainty for both the preservation/conservation of habitat as well as for land development and infrastructure permitting.

Principle 2: Recognize that San Bernardino County needs to have a growing economy to be able to afford the acquisition and ongoing management of habitat. Conservation efforts should complement the managed growth, economic development and population growth anticipated by SCAG.

Principle 3: Institutional structures to promote habitat acquisition and management should be designed to leverage private funding, easements, public funding, and other mechanisms to maximize the protection of habitat and associated species.

Principle 4: Conservation planning efforts should be led by an institutional structure that can provide champions to keep the process moving in a transparent, productive and timely manner.

DRAFT POLICY PRINCIPLES

Principle 5: Recognize that participating in a more comprehensive approach to conservation planning will be voluntary, but that participating in the more comprehensive approach will provide benefits for most of those participating.

Principle 6: Leverage existing conservation efforts.

Principle 7: Match potential tools for conservation with unique conservation and development needs within specific sub areas.

Principle 8: Consider conservation planning strategies that go outside the County boundaries if needed.

DRAFT BIOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES

Principle 9. Recognize San Bernardino County is biologically diverse.

Principle 10. Invest in the Science of Conservation Planning.

Principle 11. The identification of conservation areas should incorporate scientifically-accepted tenets of conservation biology.

Principle 12: Consider species that are listed as well as those that may be listed in the future.

Principle 13: Identify mechanism for long term, sustainable, management and monitoring.

Principle 14: Balance public access with conservation needs.

Principle 15. Conservation objectives in San Bernardino County can be achieved through a variety of conservation strategies.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Apr-14 May-14 Jun-14 Jul-14 Aug-14 Sep-14 Oct-14 Nov-14 Dec-14 Jan-15

Task 1: Project Kickoff & Initiation



Task 2: Data Gathering/Conservation Analysis



Task 3: Establish Subareas



Task 4: Establish Conservation Principles



Task 5: Next Steps



Task 6: Draft Study Results Report



Task 6: Final Study Results Report



NEXT STEPS

- Dudek to gather GIS data from SCAG and evaluate
- Consider discussion today
- Finalize Principles and rest of analysis
- Prepare Draft Report
- EE Group review November 2014

Questions?

Questions