

Cover Sheet

Title of Proposed Action: Issuance of Incidental Take Permits and Adoption and Implementation of the Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan

Responsible Official: Anne Badgley
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Legal Authority: Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, Section 10(a), as implemented by 50 CFR 17.32(b)(1).

Location of Proposed Action: Natomas Basin
Sacramento and Sutter Counties, California

Applicant Names:

City of Sacramento	Sutter County	Natomas Basin Conservancy
1231 I Street	10461 Old Placerville Road	1750 Creekside Oaks Drive
Suite 300	Suite 110	Suite 290
Sacramento, California 95814	Sacramento, California 95827	Sacramento, California 95833
(916) 264-7601	916) 361-8384 extension 203	(916) 649-3331
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Abstract

This environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) describes the affected resources and evaluates the potential impacts to those resources in the Natomas Basin and Area B as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action comprises: (1) applications for Section 10(a)(1)(B) and Section 2081 permits or permit modifications for each of the permittees; (2) approval of the revised Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and issuance of permits by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game; (3) implementation of the HCP; (4) adoption of the Implementing Agreement(s); and (5) the issuance of incidental take permits (ITPs). The permittees are the City of Sacramento, Sutter County, and the Natomas Basin Conservancy, Reclamation District No. 1000, and Natomas Central Mutual Water Company.

The objective of the Proposed Action is to reconcile the needs of 22 special-status species with planned land development and water facility operations in the Natomas Basin. Issuance of the ITP would authorize the incidental take of several listed wildlife species resulting from urban development and other activities in the Natomas Basin. These species include the federally listed giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), vernal pool species (*Branchinecta* spp., *Lepidurus packardii*), Colusa grass (*Neostapfia colusana*), Orcutt grasses (*Orcuttia* spp.), the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), a federal and state candidate species, and the state-listed Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). The Implementing Agreement(s) would also cover a suite of other wildlife and plant species if they were to become listed in the future.

The HCP would establish a comprehensive program for the preservation and protection of habitat for threatened and endangered species potentially found on approximately 53,537 acres of undeveloped and agricultural land in northwestern Sacramento County and southern Sutter County (Natomas Basin and Area B). The acquisition of lands or conservation easements for the purpose of creating and managing permanent habitat reserves would be the primary mechanism for mitigating impacts to listed species. Habitat reserves would be managed by the Natomas Basin Conservancy and would consist of managed marsh habitats, upland habitats, rice fields (which would typically be leased for use to rice farmers), and associated buffers and infrastructure. The HCP also includes management measures that are intended to avoid or minimize effects on species during activities by RD 1000 and Natomas Mutual and during urban development activities.