



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Environmental Programs Department

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Director

Biological Restoration Plan Guidelines

Introduction

A biological restoration plan may be required in order to return a site to a natural state which would have occurred prior to any ground disturbance. The natural state of the property is considered the biological resources habitat function and values that existed prior to any human activities changing the landscape. Ground disturbance may have been through inappropriate means or as a result of temporary legal disturbances. The ultimate habitat restoration will be implemented and monitored in accordance with this approved plan.

A biological restoration plan must be prepared by a qualified biologist who has a Memorandum of Understanding on file with the Environmental Programs Department. If the restoration plan is being developed in response to the illegal disturbance of land, the EPD will need to perform a site assessment to determine the nature and extent of any restoration needed. Restoration required may include re-vegetation of the site with the same species of plants or those that serve the biological resource values as close as possible to those of the vegetation which existed onsite prior to the ground disturbance activities. Prior to preparing the restoration plan, the qualified biologist should initiate a scoping session with EPD staff to determine the level of site restoration needed and to receive other pertinent guidance.

The minimum following elements should be included in the restoration plan. Site specific conditions may require alternatives to be included which are not discussed herein.

Site Description

- Location: site location and vicinity maps, USGS quad, identify APN, Township and Range, streets, and community area
- Topography: Drainage, relief, site elevation, soil type descriptions, and mapping prior to disturbance
- Size of property and area disturbed requiring restoration
- Pre-existing onsite and adjacent offsite vegetation types and any wildlife observed in the vicinity and associated habitat functions and values
- Sensitive species known to occur in the area
- Unique features: riverine/ riparian, vernal pools, springs, rock outcrops, etc.
- Review of historical record information and documentation: previous biological reports, aerial photographs, CNDDDB records, USCS Soil Maps

Purpose and Goals of the Restoration Plan

- Describe rationale for preparation of the Restoration Plan
- Identify goals and objectives to be achieved, including, but not limited to, success criteria and contingency alternatives
- Prepare a Conceptual Site Plan of the proposed completed Restoration and Re-vegetation Plan

Restoration Project Impacts

- A description of restoration project impacts, both permanent and temporary as applicable (tabular format is acceptable for quantitative impacts).
- Discussion of mitigation needs (mitigation site acreage onsite and offsite, if needed; habitat types, and proposed enhancements) as applicable.

Agency Concerns and Requirements

- Include a discussion of any pertinent permit conditions and requirements associated with the restoration project from any other governmental agency. Include as an appendix, a copy of requirements or concerns of other agencies, such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife, State Fish and Game, Army Corps of Engineers, etc.

Re-vegetation Design Concept

- Summarize the general design approach (concept) of the re-vegetation project.

Mitigation Monitoring Plan

- Provide a Mitigation Monitoring Plan which includes an implementation schedule and identifying responsibilities of key players

Restoration Project Responsibility

- Describe the responsibilities of the project owner.
- Describe the responsibilities and qualification of the project designer, the installation contractor, and the maintenance contractor.
- Cost Estimate for all work, including the planting and monitoring – Financial Sureties

Establishment of Reference Site

- Establish reference site of adequate size to be used to determine project success criteria. Show location of the reference site on a project site map. The site shall be within 500 feet of the proposed restoration site (if feasible), and should be of similar slope and aspect as the proposed restoration site.

Additional Requirements

- Flag the site in the field so that a County representative can review the site at the time of Restoration Plan submittal.
- Provide the results of a biological survey of the reference site to determine percent cover by native species, percent cover by weeks, species diversity, and any other information relevant to establishing success criteria for the proposed restoration project.