

Recommended Criteria for Emergency Land Management Funding Proposed FY 2011

If approved, this funding would allow for an emergency response to address land management issues that arise between land management grant cycles. This program would be structured to fund "first year" urgent needs where no other known funding sources are readily available within the time period needed to address the emergency. It is assumed that follow-up adaptive management and monitoring actions could be funded through the annual allocation of management and monitoring funds via the *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) annual budget approval process or other local, state, or federal funding sources. This program would apply to the covered species, habitats, linkages, and corridors identified in the San Diego county Natural Communities Conservation Planning program.

The initial funding allocation would be set at \$150,000 per year for four years, with a maximum total of \$500,000 if the funding is not utilized over that time period. If a particular year's allocation is unused, it would roll over to subsequent years. The fund would be replenished as needed during the annual *TransNet* EMP annual budget cycle.

Authorization to utilize these funds would occur pursuant to SANDAG Board Policy No. 017 (Delegation of Authority), which would be updated to incorporate the criteria below as part of the annual review and updates to Board Policies beginning in October 2011. The Executive Director or his/her designee would authorize use of the funds based on support from a cross-section of technical experts not affiliated with the request. These technical experts and Executive Director would use the following criteria as guidance:

- A sudden and clear threat to a major population(s) of a covered species or sensitive habitat has been documented and a clear method to address the issue has been proposed; or
- A catastrophic event that severely impacts population(s) of covered species or wildlife movement (examples include fires, flooding, landslides, hazardous waste spills);
- Immediate action necessary to rehabilitate or eliminate illegal human activities that severely threaten the integrity of a preserve, by impacts to large populations of covered species, sensitive habitats, or wildlife linkages (examples include restoration of illegal grading, elimination of the sudden expansion of feral invasive animals, controlling access of the sudden increase in off-highway vehicles);
- A documented rapid or early invasion of habitat by aggressive invasive species with the potential to severely alter ecosystem dynamics (e.g., fire frequency, flooding, salinity). Examples include the identification of an aggressive invasive species new to the County, or an invasive species known to occur in the County, but previously undocumented in a regional preserve.

An oversight committee composed of members including United States Fish & Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, *TransNet* EMP Program Manager, and an at-large member of the EMP Working Group representing land managers would provide this technical expertise.