

# **VOLUME 5**

## **RESPONSES TO COMMENTS**

on the

## **RECIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ SUPPLEMENTAL FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (SCH No. 2000061079)**

for the

## **FINAL RECIRCULATED COACHELLA VALLEY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN**

and

## **NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN**

and associated

## **SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS TRAILS PLAN**

PREPARED FOR  
Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management  
California Department of Fish and Game

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**SEPTEMBER 2007**

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## COVER SHEET

### RESPONSES TO COMMENTS on the RECIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ SUPPLEMENTAL FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

#### FINAL RECIRCULATED COACHELLA VALLEY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS TRAILS PLAN

**Lead Agencies:** Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
US Fish and Wildlife Service/Department of the Interior

**Cooperating Agencies/Responsible Agencies:** US Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, National Park Service, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Transportation, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, Coachella Valley Water District, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Riverside County Regional Parks and Open Space District, Riverside County Waste Management District, Imperial Irrigation District, County of Riverside, the eight following cities: Cathedral City, Coachella, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage.

**Proposed Action/Proposed Project:** Adoption of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Trails Plan, issuance of Incidental Take Permits for Covered Species pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and Section 2800 et seq. of the California Fish and Game Code.

**Inquiries or comments on this document should be directed to:**

**US Fish & Wildlife Service  
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**Designation:** Responses to Comments on the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS)

**Abstract:** The Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan (MSHCP or Plan) boundaries encompass 1,206,000± acres and a net planning area of 1,136,400± acres, excluding Indian Reservation lands not covered by the Plan. The planning area extends from Cabazon area of the San Geronio Pass in the northwest to lands surrounding the northern portions of the Salton Sea to the southeast. The planning area also includes mountainous areas and most of the associated watersheds surrounding the valley floor. The Plan provides a conservation Reserve System encompassing 723,480± acres comprised of 557,100± acres of existing public and private conservation lands (November 2006), and the acquisition and/or management of 166,380± acres of additional conservation and complementary conservation lands. This document presents responses to comments received on the Recirculated Draft EIR/Supplemental Final EIS. The Final Recirculated EIR/Supplemental Final EIS provides a rigorous assessment and objective evaluation of environmental impacts of the project and alternative projects set forth in the MSHCP and incorporates corrections and changes identified in these responses to comments.

**Cover Photograph:** Whitewater Canyon and Trout Farm. Bill Havert, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy.

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