

NCCP/HCP History and Timeline

The State's Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP) Act of 1991 provides for the preparation and implementation of large-scale natural conservation plans. The purpose of these plans is to identify and provide for the area-wide protection of natural wildlife diversity, while allowing for compatible and appropriate development and growth. Because of the relatively high concentration of federally protected coastal sage scrub habitat in the City, and the growing intensity of development pressures on these areas, in 1996, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes (City) entered into a Planning Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter referred to as the Wildlife Agencies) to develop an NCCP/HCP subarea plan that will encompass the entire City of RPV. The Palos Verdes subarea, although relatively small in area as compared to other NCCP subareas in Southern California, is unique in that it contains healthy concentrations of coastal sage scrub habitat (approximately 1,000 acres) and a number of coastal sage scrub species which are not found in other Southern California coastal sage scrub communities.

1996: The City enters into a Planning Agreement with the Wildlife Agencies to develop an Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP).

1996 – 2004: The City forms an NCCP/HCP Working Group to design the Preserve configuration and to draft the NCCP/HCP. The Working Group was comprised of major landowner, local government, state and federal agency, and environmental organization representatives, to help guide the subarea NCCP. With guidance and input from the Working Group, the City completed Phase I of the Palos Verdes Peninsula NCCP in 1999. The primary focus of the Phase I effort was to map existing vegetation communities, along with sensitive species distributions and their potential habitat. The City then began Phase II of the NCCP, which involved using the Phase I information to develop preliminary alternative preserve designs.

Three preserve design alternatives were presented to the City Council on December 5, 2000 and March 6, 2001. At that time, the Council authorized Staff to proceed with a biological and economic analysis of the three draft alternatives in order to identify the City's preferred alternative preserve design. However, as a result of the City's efforts to purchase almost 800 acres of privately held open space in the Portuguese Bend portion of the City, the City's preferred preserve alternative (Alternative C) was amended to reflect the proposed land open space acquisition deal, as well as the City Council decision to not include the City's Upper Pt. Vicente property as part of the Long Point Resort project. The revised Alternative C map was presented to the City Council on June 12, 2002, at which time the City Council directed Staff to proceed with completion of the draft NCCP Plan with the new Alternative C as the basis for the plan.

August 2004: The City Council approves the first draft NCCP/HCP and submits it to the Wildlife Agencies for consideration.

2004-2017: Because the Preserve is somewhat conceptual at this point, and because the City has approximately 900 acres to purchase to create the Preserve, The City

and Wildlife Agencies turn their focus to property acquisition. During this time, the City receives approximately \$35 Million in federal, state, and local funding sources to purchase approximately 945 acres that are dedicated to the Preserve. Staff also works to finalize the draft NCCP/HCP based on the new Preserve configuration.

October 2017: The City Council receives an update on the draft NCCP/HCP status, and directs Staff to finalize the NCCP/HCP and bring it before the City Council for final approval.

March 2018: The City Council approves the final draft NCCP/HCP and submits it to the Wildlife Agencies for public review.

October 2018: The draft NCCP/HCP is published in the Federal Register, and the 1st public comment period takes place.

April 2019: 2nd The second public comment period takes place.

October 2019: The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and City respond to public comments and release responses to the public.

October 2019: The City holds a Public Forum on the draft NCCP/HCP to share information and solicit feedback.

November 2019: The City Council approves the draft NCCP/HCP and submits it to USFWS and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for permit decisions.

April 2020: The USFWS issues the City its Section 10 Permit. The City is currently awaiting CDFW permit decisions.