

San Bernardino Associated Governments

**Countywide Habitat  
Preservation/Conservation  
Framework Study**

**For the Environment Element Group  
September 24, 2014**



# PURPOSE

- **SANBAG lead on Countywide Preservation/Conservation Framework Study**
- **SANBAG contracted with Dudek**
- **Emphasis of Scope of Work:**
  - **Exploring more comprehensive approaches to conservation – is project-by-project best?**
  - **Desired outcome – a framework and principles that define path forward**
  - **Scope does not assume specific mechanisms**
  - **Goal is a sustainable environment that can support expected population and economic growth**

# PURPOSE

- **Dudek to conduct Study:**
  - **Documentation of Existing and Past Efforts**
  - **Identification of Data Gaps**
  - **Evaluate potential areas for conservation efforts**
  - **Subarea evaluations**
  - **Create conservation/preservation principles**
  - **Provide next steps analysis**

# WHAT IT IS; WHAT ITS NOT

## ■ **WHAT THIS STUDY INCLUDES:**

- **Documentation of existing conservation efforts**
- **Unbiased evaluation of existing data**
- **Data gap analysis**
- **Evaluation of listed species demographics**
- **Identification of potential sub areas**

## ■ **WHAT THIS STUDY DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- **Creating a Habitat Conservation Plan**
- **Providing analysis of Covered Activities**
- **Identifying lands to be set aside for conservation/preservation**
- **Evaluating each city, town or agency for lands to be set aside**

# WHAT WE HAVE COMPLETED

## ■ Data Collection

- Collected surveys from LAFCO, PDTF, EE Group
- Gathered GIS Data on existing conservation areas and other conservation-related info
- Compiled an Inventory on collected GIS information
- Compiled a GIS Database
- Collected SCAG Information

## ■ Meetings

- Conducted 12 separate meetings/conference calls
- Compiled a Meeting Summary

## ■ Sub Area Analysis

## ■ Drafted Principles

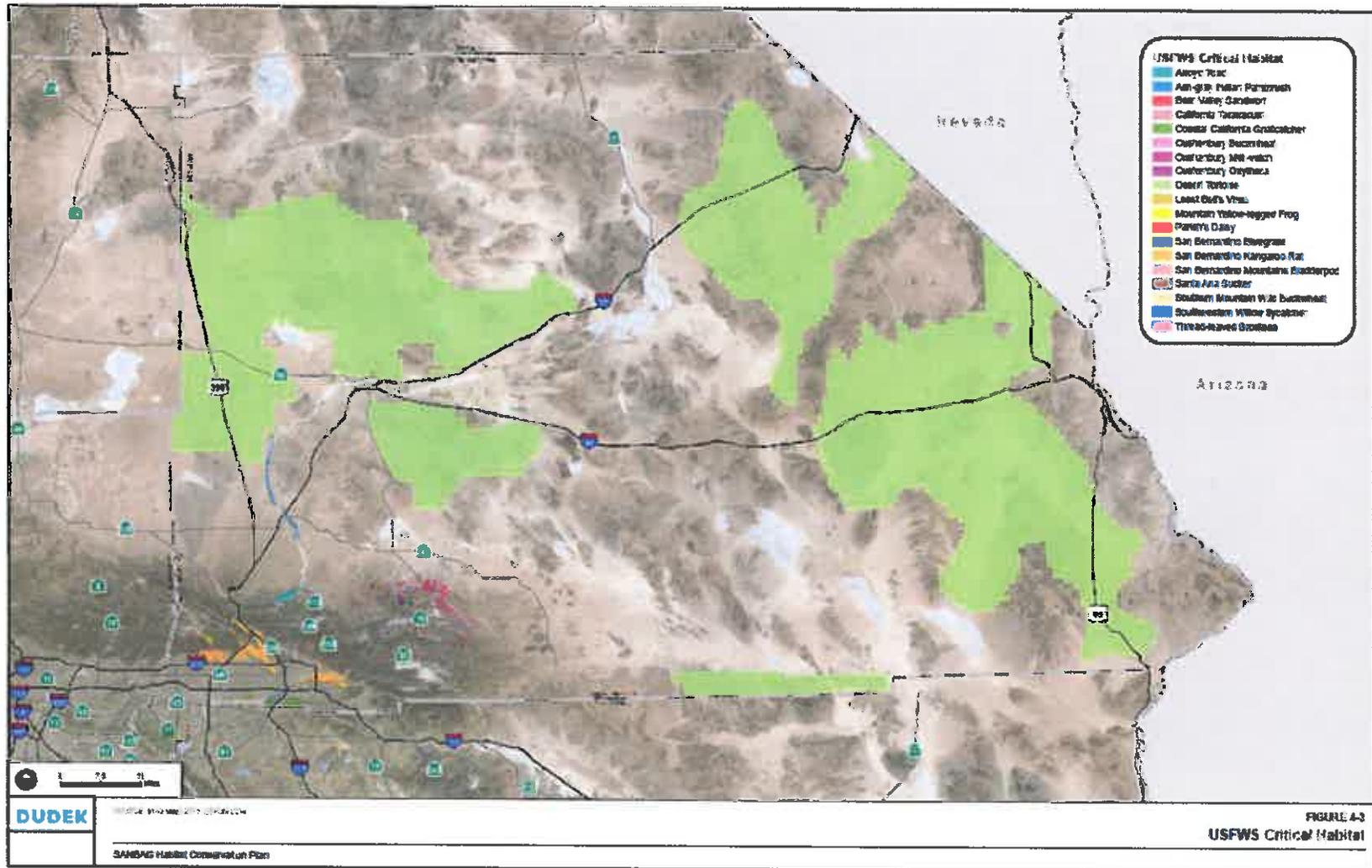
# DATA COLLECTION

- **Data Sources**
  - **Cities, Towns**
  - **County Departments**
  - **Infrastructure Entities**
  - **Environmental Groups/Resource Conservation Districts**
  - **Regulatory Agencies**
  - **BLM & Forest Service**
  - **Others**

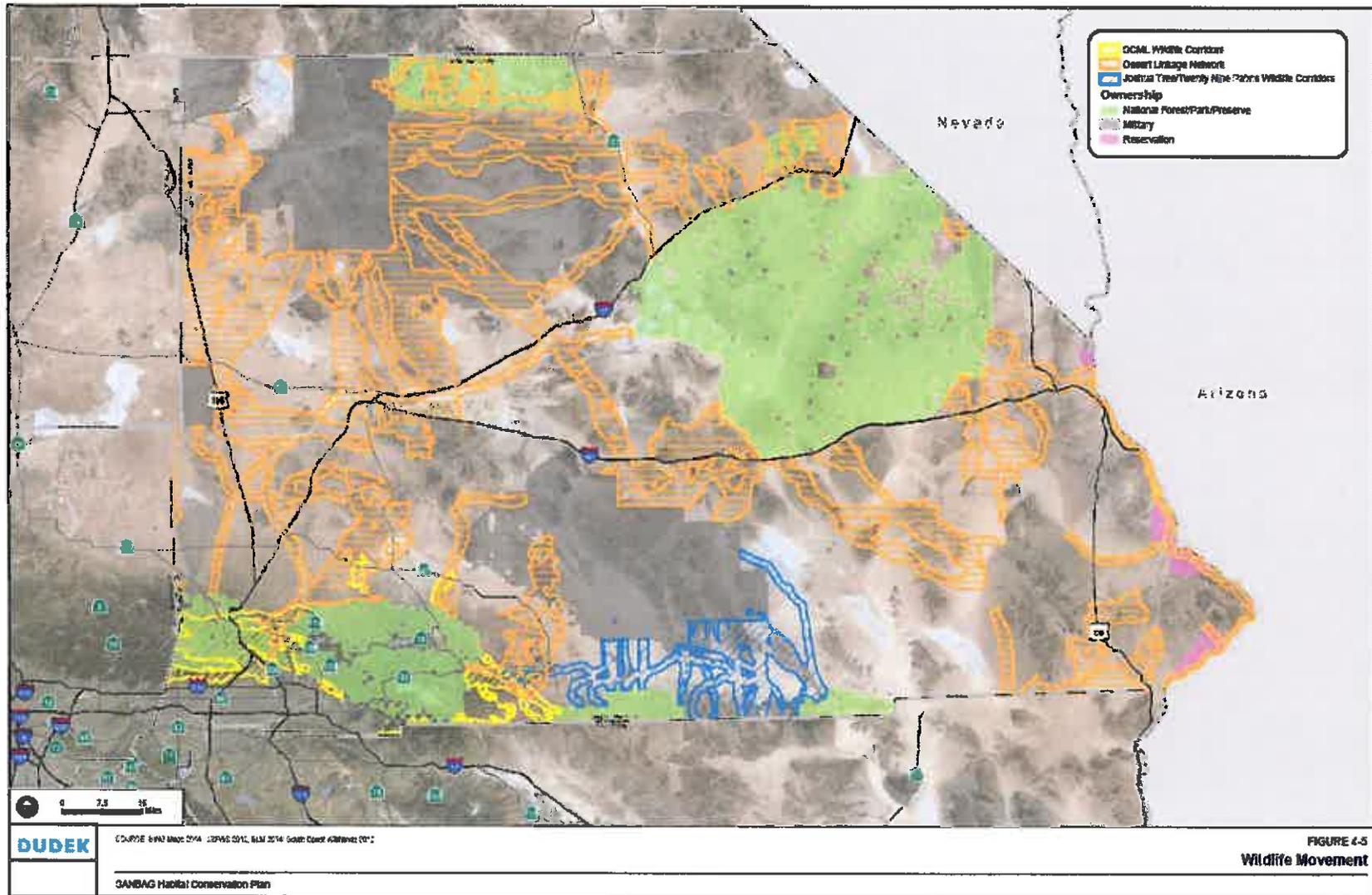
# DATA COLLECTION

- **Data Categories Collected (See Workbook)**
  - Existing HCP info
  - Areas of existing conservation lands (easements, fee title)
  - Areas of open spaces
  - Wildlife movement data
  - Hillside Ordinances
  - General Plan/Land Use Data
  - Planned large developments

# Critical Habitat Designations



# Wildlife Movement



# MEETINGS SUMMARY

Entity	Category	Contact Person	In person Mtg	Phone	Email
Adelanto	City	Merk de Manincor		5/21/2014 760-246-2300 X3001	<a href="mailto:mdeamanincor@ci.adelanto.ca.us">mdeamanincor@ci.adelanto.ca.us</a>
Barstow	City	Jennifer Riley		5/21/2014 760-255-5153	<a href="mailto:jriley@barstowca.org">jriley@barstowca.org</a>
Big Bear Lake	City	Jim Miller		5/21/2014 909-633-2391	<a href="mailto:miller@citybigbearlake.com">miller@citybigbearlake.com</a>
Chino	City				
Chino Hills	City	Joann Lombardo	6/3/2014 by Phone	909 364 2741	<a href="mailto:jlombardo@chinhills.org">jlombardo@chinhills.org</a>
Colton	City	Mark Tomlich		5/28/2014 909-370-5185	<a href="mailto:mtomlich@ci.colton.ca.us">mtomlich@ci.colton.ca.us</a>
Fontana	City	Shannon Casey		5/29/2014 909-350-7608	<a href="mailto:scasey@fontana.org">scasey@fontana.org</a>
Grand Terrace	City				
Hesperia	City	David Reno	6/2/2014 by phone	760-947-1253	<a href="mailto:dreno@cityofhesperia.us">dreno@cityofhesperia.us</a>
Highland	City	Larry (Lawrence) Mainz		5/28/2014 909-864-6861	<a href="mailto:lmainz@cityofhighland.org">lmainz@cityofhighland.org</a>
Loma Linda	City				
Montclair	City				
Needles	City				
Ontario	City	Richard Ayala		5/29/2014 909-395-2421	<a href="mailto:rayala@ontario.ca.us">rayala@ontario.ca.us</a>
Rancho Cucamonga	City	Tom Grahn		5/29/2014 909-477-2750	<a href="mailto:tom_grahn@ci.rrwc.ca.us">tom_grahn@ci.rrwc.ca.us</a>
Redlands	City	Katani Paltoa		5/28/2014 909-987-7555	<a href="mailto:kpaltoa@ci.vofredlands.org">kpaltoa@ci.vofredlands.org</a>
Rialto	City				
San Bernardino	City				
Twentynine Palms	City				
Upland	City				
Victorville	City	Michael Szarynski		5/21/2014 760-955-5135	<a href="mailto:m.szarynski@ci.victorville.ca.us">m.szarynski@ci.victorville.ca.us</a>
Yucaipa	City	Joe Lambert		5/28/2014 909-797-2489	<a href="mailto:jlambert@ci.yucaipa.org">jlambert@ci.yucaipa.org</a>
Apple Valley	Town	Lori Lamson		5/21/2014 760-240-7000 X7204	<a href="mailto:llamson@applevalley.org">llamson@applevalley.org</a>
Yuca Valley	Town	Shane Stueckle		5/21/2014	<a href="mailto:stueckle@yuca-valley.org">stueckle@yuca-valley.org</a>
County Land Use Services	County	Gia Kim		5/29/2014 909-252-5105	<a href="mailto:gkim@ci.sbccounty.gov">gkim@ci.sbccounty.gov</a>
County Land Use Services	County	Terri Rahhal		5/29/2014 909-387-4518	<a href="mailto:terri.rahhal@ci.sbccounty.gov">terri.rahhal@ci.sbccounty.gov</a>
County Land Use Services	County	George Kenline		5/29/2014 909-387-4105	<a href="mailto:george.kenline@ci.sbccounty.gov">george.kenline@ci.sbccounty.gov</a>
County Land Use Services	County	Tom Hudson		5/29/2014 909-252-5105	<a href="mailto:tom.hudson@ci.sbccounty.gov">tom.hudson@ci.sbccounty.gov</a>
County Public Works - Transportation	County	Menat Mikhail		5/29/2014 909-387-7940	<a href="mailto:menat.mikhail@ci.sbccounty.gov">menat.mikhail@ci.sbccounty.gov</a>
County Public Works	County	Gerry Newcombe		5/29/2014 909-387-7906	<a href="mailto:gnewcombe@ci.sbccounty.gov">gnewcombe@ci.sbccounty.gov</a>
County Public Works	County	Kevin Bakeslee		5/29/2014 909-387-7919	<a href="mailto:kbakeslee@ci.sbccounty.gov">kbakeslee@ci.sbccounty.gov</a>
County Special Districts	County	Jeff Rigney		5/29/2014 909-387-5967	<a href="mailto:jrigney@ci.sbccounty.gov">jrigney@ci.sbccounty.gov</a>
SCE	Infrastructure				
So Cal Gas	Infrastructure	Justin Meyer	7/16/14 by Phone	714-634-5015	
San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District	Infrastructure	Daniel Cozad		7/24/2014 909-793-2503	<a href="mailto:dcozad@sbwcd.com">dcozad@sbwcd.com</a>
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District	Infrastructure	Douglas Headrick		7/24/2014 909-387-9226	<a href="mailto:dheadrick@sbwmwd.com">dheadrick@sbwmwd.com</a>
US FWS	Regulatory	Karin Cleary-Rose		6/11/2014	<a href="mailto:karin_cleary-rose@usfws.gov">karin_cleary-rose@usfws.gov</a>
CDFW	Regulatory	Leslie MacNair		6/11/2014	<a href="mailto:leslie@ci.dfw.gov">leslie@ci.dfw.gov</a>
BLM	Federal Governmant	Terri Rami, Russell Schofield	8/6/2014 by Phone	951-697-5203	<a href="mailto:trami@blm.gov">trami@blm.gov</a>
US Forest Service	Federal Governemnt	Scott Eliason	5/27/2014 by phone	909-382-2830	<a href="mailto:seliason@fs.fed.us">seliason@fs.fed.us</a>
Inland Empire Resource Conservation District	RCD	Mandy Parkes		8/19/2014	<a href="mailto:mparkes@iercd.org">mparkes@iercd.org</a>

# INSIGHTS FROM MEETINGS

- **There are some HCPs already underway or being prepared**
- **Some jurisdictions do not see major need for large-scale ESA permitting based on their development plans**
- **A number of jurisdictions have Hillside Ordinances that will in effect create conservation areas**
- **A number of jurisdictions, including County, have General Plan policies that call for setting aside open space**

# INSIGHTS FROM MEETINGS

- **The “edge” cities like Highland and Yucaipa, have large-scale development projects that are setting aside open space as part of the entitlement process**
- **Some jurisdictions prefer using existing conservation-entities such as the IERCD**
- **Some High Desert jurisdictions had bad experiences before, not interested in repeating them**
- **CSA 120 is an interesting case study**

# INSIGHTS FROM MEETINGS

- **Wildlife Agencies want to see connected and comprehensive approach to conservation in County**
- **DRECP will create framework for future ESA permitting processes that could help jurisdictions in the future**
- **The County has proactively approached their ESA permitting needs by starting the programmatic permitting process with Regulatory Agencies**
- **County does not have large-scale transportation projects that would need ESA permits**

# INSIGHTS FROM MEETINGS

- **There are lands already conserved in County**
- **There are areas that can be looked at more closely for protection in the “urban areas”**
- **Good models for how conservation planning is and has worked in County**
- **Long term management of conservation lands needs to be looked at**
- **Agencies prefer comprehensive solutions vs. individual solutions**

# SUB AREA ANALYSIS

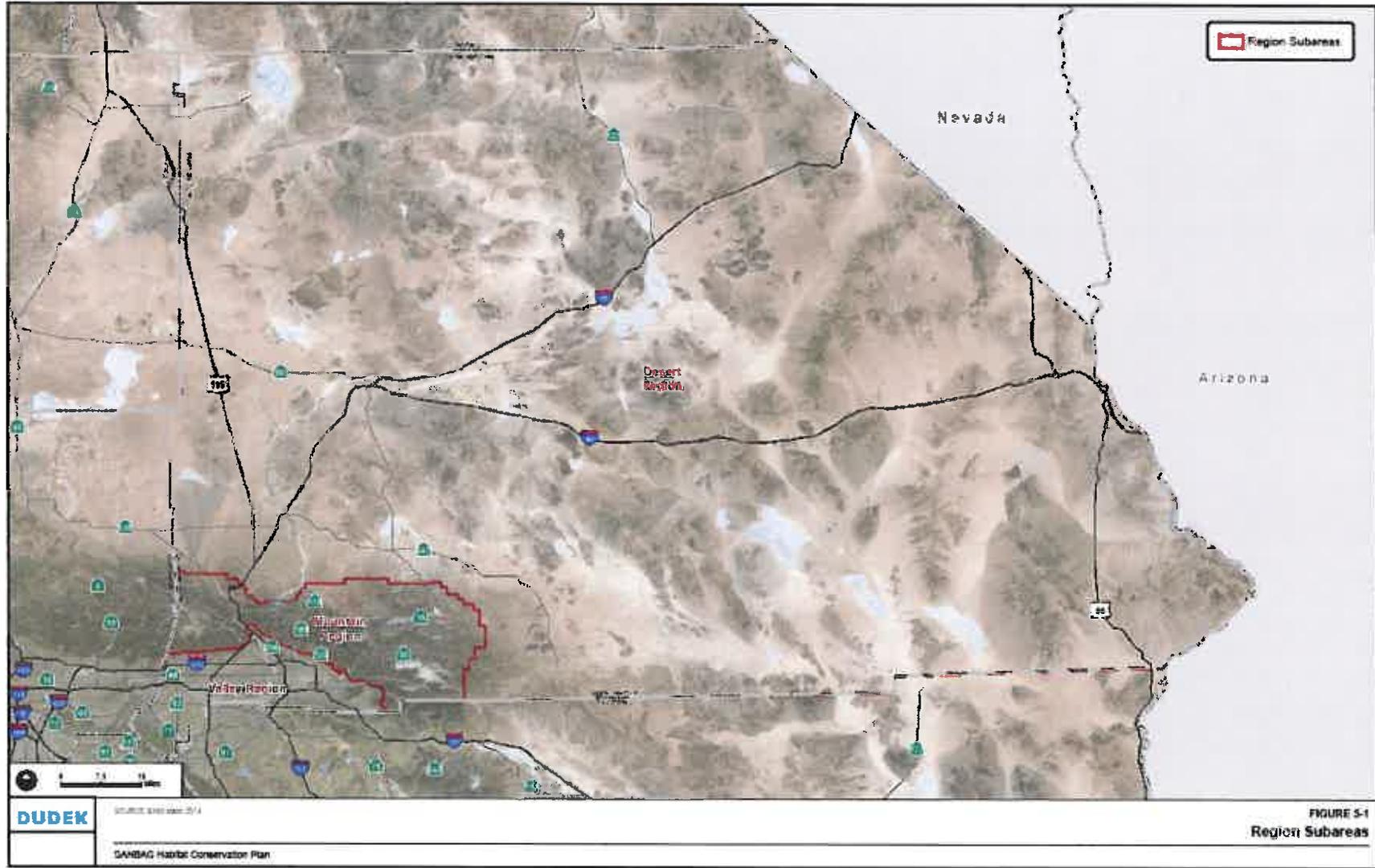
## ■ Potential Sub Area Approaches

- **Biogeographic**
  - **Regions (i.e. Valley, Mountains, Desert)**
  - **Ecoregions (i.e USDA ecoregions – San Gorgonio Mtns, San Gabriel Mtns)**
- **Hydrologic**
  - **Watersheds**
- **Jurisdictional**
  - **Cities, Towns, County**

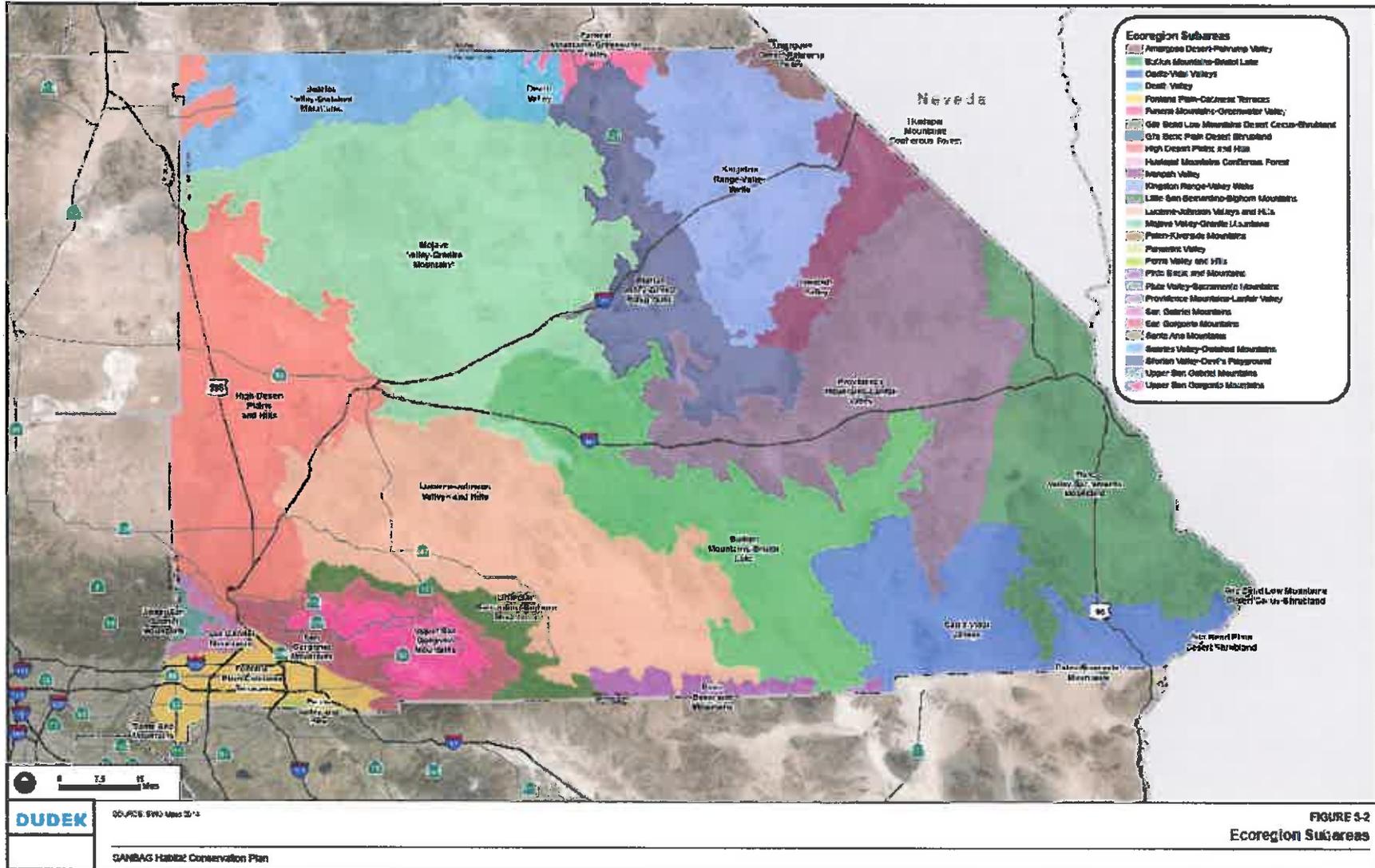
## ■ Criteria for Evaluation

- **Usefulness**
- **Practicality**

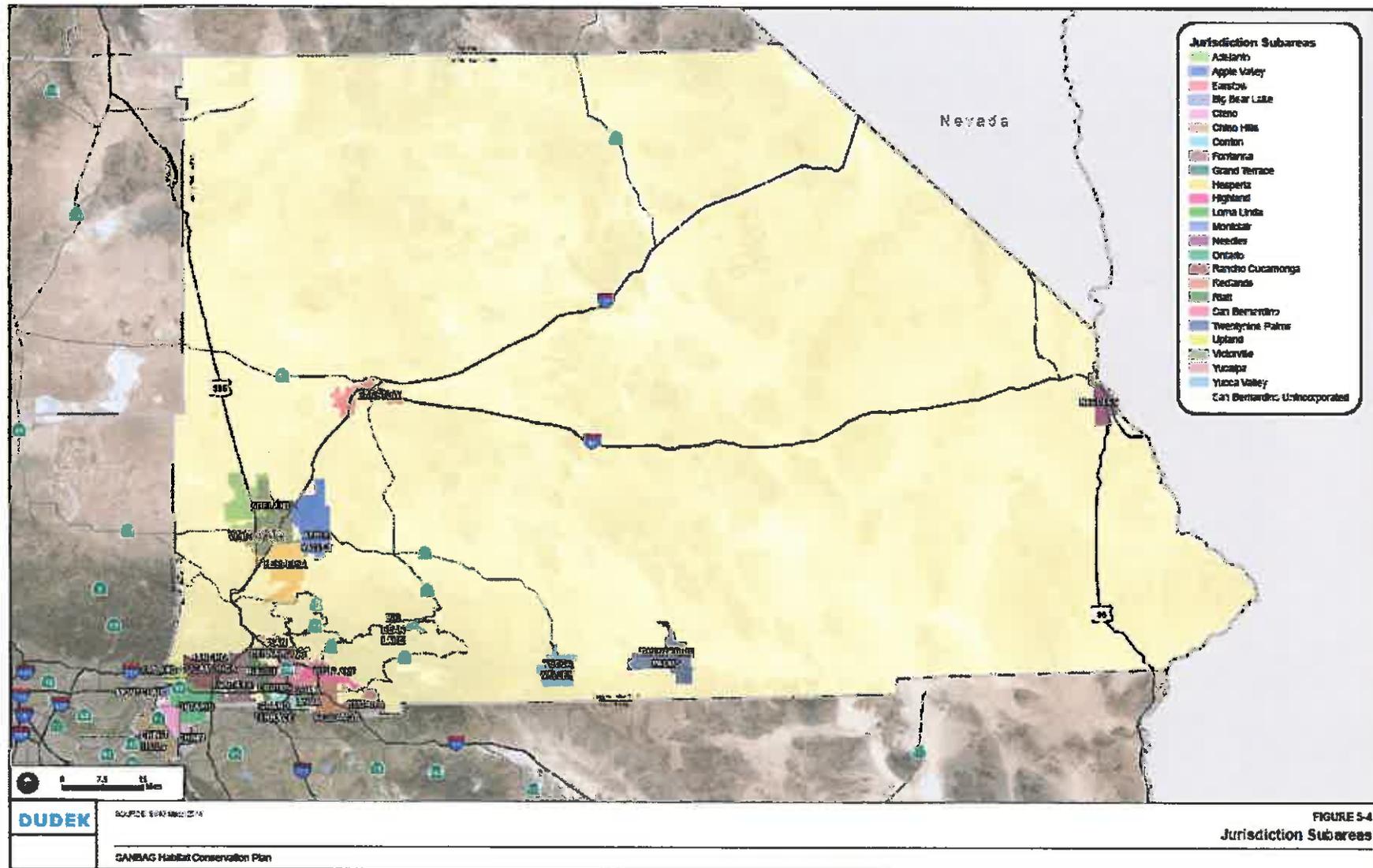
# Regions



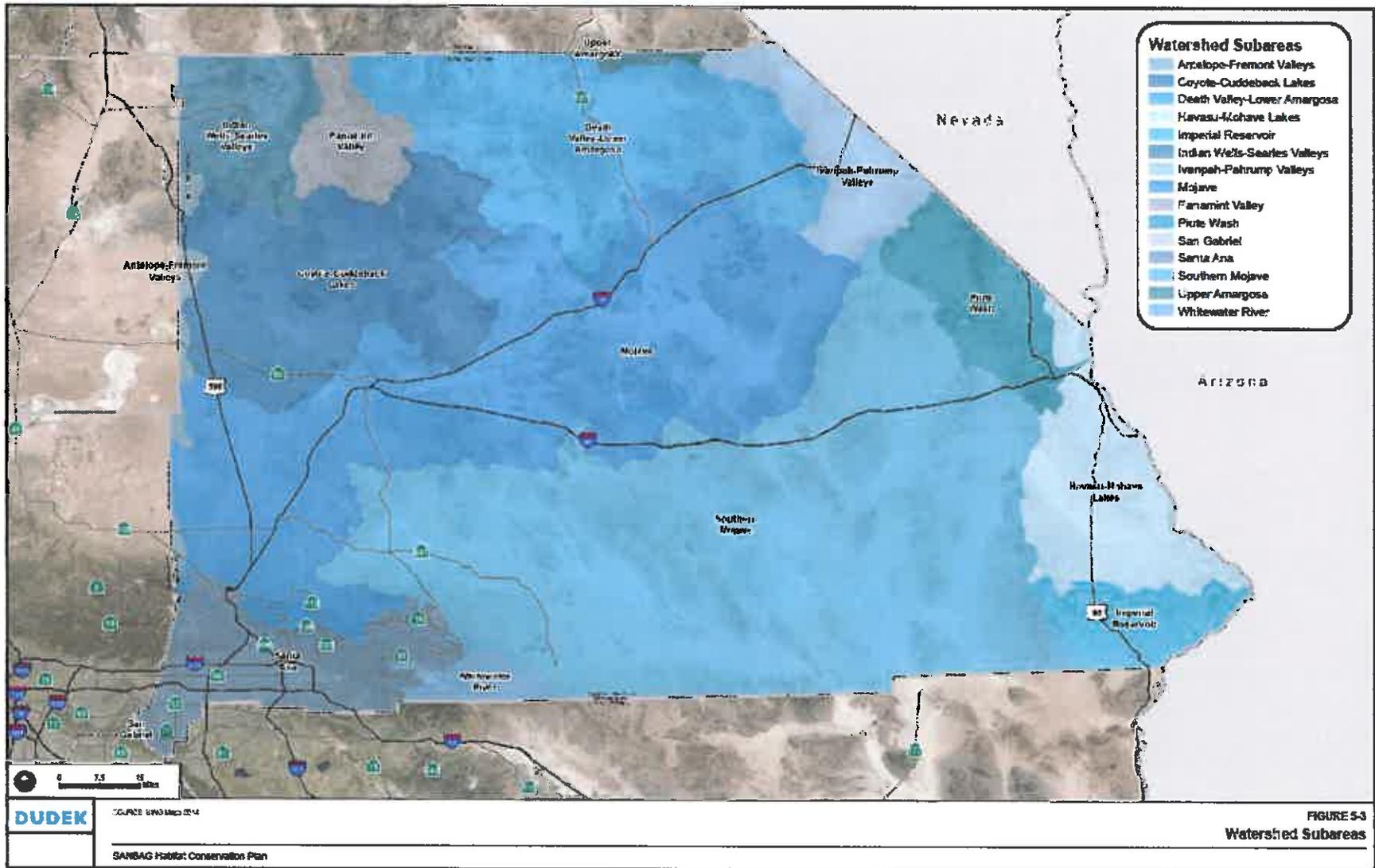
# Ecoregions



# Jurisdictions



# Watersheds



# SUB AREA ANALYSIS

- **Subareas by Regions is favorable**
  - **Regions are logical geographic units that reflect landscape-level biogeographic and physical zones**
  - **Regions were used as structural/organizational unit for San Bernardino County General Plan**
  - **Regions generally align with coarse-level land ownership and ownership and use patterns**
  - **Regions have manageable number of geographic units**
  - **Regions will have similar habitats and species**
- **Hybrids of Regional Subareas**
  - **Eco-regions**
  - **Regional-jurisdictional**

# DRAFT POLICY PRINCIPLES

**Principle 1: Increase certainty for both the preservation/conservation of habitat as well as for land development and infrastructure permitting.**

**Principle 2: Recognize that San Bernardino County needs to have a growing economy to be able to afford the acquisition and ongoing management of habitat. Conservation efforts should complement the managed growth, economic development and population growth anticipated by SCAG.**

**Principle 3: Institutional structures to promote habitat acquisition and management should be designed to leverage private funding, easements, public funding, and other mechanisms to maximize the protection of habitat and associated species.**

**Principle 4: Conservation planning efforts should be led by an institutional structure that can provide champions to keep the process moving in a transparent, productive and timely manner.**

# DRAFT POLICY PRINCIPLES

**Principle 5: Recognize that participating in a more comprehensive approach to conservation planning will be voluntary, but that participating in the more comprehensive approach will provide benefits for most of those participating.**

**Principle 6: Leverage existing conservation efforts.**

**Principle 7: Match potential tools for conservation with unique conservation and development needs within specific sub areas.**

**Principle 8: Consider conservation planning strategies that go outside the County boundaries if needed.**

# DRAFT BIOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES

**Principle 9. Recognize San Bernardino County is biologically diverse.**

**Principle 10. Invest in the Science of Conservation Planning.**

**Principle 11. The identification of conservation areas should incorporate scientifically-accepted tenets of conservation biology.**

**Principle 12: Consider species that are listed as well as those that may be listed in the future.**

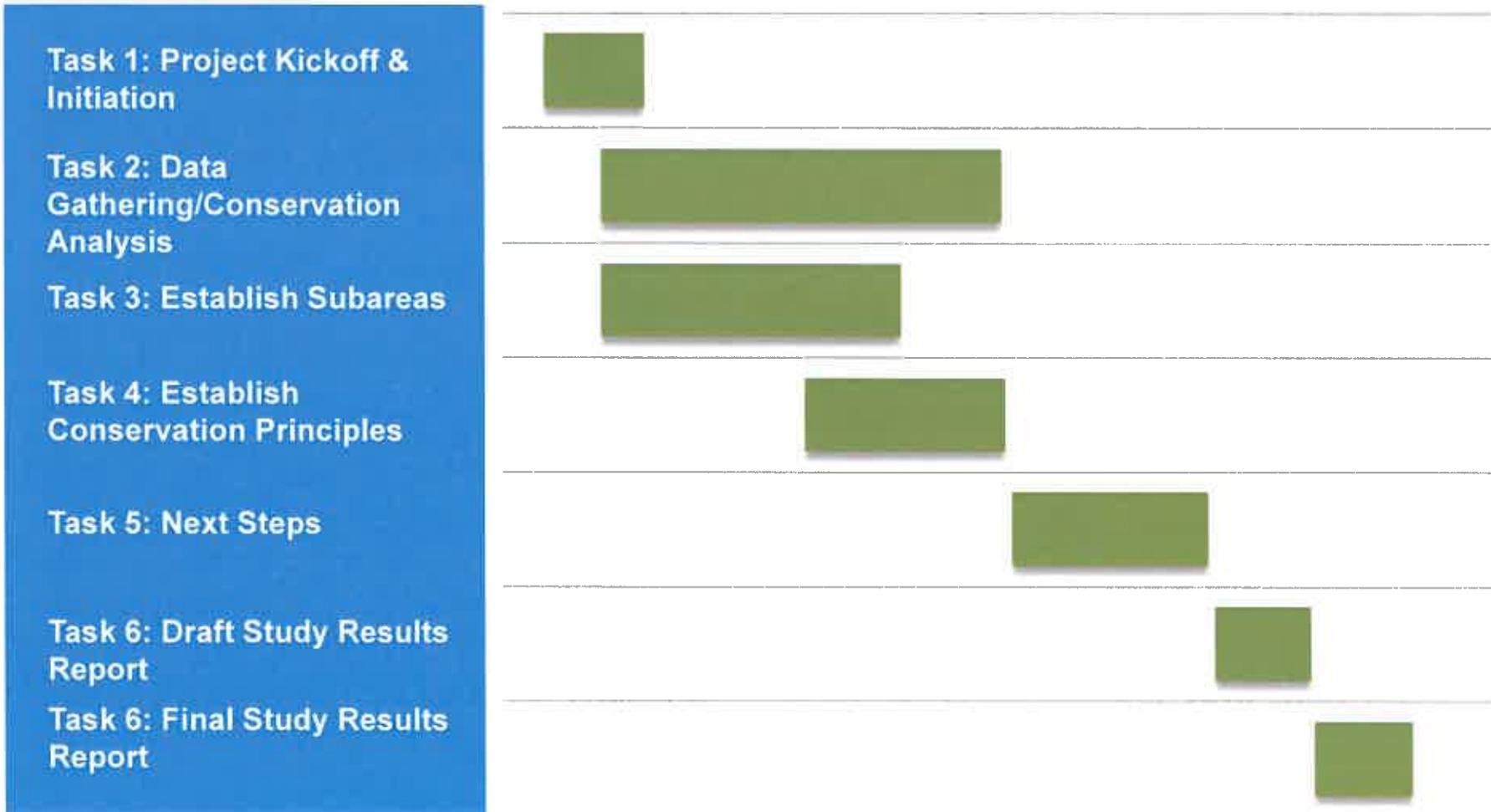
**Principle 13: Identify mechanism for long term, sustainable, management and monitoring.**

**Principle 14: Balance public access with conservation needs.**

**Principle 15. Conservation objectives in San Bernardino County can be achieved through a variety of conservation strategies.**

# PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Apr-14 May-14 Jun-14 Jul-14 Aug-14 Sep-14 Oct-14 Nov-14 Dec-14 Jan-15



# NEXT STEPS

- **Dudek to gather GIS data from SCAG and evaluate**
- **Consider discussion today**
- **Finalize Principles and rest of analysis**
- **Prepare Draft Report**
- **EE Group review November 2014**

**Questions?**

**Questions**