

# Los Angeles District

## Standard Operating Procedure for Evaluation of Proposed Compensatory Mitigation Sites

August 2016

(12512.2-SPL – An attachment to  
12512-SPL – Current to August 2016)

(See 12512-SPL for Revisions Sheet)



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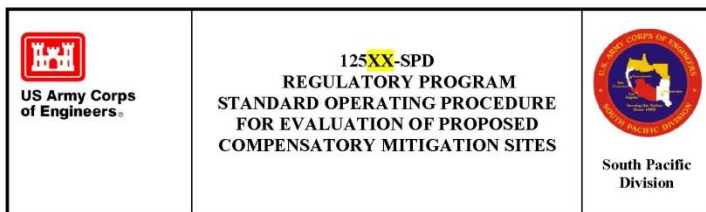


# Summary

- **General details**
- **List of documents**
- **Procedure: flow chart**
- **Checklist**
- **Instructions**
- **Examples**
- **FAQ's**
- **(Updates: list of changes - none yet)**
- **POC's**



# SOP for Evaluation of Proposed Compensatory Mitigation Sites



## REVISIONS SHEET

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
0	MM.DD.2014	Initial Version	

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**1.0 Purpose.** The purpose of this document is to outline the process for evaluating compensatory mitigation sites as required for processing of Department of the Army (DA) permits, mitigation bank prospectuses, and in lieu fee (ILF) mitigation plans under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act.

**2.0 Applicability.** This process applies to the Regulatory Program within South Pacific Division (SPD), including its four subordinate districts, Albuquerque District (SPA), Sacramento District (SPK), Los Angeles District (SPL), and San Francisco District (SPN). Subordinate offices or organizations shall not modify this procedure to form a specific procedure. This

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procedure is applicable for all "new" (i.e., not requests to re-verify or modify previously-issued permits) permit applications, preconstruction notifications (PCNs), mitigation bank prospectuses, and in lieu fee (ILF) mitigation plans received after DD Month 2014. For NWP re-verification requests where the compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist ("checklist") was not completed previously, use of the checklist is required in order to ensure adequacy of compensatory mitigation proposals, to ensure compliance with the 2008 Mitigation Rule (33 CFR Part 332), and to comply with this new QMS procedure designed to ensure compensatory mitigation is sufficient to offset authorized impacts. For individual permits (SIP and LOP) and bank prospectuses, if the original application or prospectus predates this QMS procedure (effective DD Month 2014), the checklist would not be required for subsequent modification requests (time extension or activity modifications), unless the requested modification includes a proposal for an alternative compensatory mitigation site(s). Similarly, for ILF mitigation plans, if the original plan submittal predates this QMS procedure, the checklist would not be required. In addition, in cases where compensatory mitigation has already been constructed or where the applicant can otherwise fully demonstrate substantial resources have been expended or committed in reliance on previous guidance governing compensatory mitigation for DA permits, the checklist would not be required.

### 3.0 References.

Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources (33 C.F.R. Part 332).

### 4.0 Related Procedures.

SPD QMS No. 12501. SOP for Determination of Mitigation Ratios

SPD QMS No. 12505 Uniform Performance Standards for Compensatory Mitigation Requirements

### 5.0 Definitions.

**Buffer** - An upland, wetland, and/or riparian area that protects and/or enhances aquatic resource functions associated with wetlands, rivers, streams, lakes, marine and estuarine systems from disturbances associated with adjacent land uses.

**Compensatory mitigation** - The restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), enhancement, and/or in certain circumstances preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

**Condition** - The relative ability of an aquatic resource to support and maintain a community of organisms having a species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to reference aquatic resources in the region.

**Enhancement** - The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s).

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# **SOP for Evaluation of Proposed Compensatory Mitigation Sites**

- **Completed February 06, 2015, by regional PDT (2 year effort)**
- **Implemented in 2016 by SPL as a 2 year pilot project**
- **Benefits:**
  - **Assists project managers in implementing a watershed approach when evaluating mitigation proposals.**
  - **Selection of more ecologically successful compensatory mitigation sites.**
  - **Provides structured decision-making procedure while retaining flexibility.**
  - **Results in a written rationale (decision document) for determinations regarding the appropriateness of the proposed compensatory mitigation activities for the site(s) in question.**
  - **Includes guidance for each step of checklist.**

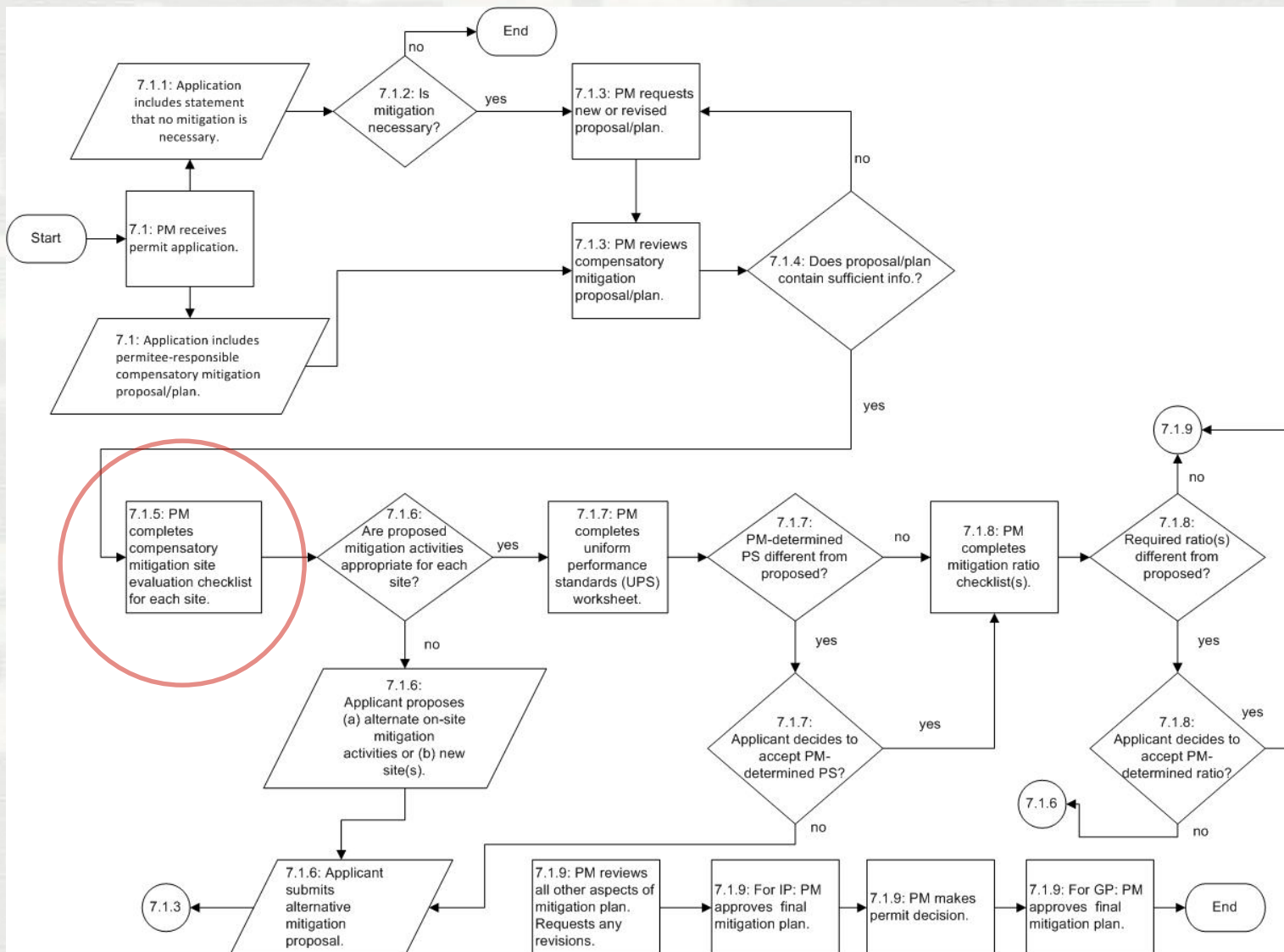


# Procedure Components

- **Procedure consists of:**
  - **1 Flowchart**
  - **3 Attachments**
    - ✓ **1. Compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist**
    - ✓ **2. Training presentation**
    - ✓ **3. Examples**



# Flow Chart



# Attachment 1 (steps 1-2)

## Compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist

draft – 20141020

Attachment 125XX-1 – Compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist. |

1	Date:	Corps file no.:	Project name:	Project Manager:
			Column A:	Column B: Column C:
2.a	Mitigation site name:			
	Location figure(s):			
2.b	Mitigation objective(s) to improve:			
2.c	Proposed Mitigation method:			
	If enhancement, list function(s) to be increased:			
	Function 1:			
	Function 2 (if applicable):			
	Function 3 (if applicable):			
2.d	Primary type(s) of site treatment:			
2.e	Aquatic resource type ( <u>Cowardin system</u> ):			
2.f	Hydrology:			
2.g	FCAM classification used:			
	FCAM Subclass(es):			
2.h	Vegetation classification system used:			
	Vegetation class(es)/subclass(s):			
2.i	Vernacular/common name of proposed type of aquatic resource, if appropriate:			

Can be a proposed PRM, bank, or ILF mitigation site.

Cite and attach figures for each mitigation site.

Use a separate column for each mitigation site/method (i.e., each geographically separate site needs to be evaluated in its own column). Similarly, two adjacent sites with different mitigation methods should be evaluated in separate columns.

Objectives:  
habitat conservation/biodiversity; water storage/flow attenuation; water quality; target population of special status biota; specific aquatic resource function(s); other:

2.e = **proposed** aquatic resource type

2.f: see SPD compensatory mitigation and monitoring guidelines for hydrology types

Site treatment types:  
Introduction of plant materials; invasive species control; hydrological manipulation; topographic/substrate manipulation





# Attachment 1 (step 3)

## Compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist

3	<b>Watershed Planning and Prioritization</b>  a. Are mitigation proposal objectives aligned with the objective(s) of one or more appropriate watershed plans?	Enter: <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no/ <input type="checkbox"/> N/A  Relevant watershed plan objective(s):  _____  _____  Cite watershed plan(s), including title, preparer, and date:  _____  _____  Cite applicable parts of plan(s) (by page number):  _____  _____	Enter: <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> N/A  Relevant watershed plan objective(s):  _____  _____  Cite watershed plan(s), including title, preparer, and date:  _____  _____  Cite applicable parts of plan(s) (by page number):  _____  _____	Enter: <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> N/A  Relevant watershed plan objective(s):  _____  _____  Cite watershed plan(s), including title, preparer, and date:  _____  _____  Cite applicable parts of plan(s) (by page number):  _____  _____
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When is a watershed plan appropriate? See next slide.

Check "N/A" if an appropriate watershed plan is not available.

If multiple watershed plans:  
 -do all meet "appropriate" criteria?  
 -do any conflicts pertain to checklist steps?  
 -use best professional judgment when determining what information and/or recommendations are applicable and explain rationale (cite in checklist and attach).

Example watershed plans:  
 SAMP  
 ADID  
 State Section 319 funded/generated Watershed and Wetland Action Plans  
 USFS Watershed Condition Assessment Framework and Watershed Action Plans



# Watershed Plans

- From Mitigation Rule 33 CFR 332.2, “watershed plan: means:
  - A plan developed by federal, tribal, state, and/ or local government agencies or appropriate non-governmental organizations, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, **for the specific goal of aquatic resource restoration, establishment, enhancement, and preservation.**
  - A watershed plan addresses aquatic resource conditions in the watershed, multiple stakeholder interests, and land uses.
  - Watershed plans may also identify priority sites for aquatic resource restoration and protection.
  - Examples of watershed plans include special area management plans, advance identification programs, and wetland management plans.
- A watershed plan may be “appropriate” if it:
  - Meets criteria from Mitigation Rule definition (above).
  - Addresses watershed profile (see FAQs).
  - Addresses existing and desired ecological functions and services of aquatic resources throughout watershed.
  - Establishes priorities and/or recommendations for aquatic resource restoration (in a general sense of the term) in terms of location, habitat types, etc.
  - Is relatively recent (finalized within last 5-10 years).
  - The more of the above criteria that apply, the better the case for an "appropriate" watershed plan.



# Attachment 1 (step 4)

## Compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist

4	<b>Watershed Analysis, Landscape Connectivity</b>			
	a. Would the type of aquatic resource proposed for mitigation help sustain and improve the overall watershed profile of the watershed?	Enter: <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	Enter: <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	Checklist is designed as series of yes/no questions. Wording can be slightly confusing: a "yes" means the site is acceptable for that particular step or sub-step.
	b. Following project completion, would the site connect to existing stream network and/or wetlands complex such that the site would not be ecologically isolated?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no What is a watershed profile? See FAQs.		<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no
	c. Would the site reduce gap(s) in stream network and/or wetlands complex?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no Overall step acceptable? <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no PM justification:	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no Overall step acceptable? <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no PM justification:	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no Overall step acceptable? <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no PM justification:
	Justification required for each step. Cite and attach extra sheets if additional space needed.	For each step, an overall "yes" or "no" must be checked for each column used.		

# Attachment 1 (step 5a)

## Compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist

<p>5a Site Potential for Proposed Method of Mitigation</p> <p><u>Is establishment or re-establishment proposed?</u> If yes, complete 5a(a-d). If not, skip to step 5b.</p> <p>a. The site is not an aquatic resource.</p> <p>b. The site is not high quality terrestrial habitat (e.g., natural land cover with few observed stressors)</p> <p>c. The site is in close proximity to an aquatic resource in good functional condition. <i>For proximal site, consider FCAM scores.</i></p> <p>d. For re-establishment, is there evidence the type of proposed aquatic resource was present historically on site?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p>Overall step acceptable? <input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p>PM justification:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p>Overall step acceptable? <input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p>PM justification:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p>Overall step acceptable? <input type="checkbox"/> <b>yes</b> / <input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b></p> <p>PM justification:</p>
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5a, 5b, and 5c depend on the mitigation method proposed in each column (i.e., only use one step, 5a, 5b, or 5c, per column).



# Attachment 1 (step 5b)

## Compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist

<p>5b Site Potential for Proposed Method of Mitigation</p> <p><u>Is rehabilitation or enhancement proposed?</u>  <u>If yes, complete 5b(a-d). If not, skip to step 5c.</u></p> <p>a. The site is a degraded aquatic resource.</p> <p>b. For rehabilitation, would increase most, if not all, functions.</p> <p>c. The site has stressors/impacts that can be remedied in a practicable manner via proposed actions (see 2.d). Complete <i>Table 1</i> below.</p> <p>d. For enhancement, mitigation work at the site will not change the type of aquatic resource or degrade its functioning and condition.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>Overall step acceptable?  <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>PM justification:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>Overall step acceptable?  <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>PM justification:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>Overall step acceptable?  <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>PM justification:</p>
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If the site is expected to attain good ecological condition (integrity) relative to reference sites, then it is likely increasing most functions.

See Table 1 at end of checklist

“change” means conversion to undesired land cover type with respect to watershed profile, watershed plans, watershed needs etc.





# Attachment 1 (step 5c)

## Compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist

5c	Site Potential for Proposed Method of Mitigation	5c(a-f) correspond to Mitigation Rule: 332.3(h)(1)(i-v)		
	Is preservation proposed? If yes, complete 5c(a-f). If not, skip to step 6.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no
	a. Does preservation of the proposed aquatic resources provide important physical, chemical, or biological functions for the watershed? <i>Attach FCAM scores, if available.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no
	b. The aquatic resources to be preserved contribute significantly to the ecological sustainability of the watershed.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no
	c. Preservation is determined by the district engineer to be appropriate and practicable.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no
	d. The resources are under threat of destruction or adverse modifications.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no
	e. Proposed preservation would be done in conjunction with aquatic resource restoration, establishment, and/or enhancement activities.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no
	f. The preserved site will be permanently protected through an appropriate real estate or other legal instrument (e.g., easement, title transfer to state resource agency or land trust).	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no
	Overall step acceptable?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no
	PM justification:			

5c(a-f) correspond to Mitigation Rule: 332.3(h)(1)(i-v)

This question is focused on the benefits of preservation to current landscape functions.

This question is focused on the benefits of preservation to sustain landscape function in light of future change e.g., land development, climate change.

# Attachment 1 (step 6)

## Compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist

<p>6 Site Potential for Sustained Ecological Performance over Time</p> <p>a. Does site have natural buffer of suitable width to attain mitigation objectives listed in step 2.b above?</p> <p>b. Does site have appropriate hydrology (as demonstrated by a water budget) to meet proposed mitigation site criteria listed in step 2 above?</p> <p>c. Does site have appropriate soils to meet proposed mitigation site criteria listed in step 2 above?</p> <p>d. Is site free of known contaminants?</p> <p>Overall step acceptable? <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>PM justification:</p>	<p>Enter:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>Overall step acceptable? <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>PM justification:</p>	<p>Enter:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>Overall step acceptable? <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>PM justification:</p>	<p>Enter:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>Overall step acceptable? <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>PM justification:</p>
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See next slide for buffer width info.

If mitigation plan/proposal does not include a water budget, one should be requested.

How can a PM determine this? Check delineations submitted for nearby sites and note typical wetland/stream soils. Review other available soil data.

1<sup>st</sup>: Has applicant stated site is free of contaminants?  
 2<sup>nd</sup>: Request applicant search available databases to see if contaminated site(s) nearby (for example, CA-DTSC Enviroster database).  
 3<sup>rd</sup>: For sites with high probability of contamination, request applicant prepare a Phase 1 environmental site assessment.

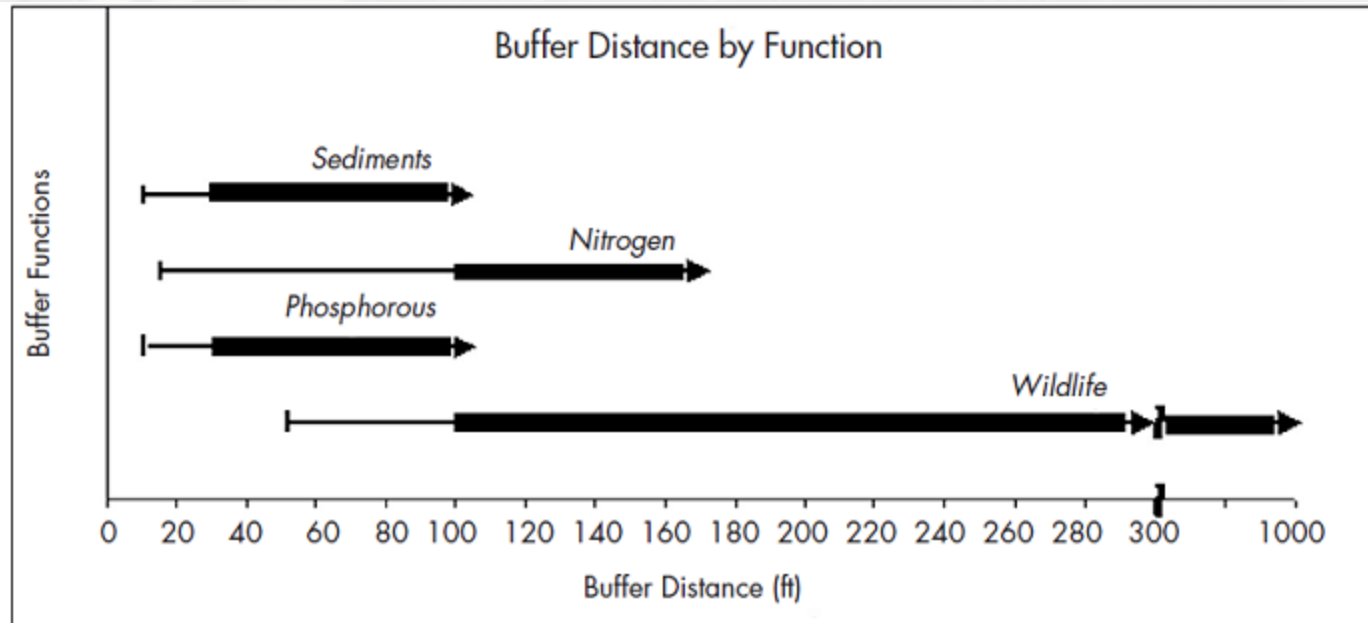


# Buffer Width

Excerpt from:

Nichols, Sandra S.; McElfish, James M. Jr; and Kihlsinger, Rebecca L., "Planner's guide to wetland buffers for local governments" (2008). Environmental Sustainability Publications. Paper 857.

[http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tles\\_publications/857](http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tles_publications/857)



*Effective buffer distance for water quality and wildlife protection functions. The thin arrow represents the range of potentially effective buffer distances for each function as suggested in the science literature. The thick bar represents the buffer distances that may most effectively accomplish each function (30 - > 100 feet for sediment and phosphorous removal; 100 - > 160 feet for nitrogen removal; and 100 - > 300 feet for wildlife protection. Depending on the species and the habitat characteristics, effective buffer distances for wildlife protection may be either small or large.*



# Attachment 1 (step 7)

## Compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist

<p>7 <b>Risk and Uncertainty</b></p> <p>a. Would all existing and anticipated stressors from Table 1 be resolved and therefore unlikely to jeopardize the mitigation proposal?</p> <p>b. Does proposed site include necessary water rights, as necessary, to ensure hydrology?</p> <p>c. Would the proposed mitigation be free of structures which would require on-going maintenance and incompatible uses (for example, on-going requirement to maintain channel capacity)?</p> <p>d. Do local planning documents/policies envision the surrounding natural landscape as open space such that landscape-scale connectivity would be maintained or improved (in other words, no zoning changes or planned development are anticipated which would pose a barrier to natural drainage and the movement of wildlife )?</p>	<p>Enter:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>List <i>unresolved</i> existing and/or anticipated stressor(s) and describe magnitude of effect:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>Overall step acceptable?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>PM justification:</p>	<p>Enter:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>List <i>unresolved</i> existing and/or anticipated stressor(s) and describe magnitude of effect:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>Overall step acceptable?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>PM justification:</p>	<p>Enter:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>List <i>unresolved</i> existing and/or anticipated stressor(s) and describe magnitude of effect:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>Overall step acceptable?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>PM justification:</p>
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Check "N/A" if water rights don't exist for proposed site and offsite water rights are not an issue for the site.

Applicant may have access to this information as part of their local approval process. Otherwise, check local specific/general plans.



# Attachment 1 (step 8-9)

## Compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist

<p><b>8 Final Evaluation</b></p> <p>a List number of final overall "yes" and "no" answers above (acceptable or not). Total answers should be five (5) unless a watershed plan is not available (in that case 4). Most steps must be acceptable for a mitigation proposal to be found environmentally acceptable; however, in some cases, a single "no" may render a proposal unacceptable.</p> <div data-bbox="144 511 647 1049" style="border: 2px solid blue; border-radius: 20px; padding: 10px; background-color: #00a0e3; color: white;"> <p>Caveat: A heavily urbanized watershed may have limited compensatory mitigation opportunities such that a given proposal may be appropriate despite more steps having been found unacceptable. This would be especially true for projects with impacts to disturbed/low functioning aquatic resources and limited compensatory mitigation objectives.</p> </div>	<p>Number of steps that would be acceptable ("yes" answers at bottom of each step): ____</p> <p>Number of steps that would <b>not</b> be acceptable ("no" answers at bottom of each step): ____</p> <p>In summary, are activities in column A appropriate for this site?:  <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>PM Justification:</p>	<p>Number of steps that would be acceptable ("yes" answers at bottom of each step): ____</p> <p>Number of steps that would <b>not</b> be acceptable ("no" answers at bottom of each step): ____</p> <p>In summary, are activities in column B appropriate for this site?:  <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>PM Justification:</p>	<p>Number of steps that would be acceptable ("yes" answers at bottom of each step): ____</p> <p>Number of steps that would <b>not</b> be acceptable ("no" answers at bottom of each step): ____</p> <p>In summary, are activities in column C appropriate for this site?:  <input type="checkbox"/> yes / <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>PM Justification:</p>
<p><b>9 Overall conclusions:</b></p> <div data-bbox="81 1110 763 1363" style="border: 2px solid blue; border-radius: 20px; padding: 10px; background-color: #00a0e3; color: white;"> <p>Explain conclusion for overall mitigation proposal: is it acceptable, are parts of it acceptable and others not, or is the entire proposal unacceptable and for each case, why?</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="815 759 1646 1002" style="border: 2px solid blue; border-radius: 20px; padding: 10px; background-color: #00a0e3; color: white;"> <p>Explain conclusion for each separate mitigation site/type proposal (i.e., for each column): is it acceptable or not and why? Cite and attach additional pages if needed.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="966 1110 1787 1253" style="border: 2px solid red; border-radius: 20px; padding: 10px; background-color: #ffcccc;"> <p>Note: PMs may deviate from the guidance provided herein if such deviations can be documented in the checklist with sufficient justification.</p> </div>		

# Attachment 1 (Table 1: Stressor List for step 5b)

## Compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist

**Table 1. Stressor List for step 5b above.** Review proposed mitigation site and mitigation project design. Check observed stressors in column 1. Check stressors in column 2 that can be reduced or eliminated via proposed mitigation actions in step 2.d. Describe the magnitude of each observed stressor and explain whether it can be reduced or eliminated. *Note: project design features are intended to reduce or eliminate existing and future onsite disturbance (stressors), and improve aquatic resource functions. Also note: Project design features that reduce or eliminate site disturbance (stressors) will improve the ecological condition of the site. A site in good condition functions at levels comparable to its aquatic resource type at reference sites.*

Example water quality stressors:	1. Observed	2. To be reduced/ eliminated	3. PM explanation (if appropriate)
Point source discharges features (outfall, discharge pipes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Obvious unnatural concentrations of salts (salt encrustation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unnatural odors, foam, oil sheen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Formation of heavy algal mats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Turbidity in water column	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Example hydrologic regime stressors:</b>			
Agricultural tiles, siphons or pumps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ditches, dikes, levees or berms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other water control structures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Example physical structure stressors:</b>			
Evidence livestock or feral animals trampling and substrate compaction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Past dredging and fill activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Off road vehicle use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Plowing and disking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dumping of trash	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Example vegetation stressors:</b>			
Invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mechanical plant removal or mowing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Intensive grazing by livestock or feral animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Chemical vegetation control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Intentional burning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

In Table 1 column 3, label individual stressors by checklist column (A,B,C). If stressors extensive, may need to prepare separate table for each checklist column.



# Attachment 3

## Examples

125XX.3-SPL Compensatory mitigation site evaluation checklist examples.

- Example 1: Lazy Day Ranch
- Example 2: Del Norte



# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- **Q1: Do I have to complete this checklist for all my Regulatory projects?**
  - A: Completing the checklist is an SPL requirement for any new project requiring compensatory mitigation (see SOP pages 1-2: Applicability).
- **Q2: What does improving the overall watershed profile of the watershed mean?**
  - A: Improvements to a watershed profile occur when impacts to aquatic resources are offset by compensatory mitigation that is focused on types (classes) of aquatic resources that:
    - a. Naturally occur in a project watershed area or broader region,
    - b. May be relatively rare because of historical loss, and
    - c. Contribute to the connectivity of aquatic resources in the project watershed area.

For example, improvements to a watershed profile may occur when loss of seasonal depressional wetlands are offset with reestablishment of vernal pool wetlands. Another example, is when a seasonal depressional wetland (e.g., farmed wetland) impact is offset with a riverine wetland or slope wetland mitigation project. In some circumstances, loss in area of a common or none natural wetland type may be offset by improvement (lift) in the condition of a larger area of a different wetland type per above list criteria. In other words, improvements in the watershed profile may be documented based on change (“lift”) in aquatic resource abundance, diversity (type/location) and/or condition.

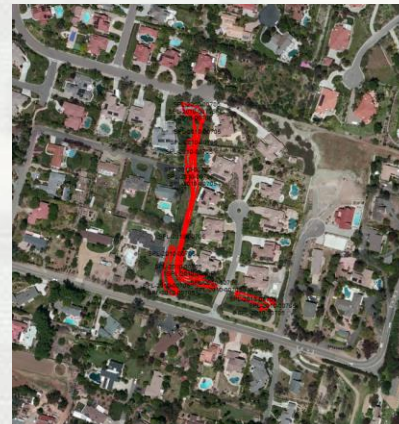
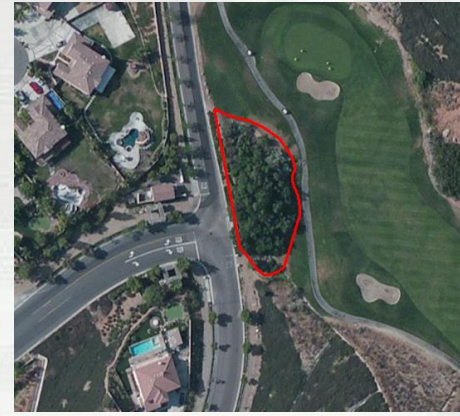
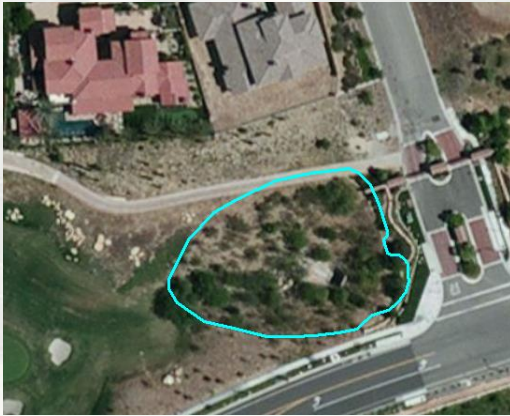




# FAQs (continued)

- **Q3: What does “ecologically isolated” mean?**

- A: Ecological isolation means a site is geographically separated from other nearby habitats such that migration by wildlife to and from the site would be substantially impaired. For example:



# POC's (PDT)

- **SPA: Deanna Cummings**
- **SPD: Thomas Cavanaugh**
- **SPK: Will Ness**
- **SPL: Dan Swenson (PDT lead)**
- **SPN: Bryan Matsumoto**
  - **Former PDT member: Laurie Monarres**





# Questions?



vs.

