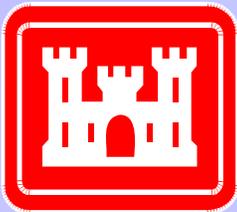


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San Diego Creek Watershed SAMP /WSAA Process - Planning for Aquatic Resource Regulation

Presentation for Public Meeting – Draft Program EIS/EIR
by Cori Farrar, San Diego Creek SAMP Project Manager
April 1, 2008

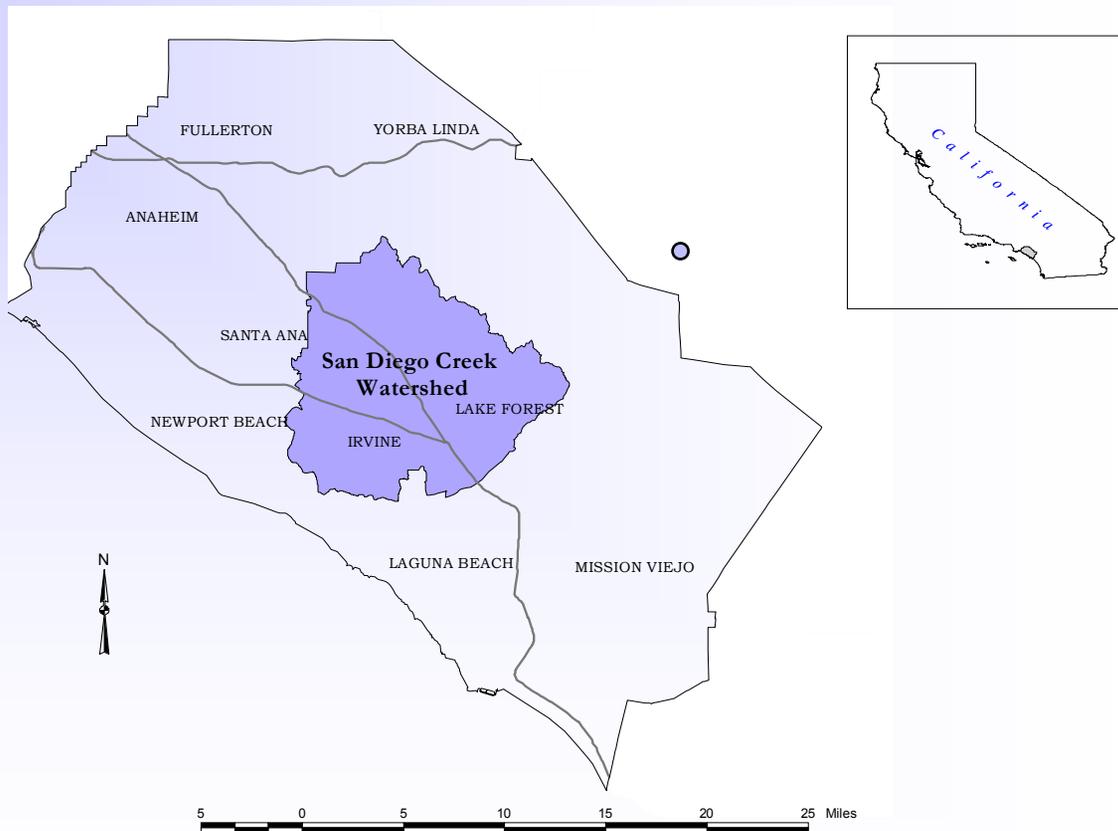


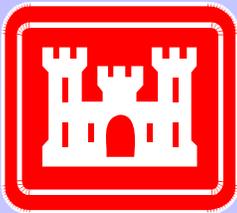
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San Diego Creek Watershed

Size <i>(sq. mi)</i>	119
Aquatic Resources <i>(acres)</i>	2,484
Streams <i>(miles)</i>	380



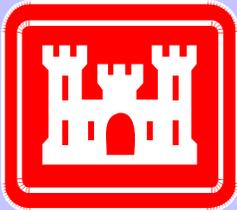


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Why a SAMP/WSAA Process?

- Limitations of current approach to permitting
- Acres filled not indicative of severity of impact
- Reactive rather than proactive
- Need to address landscape and watershed effects
- Need for regional restoration and management goals
- Need for improved assessment tools for cumulative impacts to aquatic resources

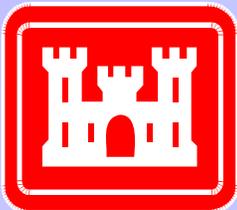


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Watershed Permitting and Mitigation as a Solution

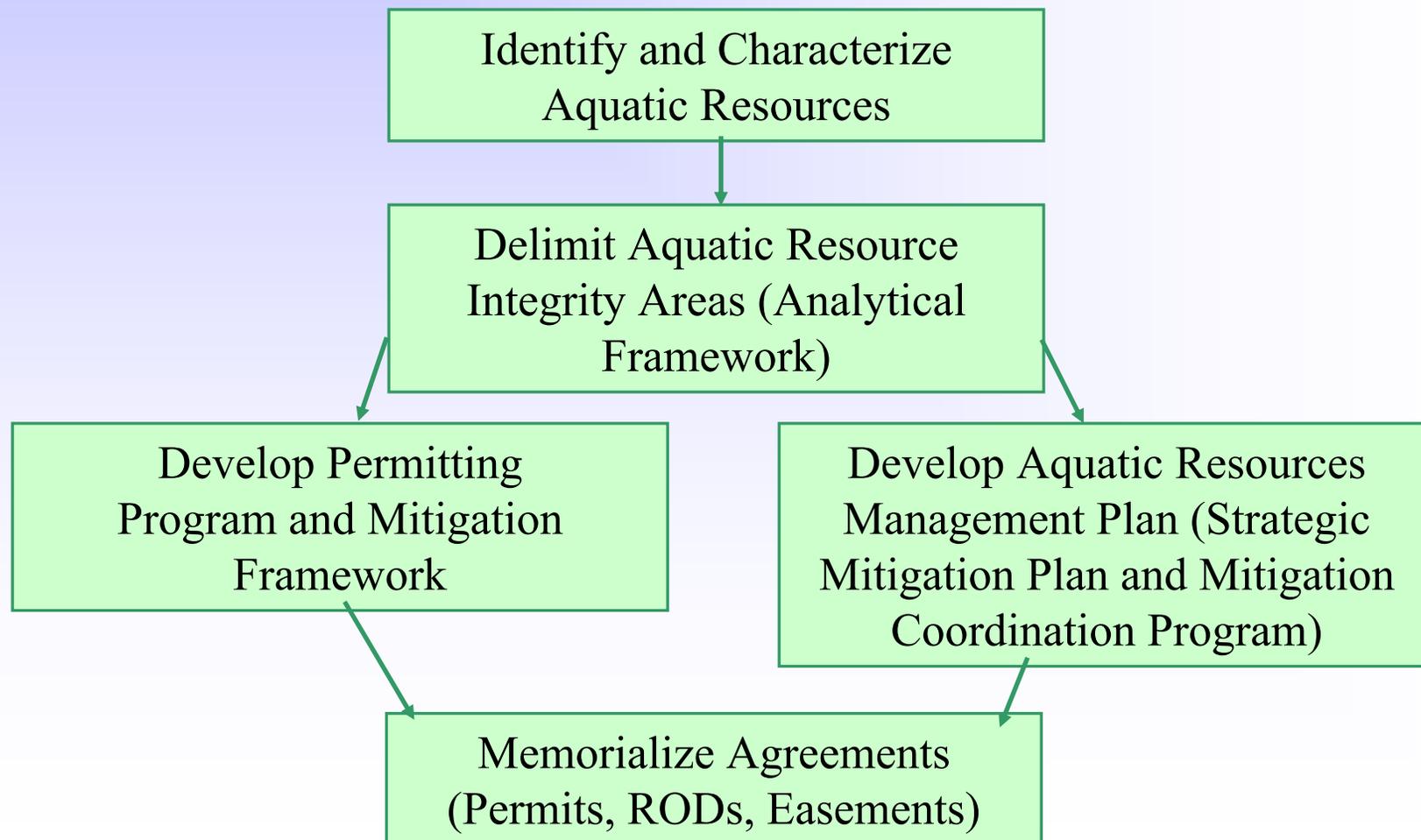
- SAMP is a collaborative watershed-based tool for regulation of aquatic resources
- Incorporates long-term planning and watershed scale for improved regulatory decision making
 - Spatial, temporal scales beyond the immediate needs of a single project
- Regulated community priorities:
 - Predictability in outcome and mitigation
 - Minimization of delays
- Environmental community priorities:
 - Targeted protection of aquatic resources
 - More effective compensatory mitigation

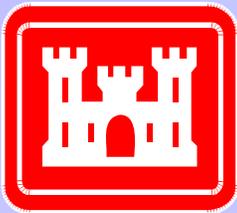


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Developing a SAMP



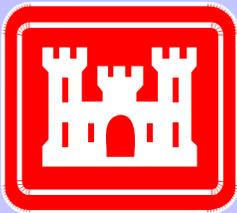


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General SAMP Strategy

- Aquatic resources are not equal
 - Higher value resources warrant increased level of review and protection
 - Lower value resources need lower level of review and protection
- Identify key aquatic resources (Aquatic Resource Integrity Areas)
- Promote Aquatic Resource Conservation Areas (ARCAs)



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Planning for Regulation

- San Diego Creek SAMP is a plan
 - Improves the implementation of the Corps and Department's regulatory programs in San Diego Creek Watershed
 - Leverages the Corps and the Department's regulatory and statutory authorities
- SAMP is not permitting any specific project
 - No project is being proposed or approved of through the SAMP itself, a permit/agreement is needed for a specific project or activity
 - New permitting procedures are specific for Watershed
 - Consider anticipated projects and activities
 - Past and future projects of Participating Applicants were planned to be consistent with SAMP
 - Would be expected to undergo streamlined permitting

Evolution of the SAMP for San Diego Creek

Project-oriented SAMP with an EIS/EIR only

→ projects and a “reserve”

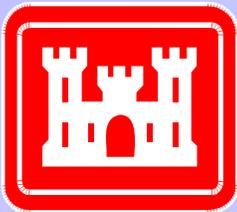
Combined project-oriented and program-level approach; with an EIS/EIR, a “handbook”, and an NCCP-like implementation agreement

→ projects, activities, and “aquatic resource conservation areas or ARCAs”

Program-level SAMP, a Plan as to how Corps and CDFG to regulate future activities affecting aquatic resources, and our approach to participating in the management of sensitive aquatic resources, and Program EIS/EIR

→ activities (based on anticipated projects, known activities, past activities) and “aquatic resource integrity areas”

***Basis of Analytical
Framework:
Identification of Aquatic
Resource Integrity
Areas***



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Aquatic Resource Integrity Areas within the Watershed

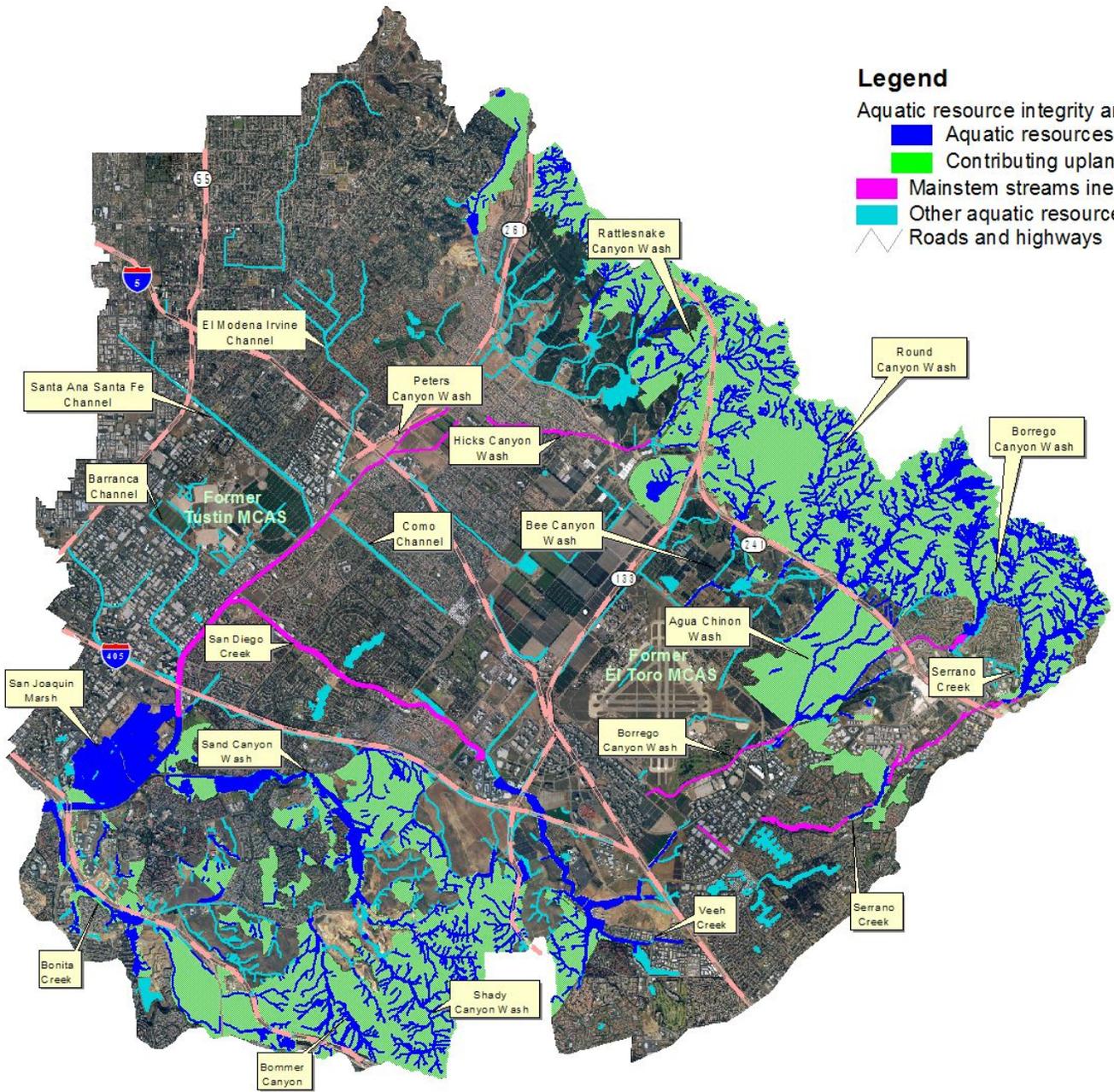
	Within NCCP (acres)	Within Aquatic Resource Integrity Areas² (acres, % of watershed)	Within Watershed (acres)
Aquatic Resources	619	1,644 (64%)	2,552
Riparian Habitat	596	1,076 (65%)	1,666
High Integrity Riparian (≥70% of maximum score)¹	442	511 (89%)	570
Medium/High Integrity Riparian (≥40% of maximum score)¹	521	780 (81%)	959

¹ Based on landscape level functional assessment of hydrologic, water quality, or habitat integrity

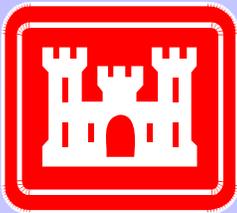
² Aquatic resource integrity areas identified by moderate to high assessment scores and excludes aquatic resources that are disconnected or downstream of impervious areas

Legend

- Aquatic resource integrity areas
 - Aquatic resources
 - Contributing upland areas
 - Mainstem streams ineligible for channelization using LOPs
 - Other aquatic resources
- Roads and highways



Watershed-specific Permitting Process

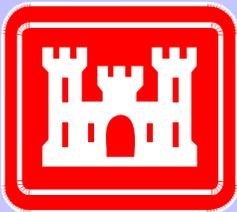


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Corps Current Permitting Process

- Nationwide General Permits issued for classes of similar activities
 - Generally, for fills permanently impacting <0.5 acre
 - Includes NW 39 (developments), NW 14 (road crossings), NW 12 (utility lines), NW 7 (outfalls), NW 13 (bank stabilization)
- Individual Permits
 - Permanent fill impacts > 0.5 acre
 - No activity restriction
 - Public notice and full environmental assessment

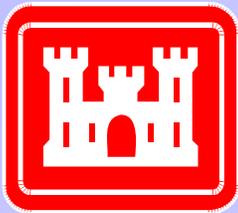


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Corps Proposed Permitting Process

- Suspension and revocation of most NW general permits
- Issue regional general permit (RGP) (33 CFR 325.5(c)(1))
 - RGPs are general permits applicable to certain geographic areas and for certain classes of activities
- Establish Letters of Permission (LOP) program (33 CFR 325.5(b)(2))
 - LOPs require interagency consultation and public interest review, but no public notice
- Individual Permits
 - For activities that do not qualify for LOPs or RGPs

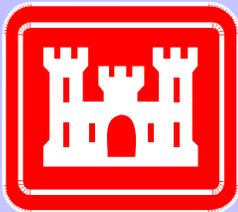


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Permitting Process *Inside Aquatic Resource* *Integrity Areas*

- Letter of Permission
 - Maintenance projects (roads, utilities, and flood control)
 - Permanent impacts <0.1 acre of impact of WoUS if no substantial modification of landscape
 - 45-day processing time
- Individual Permits
 - Permanent impacts >0.1 acre of impacts to WoUS



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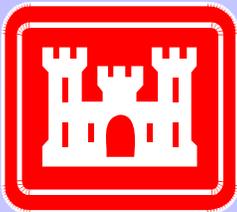
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Permitting Process

Outside Aquatic Resource

Integrity Areas

- Regional General Permit
 - Maintenance projects <0.5 acre of temporary impact
- Letter of Permission
 - All impacts if agencies agree impacts are minor after pre-application coordination
 - 45-day processing time
 - Excluded conversion of soft-bottom to hard-bottom channels in major stream systems
- Individual Permits
 - Rare

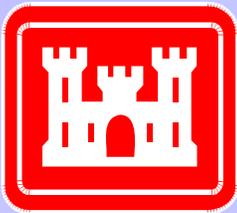


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Watershed Streambed Alteration Agreement Process

- Based on SAMP Analytical Framework similar to Corps SAMP permitting
- Three watershed-specific SAA templates
- Standard SAA available
- Master SAA available
- Shared SAMP mitigation framework



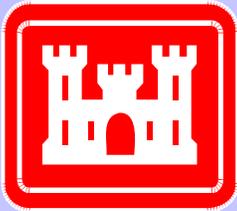
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Mitigation Framework

- Mitigation Framework for the San Diego Creek Watershed
 - Applies to LOPs and standard individual permits issued within the Watershed and general permits, as appropriate
- General Mitigation Policies
 - Mitigation Sequencing.
 - No net loss in wetland acreage and integrity
 - Prioritization of mitigation sites
 - Recommended restoration templates
 - Mitigation ratios to achieve a no net loss of aquatic resource integrity and acreage in the Watershed
 - No loss in any functional type. (i.e., for hydrology, water quality, and habitat)
 - Long-term conservation
 - Third-party mitigation

Strategic Mitigation Planning

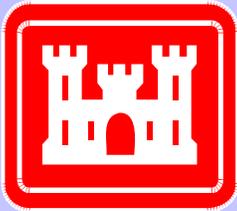


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Riparian Ecosystem Restoration in the Watershed

- Objective is to establish priorities for restoration of riparian ecosystems in the Watershed
 - Focus on compensatory mitigation
- Approach
 - Determine current condition and restoration potential
 - Estimate improvements in ecosystem functions
 - Identify priority restoration areas based on selected criteria



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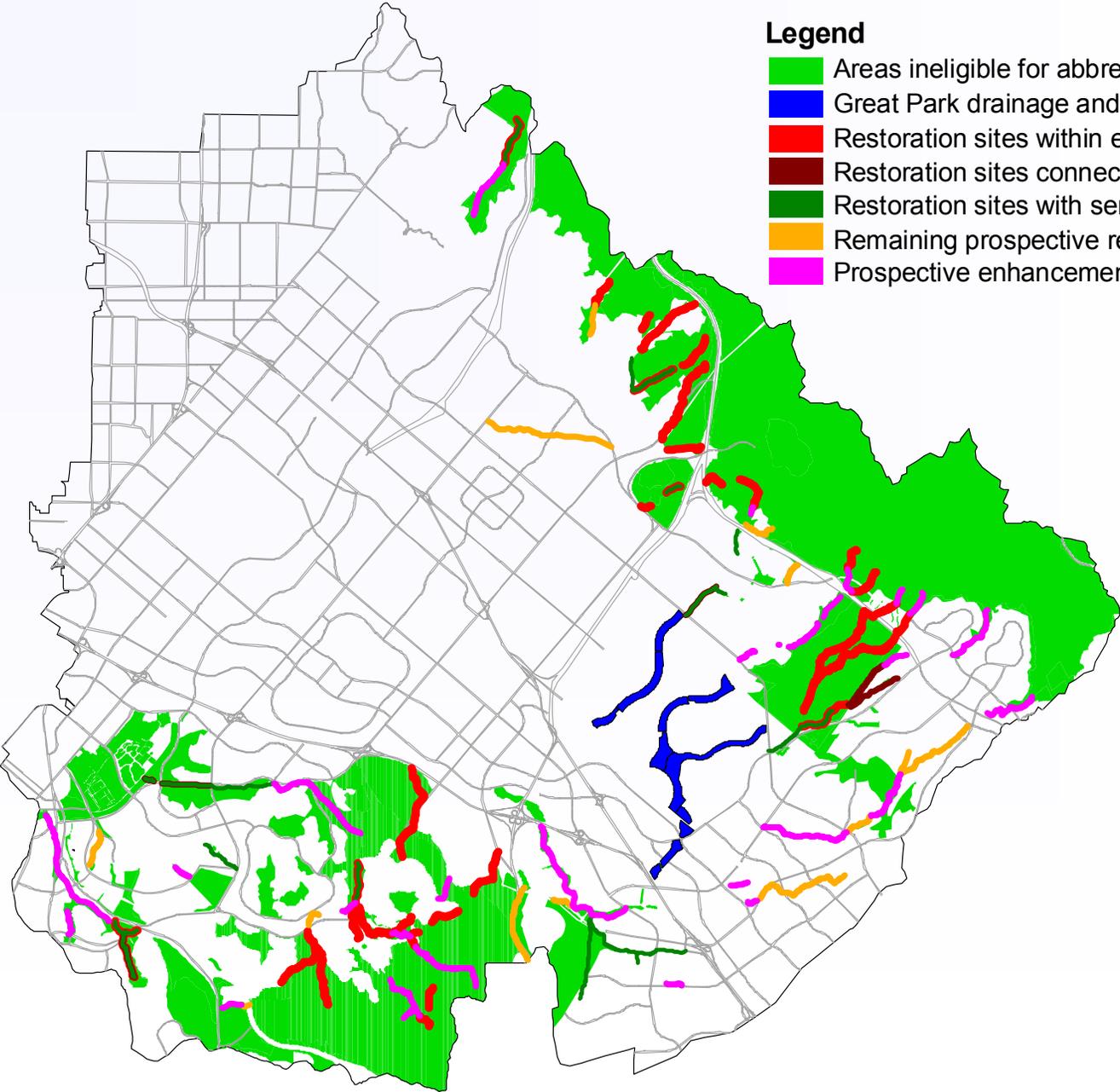
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Prioritization of Restoration Areas for Compensatory Mitigation

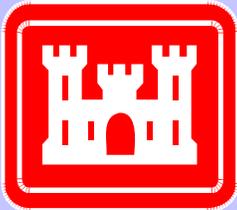
- Restore riparian corridors providing regional connectivity
- Restore riparian reaches in dedicated open space
- Restore riparian corridors disconnected locally
- Restore riparian reaches providing habitat for sensitive species
- Restore remaining reaches based on functional gain / level-of-effort
- Enhance remaining reaches

Legend

- Areas ineligible for abbreviated permitting
- Great Park drainage and wildlife corridors
- Restoration sites within existing open space
- Restoration sites connecting high/medium integrity areas
- Restoration sites with sensitive species
- Remaining prospective restoration sites
- Prospective enhancement sites



Mitigation Coordination Program

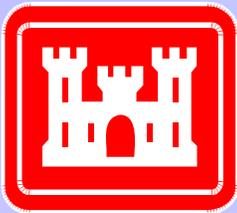


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Coordination within Watershed Context

- Ongoing watershed planning and resource management efforts
- Envision a forum for local landowners/managers and stakeholders to participate in aquatic resource management
- Target is to facilitate strategic mitigation planning
- Coordinate long-term adaptive management, monitoring, and maintenance efforts
- Solicit third-party mitigation program
- Context of Newport Bay Watershed Management Committee model and Orange County Watershed planning

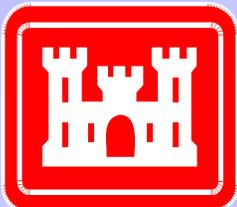


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Next Steps

- Public review and comment period
 - Closes April 21, 2008
- Consider comments
- Prepare response to comments
- Finalize Program EIS/EIR
- Prepare decision documents (ROD)
- Implement SAMP
 - Establish Corps SAMP permitting procedures, Department's WSAA Process, and SAMP mitigation framework
 - Facilitate Mitigation Coordination Program



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Questions?
