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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

S.1 INTRODUCTION

The Solano Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) establishes a framework for complying with State and Federal endangered species regulations while accommodating future urban growth, development of infrastructure, and ongoing operations and maintenance activities associated with flood control, irrigation facilities, and other public infrastructure undertaken by or under the permitting authority/control of the Plan Participants within Solano County over the next 30 years. These covered activities are associated with:

- **Urban Development**
 - 16,227 acres (ac) of urban development within the Urban Growth Boundaries (UGBs) of Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, and Vallejo
 - 1,279 ac of secondary support development such as communication service facilities, flood control facilities, roads, and recreation facilities outside of the City UGBs
- **Ongoing Operations, Maintenance, and New Construction of Plan Participant Facilities**
 - 99 miles (mi) of new irrigation and flood control facilities for the Solano County Water Agency (SCWA), Solano Irrigation District (SID), Maine Prairie Water District (MPWD), Reclamation District No. 2068 (RD 2068), Dixon Resource Conservation District (Dixon RCD), Dixon Regional Watershed Joint Powers Authority (DRW JPA), Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District (VSFCD), and Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District (FSSD)
 - 866 mi of streams, flood control channels, irrigation ditches, pipelines, ditches, and thousands of associated appurtenant features
 - 1,700 mi of maintenance access roads
 - 1,150 ac of flood control basins and associated facilities
 - 3,000 ac of land annexation to SID
- **Management, Enhancement, Habitat Restoration/Construction, Monitoring, and Relocation of Covered Species**
 - 25,000 to 30,000 ac of reserves, preserves, open space lands, and other cooperative habitat restoration sites

S.2 BACKGROUND

In March 1999, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in accordance with Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973, issued a Biological Opinion regarding the Solano Project Water Service Contract Renewal between the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the SCWA. The 25-year contract provides for continued delivery of Solano Project water for agricultural, municipal, and industrial purposes throughout the SCWA contract service area.



The USBR, SCWA, and the above-listed Member Agencies have agreed to implement conservation measures to ensure the protection of threatened and endangered species and their habitat within the SCWA contract service area by implementation of the conservation measures outlined in the Solano Project Water Service Contract Renewal Biological Opinion. One of the main conservation measures of the Solano Project Biological Opinion is for the SCWA and the Member Agencies to develop an HCP for the Solano Project contract service area.

S.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Solano HCP is to: (a) promote the conservation of biological diversity and the preservation of endangered species and their habitats consistent with the recognition of private property rights; (b) provide for a healthy economic environment for the citizens, agriculture, and industries; and (c) allow for the ongoing maintenance and operation of public and private facilities in Solano County.

S.2.2 Planning Process

The development of the Solano HCP has been guided by input from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), USFWS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA NMFS), the Plan Participants, the general public, the stakeholder groups (e.g., the Steering Committee), and the Science Advisors.

S.2.3 Plan Area and Covered Activities

The Solano HCP will account for all Covered Activities undertaken by or under the permitting authority and control of the Plan Participants within the approximately 585,000 ac Plan Area, which encompasses approximately 577,000 ac of Solano County and approximately 8,000 ac of Yolo County.

S.2.4 Covered Activity Zones

To adequately address the varying activities undertaken by or under the permitting authority and control of the Plan Participants and the presence of non-participating agencies with land use authority over portions of the Plan Area (i.e., Solano County, Yolo County and the City of Benicia), the Plan Area has been divided into three implementation zones (Figure 1-4). Different types of activities affecting Covered Species will be authorized within each of these three zones:

- **Zone 1 – Urban Zone:** The urban zone (87,000 ac) encompasses the designated UGBs for each city, including all of the designated land use area and future annexation areas as defined by their General Plans, the County General Plan, and relevant supporting documents within the Plan Participant cities of Dixon, Fairfield (excluding Travis Air Force Base [AFB]), Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, and Vallejo.
- **Zone 2 – SCWA and the Irrigation and Reclamation District Zone:** Covered Activity Zone 2 (which is approximately 160,000 ac) consists of the lands outside of Zone 1 that are within the boundaries of the SCWA, SID, MPWD, RD 2068, RCD, DRW JPA, FSSD, VSFCD, any existing and future flood control channels/facilities maintained by the cities that



extend up to 0.5 mi beyond the cities' UGBs. Covered Activities within Zone 2 are primarily related to: ongoing operation and maintenance of irrigation and flood control facilities, and construction of new irrigation and flood control facilities for irrigation district service area inclusions and annexations.

- **Zone 3 – Remainder of the County:** Covered Activity Zone 3 consists of the remainder of Solano County, approximately 338,000 ac. Covered Activities within this zone relate primarily to implementation of the HCP reserve system, including adaptive management and monitoring, habitat enhancement, habitat restoration and creation, and other associated compatible activities¹ on designated reserves/preserves, mitigation sites/banks, open space lands, and adjacent lands.

S.2.5 Covered Activities

The Solano HCP provides a comprehensive Conservation Program for impacts to Covered Species and Natural Communities for designated activities undertaken by or under the permitting authority/control of the Plan Participants within the Planning Area and applicable Covered Activity Zones. Plan Participants may also extend incidental take coverage for Covered Activities conducted by third parties who fall under their direct regulatory control. Third party applicants seeking authorization under the HCP for Covered Activities must complete a participating special entity process (Section 10.4, Authorization of Incidental Take). [Please note that all parenthetical references to chapters or sections refer to chapters or sections of the Solano HCP.]

S.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The geography of Solano County, with the Central Valley to the east, a large bay and estuary system to the south and west, and coastal mountain ranges to the west and north, has resulted in a great diversity of native species and habitats. The juxtaposition of numerous geographical and geological provinces within the County lends to its division into four broad Natural Communities: (1) Valley Floor Grassland and Vernal Pool Natural Community; (2) Inner Coast Range Natural Community; (3) Riparian, Stream, and Freshwater Marsh Natural Community; and (4) Coastal Marsh Natural Community. While not technically a Natural Community, agriculture is a dominant cover type, particularly in the northeastern quarter of the County, and provides important habitat for several Covered Species (e.g., Swainson's hawk and burrowing owl). Therefore, agriculture is treated as a fifth Natural Community in the descriptions below.

S.3.1 Natural Communities

S.3.1.1 Valley Floor Grassland and Vernal Pool Natural Community

The Valley Floor Grassland and Vernal Pool Natural Community is located predominantly within the southeastern portion of the Planning Area, but includes portions of Lagoon Valley, Green Valley and Suisun Valley. The soil types and weather patterns combine to discourage the extensive

¹ Additional details on compatible activities are provided in: Chapter 4.0, Conservation Analysis; Chapter 5.0, Conservation Strategy; Chapter 6.0, Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures; and Chapter 7.0, Monitoring and Adaptive Management.



growth of trees and shrubs associated with many of the plant communities that exist within the Inner Coast Range Natural Community. Vegetation communities within the Valley Floor Grassland and Vernal Pool Natural Community consist mainly of types such as grasslands that are dominated by herbaceous species.

Grassland is the dominant vegetation type within the Valley Floor Grassland and Vernal Pool Natural Community. While this broad category contains a number of recognized grassland vegetation alliances, for the purposes of the Solano HCP, grasslands in the Valley Floor Grassland and Vernal Pool Natural Community were divided into two primary associations (based on soil types): Valley Floor Grasslands and Vernal Pool System Grasslands.

S.3.1.2 Inner Coast Range Natural Community

The Inner Coast Range Natural Community is located along the western margin of Solano County and includes the Sky Valley and Sulphur Springs Mountain area (Tri-City/County Planning Area), the area west of Green Valley, the volcanic hills of the Rockville area, and the Vaca Mountains/Blue Ridge. This community association is distinguished by geographic location, elevation, and soils. Consisting of ridges and valleys that trend in a northwestern direction, this Natural Community is better characterized as a geographical region based on its shared topography and because it combines a number of plant communities, including grassland, oak woodland, oak savanna, and mixed chaparral/scrub that form a mosaic over the entire Inner Coast Range Natural Community.

S.3.1.3 Riparian, Stream, and Freshwater Marsh Natural Community

The Riparian, Stream, and Freshwater Marsh Natural Community is interwoven through each of the other Natural Communities throughout the Planning Area. The Riparian, Stream, and Freshwater Marsh Natural Community was recognized as unique from the surrounding regional communities based on its association with flowing or pooled freshwater conditions. While many of the plant communities within the other Natural Communities are highly adapted to the dry conditions typical of California, the Riparian, Stream, and Freshwater Marsh Natural Community is adapted to the presence of fresh water in and along streams, rivers, creeks, and marshes.

S.3.1.4 Coastal Marsh Natural Community

Portions of the southern part of the Planning Area consist of low-lying lands that stretch along the edge of San Pablo Bay and Suisun Bay. These low areas are strongly influenced by tidal action, and water depths can vary in some areas from dry to depths of several feet twice a day. This regular fluctuation in water levels distinguished this community type from the Riparian, Stream, and Freshwater Marsh Natural Community described above. The shallow water depths promote the growth of numerous emergent plant species that form communities unique to these tidally influenced shores. The Coastal Marsh Natural Community is recognized because of its geographic location and unique hydrology. Vegetation within this community is entirely herbaceous and consists mainly of saltwater and brackish water marshes.



S.3.1.5 Agricultural Lands

Much of the northeastern portion of Solano County has been converted into intensive agricultural uses. Conversion to agriculture has resulted in a high degree of habitat alteration. Agricultural lands typically support domesticated species of plants that have been raised for harvest purposes (e.g., alfalfa, corn or tomatoes). When taken out of active production, agricultural lands tend to support ruderal, weedy grasses and forbs that marginalize potential habitat value. The use of these lands by wildlife depends on the vegetation characteristics, cultivation practices, and flooding regimes conducted in these agricultural areas. Within Solano County, agricultural lands can provide important habitat for numerous raptors, including Swainson's hawk and burrowing owl.

S.3.2 Covered Species

Of the 36 species proposed for coverage under the Solano HCP, 25 are Federally listed as either Endangered, Threatened or a Candidate for Listing; 16 are State-listed as either Rare, Endangered, Threatened, a Candidate Species, or Fully Protected (12 of which are joint Federal/State listed/Candidates); 4 plant species are classified as List 1B species by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS); and 2 animal species are listed as California Species of Special Concern by the CDFG. The 2 California Species of Special Concern are burrowing owl and tricolored blackbird. Table S.1 (all tables are provided at the end of this section) lists the 36 Covered Species and provides information on their Natural Community and habitat associations.

S.3.3 Special Management Species

Special Management Species represent those special-status plants and animals that are typically considered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to be threatened or endangered. Special Management Species include several plant species considered to be rare, threatened, or endangered in California by the CNPS, along with several wildlife species listed by CDFG as Species of Special Concern. To address the conflicting desire for coverage of all special-status species and compliance with regulatory standards, the "Special Management Species" classification was created for the Solano HCP. Species in this category would benefit from the conservation actions undertaken by Plan Participants, but USFWS would not provide the "No Surprise" assurances for these species and the species are not eligible for incidental take coverage under Section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code. The conservation program for the Special Management Species is embodied in the Natural Community conservation measures for the Covered Species.

S.4 CONSERVATION ANALYSIS

The purpose of the Conservation Analysis is to assess the status of biological resources within the Plan Area and identify biologically based measures necessary to conserve Covered Species and Special Management Species. These broader conservation requirements assess actions necessary under ideal circumstances to promote not only the continued existence of Covered Species, but also the measures necessary to "recover" Covered Species and Natural Communities within the Plan Area. This Conservation Analysis also provides a basis for evaluating the Solano HCP Conservation Strategy (Chapter 5.0) against the standards for issuance of incidental take permits under FESA and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The Conservation Analysis



evaluates four broadly defined Natural Communities, encompassing a wide range of habitat types as described above.

S.5 CONSERVATION STRATEGY

This section outlines the main components of the Solano HCP Conservation Program for achieving the purpose of the Solano HCP: to promote the conservation of biological diversity and the preservation of Covered Species and their habitats within the Plan Area. This section describes the goals and objectives (Table S.2) for the Covered Species and their associated Natural Communities and the criteria for the selection and management of the reserves and preserves that will form the Solano HCP Reserve System. The goals, objectives, and the establishment of the Reserve System provide the measurable biological standards on which the Resource Agencies will measure the overall success of the HCP Conservation Program. The goals, objectives, and development of the Reserve System are primarily implemented through project-specific avoidance, minimization, and mitigation requirements described in Chapter 6.0 and the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program described in Chapter 7.0.

Implementation of the Solano HCP goals and objectives results in the establishment of a Reserve System¹ that will:

- Preserve and manage 13,000 to 15,000 ac of Valley Floor Grassland and Vernal Pool habitat that shall include the following elements:
 - 9,900 ac of California tiger salamander upland and movement habitat,
 - An estimated 200 ac of restored and 800 to 1,000 ac of preserved vernal pool and associated aquatic habitats for Covered Species, and
 - Approximately 3 ac of new California tiger salamander breeding habitat.
- Preserve and manage approximately 5,970 ac of agricultural foraging habitat, 1,000 ac of nesting and associated foraging habitat, and 2,240 ac of grassland/oak savanna habitat for Swainson's hawks and burrowing owls, and provide for increased long-term nesting opportunities through the establishment of a tree planting program and installation and maintenance of artificial burrow complexes.
- Preserve and manage approximately 3,300 ac of upland habitat for the California red-legged frog and callippe silverspot butterfly.
- Preserve and manage 50 ac of riparian and 36 ac of freshwater marsh, pond, and seasonal wetland habitat within Priority Watersheds and Drainages.
- Restore and manage 75 to 100 ac of coastal salt and/or brackish marsh habitat.
- Restore and manage an additional 175 ac of aquatic habitat and approximately 120 ac of associated upland habitat for giant garter snakes.

¹ The acreages for the anticipated Reserve System components are based on projected Covered Activities and development described in Chapter 2.0 (Land Use and Covered Activities) at build out over the next 30 years. Reductions or alterations in projected build out could affect the anticipated Reserve System acreages.



In addition to establishing a Reserve System, the Solano HCP contributes to broader, regional conservation actions by:

- Providing funding to control invasive species on 5,000 to 8,500 ac of coastal marsh, stream, and riparian habitats within the Plan Area; and
- Providing funding to implement measures to control and treat existing urban and agricultural runoff.

S.5.1 Reserve System

The Reserve System is the backbone of the Solano HCP Conservation Program. The extent to which the Reserve System can preserve, support, and maintain viable populations of Covered Species, biological diversity, and ecosystem functions will determine the overall success of the HCP. The Conservation Analysis in Chapter 4.0 addresses basic reserve design principles that shall, to the maximum extent practicable, guide development of the Reserve System.

S.6 AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This section outlines the process of identifying conditions that must be met prior to obtaining incidental take coverage for new “projects” and for operation and maintenance activities of existing facilities. These conditions include: (1) mandatory baseline study requirements, (2) avoidance and minimization measures, and (3) mitigation measure requirements. This section describes these requirements in a stepwise manner following a logical progression of development from pre-project planning through environmental review, project approval, and finally project construction/implementation.

S.6.1 Avoidance and Minimization Measures

Under the FESA incidental take standards, an HCP must “to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impacts of such taking.” Under Section 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code, a mitigation plan must “minimize and fully mitigate the effects of the authorized taking.” The Solano HCP adheres to this hierarchical requirement to first consider avoidance and minimization. When avoidance is not biologically desirable or practicable for a project, impacts shall be mitigated through preservation or restoration of High or Medium Value Conservation Areas.

The Solano HCP Conservation Strategy recognizes that avoidance resulting in the creation of small, isolated, patches of habitat is not ecologically defensible or desirable. The development of the Solano HCP has incorporated and evaluated these avoidance considerations into the overall strategy of the conservation program. As such, the Solano HCP only mandates avoidance where: (1) avoided habitats contribute significantly to the value of adjacent conservation lands; (2) smaller, “specialty” reserves are necessary to protect certain resources such as an entire population of a range-restricted species; (3) adequate conservation of a Covered Species or Special Management Species is not available within the reserve system; and (4) the habitat is located in a designated high-value conservation area. In these situations, the Solano HCP requires the same basic project design standards, performance criteria, and setbacks/buffers as other reserves (Section



10.5, Development of the Reserve System). Table S.3 lists the avoidance and minimization requirements for Covered Species and their associated Natural Communities.

S.6.2 Mitigation Requirements

The location of a project establishes a base level of mitigation necessary for receiving project approval and obtaining incidental take coverage. Additional mitigation may be required depending on the specific resources present on and adjacent to the site (Section 6.2, Pre-Application Surveys and Biological Resources Report). Table S.4 describes the mitigation required for impacts to Covered Species and their associated Natural Communities.

S.7 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Adaptive management provides a framework for confronting uncertainty in natural resource issues and incorporating new information into ongoing management activities. An adaptive management approach acknowledges that managed resources will always change as a result of human intervention, that surprises are inevitable, and that new uncertainties will emerge. Uncertainties do not paralyze management actions nor are they ignored. Instead, uncertainties are dealt with via an active learning approach.

Although the adaptive management strategy anticipates future modifications to implementing the Conservation Program, the alternative conservation strategies are subject to the same limits as other provisions of the Solano HCP, consistent with the USFWS “No Surprises” policy. That is, mitigation measures and management schemes may be modified or new measures substituted as long as the new measures are of roughly equivalent cost and are consistent with approved take assumptions. Procedures for modifications and amendments to the Section 10(a) permit are described in Section 10.10, Suspension/Revocation.

S.8 MONITORING

Monitoring is mandated under the FESA to demonstrate compliance with the respective incidental take conditions and to provide “feedback” information for adaptive management actions implemented under the HCP. The two main components of monitoring are: compliance monitoring and effectiveness monitoring. Compliance monitoring is verifying that the terms of the HCP, permit, and Implementing Agreement (IA) are being carried out. In other words, compliance monitoring tracks the status of HCP implementation, ensuring that planned actions are being properly executed as written in the HCP (Section 10.6, Compliance Monitoring and Reporting). Effectiveness monitoring evaluates the effectiveness of the operating Conservation Program of the HCP and whether the assumptions and predictions made during the development of the HCP hold true. In this HCP, this component of effectiveness monitoring is referred to as Biological Effectiveness Monitoring.

S.9 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

From the analysis of direct and indirect effects, a maximum amount of take anticipated from the Covered Activities is identified. Generally, incidental take is expressed as the extent of habitat likely to be destroyed or disturbed but may also be the number or percentage of an occurrence that



may be taken. The FESA defines “take” as “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” Federal regulation defines the term “harass” as an intentional or negligent act that creates the likelihood of injuring wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering. Furthermore, federal regulations define “harm” as an act that either kills or injures a listed species. By definition, “harm” includes habitat modification or degradation that actually kills or injures a listed species by significantly impairing essential behavior patterns such as breeding, spawning, rearing, migrating, feeding, or sheltering.

The HCP addresses the impacts of the Covered Activities on the Covered Species with respect the proposed HCP (Chapter 8, Impact Assessment) and three Alternatives: (1) No Action, (2) an HCP that just addresses the 17 Federally listed species required to be addressed in the Solano Project’s 1999 Biological Opinion, and (3) a reduced development/take potential alternative.

S.10 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Chapter 10.0 of the HCP addresses implementation of the Solano HCP. Implementation will require Plan Participants to carry out certain actions to administer the HCP. The Plan Participants will also be responsible for ongoing administration, coordination, monitoring, review, and reporting that is essential to the success of the HCP. This section also addresses the assurances provided by the State and Federal governments with respect to changed and unforeseen circumstances and procedures for amending and renewing the incidental take permits.

S.10.1 Governance

The SCWA Board of Directors will serve as the governing board for the oversight of the HCP. The SCWA Board of Directors is composed of the five members of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, the mayors from all seven cities in Solano County, and a board member from each of the three agricultural irrigation districts in Solano County (SID, MPWD, and RD 2068).

The SCWA will assume primary responsibility for coordination with the Resource Agencies and preparation of the annual compliance report based on information provided by each Plan Participant.

The other Plan Participants will implement the HCP primarily through their planning departments (cities) or their applicable conservation actions through their executive director or designated representative.

SCWA, in consultation with the Plan Participants and Regulatory Agencies, will be responsible for reviewing and certifying mitigation banks as well as private land dedications to fulfill conservation requirements under the HCP. This certification/acceptance process will include review of the ability of the site to fulfill applicable conservation objectives and requirements and to assure that adequate funding is provided for the management and monitoring of the reserve in perpetuity.



S.10.2 Plan Participant Committee

SCWA and the other Plan Participants will form an Executive Committee similar to the Applicant Committee formed for preparing the Solano HCP. The Executive Committee will provide input from the individual Plan Participants and keep the Plan Participants informed of the status of the HCP.

S.10.3 Advisory Committee

SCWA and the other Plan Participants will form an Advisory Committee to provide guidance on the implementation of the Solano HCP. The Advisory Committee will be comprised of representatives from: the Plan Participants' agencies; the Resource Agencies; and members from the general public representing various environmental, land use, agricultural, and development interests similar to the HCP preparation steering committee. The purpose of the Advisory Committee will be to provide input and guidance on the use of in-lieu fees, preparation of grant applications, establishment and approval of reserve/preserve management plans and funding mechanisms, and general interpretation of HCP conservation strategies where the intent or applicability of the measures for a specific project may not be clear.

S.10.4 HCP Technical Review Committee

The SCWA, Plan Participants, and Resource Agencies (Section 10.2.7, Resource Agencies) will establish a Technical Review Committee that will meet regularly for the purposes of reviewing specific required documents for incidental take coverage under the HCP. The Committee will be responsible for evaluating complex applications under Section 10.4 (Authorization of Incidental Take) and Section 10.5 (Development of the Reserve System). The Committee will advise applicants of all insufficient items, inadequate documentation, or data needs and will provide recommendations for project modifications needed for compliance with the HCP.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) may also be invited to participate in this review committee as the Plan Participants desire to integrate Section 401 and Section 404 Clean Water Act compliance with the FESA and 2081 Permit compliance under the HCP program.

S.11 DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESERVE SYSTEM

The Solano HCP is primarily designed to function as a pay-as-you-go system, with conservation actions completed prior to or concurrent with the loss or conversion of habitats and associated incidental take of Covered Species. However, substantial habitat preservation, management, restoration, and enhancement are planned or are currently occurring within the region through the establishment of mitigation banks such that a significant portion of the HCP habitat conservation goals and objectives, particularly for vernal pool grassland communities and associated species, are expected to occur well in advance of impacts. Section 6.4, Mitigation Requirements, provides information regarding the ongoing conservation actions with respect to each Natural Community and Covered Species.



S.12 FUNDING

Most regional HCPs emphasize a fee-based system (i.e., most reserve acquisition and management is achieved through a base per-acre fee charged for development and other Covered Activities). These fees are then pooled to cover the costs of administration, land or reserve acquisition, and management, habitat restoration, long-term monitoring, reporting, and other associated costs.

The Solano HCP has, for the most part, adopted a different approach that requires applicants to obtain mitigation for Covered Activities in accordance with the applicable mitigation requirements identified in Chapter 6.0. Fees are still required; however, these fees address administrative costs associated with monitoring and reporting and implementation of broader, landscape-level or cumulative impact mitigation measures.

Fees for administrative cost reimbursements (excluding SCWA's general fund commitment), adaptive management and monitoring, contingencies, and fee-based conservation programs (Section 11.1, Cost Analysis) will be collected by the individual Plan Participant serving as the lead agency for the proposed action. That lead agency will retain the applicable portion of the administrative fee due to that agency. The remainder of the funds will be forwarded to SCWA as the lead agency for implementation of the Solano HCP.

The current recommended base application fee to address these various costs is \$5,200 per developed acre (in 2012 dollars) (for a breakdown, see Table 11.2, Summary of Implementation Annual and Total Budget and Zone 1 Development Application Fee Calculation) and is based on the total projected costs divided by the projected acres of development impacts. Certain in-fill projects with limited direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to covered species are eligible for exemption from compliance with certain HCP avoidance, minimization, and mitigation requirements (Section 10.4.3, Exemptions).

