



## desert conservation PROGRAM

Date: March 21, 2013

TO: DISTRIBUTION

RE: DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION NOTIFICATION:  
**MSHCP SCIENCE ADVISOR**  
**2009-ECO-801A**

The work for the above referenced project has been completed. Please see the attached for all project related information.

### **The purpose of the above referenced project was:**

The COUNTY's USFWS Section 10(a)(1)(B) Incidental Take Permit #TE 034927-0 requires that the MSHCP's AMP have an objective, science-based adaptive management contractor to provide an independent assessment of MSHCP implementation and make recommendations for future implementation and development of the MSHCP and its AMP. The purpose of this project was to fulfill that requirement through the following four tasks:

1. Review land use and habitat loss by ecosystem status via biannual receipt of COUNTY analyses,
2. Review species status via annual updates of the MSHCP Species Status Database and assessment of species status trends,
3. Review current MSHCP implementation status and effectiveness by attending MSHCP Project Progress Report Symposia and providing comments on each presented project, and via biannual receipt of COUNTY's MSHCP implementation summaries, and
4. Provide written science-based recommendations and advice to COUNTY biannually and as requested.

### **The major accomplishment or findings of this project include:**

- Eighty-eight deliverables completed over the contract period of 39 months.
- Completed the 2010 Adaptive Management Report, which reviewed the adaptive management program, status, and implementation of past recommendations, suggested improvements to existing actions, and recommended future efforts.
- Developed two monitoring protocols, a training module, an ecological model, and a PRESENCE software manual, all addressing the monitoring of the Mojave desert tortoise in the Boulder City Conservation Easement.

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- In the DCP's Species Status Database: evaluated the spatial and tabular datasets, noted discrepancies and inconsistencies, provided recommendations to improve future datasets, and implemented modifications to improve tracking the status of covered species.
- Developed a new User's Guide for the DCP's Species Status Database.
- Reviewed the 2011-2013 Implementation Plan and Budget and provided five conservation project recommendations.
- Reviewed the 2013-2015 Implementation Plan and Budget, identified any deficiencies in the projects concepts, recommended conditions to improve deficiencies, and ranked the discretionary projects.
- Assisted in the development and structure of the 2010, 2011, and 2012 DCP Annual Project Symposia's, and provided comment on project presentations.
- Provided reviews of a variety of different projects covering a range of scientific and technical issues.

For more information about this project and/or for other Project Reports or Symposium Reports, please visit our website at: <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/dcp/Pages/default.aspx>

If you have any questions, please contact Jodi Bechtel at (702) 455-5529.

Sincerely,



Marci D. Henson  
Program Manager

cc:

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Board of County Commissioners (7)  
Permittees' Executive Committee  
Permittees' Process Management Group  
John Hill, Purchasing  
Catherine Jorgenson, District Attorney – Civil Division  
Desert Conservation Program Community Advisory Committee  
Desert Conservation Program Interested Parties List  
Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Implementing Agencies  
Science Advisor  
SNPLMA Office (for SNPLMA projects)  
Congressional Office  
All Environmental Management Staff Distribution