



Update of the Conservation and Open Space Element of the General Plan

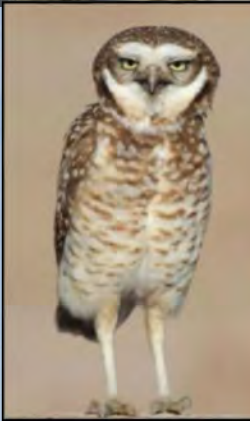


Community Meetings | March 2015

Today's Agenda

- Introductions
 - County of Imperial staff
 - Consultant team
 - PMC – Project Management and CEQA Review
 - Mooney Planning Collaborative – COSE Update Lead
 - Aspen Environmental Group – Environmental Baseline Study
 - Katherine Padilla & Associates – Public Outreach Lead
- COSE Update Presentation
- Questions and Answers

Imperial County Natural Resources

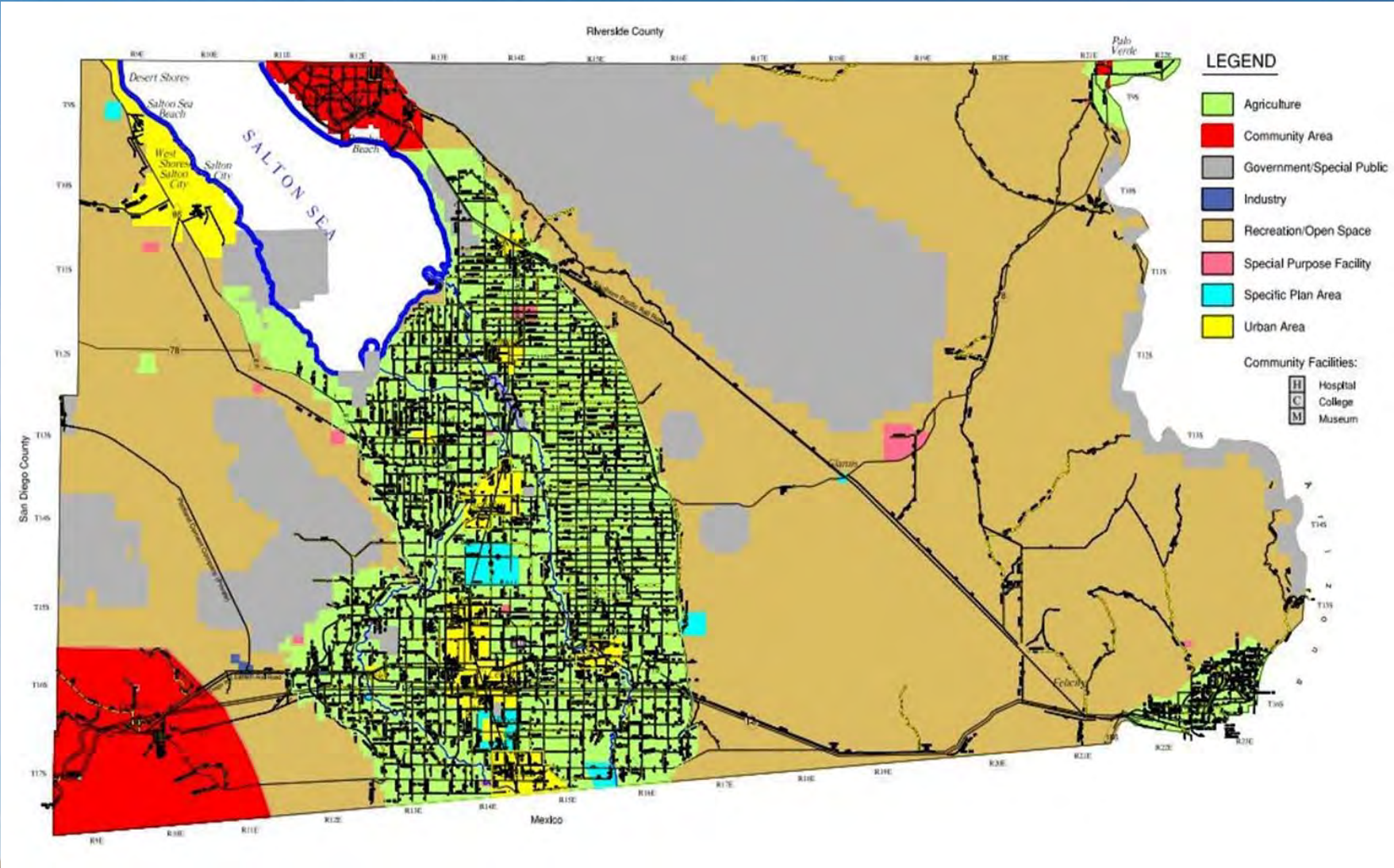


Project Objectives

- California Energy Commission Grant
- Update the County's 1993 Conservation and Open Space Element
- Consistency with other General Plan Elements, including Renewable Energy and Transmission Element
- Public Outreach Program to Inform Policies and Program
- CEQA Review



General Plan – Land Use



Baseline Reports and Public Outreach Program

Physical Baseline

- Aesthetics
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Mineral Resources
- Open Space and Recreation

Regulatory Baseline

- State and Federal Legislation
- State and Regional Management Programs
- Coordination with IID and Other Agencies

Public Outreach

- Develop Outreach Program
- Host Public Workshops
- Consult Native American Communities



Public Input Received

- Anticipate impact of climate change on biological resources
- External review by biological experts in resource agencies
- Monitor the progress of restoration efforts on the Salton Sea to ensure water quality, air quality and visual aesthetics goals are being met
- Preserve natural areas and habitat for sensitive bird species with an emphasis on the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley



Public Input Received (Cont'd)

- Implement COSE on a programmatic scale instead of case-by-case
- Ensure rural, disadvantaged desert communities are not overburdened with impacts from renewable energy projects compared to coastal communities
- Preserve current recreational nature of the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation area; Replace lost recreation land



Conservation and Open Space Element and CEQA Document

- Update Existing 1993 Conservation and Open Space Element
- DRECP Compatibility Analysis
- SB 18 Tribal Coordination
- CEQA Review



Schedule Milestones

- Baseline Studies – Under Review
- Public Outreach - Ongoing
- Draft COSE Update and CEQA Document for Public Review – Summer 2015
- Final Documents for Adoption – December 2015



Questions? Comments?

- Sign-In Sheet for future communications
- Comment cards

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING TODAY!