



Did you know?

SDG&E® is the first investor-owned utility in the United States to be approved and permitted for a Habitat Conservation Plan that benefits endangered species, migratory birds, and bald and golden eagles in the company's service territory.



Contact us by email

NaturalResources@sdge.com



To learn more, scan QR Code

Habitat conservation planning & environmental stewardship

For decades, SDG&E® has led the utility industry in environmental stewardship and programmatic endangered species conservation planning.

A diverse environmental region

San Diego is one of the most biodiverse regions in North America, featuring numerous urban canyons, world-famous coastlines, scenic lagoons and rivers, and thousands of acres of open space that provide habitat for dozens of rare, threatened and endangered species. That is why SDG&E became the first utility company in



California to voluntarily develop a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) /Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) under the federal Endangered Species Act and state Natural Communities Conservation Plan Act in 1995.

Preserving natural resources

SDG&E's robust environmental stewardship efforts include a comprehensive avian protection program, vegetation management best practices that strive to reduce invasive weeds and a holistic approach to habitat restoration. These programs are designed to preserve, restore and enhance natural resources where SDG&E operates in order to sustain local populations of plants and wildlife both now and in the future.

In 2022, SDG&E filed an application with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to amend its 1995 Habitat Conservation Plan by updating and modernizing the natural resource protection measures within the plan to support industry-leading wildfire safety and mitigation work. With this update, SDG&E also prepared a separate Eagle Conservation Plan, which would make SDG&E one of the first utility companies to develop such a plan.

Implementing the Habitat Conservation Plan

Starting in 2023, SDG&E will begin to implement the HCP Amendment, which modernizes the company's successful approach to habitat conservation planning, leveraging 27 years of experience and expanding environmental and species protections across the full-service territory. By tailoring the HCP's conservation measures to each specific project, SDG&E continues to live by its environmental excellence policy that commits the company to the following:

- No net loss of wetlands or waters, sensitive habitats or rare plants
- Net improvement in ecological conditions for sensitive habitats that may have been temporarily disturbed by operations

Continued on back

- Enhancement of existing habitats and the establishment of permanently protected preserves for regionally significant plants and wildlife
- Net benefit to species listed as threatened or endangered by state or federal authorities

Capitalize on technology advances

SDG&E is a pioneer among utilities with its state-of-the-art environmental impact and mitigation tracking system that is capable of real-time reporting and analysis. The tracking system accommodates a variety of new streamlined reporting templates, which will facilitate both agency coordination with SDG&E as well as interagency consultations between federal agencies. The system is also capable of in-the-field reporting, which will enhance collaboration between biologists and field construction crews and allow for easy implementation of operational protocols outlined in the plan.

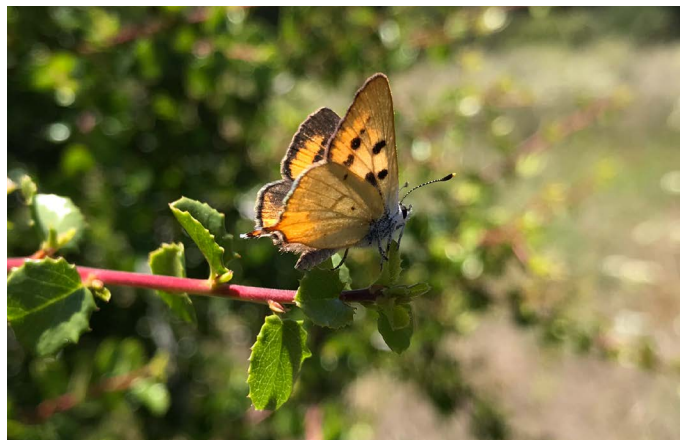
Protecting communities from wildfire

Since 2007, SDG&E has been an industry leader in wildfire prevention and reduction, investing more than \$3 billion in a variety of safety measures to prevent catastrophic wildfires, including protecting biodiversity through strategic vegetation management and fire-hardening activities. The company continuously maintains more than 460,000 trees across its service territory to keep power lines away from vegetation and communities energized, all while working to preserve local ecosystems. SDG&E’s work to mitigate wildfires specifically targets high-risk fire areas by removing wildfire fuel loads and creating space within natural vegetation to mimic a more natural, early ecological succession landscape that reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

Expanding covered species protections

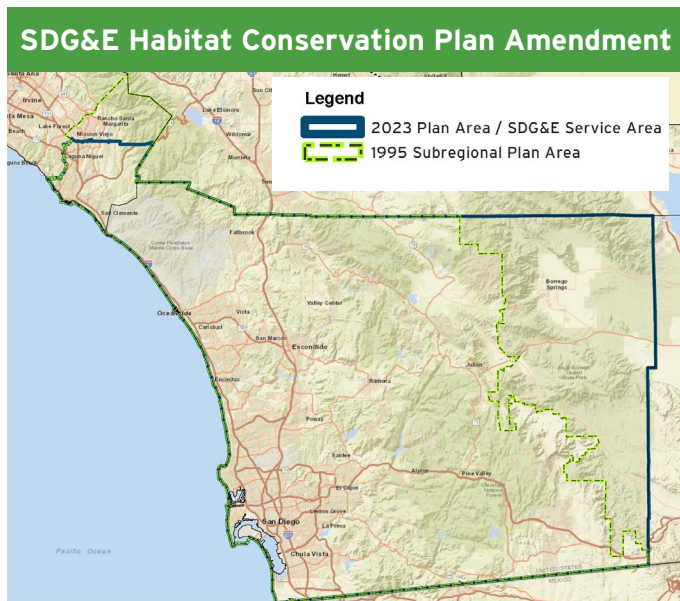
Under the new HCP Amendment, SDG&E will expand conservation efforts to protect not only those currently listed as threatened or endangered, but also species that may be listed in the future. More than 40 species are covered by the HCP, including:

- 28 species of plants, birds, butterflies, vernal pool shrimp, mammals and amphibians currently listed as threatened or endangered
- 11 species of birds, plants, reptiles and one amphibian not currently listed as threatened or endangered but which may be listed in the future
- Bald and Golden Eagles



“Our office envisions a network of conserved and managed lands across the Southern California landscape. SDG&E is a valuable partner in helping us conserve species like the coastal California gnatcatcher while ensuring they can continue providing essential services to their customers.”

– **Scott Sobiech**, Field Supervisor for the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office



The most significant update to the company’s HCP Amendment is the expansion of the Plan Area to cover all of SDG&E’s service territory. From the coastline to the mountains and the U.S. international border and southern Orange County, everywhere SDG&E operates and maintains infrastructure will be managed to the commitments in the HCP Amendment.

