



KIT FOX MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES (FOR PARCELS <40 ACRES)

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT • COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5600

Your property is within an area identified as important habitat for the Federal endangered and State threatened San Joaquin kit fox. The Kit Fox Habitat Map indicates that your project site is within an area where a standard mitigation ratio of (■:1) is required in order to reduce potential impacts to kit fox habitat to a less than significant level. This means that for every acre of permanent disturbance resulting from project activities (e.g. pad for barn, access road, landscaping etc.), you must mitigate a total of ■ acre(s).

Applicants have the option of hiring a qualified biologist to conduct a Kit Fox Habitat Evaluation of the project site if the applicant believes that the evaluation would lower the score and reduce the required mitigation ratio. Please let me know if you choose to accept the standard mitigation ratio of (■:1) or would like to have a qualified biologist complete a Habitat Evaluation Form. Your selection of an option and the habitat evaluation (should you choose that option) are required before the project can be accepted for processing. **If you accept the standard mitigation ratio, you can stop reading now and initial the top box on the bottom of this page.**

If you elect to have a habitat evaluation completed, the County recommends that you select a qualified kit fox biologist from the *Partial List of Qualified Kit Fox Biologists (see Planning Department)*. If you choose to hire a kit fox biologist that is not currently on the County-approved list, the biologist must first contact the Planning Department at (805) 781-5600 for approval before initiation of work.

Upon completion of the Habitat evaluation, a biologist from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will review the results of the habitat evaluation and may find it necessary to revise the evaluation score to accurately reflect the parcel's value as kit fox habitat. The County and CDFW have agreed to provide several options to mitigate for the loss of kit fox habitat. Additional information regarding the required mitigation options will be provided to you at a later date.

According to the guidelines for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an environmental determination shall be filed with the County Clerk's office within 5 days after final approval of the project. In order to file the environmental determination for projects reviewed by the CDFW that impact fish or wildlife resources or their habitat, a CDFW project fee (changes yearly, check with Planning Department for current amount) must be paid. This fee can be paid directly to the County Clerk and a receipt from the Clerk provided to us. Payment of this fee is not required at this time; you will receive instructions about payment of this fee at a later date.

- I understand the Kit Fox mitigation options and agree to the standard mitigation ratio of (■:1) for my project.
- I elect to have an independent habitat evaluation completed instead.

Permit Number: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please note that your project must still undergo its full environmental review and you may be asked to provide additional information before the environmental determination it can be completed.

For any kit fox related questions, please contact Rob Fitzroy at (805) 781-5179 or Holly Phipps at (805) 781-1162 in the County Department of Planning and Building.