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Builders focus on the environment

LETTERS

Re "Inland called key to state's future," March 28

The Riverside Building Industry Assn. believes planning is key for our future. In 1999, home builders, environmental groups, the Farm Bureau and local government leaders created the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. After a five-year planning process, the plan became one of the nation's most aggressive environmental protection programs. It will protect more than 146 species and 153,000 acres of privately held land and 357,000 acres of public land.

Smart environmental planning is also crucial to fixing the region's biggest challenge — traffic congestion. The conservation plan ensures that planners can create new transit systems in concert with environmental protection. That is why residents are benefiting from well-planned housing, high-quality jobs and upscale amenities. Riverside's cooperative philosophy and vision are working and protecting the quality of life for current and future residents.

LOU OCHOA
President
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