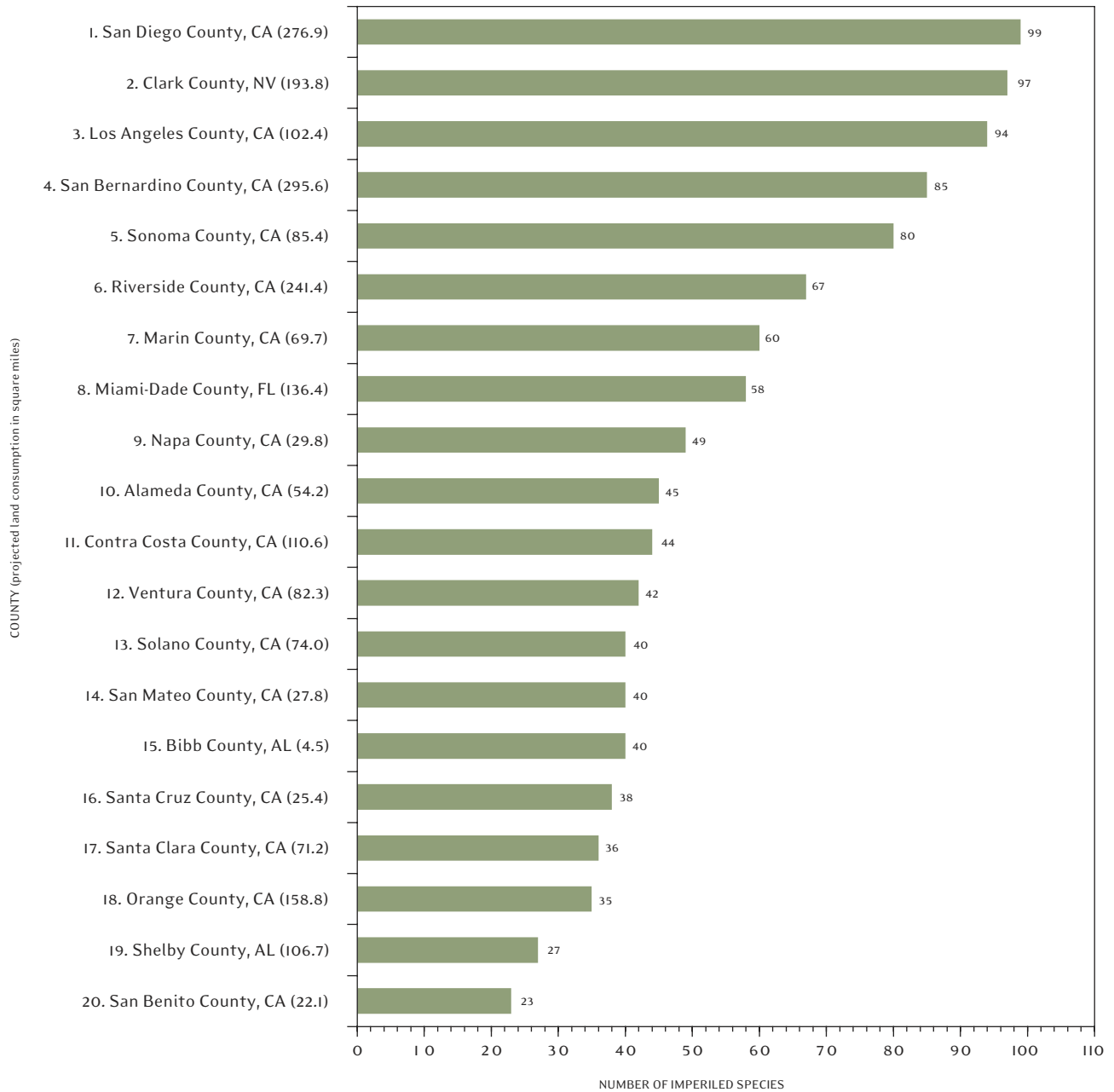


**FIGURE 3. Large Numbers of Species at Risk of Extinction: Counties in Fastest Growing Large Metro Areas with the Largest Number of Imperiled Species**



These 20 counties have the greatest number of imperiled species among all counties in the nation's 35 fastest growing large metro areas. Imperiled species are defined as species or subspecies with NatureServe global conservation status ranks of G1/T1 (critically imperiled) or G2/T2 (imperiled). See Data Sources and Methodology, below.