East Bay Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)
Regional Advance Mitigation Planning (RAMP)
Alameda County Technical Advisory Committee

Liz O'Donoghue
The Nature Conservancy
October 5, 2017
Regional Advance Mitigation Planning

- Dual Goals:
  - Achieve meaningful conservation outcomes
  - Expedite infrastructure project delivery

RAMP Planning Methodology

1. Identify Regional Conservation Values and Priorities
2. Identify Planned Transportation Projects
3. Estimate Potential Transportation Project Impacts
4. Select Appropriate Mitigation Sites

= RCIS
Regional Conservation Assessment

Regional Transportation Assessment
Bay Area RAMP
Transportation funding options and process

Self Supporting Revolving Fund

Federal Funds State Funds Regional Funds County Sales Taxes

Private funds

Mitigation bank
Habitat Conservancy/NCCPs
Agency sponsored bank
Mitigation Credit Agreement
In Lieu Fee program
Land Trusts and Open Space Districts

RAMP Planning Methodology

Identify Regional Conservation Values and Priorities
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= RCIS
New law: AB 2087

• Encourages *Regional Conservation Investment Strategies*

• Enables Mitigation Credit Agreements: advance mitigation

• Bay Area Pilots: Santa Clara and East Bay

**AB 2087 – Regional Conservation Investment Strategies**

- Establishes goals and content of an RCIS
- Identifies conservation actions to support the RCIS
  - Protect, restore, enhance
- Enables Mitigation Credit Agreements (MCA)
- Outlines process for obtaining MCAs when entities invest in conservation consistent with an RCIS
- Provides assurances for RAMP investments
**East Bay RCIS**

- **Goal:** Strategy to inform science-based conservation actions to advance conservation priorities and enable advance mitigation
  - Consistent with habitat conservation plans and approved recovery plans
  - Voluntary, non-binding and led by public agencies
  - Includes habitat connectivity, climate adaptation
RCIS Project Team and Engagement

Core Team:

- Coastal Conservancy
- MTC
- CCTA
- East County Water District
- The Nature Conservancy
- ICF
- AECOM

Stakeholder Advisors:

- East Bay Regional Park District
- Save Mount Diablo
- JMLT
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Caltrans
- Greenbelt Alliance
- TuValley Conservancy
- California Water Boards
- UC Water Resources Laboratory
- Alameda County
- Pleasanton
- Contra Costa County

RCIS Outline

- Chapter 1. Introduction
- Chapter 2. Environmental Setting
- Chapter 3. Conservation Strategy
- Chapter 4. Implementation Strategy
- Chapter 5. References
- Appendices
RCIS Focal Species

- Species that could require mitigation
- Other species of conservation importance
- Approx. 25 fish/wildlife species
- Approx. 25 plant species

RCIS Natural Communities Analysis

- **Step 1.** Identify land cover in the region
- **Step 2.** Review/update urban and cultivated agriculture
- **Step 3.** Incorporate aquatic resources
RCIS Conservation Actions

- Conservation value analysis
- Focal species models, land cover, connectivity, adjacency to protected lands, and other environmental benefits
- Preservation, enhancement, restoration, stewardship
**RCIS Application:**

*Our Focus: Transportation Mitigation*

- Transportation Impacts Analysis to forecast potential mitigation needs
- RCIS guides conservation investments to secure mitigation credit
- Included in MTC’s Plan Bay Area 2040

**Other applications**

- Mitigation for public infrastructure projects like energy, water, and housing
- Credit for enhancement projects
- Advise for mitigation for private infrastructure projects

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**East Bay Subregional Assessment:**

*Putting the Pieces Together*

- Match conservation actions with mitigation demand
- Guide implementation
- Tool for transportation agencies
East Bay Subregional Assessment

RAMP Transportation Assessment

- Project Impacts, Mitigation Supply

East Bay RCIS
RAMP Bay Area Conservation Assessment

- Conservation Priorities

Mitigation Opportunities:
- Land Acquisition/Protection
- Habitat Restoration
- Enhancements (e.g., removing barriers)

Implementation Plan:
- Implementation Details
- Mitigation Crediting Agreements

RCIS Timeline

- Q2 2016: Project launches
- Q3-Q4 2016: Outreach → RCIS development
- Q1-Q2 2017: Regional conservation assessment → Regional transportation assessment
- Q3 2017: RCIS work suspended → Sub-Regional Assessment Completed
- Q4 2017/ Q1 2018: RCIS development → Draft submitted to CDFW
- Q2 2018: Admin draft submitted to public → RCIS final approval
- Q3 2018: MCA development begins
Questions?
Bay Area RAMP
Organization and Administration

Co-management of Mitigation Marketplace

Technical Advisory Committee
• Transportation Agencies
• Regulatory Agencies

Public Engagement

In Service To

Methods and Process
Mitigation Actions
Performance Measurement

Identifying Mitigation Opportunities

Diagram:

- Does the project qualify for mitigation under the East Contra Costa County HCP/NCP?
- Is there an existing mitigation or conservation bank with a service territory that overlaps with the East Bay ROIS area?
- Can an MCA consistence with the East Bay ROIS be developed?
- Create MCA, implement mitigation through MCA
- Develop project-specific mitigation or create new mitigation bank

- Fulfill mitigation requirement by paying fee to the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy
- Purchase credits from appropriate mitigation or conservation bank
Regional Conservation Assessment
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