East Bay Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)

Regional Advance Mitigation Planning (RAMP)

Alameda County Technical Advisory Committee

Coastal Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.®

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Liz O'Donoghue
The Nature Conservancy

October 5, 2017

RAMP – Bay Area Planning Process

RCIS – East Bay

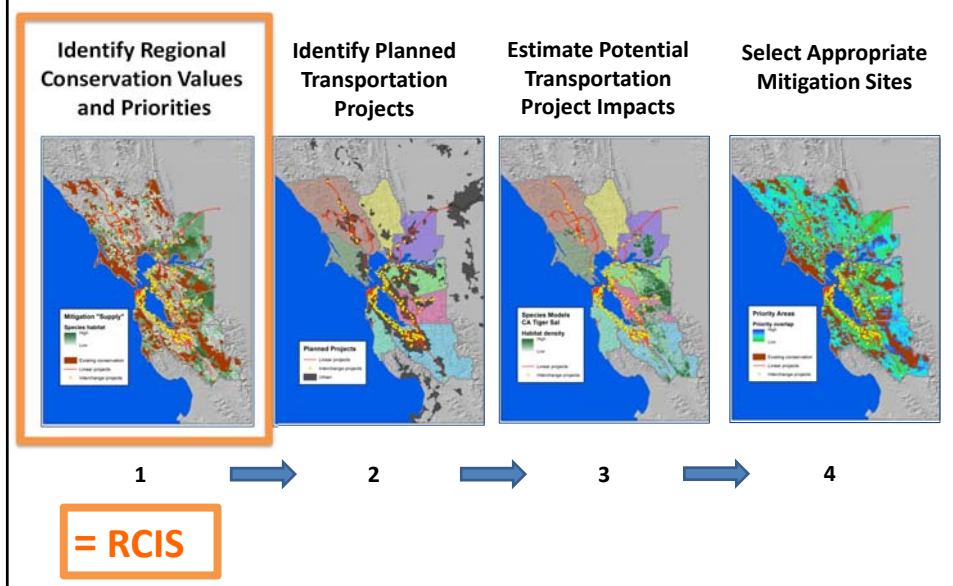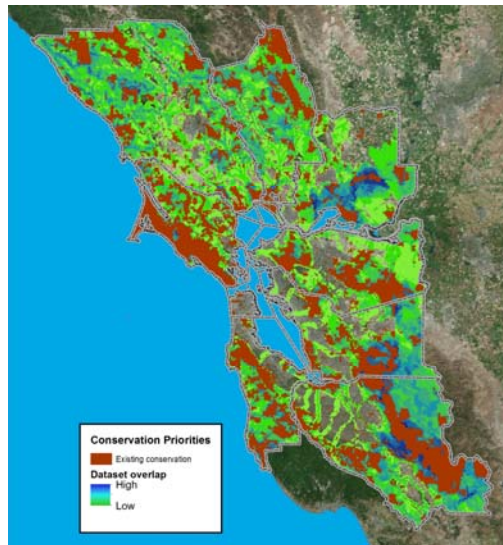**Regional Advance Mitigation Planning**

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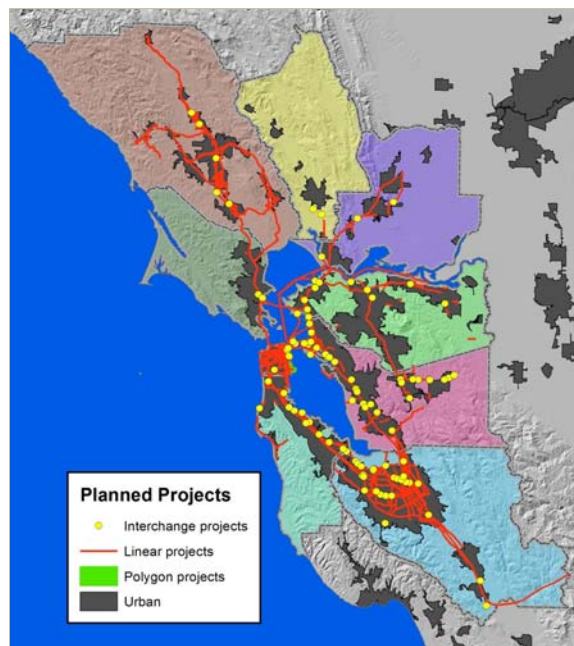 - ▪ Expedite infrastructure project delivery

RAMP Planning Methodology

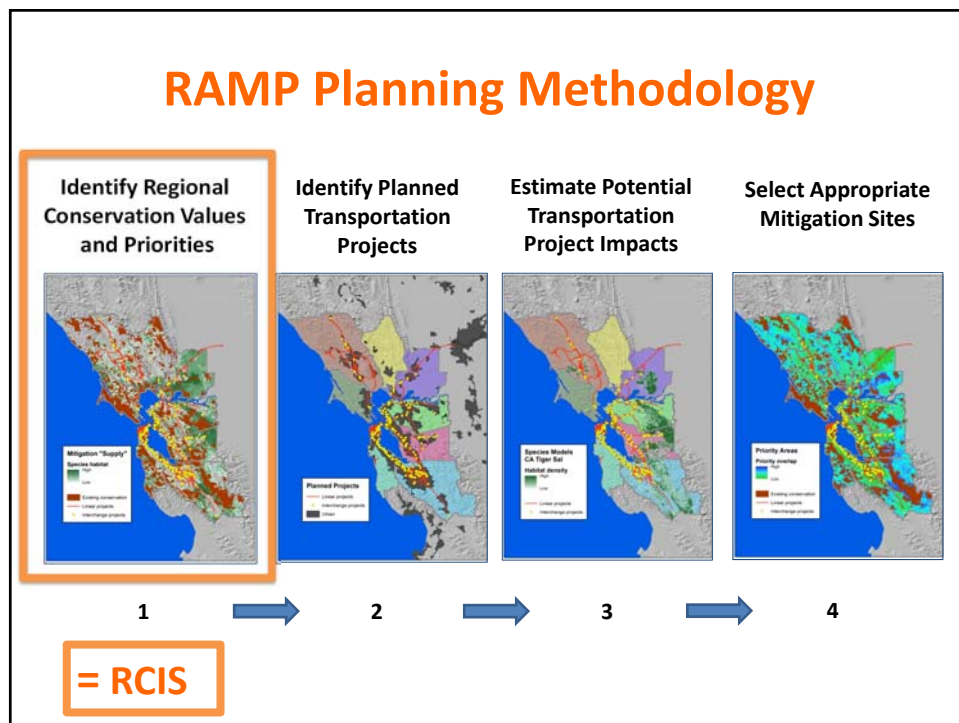

Identify Regional Conservation Values and Priorities	Identify Planned Transportation Projects	Estimate Potential Transportation Project Impacts	Select Appropriate Mitigation Sites
1	2	3	4

= RCIS

Regional Conservation Assessment

Regional Transportation Assessment

Bay Area RAMP
Transportation funding options and process

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

Identify Planned Transportation Projects

Estimate Potential Transportation Project Impacts

Select Appropriate Mitigation Sites

1   2   3   4

= 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
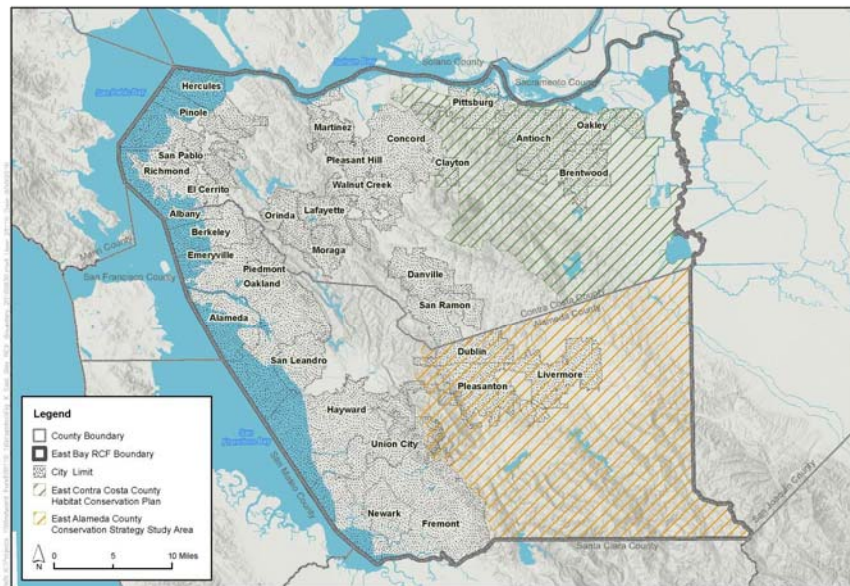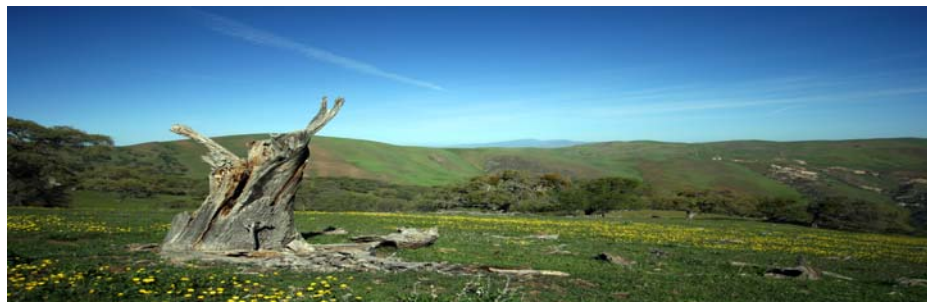- Includes habitat connectivity, climate adaptation

Figure X
East Bay RCF Boundary

RCIS Project Team and Engagement

Core Team:

Stakeholder Advisors:

RCIS Outline

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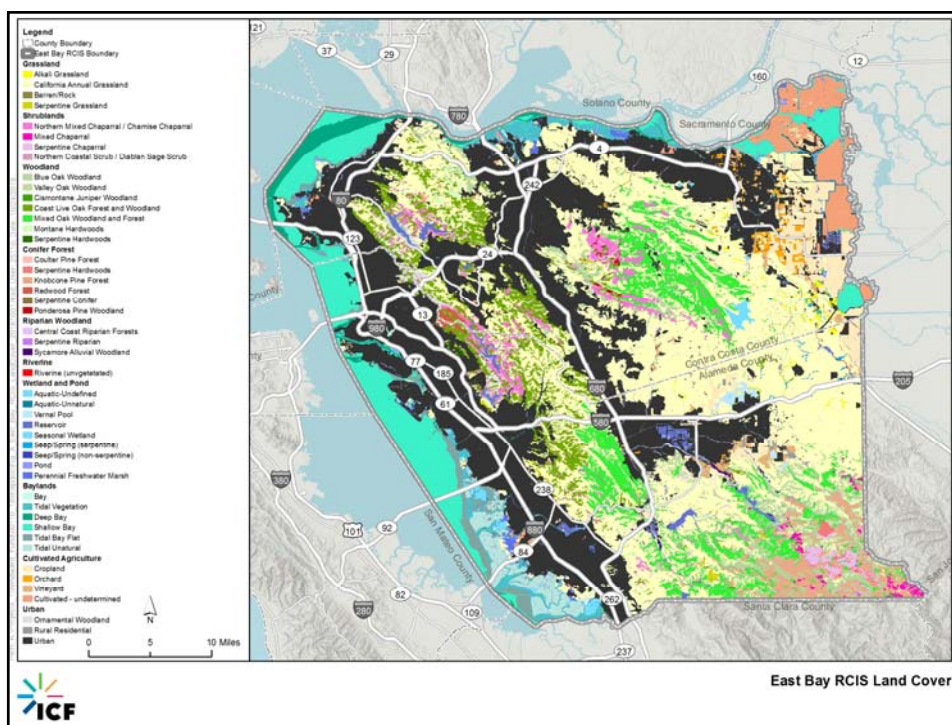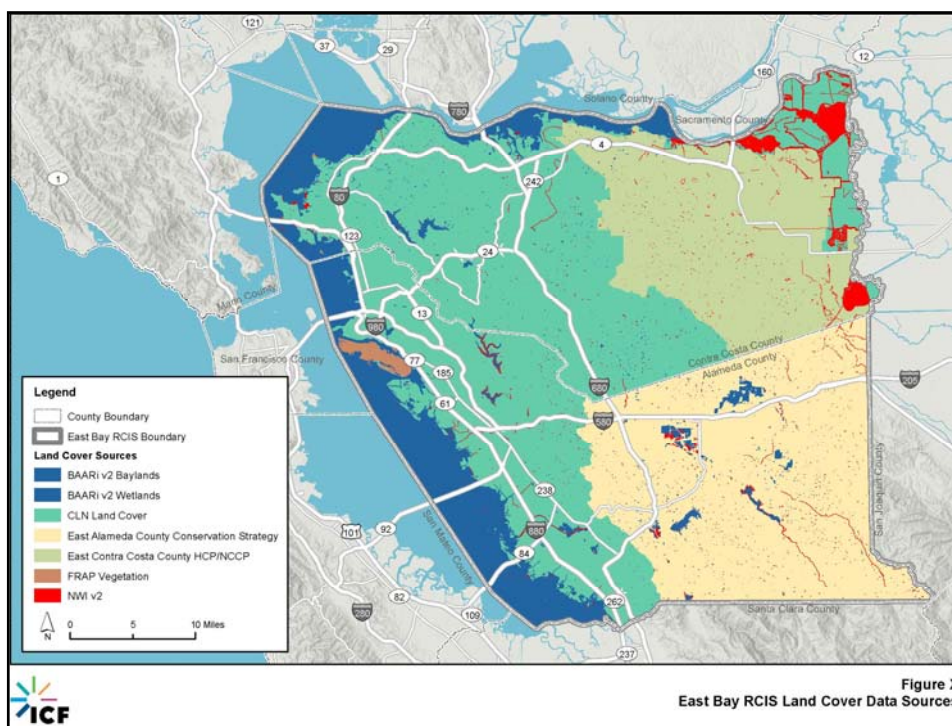- **Chapter 5.** References
- **Appendices**

RCIS Focal Species

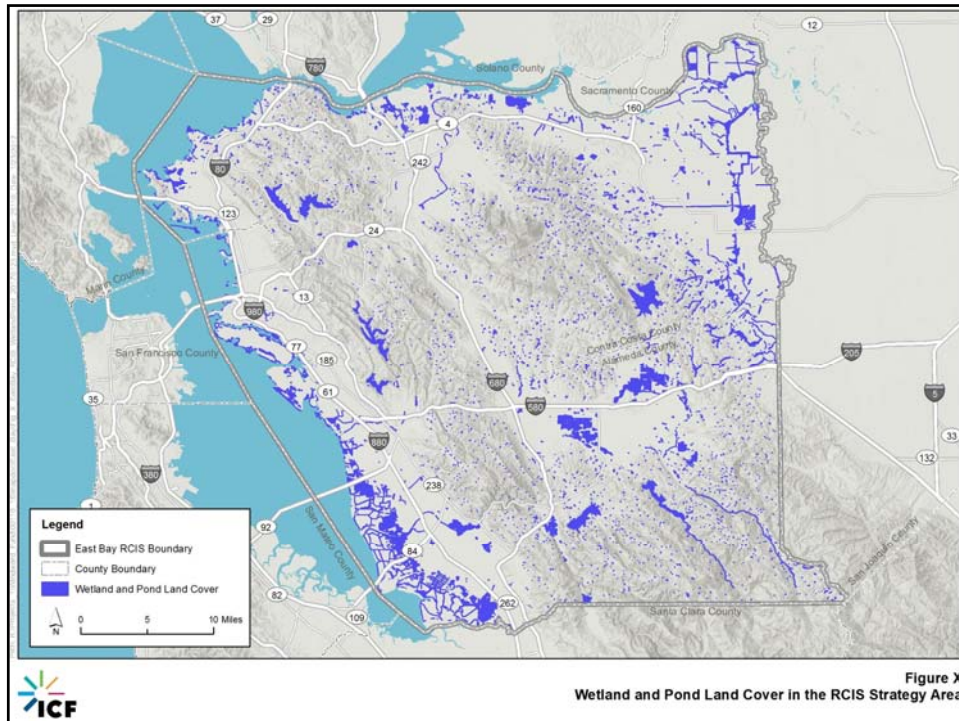- Species that could require mitigation
- Other species of conservation importance
- Approx. 25 fish/wildlife species
- Approx. 25 plant species
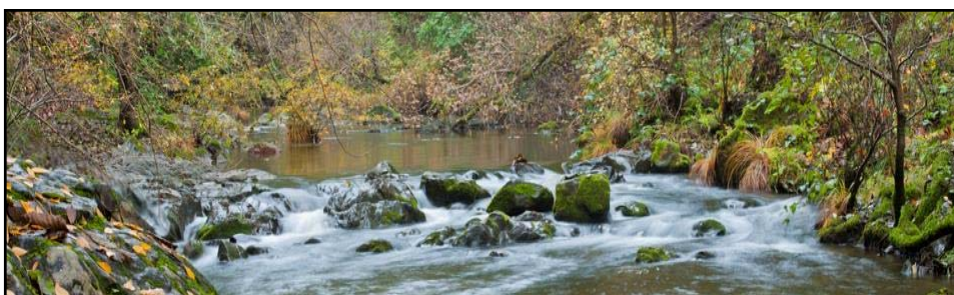
RCIS Natural Communities Analysis

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

Figure X
East Bay RCIS Land Cover Data Sources

East Bay RCIS Land Cover

Figure X
Wetland and Pond Land Cover in the RCIS Strategy Area

RCIS Conservation Actions

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

10/4/2017

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

East Bay Subregional Assessment: Putting the Pieces Together
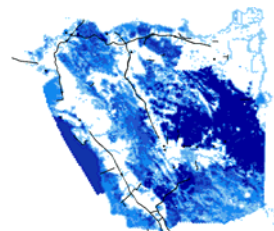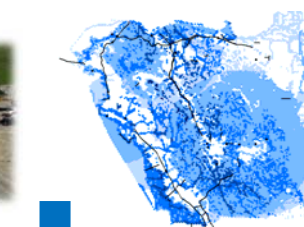
- Match conservation actions with mitigation demand
- Guide implementation
- Tool for transportation agencies

East Bay Subregional Assessment
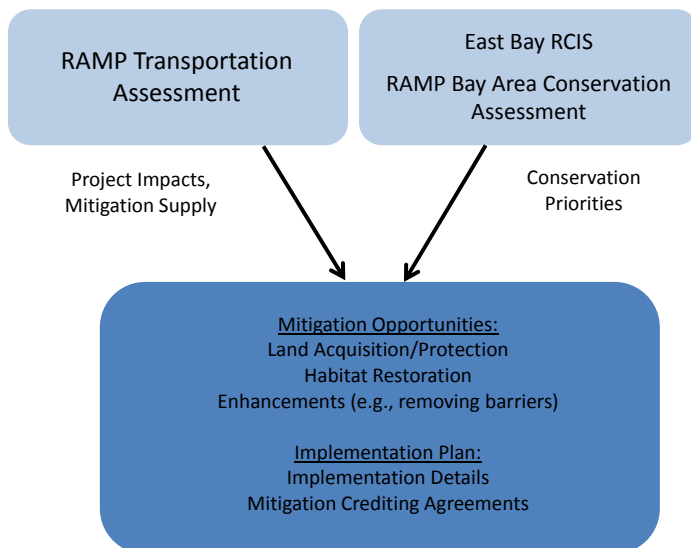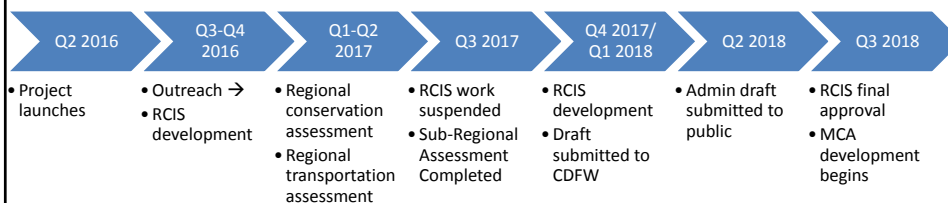
RAMP Transportation Assessment	East Bay RCIS RAMP Bay Area Conservation Assessment

Project Impacts, Mitigation Supply

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	Q3-Q4 2016	Q1-Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017/ Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018
• Project launches	• Outreach → • RCIS development	• Regional conservation assessment • Regional transportation assessment	• RCIS work suspended • Sub-Regional Assessment Completed	• RCIS development • Draft submitted to CDFW	• Admin draft submitted to public	• RCIS final approval • MCA development begins

Questions?

RLF Example

HUC12
Modeled impacts
Existing conservation

Cons priority overlap
High

Low

0 0.5 1   2 Miles

Bay Area RAMP
Organization and Administration

Co-management of Mitigation Marketplace

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Coastal Conservancy

Technical Advisory Committee
- Transportation Agencies
- Regulatory Agencies

Public Engagement

In Service To

Methods and Process

Mitigation Actions

Performance Measurement
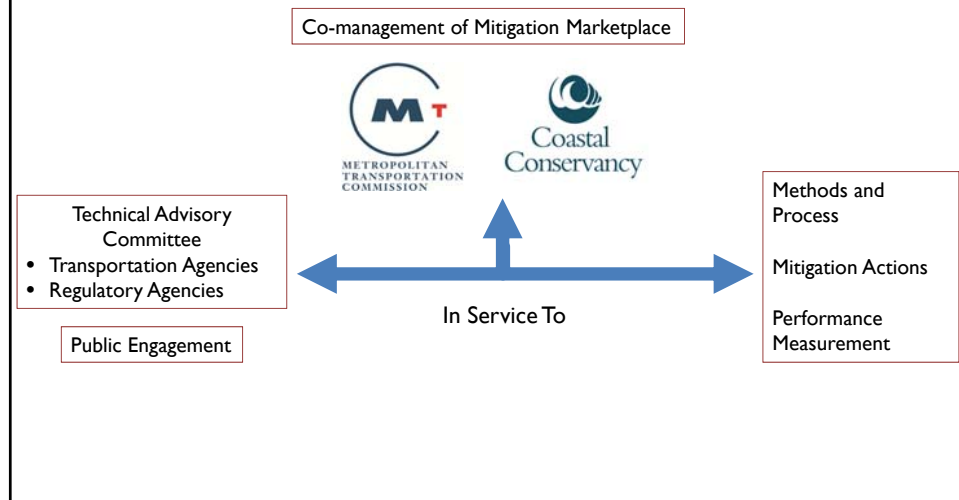
Identifying Mitigation Opportunities

Does the project qualify for mitigation under the East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP?

Yes → Fulfill mitigation requirement by paying fee to the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy

No → Is there an existing mitigation or conservation bank with a service territory that overlaps with the East Bay RCIS area?

Yes → Purchase credits from appropriate mitigation or conservation bank

No → Can an MCA consistent with the East Bay RCIS be developed?

Yes → Create MCA, implement mitigation through MCA
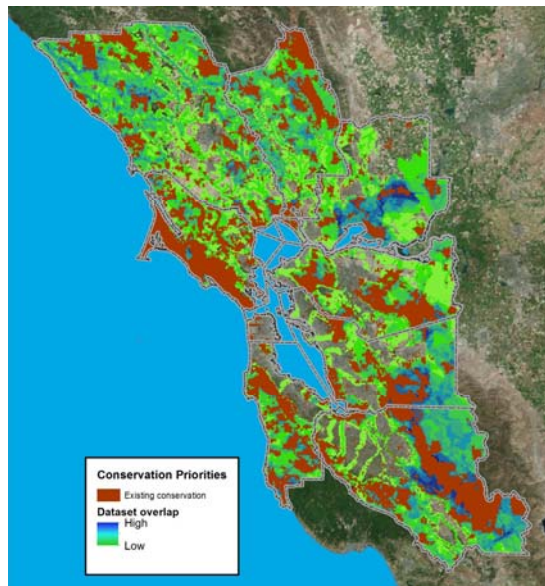
No → Develop project-specific mitigation or create new mitigation bank

Regional Conservation Assessment

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