



REGIONAL CONSERVATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY PROGRAM (AB 2087)

California's New Conservation & Advance
Mitigation Program

Habitat Conservation Planning from Tahoe to the Bay
Workshop, October 19, 2016



WHAT IS THE PROGRAM'S PURPOSE?

- Encourage Voluntary Conservation Assessments
- Achieve more Strategic and Effective Conservation Outcomes
- Create a First Time Advance Mitigation Program
- Support Public Infrastructure with Efficient Mitigation Delivery



PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Regional Conservation Assessments (RCAs)
- Regional Conservation Investment Strategies (RCISs)
- Mitigation Credit Agreements (MCAs)
- Program Guidelines
- Public Processes



REGIONAL CONSERVATION SCALES

Local Planning

Ecological

RCAs

Regional

Ecoregion

RCISs

Multi-County
to Sub-County

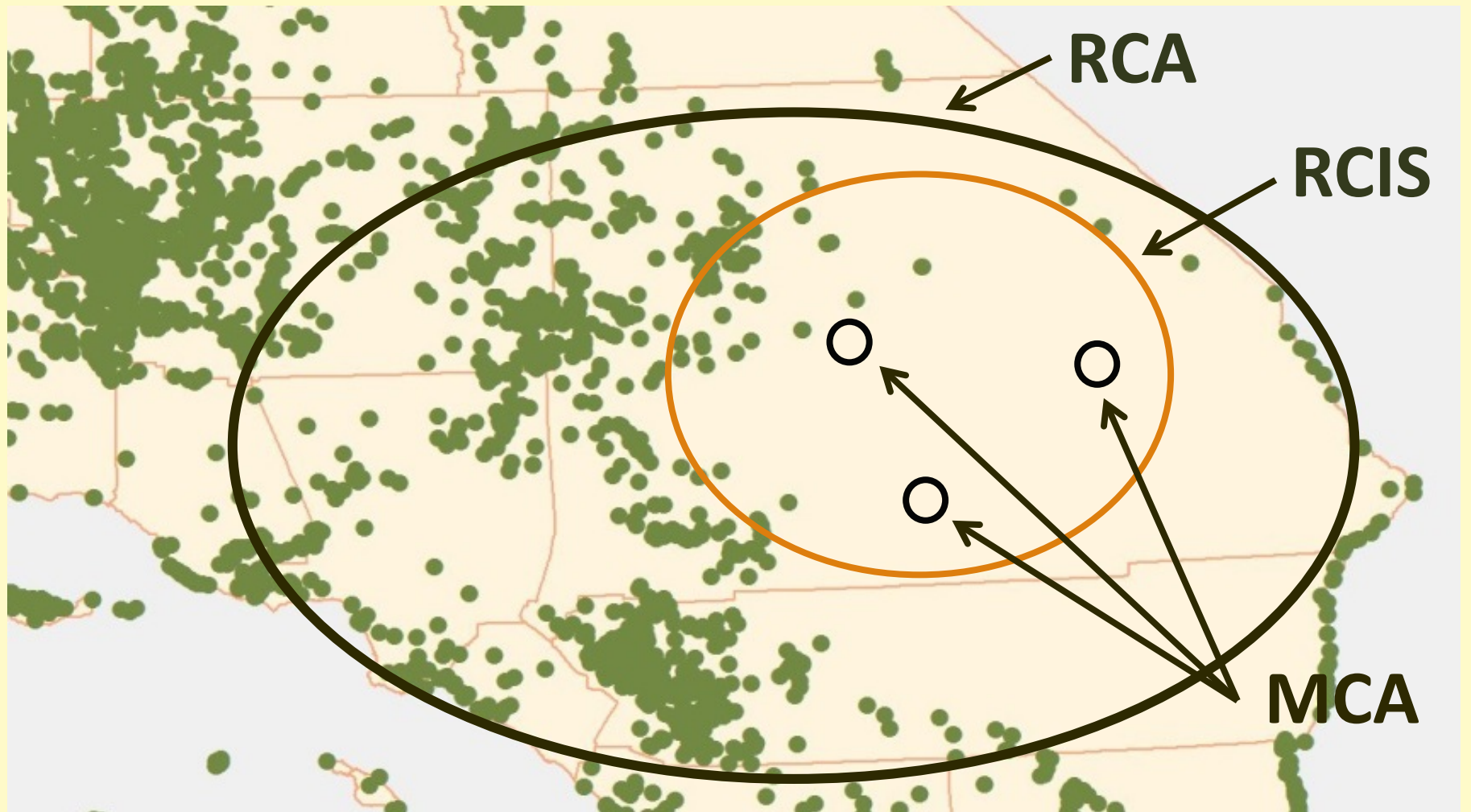
Sub-Ecoregion

MCAs

Land Base

Vegetation
Community/
Habitat

THE ASSESSMENT HIERARCHY



OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL CONSERVATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY (RCIS) SETTING

- Prepared by Public Agencies
- Consistent with Local Land Use Authorities
- Considers agricultural working lands, foreseeable infrastructure, solar, & housing development
- Contextual Assessment of Conservation Opportunities



OVERVIEW OF RCIS ELEMENTS

- Designation of focal species
- Species-level biological goals and objectives
- Summary of stressors and pressures
- Climate adaptation opportunities
- Best available science standard
- Conservation actions and elements
- Consistency with NCCPs and Conservation Banks

POTENTIAL CONSERVATION & ENHANCEMENT ACTIONS

- Land acquisition & protection
- Habitat restoration
- Restoration of creeks and rivers
- Restoration of habitat on public land
- Installation of wildlife crossings & fish passage barrier removal
- Creation or restoration of rearing habitat



OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL CONSERVATION ASSESSMENTS (RCA)

- Voluntary (not required for RCIS approval)
- Highest order conservation assessment
- Identifies ecoregional pressures & stressors
- Considers connectivity values
- Use best available science
- Takes advantage of geospatial data
- Uses standard classifications
- Mandatory consistency with NCCP
- Consistency with local authorities



MITIGATION CREDIT AGREEMENT (MCA)

Describes:

- Available only under an approved RCIS
- RCIS conservation & enhancement actions
- Service area
- Credit need and authority
- Credit ledger & release Schedule

Includes:

- Conservation easement
- Long-term management funding
- Adaptive management and monitoring strategy
- Performance standards & metrics

RCIS INTERACTION WITH OTHER ADVANCE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

- If an RCIS overlaps an NCCP or HCP:
 - Must be consistent with existing or draft NCCPs and large-scale HCPs
 - Entities must forgo Participating Special Entity designation to use MCA credits
 - Implementing Entities can create credits to sell for profit to help fund their plans
- RCIS includes inventory of existing mitigation and conservation banks and available credits

QUESTIONS?

RCIS Program Contact:

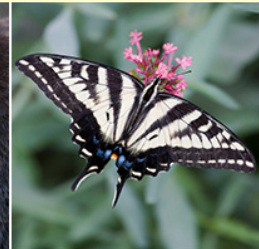
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AB 2087 Bill Language:

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2087



PUBLIC NOTICE & REVIEW PROCESSES

Public Agency developing an RCIS:

- Initiates public meetings and incorporates comments
- Provides notices to Governor's Office of Planning and Research, cities & counties, County Clerk offices, & County Board of Supervisors
- Publishes draft RCIS on their website

CDFW Responsibilities:

- Publish draft RCISs on website & initiate 30 day public review period
- Publish approved RCISs on website
- Initiate 45 day public review of proposed MCAs
- Publish MCA credit information on CDFW website