

# **Northern California Conservation Planning Partners**

## **Tenth Annual Habitat Conservation Planning From Tahoe to the Bay Workshop**

John Hopkins

Institute for Ecological Health

[www.instituteforecologicalhealth.org](http://www.instituteforecologicalhealth.org)

# The Nature of Our Regional Conservation Plans

- **Plans that proactively address conservation of endangered and rare species and the biological communities of an area, while providing permitting for economic activities.**
- **Cover a whole county or a sub-county area**
- **Local government the lead agency**



# Approved NCCPP Plans

- San Joaquin MSHCP 5/2001
- East Contra Costa HCP/NCCP 8/2007

# NCCPP Plans in Preparation

- Placer County Conservation Plan
- Santa Clara Valley HCP / NCCP
- South Sacramento HCP
- Solano HCP
- Yolo Natural Heritage Program
- Yuba / Sutter HCP/NCCP

# Other Regulatory Processes

- Section 404, Clean Water Act
- Section 401, Clean Water Act
- Porter – Cologne Water Quality Control Act
- Future state Wetlands and Riparian Protection Policy
- Section 1600, Fish and Game Code

# Some Future Linkage Opportunities

- SB 375 – Regional growth plans
- State Plan of Flood Control
- California Flood Plan
- IRWMPs – Integrated Regional Water Management Plans
- California Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Regional Greenprints
- Other regional conservation proposals
- Potential Funding Sources (eg: climate change, transportation, renewable energy)

# Some Biological Advantages Over Project by Project Permitting

- More habitat conservation
- Assemble a system of large reserves and landscape linkages that is likely to function over the long term
- Avoid postage stamp preserves that become surrounded by development
- In-perpetuity monitoring and adaptive management at system-level
- Additional funding sources

# Some Economic Advantages Over Project by Project Permitting

- Avoid long and costly delays in obtaining permits
- Avoid financial institution concern about presence of listed species
- Partial or complete one-stop-shopping for natural resource permitting
- Certainty about habitat conservation requirements



# Do Regional Conservation Plans Work ?

- Some data that you get more conservation of important habitat
- But mainly the jury is out and it will be many years before we know.
- Difficult to monitor exactly how many species are faring or to monitor other relevant factors and processes.
- Many obstacles to reserve assembly and many ways by which important habitat may be lost
- What about the matrix?

# California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition

- Multi-sector
- Four goals
  - funding for HCPs and NCCPs
  - coordination with other permitting and regional plans
  - effectiveness
  - build support
- E-newsletter

# **Institute for Ecological Health**

**409 Jardin Place, Davis, CA 95616**

**[ieh@cal.net](mailto:ieh@cal.net) (530) 756-6455**

**[www.instituteforecologicalhealth.org](http://www.instituteforecologicalhealth.org)**

