



REGIONAL CONSERVATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY PROGRAM (AB 2087)

California's New Advance Mitigation
Program

California Biodiversity Council - Interagency Alignment Team Meeting
December 8, 2016



WHAT IS THE PROGRAM'S PURPOSE?

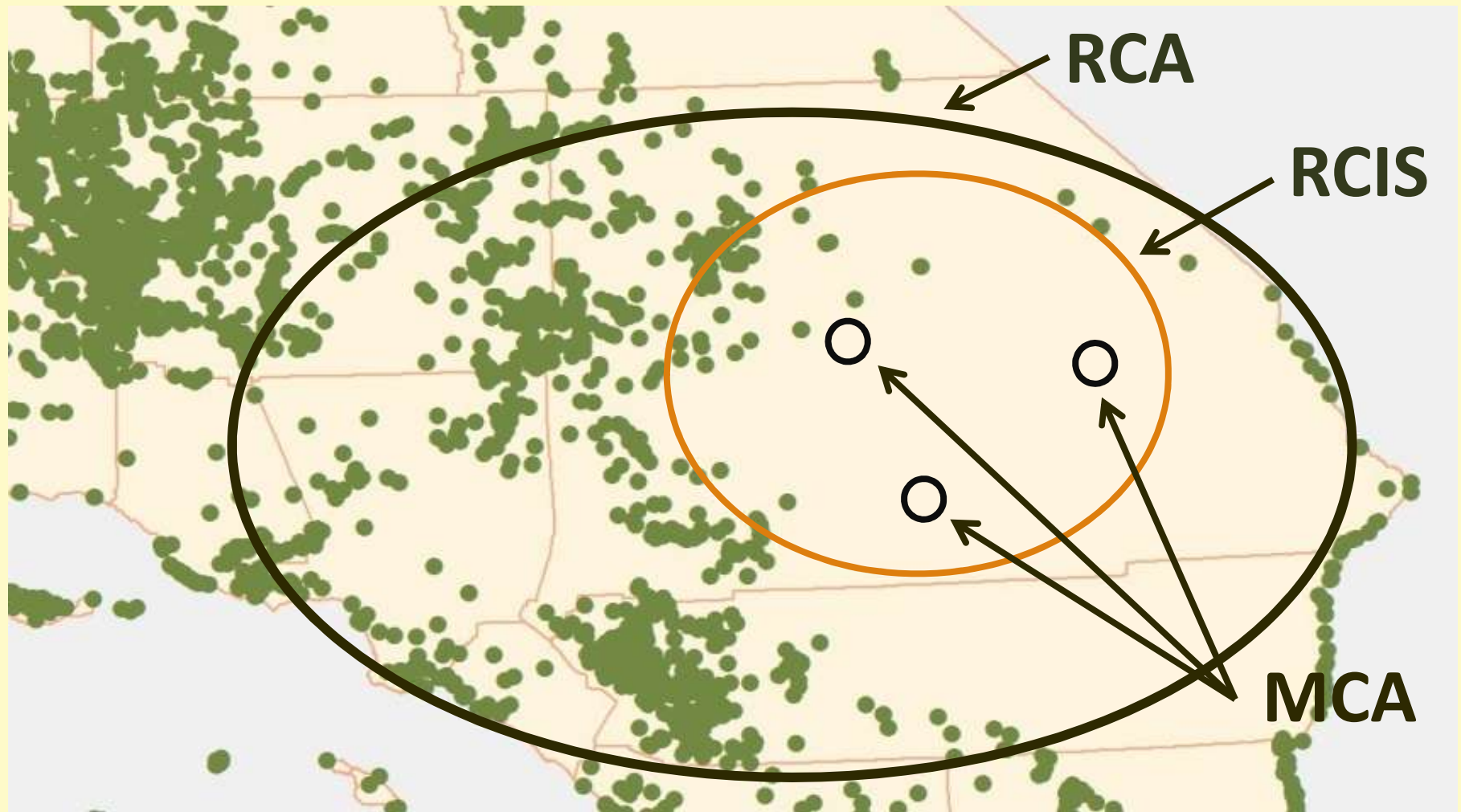
- Creates CDFW's first advance mitigation program
- Encourage voluntary conservation planning
- Achieve more strategic & effective conservation outcomes
- Support public infrastructure with efficient mitigation delivery



PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Regional Conservation Assessments (RCAs)
- Regional Conservation Investment Strategies (RCISs)
- Mitigation Credit Agreements (MCAs)
- Program guidelines & Fees
- Public processes

THE ASSESSMENT HIERARCHY



OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL CONSERVATION ASSESSMENTS (RCA)

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

OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL CONSERVATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY (RCIS)

- Prepared by any public agency
- Consistent with local land use authorities
- Considers agricultural working lands and foreseeable infrastructure, solar, housing development
- Contextual assessment of conservation & mitigation opportunities



OVERVIEW OF RCIS COMPONENTS

- Section of focal species
- Species-level biological goals and objectives
- Summary of stressors and pressures
- Best available science
- Climate adaptation assessment
- Conservation actions and enhancement actions
- Consistent with NCCPs and CDFW's banking program

RCIS INTERACTION WITH OTHER ADVANCE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

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

POTENTIAL CONSERVATION & ENHANCEMENT ACTIONS

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



MITIGATION CREDIT AGREEMENT (MCA)

- Describes:
 - Available only under an approved RCIS
 - RCIS conservation & enhancement actions
 - Service area
 - Credit need & authority
 - Credit ledger & credit release schedule
- Includes:
 - Conservation easement template
 - Long-term management funding
 - Adaptive management & monitoring strategy
 - Performance standards & metrics

NEXT STEPS

- Develop guidelines (May 2017)
- Develop fee structure
- Participate in and review the four RCIS pilots currently in development (summer/fall 2017)
- Participate in and review mitigation credit agreements (fall/winter 2017 – 2018)



QUESTIONS?

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[https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/
Regional-Conservation](https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Regional-Conservation)

AB 2087 Bill Language:

[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNav
Client.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2087](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2087)