

Regional Conservation Investment Strategies Program Guidelines: Fees

This fee schedule is part of the Regional Conservation Investment Strategies Program Guidelines (Guidelines)¹, as referenced in Section 1.3 of the Guidelines.

When to Pay

Regional Conservation Investment Strategies (RCIS) Program fees must be paid prior to CDFW's review of the first draft submission of any RCA, RCIS, or MCA². Review of any draft documents will begin on the date that both the draft document and fees have been received. In the case that the draft document and fee are submitted on different days, the review will begin on the latter of the two days.

How to Pay

RCIS Program fees may be paid by check or wire transfer. If paying by check, the check must be made out to "California Department of Fish and Wildlife" and may either be dropped off or mailed as follow:

- a. The check may be dropped off at:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605

- b. The check may be mailed to:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
Attn: Regional Conservation Investment Strategies Program
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

¹ Fish & G. Code, § 1858

² Fish & G. Code, § 1857

If paying by wire transfer, contact the RCIS Program Team at rcis@wildlife.ca.gov for specific instructions.

Fee Adjustments

Fees will be adjusted annually using the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) for State and Local Government Purchases of Goods and Services, as published by the United States Department of Commerce. The rate of change for the annual fee adjustment is determined by comparing the March 31 quarter end IPD index of the current year to the March 31 quarter end IPD index of the prior year. Each current fee is multiplied by the relative amount of change in the IPD index. The product is added to the fee for the current year and then rounded to the nearest \$0.25 increment. The resulting amounts are the adjusted fees for the new calendar year, beginning January 1.

Fees may be further adjusted based on an evaluation of the actual time required by CDFW staff to review and approve RCIS Program documents.

When a fee includes “Up to” language, CDFW will consider the expected workload resulting from the change or resubmittal requested and will calculate a fee that compensates for the expected workload. These calculations will be conducted on a case-by-case basis, as necessary.

Regional Conservation Assessment (RCA) Fees

RCA Phase	2020 Fee	2021 Fee	Notes
RCA Review and Approval	\$23,217.00	\$23,925.00	This fee includes coordination between CDFW and the applicant during document development (including meetings), as well as CDFW review time.
RCA Data Update	None	None	Data Updates are free and CDFW encourages them by waiving a fee. However, CDFW may add a fee for Data Updates in the future, if needed. A Data Update is generally the submission of GIS data or minor changes to numbers or text in the document that require less than 2 hours of CDFW staff time.

RCA Phase	2020 Fee	2021 Fee	Notes
RCA Simple Amendment	\$7,704.00	\$7,939.00	A Simple Amendment would include small or minor changes to the document that are more than a Data Update, but that do not result in substantial changes, as determined by CDFW.
RCA Complex Amendment	\$23,217.00	\$23,925.00	A Complex Amendment would result in a substantial change to the document, such as the addition of an ecoregion, as determined by CDFW. If the initial Simple Amendment fee was paid and the amendment was subsequently deemed to be complex by CDFW, the difference would be required
RCA Resubmittal Review	Up to \$23,217.00	Up to \$23,925.00	If the submittal is not initially accepted by CDFW, it can be resubmitted after revision and CDFW may impose a fee up to the listed amount. Minor changes or changes mutually agreed upon as attributable to early program implementation may not be subject to any resubmittal fees.
RCA Unsolicited Changes	Up to \$11,608.75	Up to \$11,962.75	This is a one-time fee for unsolicited changes proposed by the proponent during the review period (including review of amendments) to cover the reasonable cost of CDFW's services in reviewing a change that it determines will require additional CDFW staff time.

Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) Fees

RCIS Phase	2020 Fee	2021 Fee	Notes
RCIS Review and Approval	\$30,076.75	\$30,993.75	This fee includes coordination between CDFW and the applicant during document development (including meetings), as well as CDFW review time.

RCIS Phase	2020 Fee	2021 Fee	Notes
RCIS Data Update	None	None	Data Updates are free and CDFW encourages them by waiving a fee. However, CDFW may add a fee for Data Updates in the future, if needed. A Data Update is generally the submission of GIS data or minor changes to numbers or text in the document that require less than 2 hours of CDFW staff time.
RCIS Simple Amendment	\$10,025.75	\$10,331.50	A Simple Amendment would include small or minor changes to the document that are more than a Data Update, but that do not result in substantial changes, as determined by CDFW.
RCIS Complex Amendment	\$30,076.75	\$30,993.75	A Complex Amendment would result in a substantial change to the document, such as changes to the geographic area, focal species, or other conservation elements, as determined by CDFW. If the initial Simple Amendment fee was paid and the amendment was subsequently deemed to be complex by CDFW, the difference would be required.
RCIS Resubmittal Review	Up to \$30,076.75	Up to \$30,993.75	If the submittal is not initially accepted by CDFW, it can be resubmitted after revision and CDFW may impose a fee up to the listed amount. Minor changes or changes mutually agreed upon may not be subject to any resubmittal fees.
RCIS Unsolicited Changes	Up to \$15,038.25	Up to \$15,496.75	This is a one-time fee for unsolicited changes proposed by the proponent during the review period (including review of amendments) to cover the reasonable cost of CDFW's services in reviewing a change that is determined to require additional CDFW staff time.

Mitigation Credit Agreement (MCA) Pilot Fees

MCA pilot fees are subject to change based on information learned through the implementation of the pilot project and/or MCA Guideline updates.

MCA Phase	2020 Fee	2021 Fee	Notes
MCA Concept (optional)	N/A	\$5,250	An MCA concept is a brief, concept-level proposal that is optional but recommended when an MCA sponsor is scoping for an MCA or contemplating a specific MCA idea, or for those new to the MCA process.
MCA Application Review and Approval	N/A	\$26,250	This fee includes coordination between CDFW and the applicant during MCA development, as well as CDFW review time.
MCA Implementation (upon MCA approval)	N/A	\$25,000	This initial implementation fee is to cover CDFW's monitoring of performance standards, site visits, finalize lands package reviews, endowment funding, communication, compliance, and meetings. MCA approval may include an initial credit release.
MCA Implementation (1 st credit release)	N/A	\$20,000	This fee covers CDFW's review of annual reports and performance measures, site visits, reviewing and approving credit transfers, communication, compliance, and meetings.
MCA Implementation (2 nd credit release)	N/A	\$15,000	This fee covers CDFW's on-going review of annual reports and performance measures, site visits, additional reviewing and approving of credit transfers, communication, compliance, and meetings.

MCA Phase	2020 Fee	2021 Fee	Notes
MCA Implementation (each additional credit release)	N/A	\$5,000	If applicable, each additional credit release would require the listed fee. This fee covers CDFW's review of annual reports and performance measures, review of credit transfers, resolution of changes and issues, and ongoing administration through MCA closure.
MCA Simple Amendment	N/A	\$2,000	A simple amendment is any amendment that relates to the organization or administration of the MCA including, but not limited to, changes in MCA name, property ownership, address, MCA sponsor, endowment holder. A minor amendment would not modify the scope or nature of the MCA or any MCA action.
MCA Complex Amendment	N/A	Up to \$25,000 per amendment. (\$10k for a management plan change)	A complex amendment means any amendment that relates to the operation, management, or another material element of the MCA. This includes site additions to an approved MCA, adding proposed conservation actions and habitat enhancement actions; altering existing credits or proposing the creation of additional credits; transferring the conservation easement; altering the credit-release schedule; and expanding the service area. If the initial Simple Amendment fee was paid and the amendment was subsequently deemed to be complex by CDFW, the difference would be required.

MCA Phase	2020 Fee	2021 Fee	Notes
MCA Unsolicited Changes	N/A	Up to \$10,000	This is a one-time fee for unsolicited changes proposed by the applicant (that have not been solicited by CDFW) during the application or amendment review period to cover the reasonable cost of CDFW's services in reviewing a change that it determines will require additional CDFW staff time. Examples might include adding additional species credits or incorporating other agency credits.