



CALIFORNIA ESSENTIAL HABITAT CONNECTIVITY PROJECT



What It Is and What It Is Not

What It Is	What It Is Not
A planning tool for conservation and transportation.	A regulation that dictates land use for any public or private entity.
An analysis commissioned in part by wildlife agencies to facilitate the conservation of connected blocks of habitat.	A California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service response to potential impacts to a habitat or species from a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Endangered Species Act (CESA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).
Broad scale and encompassing the entire state of California. The minimum size of a habitat (natural landscape) block identified and analyzed for connectivity with any other habitat block is 10,000 acres.	Fine scale, with every important piece of habitat identified. Small reserves may not show up on the statewide map, because of the scale of analysis. The map and strategy do not suggest these reserves are unimportant, only that they are more appropriate pieces for a regional level (e.g. group of counties) or even a local level strategy to conserve connectivity.
“Essential”, meaning important, connectivity areas.	“Essential”, meaning the only places of importance. Do not assume lands not identified are unimportant.
“Essential connectivity areas”, meaning important areas for maintaining connectivity between large blocks of habitat.	To be confused with “essential habitat”, often identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to augment maps of “critical habitat” created for endangered species recovery plans.
A modeled analysis using the ecological condition or integrity of the landscape to identify areas of essential connectivity	A solution by itself for how to provide necessary linkages for any given species of plant or animal. Linkage designs will vary depending on focal species chosen and the goal of providing connected habitat for a chosen species might be met several different ways.
An initial analysis of connectivity for California and a map upon which future analyses can be built.	The final word on connectivity for California. Conditions will change and new data will become available, eventually requiring a new analysis.