

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PLANNING

- Natural Community Conservation Plans
- Regional Conservation Investment Strategies
- Question and answer on LCP



LCP Program's Tools for Conservation

Landscape Planning

- **Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCP)**
- **Regional Conservation Investment Strategy Program (RCIS)**
 - **Regional Conservation Assessment (RCA)**
 - **Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)**

Advance Mitigation Crediting

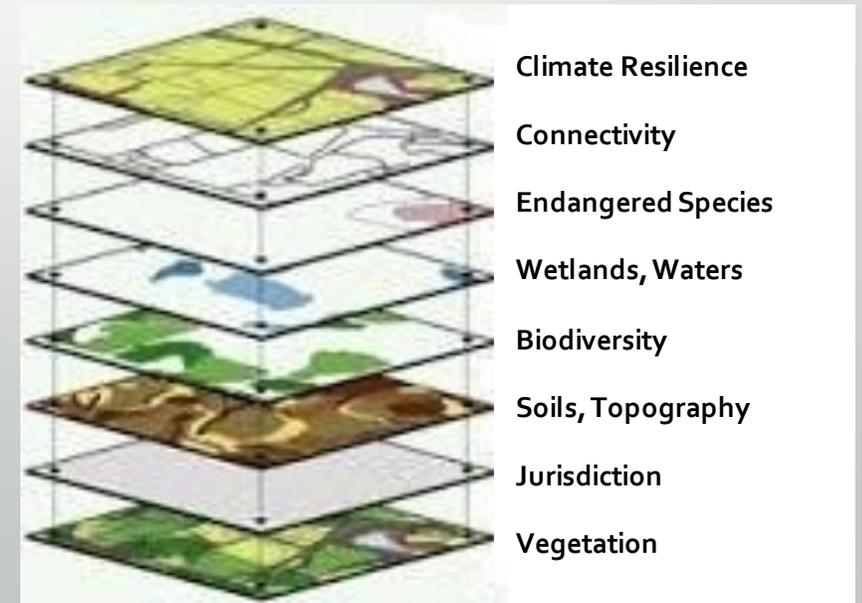
- Conservation and Mitigation Banking (Banks)
- Regional Conservation Investment Strategy Program (RCIS)
 - Mitigation Credit Agreement (MCA)

Landscape Conservation Planning

- Analyzes resources at a large, landscape scale
- Utilizes principles of conservation biology
- Determine priority areas for conservation

	Larger is Better	Connectivity	Minimize Edge	Fewer, Larger
Better				
Worse				

Credit: East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy





NCCPs

Natural Community Conservation Plans

(Fish & G. Code § 2800)

NCCP Purpose

- Avoid uncoordinated project-by-project permitting and mitigation
- Plan for conservation over a large region

Results in...

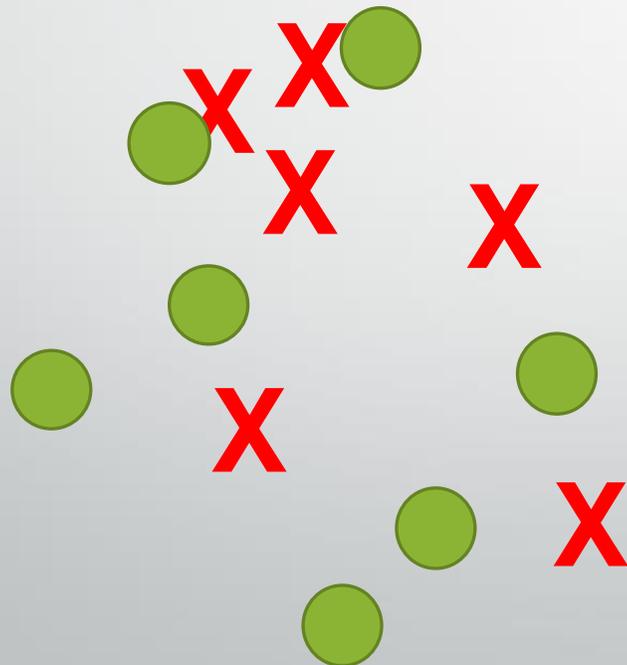
- *Conservation of species and natural communities in a large and interconnected reserve system*
- *Streamlined species permitting for compatible and well-planned development projects*



Status Quo (without NCCP)

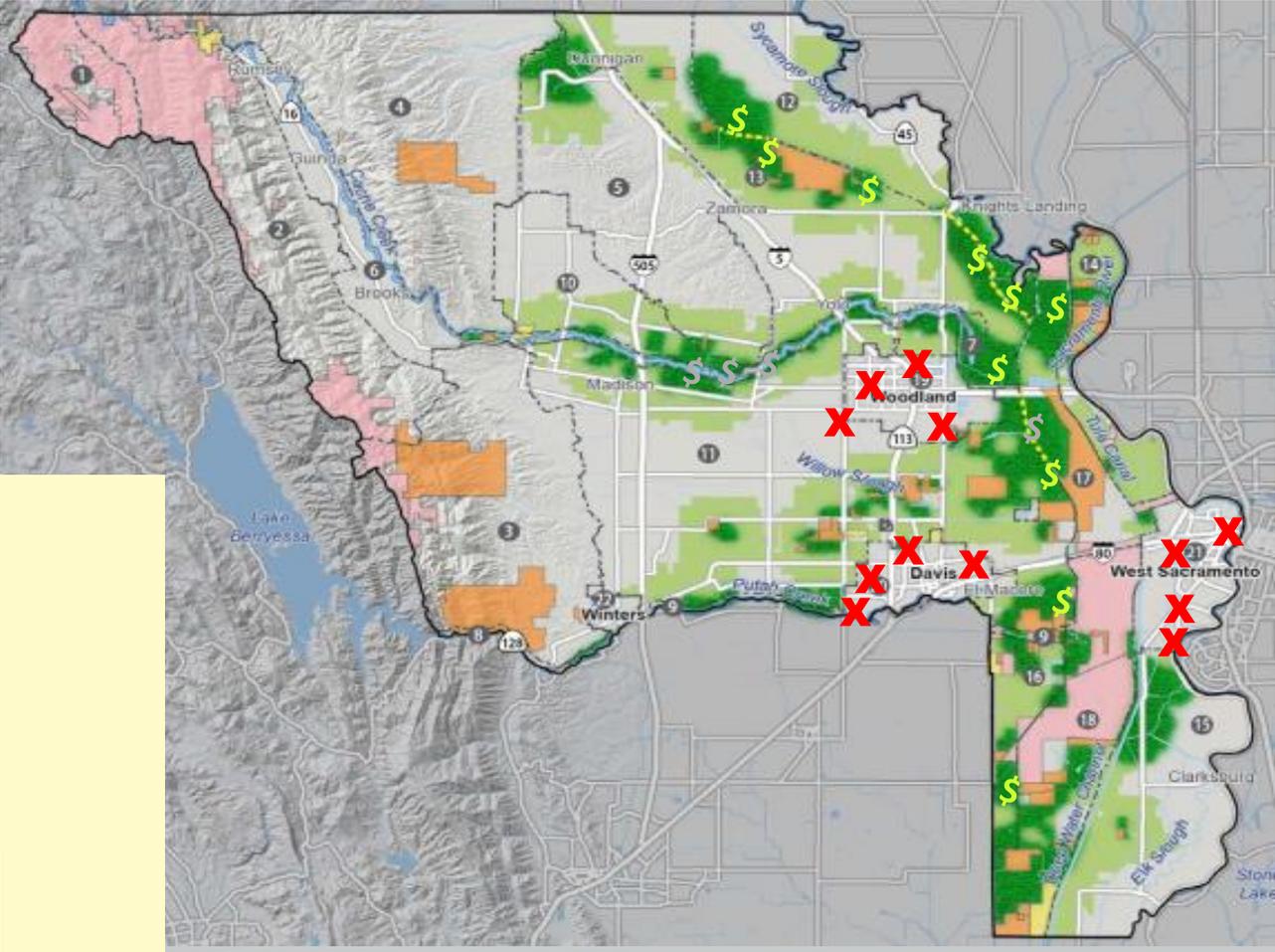
Project-by-Project Permits and Mitigation

Projects impact habitat → *mitigate each project separately, uncoordinated*



X = impact
● = mitigation

NCCCP Example (Yolo County)



NCCCP Key Features

- Long-term permit
- Take of listed (CESA), non-listed, and Fully Protected Species
- Delegates “take authority”
- Public participation required
- Must “conserve” covered species
 - *Above and beyond mitigation*



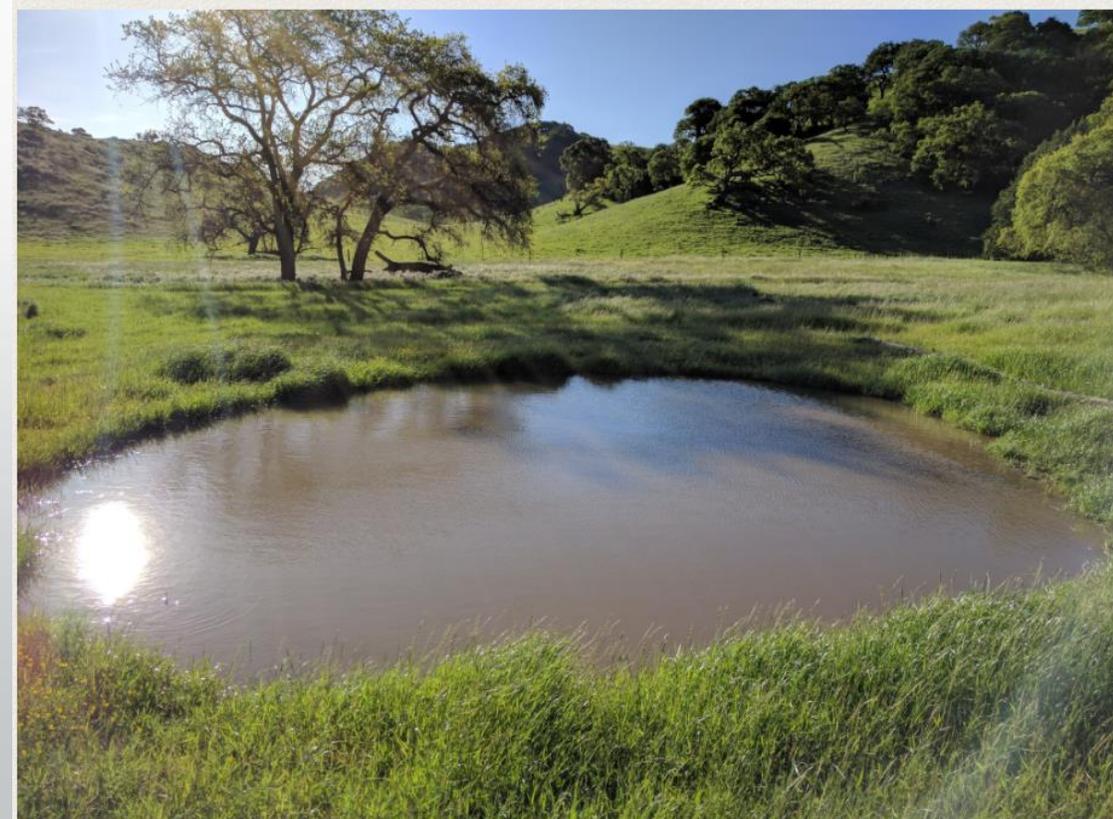
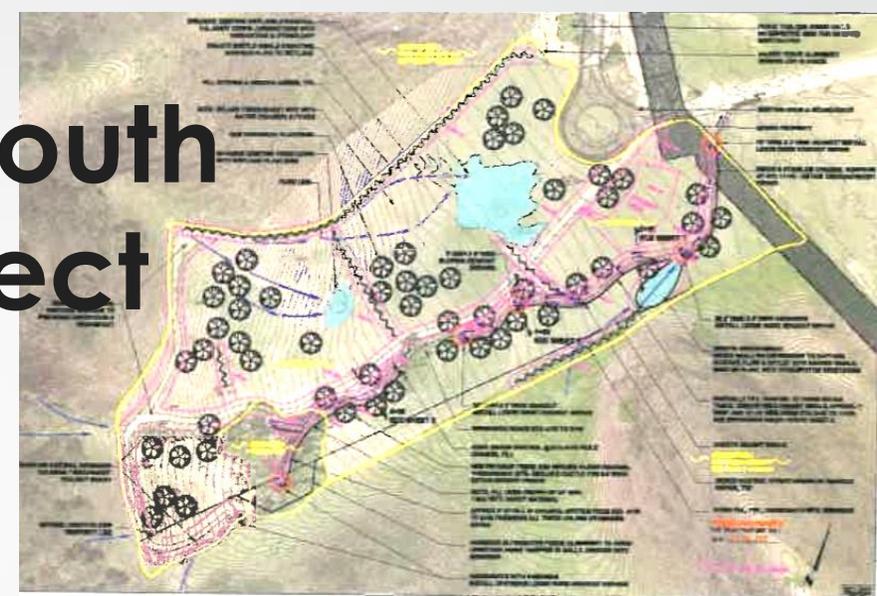
Typical Covered Activities

- Urban and suburban development
- Transportation and infrastructure projects
- Reserve management activities
 - *Including habitat restoration*



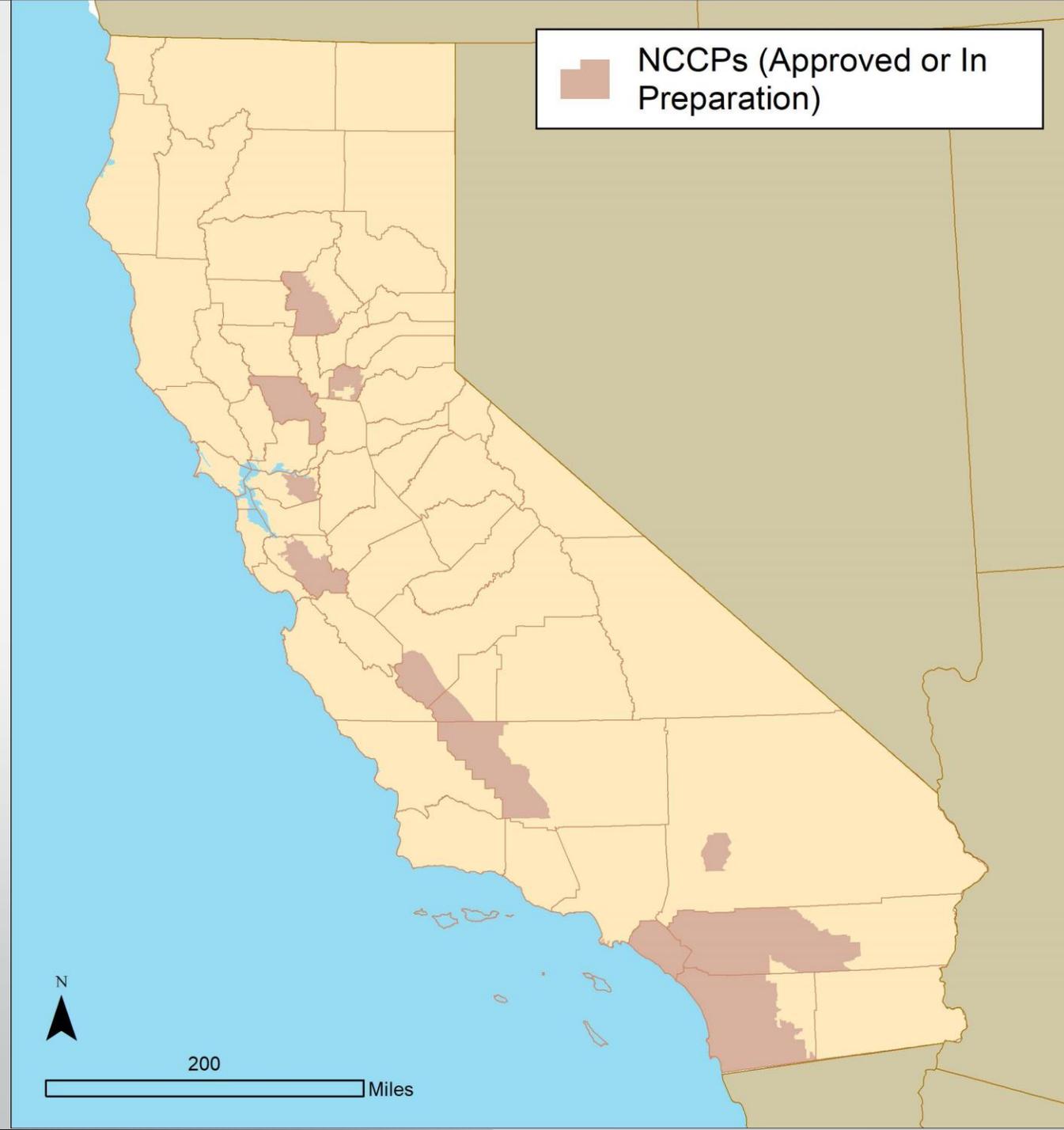
Coyote Valley Preserve South Meadow Restoration Project

- Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
- Permitted as Participating Special Entity (PSE) under Santa Clara Valley NCCCP/HCP
- Included hydrologic improvements, riparian plantings, and grassland enhancements



NCCPs Across California

- 16 Approved plans (includes 6 San Diego subarea plans)
- 9 plans currently in preparation (includes 2 subarea plans)





Using NCCPs for Restoration

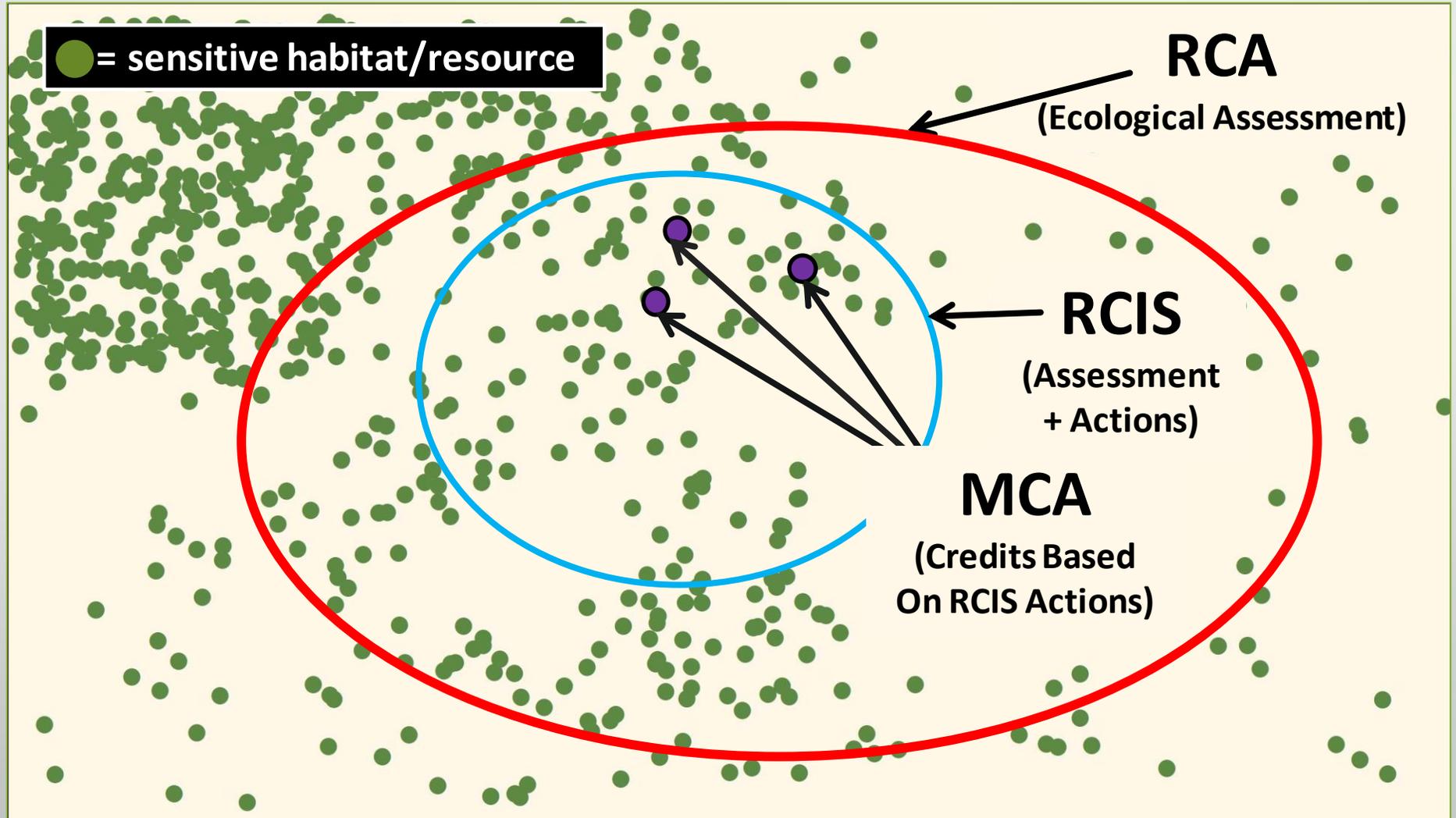
- Help implement projects in priority areas
- Possible additional points in grant applications
- Get take permits for species as permittee or PSE
 - Streamlines the permitting process
- Assist in preparation through public participation



RCIS Program

Regional Conservation Investment Strategies
(Fish & G. Code §§1850-1861)

RCIS Program Components



RCIS Key Features

- Voluntary, Non-regulatory
- Prepared by a public entity and with local input
- Relies on existing available scientific information
- Guides conservation at a regional scale
- Not a permit; no conservation commitment
- Non-binding on land use authorities





RCIS Key Information

- Existing conditions within the RCIS area
 - Habitats and other land cover types
 - Aquatic resources
 - Existing protected areas
 - Existing and foreseeable major development
 - Pressures and stressors (e.g., climate change)
 - Wildlife connectivity



RCIS Key Information

- Focal Species and other conservation elements
 - Ecological requirements
 - Occurrence data
 - Climate change vulnerability
- Non-focal species (not required)
 - Ecological requirements
 - Association with focal species and other conservation elements



RCIS Key Information

- The strategy for all focal species and other conservation elements
 - Goals
 - Objectives (should be SMART)
 - Actions (may be implemented through an MCA)
 - Priorities

Common Actions in RCISs

- Create/restore habitat
- Acquire and protect land
- Protect wildlife/habitat corridors
- Restore creeks and rivers
- Install wildlife crossings
- Remediate fish barriers



RCISs Across California

4 Approved
2 Drafts
3 in Development



Using RCISs for Restoration

- Implement actions in an approved RCIS
- Identify priority actions and/or areas
- Possible additional points in grant applications
- Assist in informing the development of an RCIS through public participation
- Encourage local agencies to prepare an RCIS
 - Prop 68 Grant (WCB)



Thank You!

Please Visit Our Webpage:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning>

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