



REGIONAL CONSERVATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY PROGRAM

Ami Olson, Statewide RCIS Coordinator
Brandon Amrhein, Statewide MCA Coordinator
Karen Weiss, Environmental Program Manager
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Agenda

➤ RCIS – Ami Olson

- Overview
- Q&A – Please use Q&A feature

➤ MCA – Brandon Amrhein

- Overview
- Q&A – Please use Q&A feature

➤ Program Next Steps – Karen Weiss

➤ Wrap up



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RCIS

Ami Olson, Statewide RCIS Coordinator
California Department of Fish and Wildlife



RCIS Program Components

- **Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)**
 - *Regional conditions assessment with conservation strategy (goals, objectives, actions, and priorities)*
- **Mitigation Credit Agreement (MCA)**
 - *Advance mitigation credits to offset CESA, CEQA, LSA, & other impacts based on RCIS actions*
- **Regional Conservation Assessment (RCA)**
 - *Ecoregional conditions assessment*

RCIS Regional Conditions





RCIS Regional Conditions

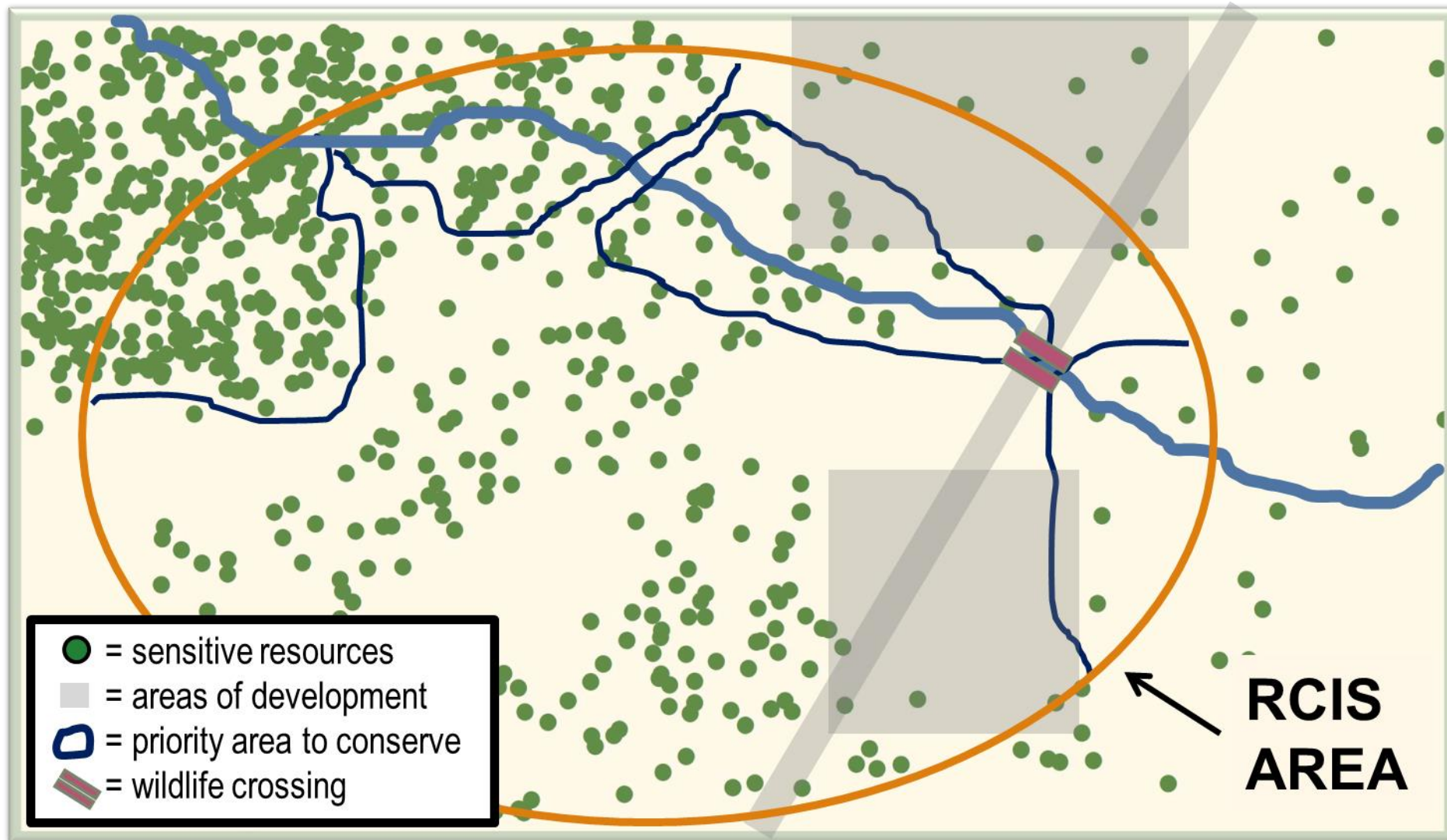
- Existing habitats/land cover types
- Occurrence information for focal species and other conservation elements (OCEs)
- Existing protected areas
- Wildlife movement corridors
- Existing & foreseeable future development
- Pressures and stressors, including climate change
- Gaps in scientific information

RCIS Strategy

- Goals, objectives, actions, and priorities for focal species and OCEs
- Address the area's conservation needs, not just for mitigation credits
- Addresses the area's pressures and stressors
- Considers the ecological benefits of working lands

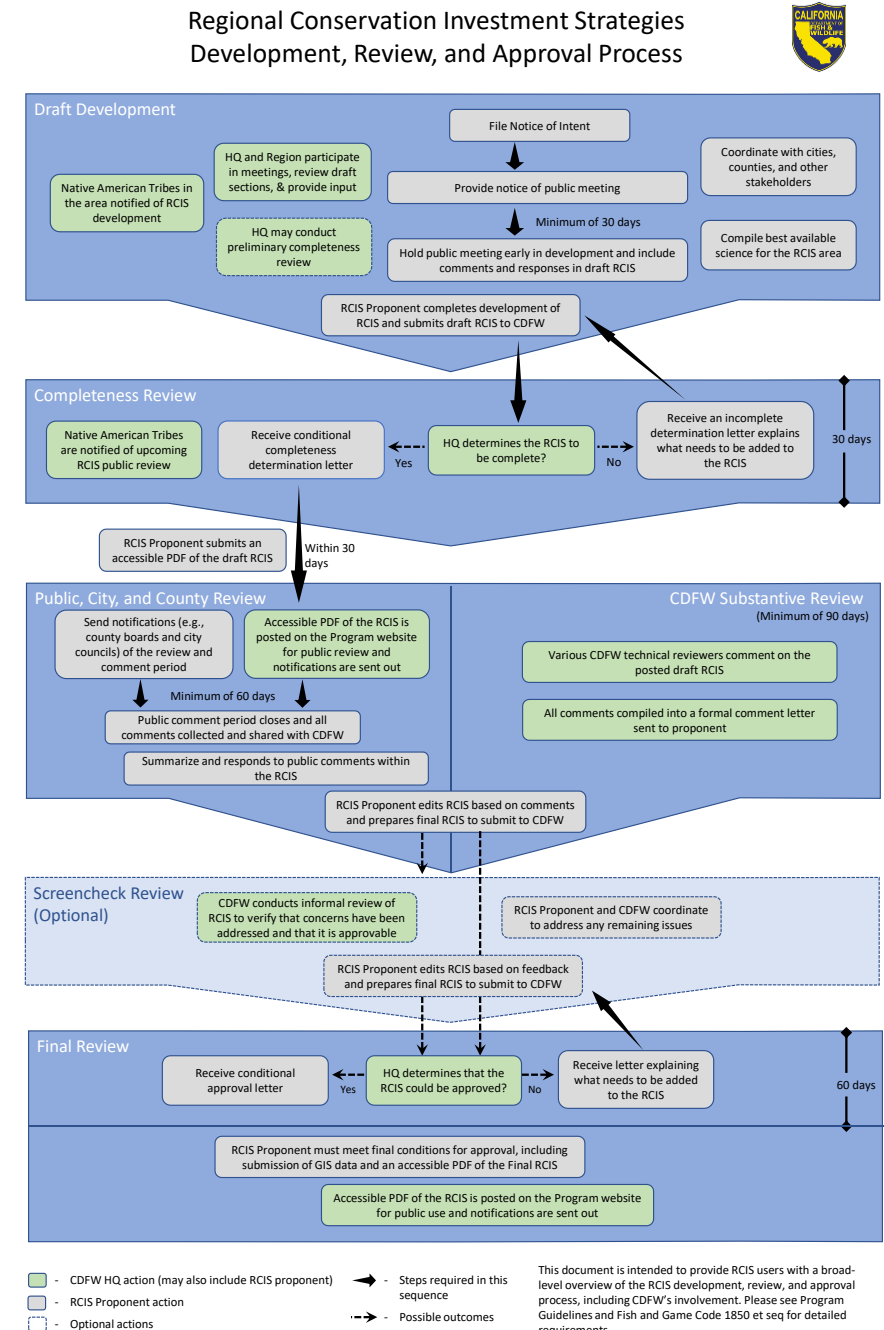


RCIS Strategy with Priorities



RCIS Development, Review, & Approval Process

- RCIS Development
 - Local stakeholder involvement
 - Public meeting
- Completeness Review (30 days)
- Public Review (60 days minimum)
- CDFW Substantive Review (~90 days)
 - Generally concurrent with public review
- Optional Informal Final Review (~30 days)
- Final Review (60 days)





RCIS Uses & Other Benefits

- Guides conservation and advance mitigation
- May be used to guide development
- Greater grant opportunities
- Based on the best available scientific information
- Developed at the local level, with state-wide consistency
- Public documents that may be implemented by anyone
- Non-binding on land use authority
- Voluntary; No conservation commitment

RCIS Considerations

- Prepared by public entity or federally recognized tribe
- Developed with stakeholder and public input
- Does not result in permits or approvals for actions
- 10-year term; can be extended



Current Status of RCISs

RCIS	Proponent	Status
Santa Clara County	Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	Approved
Yolo	Yolo Habitat Conservancy & DWR	Approved
Mid-Sac Valley	Reclamation District 108	Approved
East Bay	California State Coastal Conservancy	Approved
Antelope Valley	Desert Mountains Conservation Authority	Approved
Monterey County	Transportation Agency for Monterey County	Approved
Kaweah Subbasin	East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Approved
Santa Cruz County	Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission	Approved
San Bernardino County	San Bernardino County Transportation Authority	In review
North Bay Baylands	Metropolitan Transportation Commission	In review
San Joaquin Basin	Reclamation District 2092	In development



Participation Opportunities

- Assist in informing the development of an RCIS through public participation
- Implement actions, particularly in priority areas
- Encourage a local agency or federally recognized tribe to prepare an RCIS



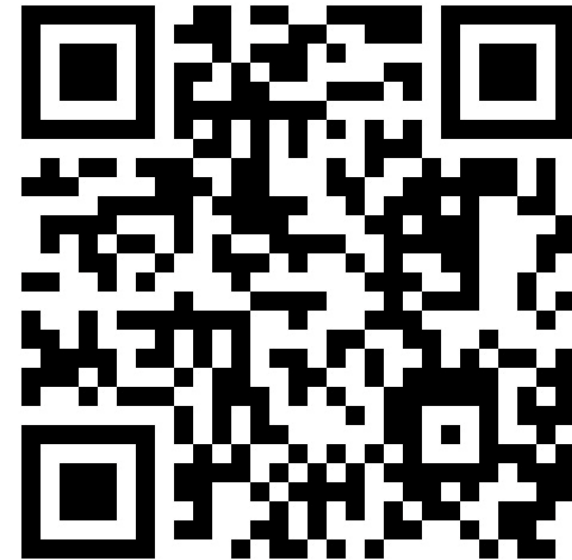
Wildlife Conservation Board Funding for RCISs

- \$1.5 million for RCIS development
- \$5 million for RCIS development or [non-MCA] implementation

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Questions?
