

Engagement Strategies for Mitigation Credit Agreements

Why engagement?

- Overall: Make your MCA better
- **Understand potential market for credits**
- **Build relationships and partnerships**
- Incorporate the **best data and analytical approaches**



MCA Engagement Recommendations

(Per the RCIS Program Guidelines)

MCA Engagement Requirements

- If an MCA overlaps with an approved NCCP, the land protection mechanism on MCAs implementing conservation actions must be consistent with the NCCP. The MCA sponsor must secure advance written approval of the NCCP implementing entity if credits are to be created. See RCIS Program Guidelines Section 5.2.2 for details.
- When an MCA is submitted, CDFW will notify all tribes in accordance with CDFW's Tribal Communication and Consultation Policy, and the MCA sponsor is required to perform a cultural resources records search. See Section 5.3.5.4 for details.
- CDFW will post the draft MCA on its website. It will also file a notice of availability to the Governor's OPR and city and county clerks whose jurisdictions overlap. See Section 5.5.2.2 for details.

MCA Engagement Recommendations

- Early and ongoing consultation with CDFW throughout the process.
- Outreach to entities, such as infrastructure agencies or developers to determine potential demand for credits.
- Consult with other regulatory agencies as early as possible to determine if the MCA can align with other instruments or agreements, and to determine if they want to be an acknowledging agency on the MCA. If yes, coordinate and consult often with CDFW and the agencies. See Section 5.5.1.2 for details.
- If applicable, perform outreach to organizations, agencies and tribes in the area to consider actions that align with conservation priorities, to inform and potentially expand partnerships in support of the MCA and its actions.

Issues that Benefit from Feedback

Geographic Scope

- *Does the MCA scope allow for flexibility and ease of implementation?*

Credit Creation

- *What type of credits will be created? How will credits be created and quantified?*

Identifying Potential Demand for Credits

- *Are there entities that may need credits that the MCA sponsor can partner with? What kind of credits are needed?*

Funding

- *Are there opportunities for funding partnerships, or are there limitations of certain funding sources?*

Partners and collaborators

- *Who are potential partners or collaborators, and are there any potential challenges?*



Potential Steps for Engagement Process



MCA Roles and Responsibilities

See [RCIS Program Guidelines Section 2.1](#) for details

- MCA Sponsor: responsible for preparing, establishing, and operating an MCA or framework.
- Conservation Easement (CE) grantee: an entity that holds the CE for the MCA site, if necessary. Must be eligible to hold a CE and be approved by CDFW.
- Endowment holder (in some cases, this can be the property owner, e.g., a land trust)
- Property owner
- Long-term land manager (property owner or other qualified land manager)
- Parties: CDFW, MCA sponsor, MCA site(s) property owner, collectively. All parties must sign the MCA



Potential groups to engage

- Those who may need mitigation: infrastructure agencies (transportation, water, flood), developers (renewable energy, housing)
- Regulatory agencies: to incorporate their priorities, determine if the MCA can be combined with other instruments or agreements, and to determine if they will be included as acknowledging agencies
- Local or regional habitat agencies (e.g., NCCP/HCPs) if applicable
- Conservation organizations
- Tribal groups and Indigenous communities
- Environmental justice groups
- Potential funders



Overall Recommendations

- Design engagement process carefully with your goals in mind
- Coordinate and consult with CDFW and other agencies early in the process – and often -- to leverage their expertise, diversify credits and design the MCA for ease of approval and use
- Identify potential partners for funding, credits, other roles and support
- Use participants' time efficiently and help everyone make positive contributions
- Understand equity-related barriers to participation and use alternative outreach strategies

