



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

Bay Area Metro Center
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FILED

SEP 15 2022

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE NORTH BAY BAYLANDS REGIONAL CONSERVATION
INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

Bill Emlen, Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors of
the County of Solano,
State of California
Deputy *Aimee Johnson*

Description of Proposed Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)

In 2016, California State law AB2087 established a conservation planning tool called a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) to promote the conservation of species, habitats, and other natural resources. The RCIS Program is managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), on behalf of a steering committee including representatives from the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA), is preparing an RCIS for the North Bay Baylands. The RCIS extends into the jurisdictional boundaries of Marin, Sonoma, Solano, and Napa counties (Figure 1).

The NBB RCIS is being prepared with input from the public and stakeholders, including community-based organizations, tribal members, federal, state, and local agencies, and non-governmental organizations. MTC is developing the North Bay Baylands RCIS to promote regional habitat conservation and advance mitigation planning (see below). Funding for the development of the NBB RCIS was provided by the California Wildlife Conservation Board.

What is the North Bay Baylands RCIS?

The North Bay Baylands RCIS:

- Provides a voluntary, non-binding, non-regulatory conservation assessment.
- Provides a regional conservation strategy for conservation elements through strategic, scientifically grounded actions and investments. Conservation elements include focal species, natural communities, and other elements such as habitat connectivity.
- Establishes conservation and enhancement goals, objectives, and priorities.
- Describes and promotes methods of conservation investment that will contribute to species and habitat conservation, including but not limited to:
 - Land acquisition and protection
 - Habitat and ecological function creation, restoration, and enhancement
 - Habitat corridor and transition zone establishment and enhancement.
- Enables development of Mitigation Credit Agreements (see below).
- Must undergo a public review process and be approved by CDFW.
- Is scheduled for public review in spring 2023.

Mitigation Credit Agreements

Once finalized, the RCIS may facilitate advance mitigation planning where environmental improvement required as mitigation can be implemented in advance of project impacts occurring. This can result in more strategic conservation projects that have greater benefit, while also expediting delivery of infrastructure projects.

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Deputy Clerk of the Board



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Mitigation Credit Agreements (MCAs) can only be developed under an RCIS that has been approved by CDFW. Anyone can enter an MCA with CDFW. MCAs:

- Create mitigation credits by implementing conservation actions identified in the RCIS
- Must be within the boundary of an approved RCIS
- May be used as compensatory mitigation for impacts under:
 - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - California Endangered Species Act
 - Lake and Streambed Alteration Program

Additional information about the North Bay Baylands RCIS can be found at: www.baylandsrcis.org .

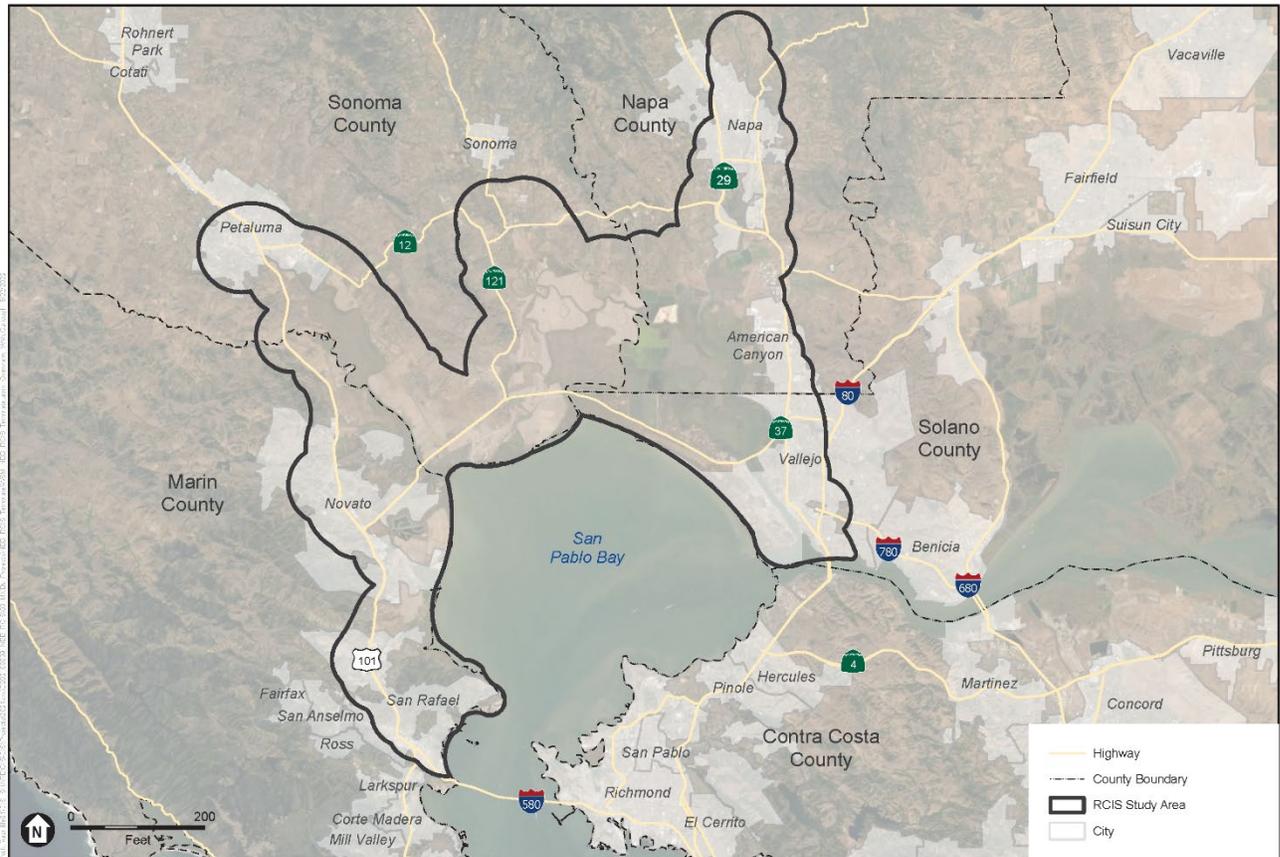
More information about CDFW's RCIS Program can be found at:
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Regional-Conservation> .

Please contact: rcis@bayareametro.gov for more information about the North Bay Baylands RCIS.



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SOURCE: ESA, 2021

North Bay Baylands Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

Figure 1
North Bay Baylands Regional Conservation Investment Strategy Area

