



Monterey County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

A new State law passed in 2016, AB 2087, establishes a conservation planning tool called a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) to promote the conservation of species, habitats, and other natural resources.

What is the Monterey County RCIS?

The Monterey County RCIS:

- Is a voluntary, non-binding, non-regulatory conservation assessment;
- Guides regional conservation of focal species and sensitive habitats through strategic, scientifically grounded actions and investments;
- Establishes conservation and enhancement goals, objectives, and priorities;
- Describes and promotes conservation investment that will contribute to species and habitat conservation including, but not limited to:
 - Land acquisition and protection
 - Habitat enhancement, restoration, and establishment
 - Creek and river restoration
 - Corridor and linkage enhancement;
- Is sponsored by the Transportation Agency for Monterey County through a planning process which includes public input and collaboration with partner organizations and agencies; and
- Must be approved by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

The draft Monterey County RCIS is anticipated to be available for public review in spring 2020. Once finalized, the RCIS may facilitate advance mitigation planning where environmental mitigation can be achieved in advance of project impacts, resulting in conservation actions that have greater benefit and expedited project delivery. Once approved, the RCIS will enable a new mitigation tool, Mitigation Credit Agreement (see below).

Mitigation Credit Agreements

Mitigation Credit Agreements (MCAs) are developed under an approved RCIS and approved by CDFW. Any public or private entity can enter into a 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 the:
 - California Environmental Quality Act
 - California Endangered Species Act
 - Lake and Streambed Alteration Program

Additional information about the RCIS program can be found at:

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/planning/regional-conservation>

Please contact RegionalConservationInvestmentStrategy@tamcmonterey.org for more information about the Monterey County RCIS.