

2016 Year in Review

East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/ Natural Community Conservation Plan

The East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/ Natural Community Conservation Plan

The East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan (the "ECCC HCP/NCCP") gives local jurisdictions control over endangered species permitting.

Under the ECCC HCP/NCCP, project proponents pay a fee or provide their own conservation, conduct limited avoidance measures and receive species permits from their local land use agency. Mitigation fees and grants fund Preserve System acquisitions, management, and restoration.

The East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (the "Conservancy") implements and ensures compliance with the Plan and oversees assembly and operation of the ECCC HCP/NCCP Preserve System.

Conservancy Board Members

Joel Bryant
City of Brentwood

Diane Burgis
Contra Costa County

Salvatore Evola
City of Pittsburg

Keith Haydon
City of Clayton

Randy Pope
City of Oakley



The East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy continued to experience success in 2016. Streamlined permitting through the ECCC HCP/NCCP provided permit coverage for 18 economic development, infrastructure, and habitat restoration projects. In 2016, the Conservancy, together with its funding and acquisition partners, preserved three new properties, totaling 915.5 acres of biologically-rich habitat into the ECCC HCP/NCCP's growing Preserve System. The Conservancy continues to keep conservation of all habitat types ahead of permitted impacts. In 2016, three previously constructed restoration projects met success criteria.



East Contra Costa County
Habitat Conservancy

Project Permitting

The ECCC HCP/NCCP gives local cities and agencies control over state and federal endangered species permitting in their jurisdiction. Eighteen projects received take coverage under the Plan in 2016, including 14 urban development projects, 1 rural operations and maintenance project, and 3 rural infrastructure projects. These projects total approximately 70.4 acres of permanent impacts and 8.1 acres of temporary impacts.

The ECCC HCP/NCCP was designed to enable permit streamlining to extend beyond endangered species and include regional permitting under state and federal laws for impacts on jurisdictional wetlands and waters. On May 4, 2012, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued Regional General Permit 1 (RGP) related to the ECCC HCP/NCCP. The RGP streamlines wetland permitting in the entire plan area by coordinating the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures in the Plan with the Corps' wetland permitting requirements. To date, 13 covered projects and 2 Conservancy restoration projects have benefitted from coordinated permitting under the RGP. The Conservancy has been working with the Corps to develop an in-lieu fee program to complement the RGP.

Permitting Program Highlights:

- **Maffeo Residential Development Project:** This project in the City of Brentwood entails construction of 27 single-family homes with a minimum lot size of 70 feet by 110 feet and two water quality detention basins.
- **PG&E T-1047A Hydrotest Project:** The project involved hydrostatic pressure testing on approximately 1.84 miles of 24-inch diameter natural gas pipeline. Hydrotesting is considered routine gas pipeline maintenance, and involves temporarily evacuating all gas from a portion of the gas pipeline, filling it with water, pressurizing the pipeline for the test, removing water from the pipeline after the successful test, and returning the pipeline back into service.
- **Clifton Court Road Bridge Project:** Contra Costa County Public Works Department will fortify the Clifton Court Road Bridge that spans over Italian Slough on Clifton Court Road. The purpose of the project is to prevent further deterioration of the bridge that could lead to bridge replacement. The project involves the following maintenance activities: replacement of the missing portion of the retaining wall at Abutment 1, placement of additional rip-rap at Abutment 6, and replacement of deteriorating timber cross bracing.

Partnerships

The Conservancy continues to work closely with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) on land acquisition opportunities, management of Preserve System lands, and habitat restoration projects. The EBRPD has been the Conservancy's primary partner in Preserve System acquisitions thus far in the Plan implementation. These joint-acquisitions totals 915.5 acres of newly protected land in 2016. The Conservancy and EBRPD continue to push forward on the development of a management plan for the Preserve System.

The Conservancy's other partners include the Wildlife Conservation Board, Save Mount Diablo, private biological firms, and many others. The Conservancy will continue to build on these partnerships and expand on collaborative conservation projects and efforts in the HCP/NCCP Plan Area.

ACTIVITIES BY THE NUMBERS

Projects Permitted

In 2016: 18
Cumulative: 127

Fees Received

In 2016: \$1,031,052
Cumulative: \$13,879,161

Acres Impacted

In 2016: 70.4
Cumulative: 531.2

Restoration Projects Constructed

In 2016: 0
Cumulative: 9

Acres Acquired

In 2016: 915.5
Cumulative: 13,212

Grant Funds Received

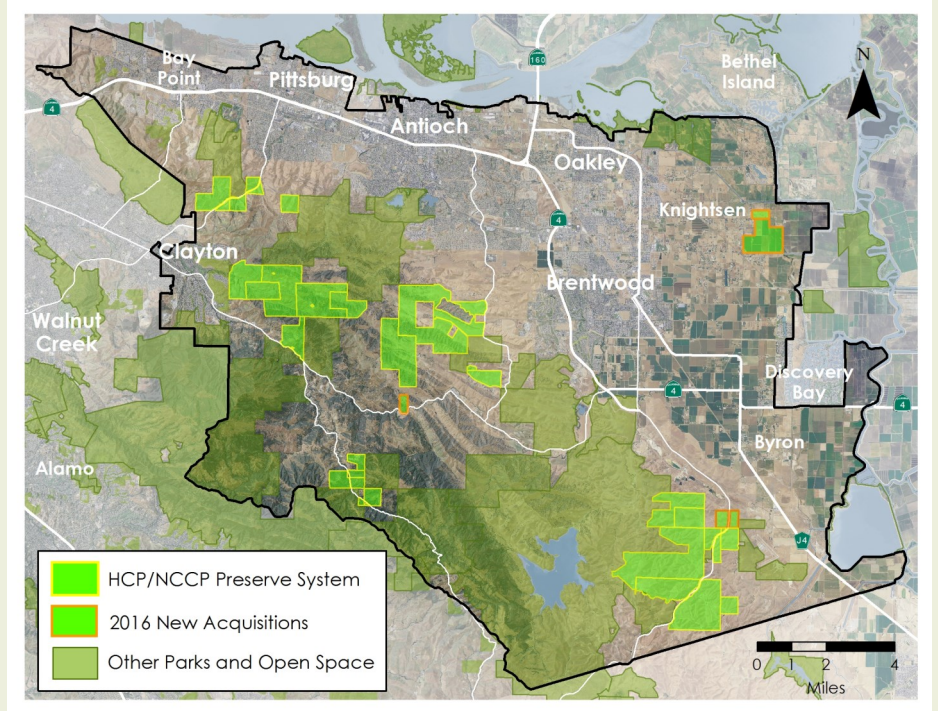
In 2016: \$7,363,644
Cumulative: \$58,823,036

Land Acquisition

The Conservancy funds land acquisition from willing sellers to assemble the Preserve System. The Conservancy has made significant progress toward acquisition goals during the first nine years of Plan implementation. In 2016, three acquisitions were completed adding 915.5 acres of land to the Preserve System. All acquisitions to date, totaling 13,212 acres, have been completed in partnership with East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), where EBRPD owns and manages Preserve System lands. These lands will also become part of the regional park system. The Conservancy continues to stay ahead of the average pace necessary to assemble the 30,300-acre Preserve System estimated to be required by Year 30 of the Plan (2037).

Highlights of achievements:

- Over 1/3 of the Preserve System has been assembled by year 9 of Plan implementation.
- The Nunn property was the first acquisition project in acquisition Zone 6, and resulted in preservation of 541 acres of cropland. Acquisitions in Zone 6 are focused on agricultural land with habitat restoration opportunities.
- The acquisitions of the Hanson Hills and Coelho properties in 2016 added an additional 2,668 feet of stream to the Preserve System.
- The Coelho property preserves nearly 20 acres of alkali grassland and has occupied vernal pool fairy shrimp habitat.



Habitat Restoration and Creation

The Plan requires stream, wetland and pond restoration and creation to compensate for impacts to these habitat types. The Conservancy has aggressively pursued wetland and pond restoration requirements. To date, nine restoration projects have been constructed. These restoration projects provide a range of benefits to covered species.



Vaquero Farms Seasonal Wetland 3

Conservancy projects are monitored and managed to ensure that they achieve habitat goals. This intensive monitoring and management continues for a minimum of five years. Close monitoring of restoration sites has informed management actions including: reseeding areas, adjusting grazing patterns, and aggressively combating invasive weeds.

There were no new restoration projects constructed in 2016. However, three restoration projects — Lentzner Spring Wetland Restoration, Vasco Caves Souza I Pond Creation, and Souza II Wetland Restoration — met success criteria, and were deemed complete. The Conservancy will continue to monitor these sites to track on-going ecological functions. The Conservancy continues to monitor and track performance/success criteria progress on the six additional constructed restoration projects.

Funding

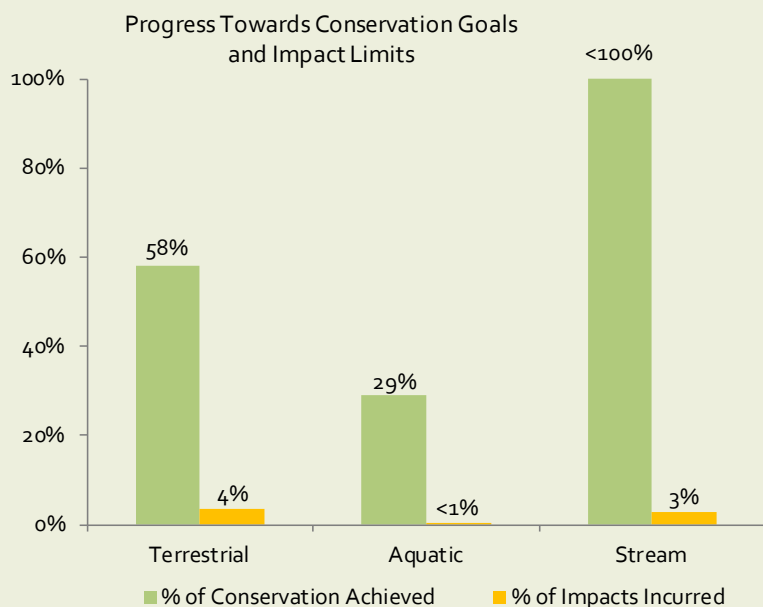
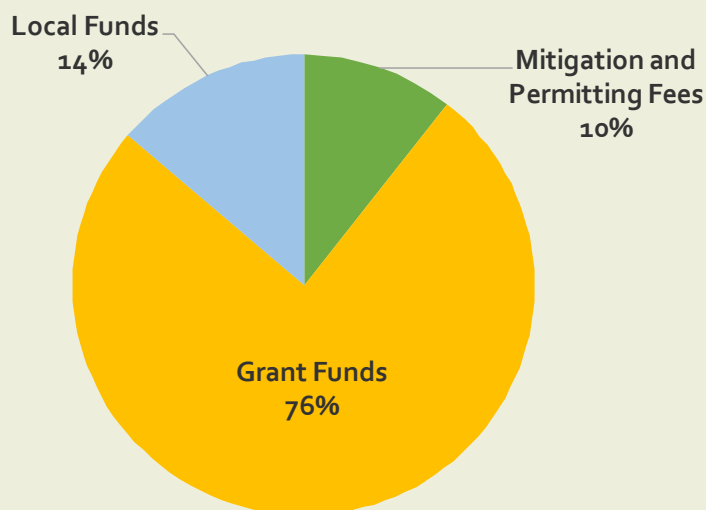
The Conservancy receives revenue from the following primary sources: mitigation and permitting fees (development, wetland, and temporary impact fees, administrative/staff time fees, and contributions to recovery payments) and grants. These sources fund Preserve System acquisitions, management, monitoring, and restoration projects.

<u>Conservancy Revenues in 2016</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mitigation and Permitting Fees ¹	\$1,031,052
Grant Funds ²	\$7,363,644
Local Funds ³	\$1,341,074
Total	\$9,735,770

¹ Development fees, wetland fees, temporary impact fees, administrative/staff time fees, and contributions to recovery.

² These are grants various State and Federal Agencies including CDFW, USFWS, and WCB. The amount shown are grant funds spent/used, not grants awarded.

³ Local funding includes contributions by the East Bay Regional Park District of its own funds or grant funds for joint acquisitions and preserve management.



Staying Ahead

For streamlined permitting to continue under the HCP/NCCP, conservation must stay ahead of impacts. The HCP/NCCP specifies detailed metrics that the Conservancy uses to track progress of Plan implementation.

The summarized data displayed (left) illustrates that all categories of conservation are ahead of the impacts to these habitat types.

A more detailed accounting of conservation, restoration, creation, and impacts is provided in Figure ES-1 and Table 14 in the 2016 Annual Report.

PARTNERS IMPLEMENTING THE HCP/NCCP

City of Brentwood
 City of Clayton
 City of Oakley
 City of Pittsburg
 Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
 East Bay Regional Park District
 East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
 California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Agricultural-Natural Resources Trust
 Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust
 California Native Plant Society
 Contra Costa County Farm Bureau
 Discovery Builders Inc.
 East Bay Leadership Council
 Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed
 Building Industry Association of the Bay Area
 Rural/suburban residents
 Save Mount Diablo

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information about the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy can be found online at www.cocohcp.org.

The HCP/NCCP Overview booklet and the 2015 Annual Report can be both downloaded from the website. To reach the Conservancy, please contact maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us or 925-674-7203.