

2018 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 ("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

Juan Antonio Banales
City of Pittsburg

Diane Burgis
Contra Costa County

Tuija Catalano
City of Clayton

Randy Pope
City of Oakley



Land Acquisition



Habitat Restoration



Project Permitting



Partnerships

The East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy continued to implement the East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP. In 2018, streamlined permitting through the ECCC HCP/NCCP provided permit coverage for 28 economic development, infrastructure, and habitat restoration projects. The Conservancy, together with East Bay Regional Park District, acquired two properties totaling 300 acres of biologically-rich habitat for the ECCC HCP/NCCP's growing Preserve System. The Conservancy continues to keep conservation ahead of permitted impacts. In 2018, one new restoration project was constructed — the Horse Valley Restoration Project.



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. In 2018, 28 projects received take coverage under the Plan, including 11 urban development projects, 2 rural infrastructure projects, 12 rural operations and maintenance projects, and 3 Preserve System activities. These projects total approximately 173 acres of permanent impacts and 100 acres of temporary impacts on terrestrial land cover types; 0.34 acres of permanent impacts and 0.72 acres of temporary impacts on aquatic habitats; and 158 linear feet of permanent impacts and 1,417 linear feet of temporary impacts on streams.

The ECCC HCP/NCCP was designed to enable permit streamlining to extend beyond endangered species regulations 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) aligned with the ECCC HCP/NCCP. This Permit was reissued on April 12, 2017 and has a five-year duration. The RGP streamlines wetland permitting in the entire Plan Area by aligning the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures in the Plan with the Corps' wetland permitting requirements. To date, 17 covered projects and 2 Conservancy restoration projects have benefitted from coordinated permitting under the RGP.

Permitting Program Highlights:

- **Kirker Pass Road Northbound Truck Climbing Lane:** The Contra Costa County Public Works Department, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation District 4, received coverage under the HCP/NCCP for this project. Kirker Pass Road is frequently used by commuters and has heavy truck traffic. With sustained grades steeper than 8%, trucks are unable to match the speed of other vehicles on the roadway, causing significant congestion and creating a safety hazard. The project will improve safety for motorists and bicyclists along this stretch of the road. Project elements include roadway widening for the truck climbing lane, paved shoulders for future Class II bike lanes, relocation of drainage features, retaining wall construction, installation of signage and striping, construction of two bioretention areas, and relocation of other existing roadside features.
- **Sciortino Ranch Development Project:** The City of Brentwood permitted the Sciortino Ranch Development project which included the development of a 52+/- acre property into a master planned residential community. The proposed project includes 326 single-family residential houses, 11 non-residential parcels dedicated for landscaping, park, and stormwater treatment use, and the infrastructure improvements necessary to support the development of the project.

ACTIVITIES BY THE NUMBERS

Projects Permitted

In 2018: 28
Cumulative: 159

Mitigation Fees

In 2018: \$2,318,634
Cumulative: \$18,729,000

Acres Impacted

In 2018: 173
Cumulative: 801

Restoration Projects

In 2018: 1
Cumulative: 11

Acres Acquired

In 2018: 300
Cumulative: 14,106

Grants & CTR

In 2018: \$3,224,934
Cumulative: \$72,550,000

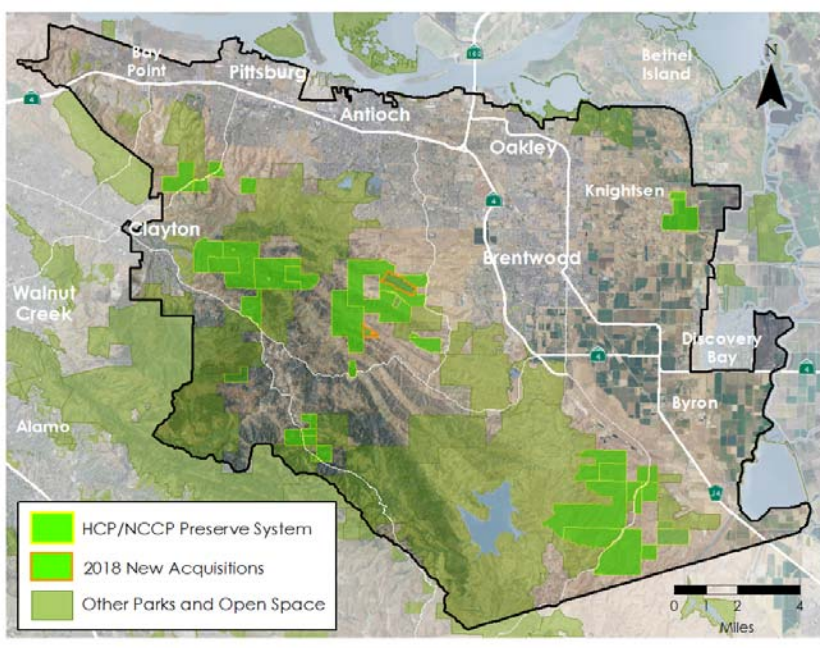
Partnerships

The Conservancy continues to work closely with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and Save Mount Diablo 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 in the Plan implementation. These acquisitions total 300 acres of newly protected land in 2018.

The Conservancy's other partners include State and Federal regulatory and funding agencies, as well as members of the development community, conservation advocates, agricultural representatives and members of the public. The Conservancy will continue to build on these partnerships and expand on collaborative conservation projects and efforts in the HCP/NCCP Plan Area.

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 eleven years of Plan implementation. In 2018, two properties were acquired, adding 299.5 acres of land to the Preserve System. All but one acquisition to date, totaling 14,106 acres, have been completed in partnership with EBRPD, where EBRPD owns and manages those Preserve System lands. The Viera North Peak property, acquired in 2017 from Save Mount Diablo, is owned by the Conservancy with the anticipation of transferring the property to California State Parks. 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 11 of Plan implementation.
- Acquisition of the Roddy Ranch Golf Course adds 230 more preserved acres to the protected Roddy Ranch and Roddy Home Ranch properties, bringing the Roddy Ranch acquisitions to 2,132 acres. The Roddy Ranch Golf Course will offer restoration opportunities for the Conservancy.
- The Poppi/Halstead property also adds to the protection of important habitat and habitat connectivity in Briones Valley.

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, eleven restoration projects have been constructed. These restoration projects provide a range of benefits to covered species.

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.

One new restoration project was constructed in 2018 — The Horse Valley Creek and Wetland Restoration Project. The project is located in Horse Valley on the Roddy Ranch property. The project created 37 seasonal wetland basins, totaling over 2 acres of new wetland habitat. These pools were designed to provide habitat for vernal pool listed invertebrates and plants, and includes a larger pond along the restored channel intended to provide suitable breeding habitat for California red-legged frog. The project also included filling of 2,420 linear feet of disturbed, straightened channel and establishment of 4,150 linear feet of restored channel for a net gain of 585 linear feet of creek.

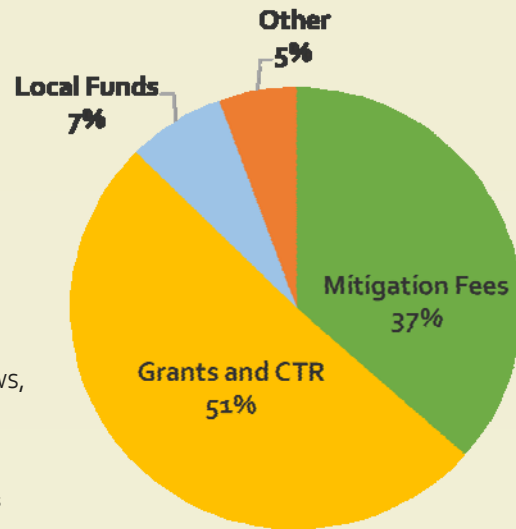


Horse Valley Creek and Wetland Restoration Project, March 2019

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>Revenue in 2018</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mitigation Fees ¹	\$2,318,634
Grants and CTR ²	\$3,224,934
Other ³	\$350,396
Local Funds ⁴	\$448,836
Total	\$6,342,800



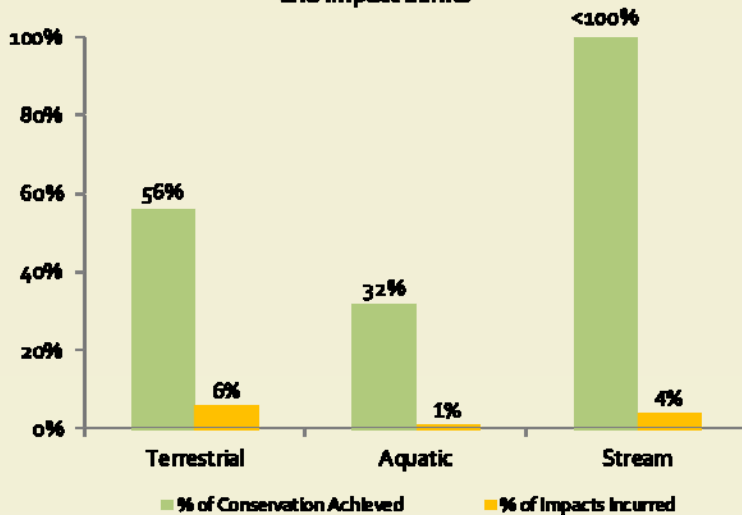
¹ Development fees, wetland fees, and temporary impact fees.

² These are grants from various state and federal agencies including CDFW, USFWS, and WCB. The amount shown includes grant funds spent (not grants awarded). "CTR" are Contributions to Recovery, and includes temporary impact fees.

³ Other includes staff time/administrative fees, interest, and miscellaneous.

⁴ Local funding includes contributions by the East Bay Regional Park District of its own funds or grant funds for joint acquisitions and preserve management.

Progress Toward Conservation Goals and Impact Limits



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 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 the 2018 Annual Report.

PARTNERS IMPLEMENTING THE HCP/NCCP

City of Brentwood
 City of Clayton
 City of Oakley
 City of Pittsburg
 Contra Costa County
 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 representatives
 Building Industry Association of the Bay Area
 California Farmland Trust
 California Native Plant Society
 Contra Costa County Farm Bureau
 Discovery Builders Inc.
 East Bay Leadership Council
 Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed
 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 2018 Annual Report can be both downloaded from the website. To reach the Conservancy, please contact maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us or 925-674-7831.