Placer County Conservation Plan Western Placer County

Agency Review Draft Document February 1, 2011

Placer County
Community Development Resources Agency
3091 County Center Drive
Auburn Ca. 95603
530 745-3000

Assisted by: TRA Environmental Sciences 545 Middlefield Road, Suite 200 Menlo Park, Ca. 94025 650 327-0429

Contents

Chapt	er 1 Introduction	
1.1	Overview	1-1
1.2	Goals Set Forth in the Agency Planning Agreement (2001)	1-1
1.2.1	Guiding Principles	1-2
1.2.2	Purpose	1-6
1.2.3	Background	1-8
1.3	Scope of the Placer County HCP/NCCP	1-9
1.3.1	Covered Activities	1-10
1.3.2	Plan Area	1-11
1.3.3	Permit Term	1-11
1.3.4	Covered Species	1-15
1.4	Regulatory Setting	1-17
1.4.1	Federal and State Endangered Species Laws	1-18
1.4.2	Federal and State Wetland Laws and Regulations	1-23
1.4.3	Other Federal and State Wildlife Laws and Regulations	1-26
1.4.4	National Environmental Policy Act	1-29
1.4.5	California Environmental Quality Act	1-29
1.5	Other Local Programs and Resource Management Efforts	1-30
	County Aquatic Resources Program	1-31
1.5.2		1-31
1.6	Overview of HCP/NCCP Planning Process	1-32
1.6.1		1-32
1.6.2		1-33
1.6.3		1-33
	Science Advisors	1-33
1.6.5	Management Team	1-34
1.6.6		1-34
1.6.7		1-34
1.6.8		1-35
1.6.9	Document Organization	1-35
•	er 2 Land Use and Covered Activities	
2.1	Introduction	2-1
2.2	Land Use and Jurisdictions	2-1
2.2.1	Existing Conditions	2-1
2.2.2		2-4
2.2.3	Existing Land Use and Future Land Conversion	2-12

2.2.4	Protection of Open Space Lands	2-13
2.3	Covered Activities	2-28
2.3.1	Covered Activity Categories	2-31
2.3.2	Urban Development	2-31
2.3.3	In-Stream Projects	2-33
2.3.4	Capital Projects	2-39
2.3.5	Operations and Maintenance	2-46
2.3.6	Rural Development	2-48
2.3.7	Conservation Strategy Implementation and other Placer County	
	Conservation Programs	2-49
2.4	Projects and Activities Not Covered by this Plan	2-58
Chapte	er 3 Physical and Biological Resources	
3.1 I	ntroduction	3-1
3.2 I	Physical Setting	3-2
3.2.1	Location	3-2
3.2.2	Topography	3-2
3.2.3	Geology	3-2
3.2.4	Soils	3-4
3.2.5	Climate and Hydrology	3-6
3.3 I	Ecosystems, Natural Communities, and Land Cover	3-15
3.3.1	Definitions	3-15
	Methods	3-17
3.3.3	Covered Species	3-22
3.3.4	Natural Communities and Land-Cover Types	3-26
3.4	Frends and Foreseeable Change	Error!
1	Bookmark not defined.	
Chapte	er 4 Impact Assessment and Level of Take	
4.1	Introduction	4-1
4.2	Definitions	4-1
4.3	Impact Mechanisms	4-2
4.3.1	Urban Development	4-3
4.3.2	In-Stream Projects	4-6
4.3.3	Capital Projects	4-27
4.3.4	Operations and Maintenance	4-37
4.3.5	Rural Development	4-39
4.3.6	Conservation Strategy Implementation and other Placer County	
	Conservation Programs	4-41

4.4 lı	mpact Assessment Methods	4-48
4.4.1	Direct Effects	4-49
4.4.2	Indirect Effects	4-50
4.5 E	Effects on Natural Communities/Land-cover	4-50
4.6 E	ffects on Covered Species	4-51
4.6.1	Vernal Pool Crustaceans and Plants	4-53
4.6.2	Covered Fish	4-55
4.6.3	Covered Amphibians	4-58
4.6.4	Northwestern Pond Turtle	4-61
4.6.5	Giant Garter Snake	4-62
	Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle	4-63
4.6.7	Western Burrowing Owl	4-64
4.6.8	Bald Eagle	4-65
4.6.9	Swainson's Hawk, Northern Harrier, and Ferruginous Hawk	4-66
4.6.10	Cooper's Hawk	4-67
4.6.11	Loggerhead Shrike	4-68
4.6.12	American Peregrine Falcon	4-69
4.6.13	Yellow Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Modesto Song Sparrow	4-69
4.6.14	California Black Rail	4-70
4.6.15	Bank Swallow	4-71
4.6.16	Grasshopper Sparrow	4-72
4.6.17	Tricolored Blackbird	4-73
4.7 E	ffects on Critical Habitat	4-74
4.7.1	Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp	4-74
4.7.2	Central Valley Steelhead	4-75
4.8 C	Cumulative Effects	4-75
	Future Potential Development by the City of Auburn	4-76
	Future Potential Development by the City of Roseville	4-76
4.8.3	Future Potential Development by the City of Rocklin	4-76
4.8.4	Ongoing and Routine Agriculture	4-76
4.8.5	Use of Existing Roads	4-77
Chapte	r 5 Conservation Strategy	
	Summary	5-1
5.2 C	Conservation Strategy Framework	5-5
5.2.1	Regional Conservation Approach	5-5
5.2.2	Conservation Strategy Organization by Landscape, Community, and Sp	ecies Scale
		5-6
5.2.3	Biological Goals and Objectives	5-7
5.3 F	Reserve System	5-12

5.4	Reserve System Maps	5-18
5.4.1	Conservation Core Concept Map	5-18
5.4.2	Placer County Conservation Plan Stream Systems	5-24
5.4.3	Reserve Acquisition Area Map	5-25
5.4.4	Data Sources	5-29
5.5	Landscape Conservation Actions – Assembling the Reserve System	5-32
5.5.1	Land Acquisition and Restoration Actions	5-32
5.5.2	Landscape Elements and Relationship to Objectives	5-40
5.5.3	Land Management	5-47
5.6	Benefits of Conservation Actions for Covered Natural Communities	5-57
5.6.1	Natural Community Conservation and Management–General Principles	5-58
5.6.2	Grassland and Vernal Pool Grassland Complex	
	Conservation and Management – Valley	5-59
5.6.3	Oak Woodland Conservation and Management	5-73
5.6.4	Riverine and Riparian Conservation and Management	5-79
5.6.5	Wetland and Pond Conservation and Management	5-91
5.6.6	Agricultural Land Conservation and Management	5-99
5.7	Benefits of Conservation Actions for Covered Species	5-104
5.7.1	Bald Eagle and American Peregrine Falcon	5-105
5.7.2	Swainson's Hawk	5-107
5.7.3	California Black Rail	5-109
5.7.4	Bank Swallow	5-112
5.7.5	Western Burrowing Owl	5-114
5.7.6	Cooper's Hawk	5-115
5.7.7	Loggerhead Shrike	5-116
5.7.8	Northern Harrier	5-117
5.7.9	Ferruginous Hawk	5-119
	Yellow Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat	5-120
5.7.1	Modesto Song Sparrow	5-121
	2 Grasshopper Sparrow	5-123
	3 Tricolored Blackbird	5-125
5.7.14	Vernal Pool Invertebrates (Conservancy Fairy Shrimp,	
	Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp, and Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp)	
	and Plants (Bogg's Lake Hedge Hyssop, Dwarf Downingia,	
	Legenere, Ahart's Dwarf Rush, and Red Bluff Dwarf Rush)	5-128
5.7.1	5 Western Spadefoot Toad	5-131
	S Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle	5-134
	7 Giant Garter Snake	5-138
5.7.18	3 Central Valley Steelhead - evolutionarily significant unit and	
	Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon	5-141

5.7.19	9 Foothill yellow-legged frog	5-143
5.7.20	California Red-legged Frog	5-145
5.7.2	Northwestern Pond Turtle	5-148
Chapte	er 6 Conditions on Cover Activities	
6.1	Introduction	6-1
6.2	Exemptions from Conditions	6-3
6.2.1		6-3
6.3	Program Participation: Receiving Take Authorization under the Plan	6-4
6.3.1	Evaluation Process for Permittee Projects	6-4
6.3.2	Application Process for Private Projects	6-5
6.3.3	Application Process for Non-Permittee Public Projects	6-8
6.4	PCCP Participation Package	6-8
6.4.1	Item 1: Initial Project Application Form	6-11
6.4.2	Item 2: Project Description and Map	6-11
6.4.3	Item 3: Land-Cover Types on Site, Baseline Consistency	6-11
6.4.4	Item 4: Biological Resources Impact Assessment	6-13
6.4.5	Item 5: Stream Systems, Waters of Placer County, and Other Wetlands	6-14
6.4.6	Item 6: Results of Applicable Species Surveys and Monitoring	6-14
6.4.7	Item 7: Proposed Land Dedication Assessment	6-15
6.4.8	Item 8: Applicable Avoidance and Minimization Requirements	6-15
6.5	Conditions to Minimize Impacts on Natural Communities	6-16
6.5.1	Community Condition 1. Mitigation Ratios for Land Conversion	6-17
6.5.2	Community Condition 2. Mitigation Ratios for Wetland Area	6-26
6.5.3	Community Condition 3. Site-specific Avoidance, Minimization, and	
	Mitigation for Natural Communities	6-27
6.6	General Conditions on Covered Activities	6-34
6.6.1	Urban Development	6-34
6.6.2	General Condition 1. Reserve Acquisition Area (RAA) Interface	
	Design Requirements	6-34
6.6.3	General Condition 2. Maintain Hydrological Conditions and	
	Protect Water Quality	6-38
6.7	In-Stream Projects	6-42
6.7.1	General Condition 3. Stream System Avoidance	6-42
6.7.2	General Condition 4. Stream System Impact Minimization	6-48
6.7.3	General Condition 5. Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)	
	Operations and Maintenance	6-60
6.8	Capital Projects	6-62
6.8.1	General Condition 6. Design and Construction Requirements for	

	Covered Transportation Projects	6-63
6.9	Operations and Maintenance	6-70
6.9.1	General Condition 7. Implement Best Management Practices for	
	Operation and Maintenance Activities of Roadways and Utilities	6-70
6.10	Rural Development	
6.10.1	General Condition 8. Rural Development Design and	
Constru	ction Requirements	6-72
6.11	Conservation Strategy Implementation	6-77
6.11.1	General Condition 9. Prepare and Implement Recreation Plans	6-78
6.11.2	2 General Condition 10. Wildfire Buffer	6-83
6.11.3	B General Condition 11. Agricultural Buffer	6-87
6.11.4	Condition 12. Mosquito and Vector Control	6-87
6.12	Conditions to Minimize Impacts on Covered Species	6-89
6.12.1	Species Condition 1. Avoid Direct Impacts to Wildlife Species	
	Protected under Other Laws	6-91
6.12.2	2 Species Condition 2. Bald Eagle	6-92
6.12.3	3 Species Condition 3. Swainson's Hawk	6-93
6.12.4	Species Condition 4. American Peregrine Falcon	6-95
6.12.5	5 Species Condition 5. California Black Rail	6-97
6.12.6	S Species Condition 6. Bank Swallow	6-99
6.12.7	Species Condition 7. Western Burrowing Owl	6-99
6.12.8	3 Species Condition 8. Tricolored Blackbird	6-101
6.12.9	9 Species Condition 9. Giant Garter Snake	6-102
6.12.1	0 Species Condition 10. Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle	6-103
6.12.1	1 Species Condition 11. Western Spadefoot Toad	6-106
6.12.1	2 Species Condition 12. California Red-legged Frog	6-107
Chante	or 7 Manitoring and Adaptive Management Program	
-	er 7 Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program Introduction	7-1
7.1.1		7-1 7-1
7.1.1		7-1 7-2
7.1.2	Program Objectives	7-2 7-4
7.1.3	Program Scope	7- 4 7-5
	Overview	7-3 7-7
7.2.1	Types of Monitoring	7-7 7-7
7.2.1	Program Phases	7-1 7-12
7.2.3	Guidelines for Monitoring	7-12 7-18
	Landscape-level Monitoring and Management Actions	7-10 7-22
7.3.1	Monitor Land-cover in the Plan Area	7-23
		. 20

7.3.2	Track Invasive Species	7-25
7.3.3	Track Recreation in the Reserve System	7-26
7.3.4	Monitor Disturbance Events	7-26
7.4 I	Natural and Semi-Natural Community–Level Actions	7-27
7.4.1	Natural Community Monitoring Tools	7-27
7.4.2	Monitoring Grassland and Vernal Pool Grassland Complex Actions	7-30
7.4.3	Monitoring Oak Woodland Actions	7-34
7.4.4	Monitoring Riverine and Riparian Actions	7-36
7.4.5	Monitoring Wetland and Pond Actions	7-39
7.4.6	Monitoring Agricultural Land Conservation Actions	7-42
7.5	Species-Level Actions	7-44
7.5.1	Species-Specific Monitoring Tools	7-45
7.5.2	Monitoring Birds	7-48
7.5.3	Overwintering Raptors – Valley Habitats (Group 3)	7-50
7.5.4	Breeding Season Birds – Open Habitats in the Valley (Group 1)	7-51
7.5.5	Breeding Birds – Riparian and Oak Woodland (Group 3)	7-52
7.5.6	California Black Rail (Group 1)	7-54
7.5.7	Bank Swallow (Group 3)	7-56
7.5.8	Tricolored Blackbird (Group 2)	7-57
7.5.9	Vernal Pool Animals and Plants (Group 1)	7-58
7.5.10	Western Spadefoot Toad (Group 2)	7-64
	Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (Group 1)	7-67
	Giant Garter Snake (Group 1)	7-69
7.5.13	Central Valley Steelhead - Evolutionarily Significant Unit	
and C	entral Valley Fall/Late Fall-run Chinook Salmon (Group 1)	7-72
7.5.14	Foothill Yellow-legged Frog (Group 2)	7-74
7.5.15	California Red-legged Frog (Group 3)	7-77
7.5.16	Northwestern Pond Turtle (Group 2)	7-80
7.6 I	Data and Reporting	7-82
	mplementation of Monitoring Program	7-83
7.7.1	Program Infrastructure	7-83
7.7.2	Approval of Monitoring Personnel for Take of Federally	
	Listed Covered Species	7-87
Chaptei	8 Plan Implementation	
3.1 (Overview	8-1
3.2 I	Participant Authority and Obligations	8-1
8.2.1	Permittors	8-1
8.2.2	Permittees	8-3
8.2.3	Permittee Obligations under ESA and NCCPA	8-4

8.2.4	Permittee Obligations under the CWA Sections 404 and 401 and	
	CDFG 1602 Permits	8-5
8.3 I	mplementation Structure	8-5
8.3.1	General	8-5
8.3.2	Placer Conservation Authority	8-6
8.3.3	Technical Advisory Committee	8-6
8.3.4	Resource Agencies	8-7
8.3.5	Scientific Review	8-7
8.3.6	Public Input	8-8
8.4 F	Responsibilities of the PCA	8-9
8.4.1	Administrative Director	8-12
8.4.2	Scientific Oversight	8-13
8.4.3	Real Estate Activities	8-13
8.4.4	Grant Administration	8-13
8.4.5	Budget Analysis	8-13
8.4.6	GIS/Database Maintenance	8-14
8.4.7	Reserve Management and Monitoring	8-14
8.4.8	Public Outreach and Education	8-15
8.4.9	Legal and Financial Services	8-15
8.4.10	Consultants and Contractors	8-15
8.4.11	Responsibilities of the County and the City	8-16
8.4.12	Responsibilities of PCWA and SPRTA	8-16
8.5 F	Participating Special Entities	8-17
8.6 L	ocal Implementing Ordinances	8-19
8.7 L	and Acquisition	8-19
8.8	Conservation Land Accounting	8-21
8.8.1	Stay-Ahead Provision	8-22
8.8.2	Land Acquired by Other Organizations or through Partnerships	8-27
8.8.3	Conservation Easements	8-31
8.8.4	Grazing Leases or Licenses within the Reserve System	8-38
8.8.5	Willing Sellers	8-39
8.8.6	Gifts of Land	8-40
8.8.7	Land Dedication In Lieu of Development Fee	8-40
8.8.8	Williamson Act Parcels	8-42
	Roles and Responsibilities in Reviewing Applications for	
7	Take Authorization	8-42
8.9.1	Permittee Responsibilities	8-42
8.9.2	PCA Responsibilities	8-43
8.9.3	Wildlife Agency Responsibilities	8-44
8.10	Implementing Agreement	8-45

8.11	Data Tracking	8-45
8.11.1	Database Development and Maintenance	8-45
8.11.2	Compliance Tracking	8-46
8.12	Reporting	8-48
8.13	Schedule	8-51
Chapte	r 9 Cost and Funding	
9.1 I	ntroduction	9-1
9.2 l	Methodology For Estimating Costs	9-2
9.2.1	Program Administration	9-4
9.2.2	Land Acquisition	9-6
9.2.3	Habitat Restoration/Creation	9-8
9.2.4	Land Management	9-10
9.2.5	Monitoring, Research, and Adaptive Management	9-11
9.2.6	Remedial Measures	9-12
9.2.7	Contingency	9-13
9.2.8	Costs in Perpetuity	9-13
9.3 F	Funding Sources and Assurances	9-14
9.3.1	Introduction	9-14
9.3.2	Overview of Funding and Financing Alternatives	9-14
9.3.3	Potential Funding Sources	9-15
9.3.4	Strategic and Policy Issues	9-21
Chapte	r 10 Assurances	
10.1	Introduction	10-1
10.2	Assurances Requested by Permittees	10-1
10.2.1	Changed and Unforeseen Circumstances	10-2
10.2.2	Federal No Surprises	10-12
10.2.3	Federal Section 7 Consultations	10-12
10.2.4	Federal Critical Habitat Designations	10-13
10.2.5	State NCCP Assurances	10-14
	Conservation Contributions by State and Federal Agencies	10-14
10.2.7	Staffing Contributions by State and Federal Agencies	10-14
10.2.8	Assurances to Private Landowners	10-15
10.3	Modifications to the Plan	10-16
10.3.1	Administrative Changes	10-16
10.3.2	Minor Modifications	10-17
10.3.3	Amendments	10-19