



EAST CONTRA
COSTA COUNTY
HABITAT
CONSERVANCY

City of Brentwood

City of Clayton

City of Oakley

City of Pittsburg

Contra Costa County

Public Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.
City of Pittsburg, Council Chambers (Ante Chamber Room)
65 Civic Avenue, Pittsburg, CA 94565

Agenda

- 1) **Introductions.** Welcome Kathryn Lyddan, Executive Director of the Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust to the PAC. Attendees are invited (but not required) to sign in. This is also an opportunity for committee members (and meeting participants) to provide updates on their organization's activities.
 - 2) **Public comment** on items not on the agenda. Public comment will also be accepted on each agenda item during discussion of that item.
 - 3) **Consider approving the Meeting Record** from the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy ("Conservancy") Public Advisory Committee ("PAC") meeting on November 12, 2015. The Draft Meeting Record is attached.
 - 4) **General Update** on recent actions of the Governing Board. The complete Board agenda and packet can be referred to as background and is posted on the Conservancy's website at: <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/water/HCP/Meetings/GB.html>
 - a) Acquisition and Restoration update (update map attached)
 - b) Other announcements
 - 5) **Update on the development of a potential Antioch HCP/NCCP.**
 - 6) **Update on Nunn acquisition (Knightsen area)** A map is attached.
 - 7) **Consider referral from the Governing Board on PAC composition, member selection process and PAC attendance policy.** Review comments from the Governing Board on concerns related to the make-up and selection of PAC members. Specific items to address are (but not limited to): attendance policy, geographic scope represented, represented group's involvement/engagement in the Plan, selection process, and whether seats should be held by individuals or organizations. Formulate recommendations to the Board to be considered at the Board's February meeting.
 - 8) **Update and discussion on Conservancy's annual reporting.** Review the 2014 Year in Review document and 2014 Annual Report and consider recommendations on structure and format for 2014 documents. 2014 documents are available online as supplemental materials of the April 28, 2015 Governing Board meeting: <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/water/HCP/Meetings/GB.html> . The 2014 year in review document is attached.
 - 9) **Consider topics for the next and future meetings**
- 3:00 **Adjourn** (next regular meeting date is on May 12, 2016)

Times are approximate. If you have questions about this agenda or desire additional meeting materials, you may contact Maureen Parkes of the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development at 925-674-7831. The Conservancy will provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities planning to participate in this meeting who contact staff at least 72 hours before the meeting.

Public Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Record

Thursday, November 12, 2015

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1) Introductions.

Committee Attendees:

Private Permit Seekers	Conservation Advocates	Landowners/Agriculturalists	Suburban/Rural Residents
East Bay Leadership Council: Absent	California Native Plant Society: Absent	Agricultural/Natural Resource Trust of Contra Costa County: Liz DiGiorgio	Dick Vrmeer: Absent
Discovery Builders Inc.: Noelle Ortlund	Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed: Barry Margesson	Contra Costa County Citizens Land Alliance: Absent	Sharon Osteen: Present
Home Builders Association of Northern California: Absent	Save Mount Diablo: Juan Pablo Galvan	Contra Costa County Farm Bureau: Mike Vukelich	Kelly Davidson: Absent

Other Public Attendees:

Conservancy Staff members in attendance:

Abby Fateman, Conservancy Staff
 Allison Van Dorn, Conservancy Staff
 Jim Gwerder, Public
 Kathryn Lyddan, Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust (BALT)
 Prudence Capelle, Public
 Vin Rover, EC², BALT, Landowner

2) Public comment on items not on the agenda: Public comment will also be accepted on each agenda item during discussion of that item. None

3) Consider approving the Meeting Record from the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (“Conservancy”) Public Advisory Committee (“PAC”) meeting on August 6, 2015. The Meeting Record was approved.

4) General Update on recent actions of the Governing Board.

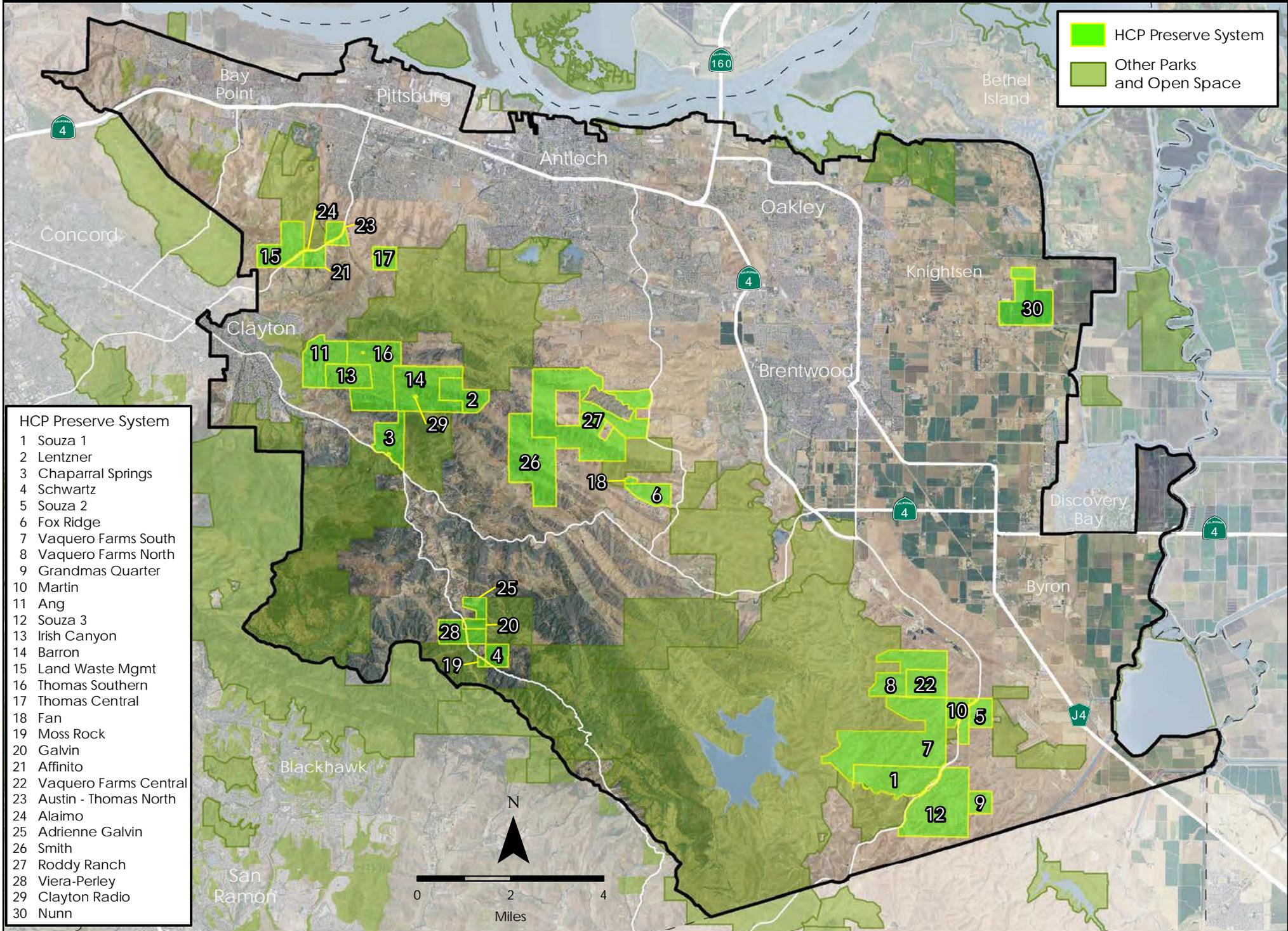
Ms. Fateman provided updates on recent activities of the Conservancy Governing Board. The PAC discussed:

- The acquisition of the 645-acre property in Knightsen that is anticipated to close in January 2016.
- Upcoming conferences/workshops in the area

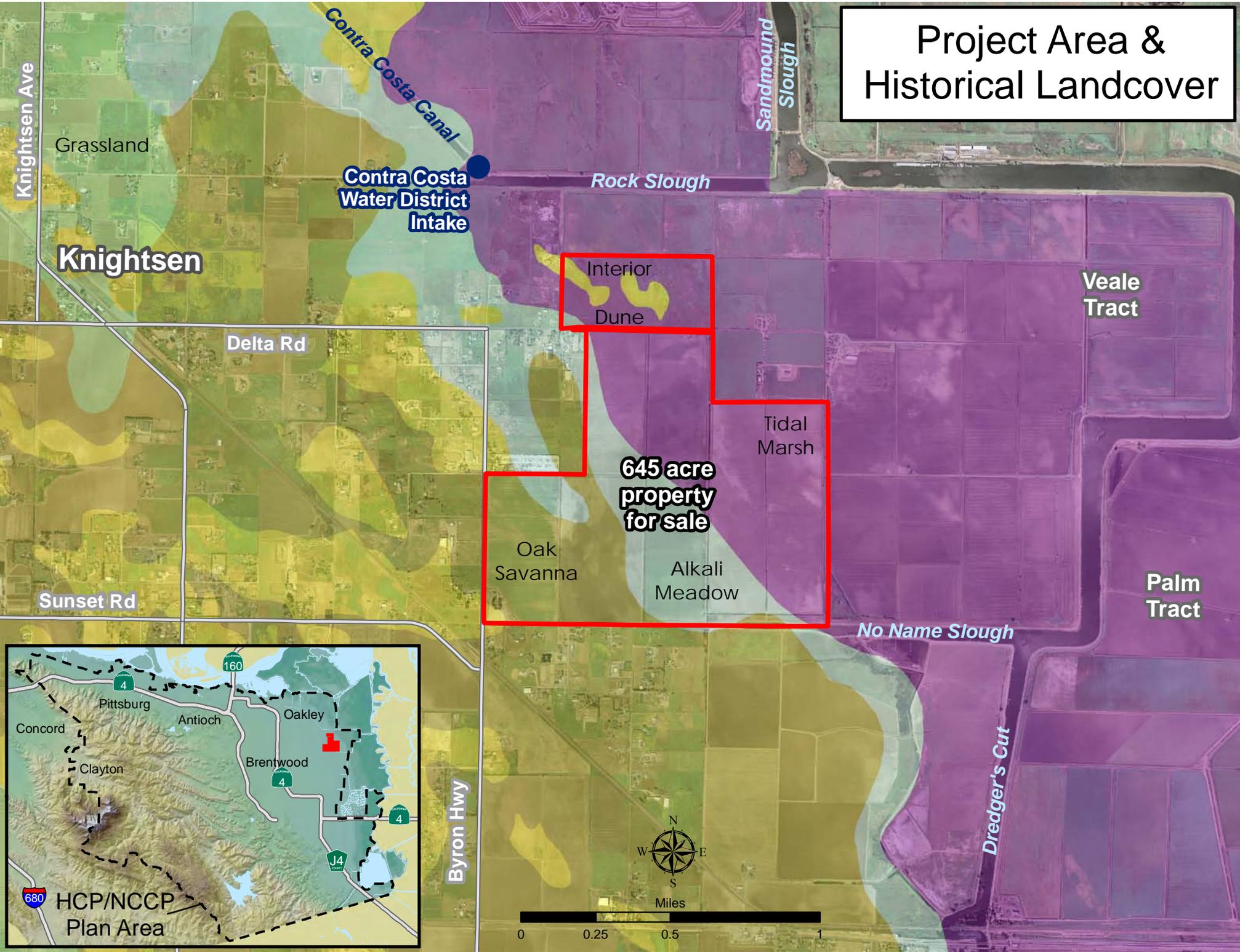
- Update on the PAC recruitment process
- 5) **Other items of interest/Announcements from PAC or meeting attendees.** Meeting attendee, Prudence Capelle requested information regarding the Twin Tunnels project and the proposed acquisition of some delta islands by southern California water interests.
 - 6) **Looking ahead to 2016: Review Work Plan for 2016, consider potential areas of focus for 2016 and provide suggestions for the Conservancy Work Plan for next year.** Ms. Fateman walked the group through the proposed 2016 Draft Conservancy work plan. PAC members and meeting attendees suggested minor edits/corrections. Staff incorporated edits into final draft that was presented and approved at the Governing Board meeting on December 8, 2015.
 - 7) **Update on status of an Antioch HCP/NCCP.** Ms. Fateman provided an update on the Antioch HCP/NCCP planning process. Juan Pablo from Save Mt. Diablo asked if the process was still on track regarding March 2016 planning decision. Ms. Fateman responded that March is the goal however, there is a possibility that the date could be pushed out.
 - 8) **Conduct annual review of the composition of the PAC.** Ms. Fateman provided an overview of Governing Board push to review PAC membership. The group discussed various approaches to increase participation and effectiveness including an attendance policy, increased outreach to low participation members, and a clear outline of PAC member responsibilities for the year. Committee members and staff will continue outreach to PAC representatives that had low attendance. Further discussion on composition and policies may occur in 2016.
 - 9) **Set the Calendar for 2016 PAC meetings (1/4ly meetings): The PAC meets the 2nd Thursday of the month, Quarterly on the schedule provided below: February 11, May 12, August 11, November 10, 1-3 p.m. at City of Pittsburg. The May meeting is usually a field trip.** The meeting calendar was confirmed.
 - 10) **Consider topics for the next and future meetings.** Ms. Fateman noted topics such as the 2015 Annual Report, attendance, the Vasco Hills/Byron Vernal Pools Management Plan, Antioch HCP/NCCP, and a field trip.

3 P.M. Meeting adjourned. (Next regular meeting is on February 11, 2016)

EBRPD Acquisitions Under HCP/NCCP as of 02/02/2016



Project Area & Historical Landcover



EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVANCY

2014 Year in Review

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 "Plan") gives local cities and agencies control over endangered species permitting in their jurisdiction.

Under the Plan, project proponents pay a fee or provide their own conservation, conduct limited avoidance measures and receive species permits from their local land use agency. 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 HCP/NCCP Preserve System.

Conservancy Board Members

Joel Bryant
City of Brentwood

Keith Haydon
City of Clayton

Randy Pope
City of Oakley

Salvatore Evola
City of Pittsburg

Mary Piepho
Contra Costa County

LAND ACQUISITION



PARTNERSHIPS



PROJECT PERMITTING



HABITAT RESTORATION



The East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy continued to experience success in 2014. The Conservancy permitting program had its busiest year to date. Streamlined permit coverage was provided for over 20 economic development and infrastructure projects. The Conservancy with funding and acquisition partners have preserved over 2,800 acres of biologically rich habitat which have been successfully incorporated into the Plan's growing Preserve System. In late Fall 2014, the Conservancy completed a large restoration project that augments the Conservancy's efforts to stay ahead of restoration targets in the region.



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. Twenty-two projects received take coverage under the Plan in 2014, including 7 urban development projects, 12 rural infrastructure projects, 1 rural operations and maintenance project, and 2 restoration projects totaling approximately 46.14 acres of permanent impacts and 168.68 acres of temporary impacts on terrestrial and aquatic land cover types.



Bridge repair along Marsh Creek Road—CCC Public Works

The 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 HCP/NCCP. The RGP is designed to streamline wetland permitting in the entire HCP/NCCP Plan Area by coordinating the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures in the Plan with the Corps’ wetland permitting requirements. To date 10 covered projects and 2 Conservancy restoration projects have benefitted from coordinated permitting under the RGP.

Permitting Program highlights include:

- ◆ **Ferro/Ronconi Residential Development Project:** This project, located in the City of Brentwood, will create 160 single-family detached lots, a public park, and a water treatment detention basin. This project is one of the first major subdivision project covered under the HCP/NCCP.
- ◆ **Marsh Creek Detention Center Bridge Replacement Project:** This transportation infrastructure project replaced a structurally deficient and functionally obsolete one-lane bridge in east/central Contra Costa County. Permits for this project were acquired through the HCP/NCCP and the Corps’ RGP. This project is an example of how the HCP/NCCP and coordinated wetland permitting helps to streamline and facilitate infrastructure projects in the County.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Conservancy is a joint exercise of powers authority formed by the Cities of Brentwood, Clayton, Oakley, and Pittsburg and Contra Costa County to implement the region’s HCP/NCCP. The Conservancy partners with state and federal agencies to expand the collaborative efforts to streamline permitting while conserving habitat and contributing to the recovery of species.

In April 2014, Sally Jewell, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, toured the Conservancy’s Preserve System and met with local leaders including representatives from local jurisdictions, the development community, and conservation groups. The photo on the cover shows Secretary Jewell meeting with the Conservancy Board, local partners as well as representatives from state and federal wildlife agencies overlooking East Contra Costa County.

ACTIVITIES BY THE NUMBERS 2014 and cumulative since 2008

Projects Permitted In 2014: 22 To date: 78	Fees and CTR* Received In 2014: \$1,376,538 To date: \$11,867,400
Acres Impacted In 2014: 46 To date: 351	Restoration Projects Constructed In 2014: 2 To date: 9
Properties Acquired In 2014: 2 To date: 27	Acres Acquired In 2014: 2,817 To date: 12,160
Grants Received In 2014: \$16,204,377 To date: \$46,253,900	

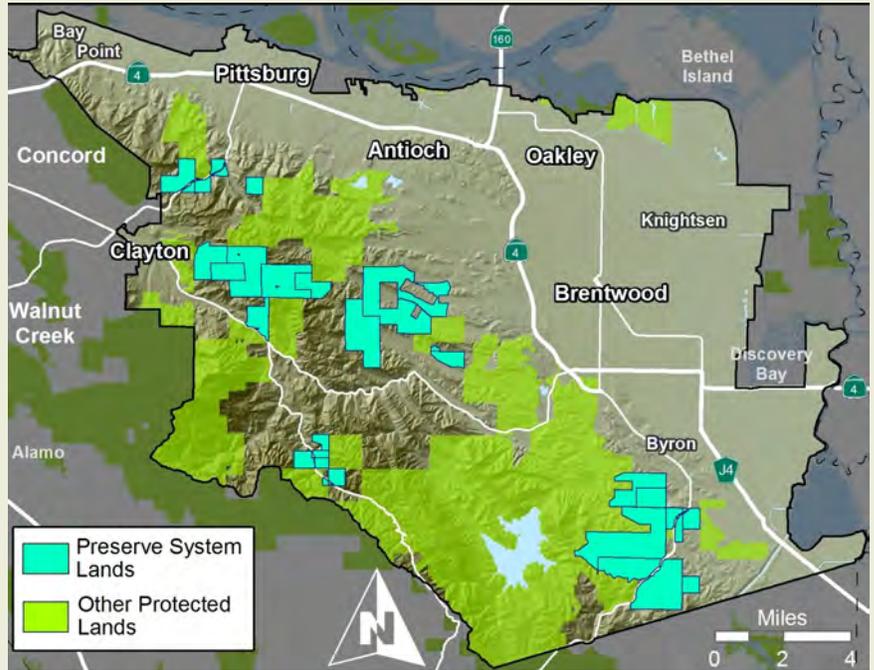
*Contributions to Recovery

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 seven years of Plan implementation. In 2014 two large acquisitions were completed adding 2,817 acres of land to the Preserve System. All acquisitions to date, totaling 12,160 acres, have been completed in partnership with East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), where EBRPD will own and manage 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 the Preserve System include the following achievements:

- ◆ Over 1/3 of the Preserve System has been assembled by year 7 of Plan implementation
- ◆ Acquisition of the Smith and Roddy Ranch properties resulted in preservation of 15 miles of stream (perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams combined) bringing the total amount of streams preserved to date to 53 miles
- ◆ 30 acres of riparian woodland habitat preserved to date
- ◆ Roddy Ranch is the largest property acquisition to date
- ◆ 46 occurrences of special status plants preserved to date



ECCC HCP/NCCP Preserve System

HABITAT RESTORATION & 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, eight restoration projects have been constructed. The eight restoration projects provide a range of benefits to covered species.



The Hess Creek Channel Restoration project site

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.

Conservancy efforts toward restoration and creation of wetland habitat types in 2014 were focused on the construction of the Hess Creek Channel Restoration Project. This project restored and created nearly 2.5 acres new wetland and creek habitats and 730 linear feet of stream. The Hess Creek Channel Restoration Project adds to the Conservancy's previous restoration projects in the western portion of the Preserve System.

FUNDING

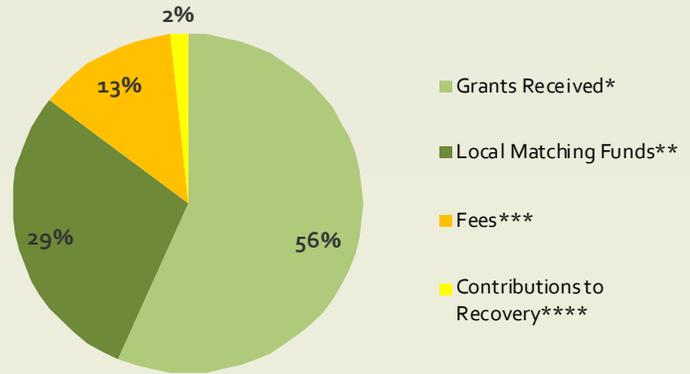
The Conservancy receives revenue from three primary sources: fees, grants, and contributions to recovery. These sources fund Preserve System acquisitions, management, monitoring, and restoration. Various federal, state, and private funding sources generously granted \$16,204,377 to Conservancy activities during 2014. Fees received from the 22 projects permitted in 2014 totaled \$1,338,240, while contributions to recovery received from 7 projects totaled \$38,298. Local matching funds, which include funds provided by or grants awarded to local partners, totaled \$4,618,113.

New Conservancy Revenues in 2014

	Amount
Grant Funds received in 2014*	\$16,204,377
Local Matching Funds leveraged in 2014**	\$4,618,113
Fees received in 2014***	\$1,338,240
Contributions to recovery received in 2014****	\$38,298
Total new funding in 2014	\$22,199,027

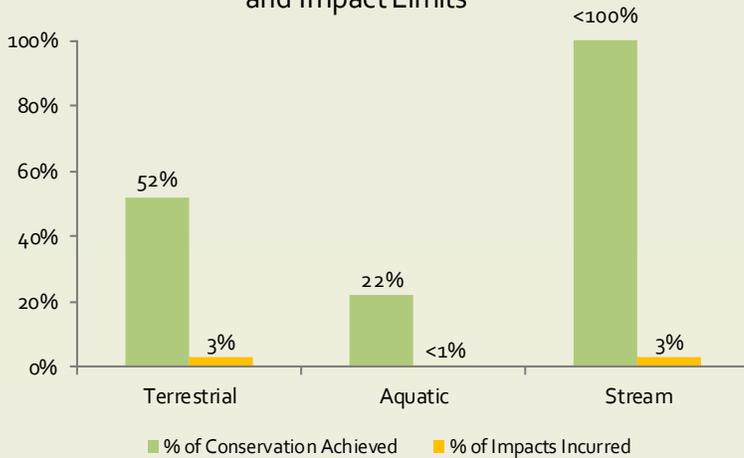
* The grants in 2014 were awarded by various State and Federal Agencies including CDFW, USFWS, and WCB.
 ** Local matching funds include contributions by the East Bay Regional Park District of its own funds or grant funds for joint acquisition and management.
 *** Development, rural infrastructure, wetland, stream and administrative fees.
 **** Payments by permit recipients that fund habitat improvements beyond required avoidance and mitigation measures.

Sources of Funding for Plan Implementation
2008-2014



STAYING AHEAD

Progress Towards Conservation Goals and Impact Limits



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

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 2014 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 of Contra Costa County
- California Native Plant Society
- Contra Costa Council
- Contra Costa County Citizens Land Alliance
- Contra Costa County Farm Bureau
- Discovery Builders Inc.
- Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed
- Home Builders Association of Northern California
- 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 2014 Annual Report can be both downloaded from the website. To reach the Conservancy, please contact maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us or 925-674-7203.