



EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVANCY

2011 Year in Review

The Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan and the Conservancy

The HCP/NCCP or "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 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

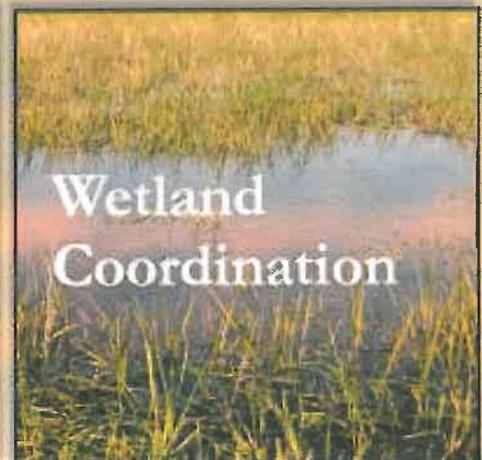
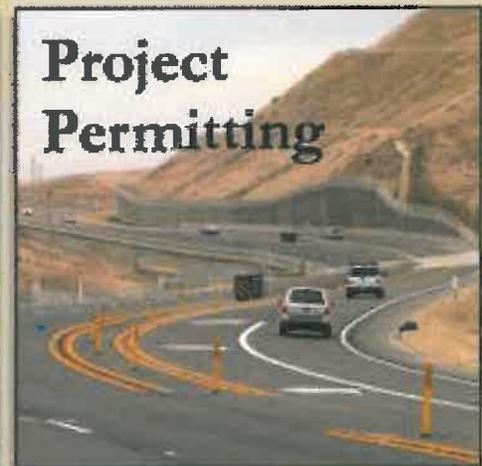
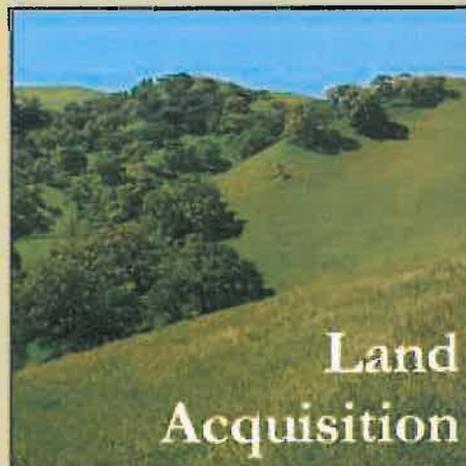
Hank Stratford
City of Clayton

Jim Frazier
City of Oakley

Salvatore Evola
City of Pittsburg

Federal Glover
Contra Costa County

2011 was a busy year for the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy. The Conservancy continued to experience success at securing grants for land acquisition, and stayed ahead of targets for acquisition and specific conservation requirements. A new wetland restoration project was planned and constructed. Additionally, several significant regional infrastructure projects were permitted and are under construction, and progress was made towards coordinating wetland permitting with the HCP/NCCP process.



... Project Permitting ...

Thirteen projects received permit coverage under the Plan in 2011 (two urban development projects and eleven rural infrastructure projects), totaling approximately 25 acres of permanent impacts and 52 acres of temporary impacts on terrestrial land cover types. In addition, there were 59 feet of permanent and 155 feet of temporary impacts to streams.

One entity which received permit coverage in 2011 was Contra Costa Generating Station LLC, for the construction and operation of the Oakley Generating Station Project, which forms part of the redevelopment of the DuPont Oakley property. Construction of the natural gas-fired plant will generate over 730 local union jobs and after start up approximately 22 fulltime operational jobs.



The San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District extension of transit services to a new terminus station east of Hillcrest Avenue in the City of Antioch, known as the eBART Phase II Project, prepared its application in 2011 and received permit coverage in early 2012. This \$462 million project will generate over 600 construction jobs and 40 to 80 permanent jobs.

... Wetland Coordination ...

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. In 2011, significant progress was made towards the issuance of a Regional General Permit (RGP) by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that enables expedited authorization of activities covered under the HCP/NCCP. Public outreach on the Draft RGP generated eleven supportive comment letters and a lead Corps District was designated. The RGP was issued on May 4, 2012. The next steps for wetland coordination include establishing an In Lieu Fee program, which would sanction payment of HCP/NCCP fees as suitable mitigation under the RGP, and continuing to pursue General 401 Water Quality Certification from the State Water Resources Control Board to achieve additional permit streamlining.

HCP/NCCP Activities By the Numbers: 2011 and Cumulative (through 12/31/11)

Projects permitted in 2011: 13

Projects permitted to date: 30

Fees and contributions to recovery received in 2011: \$848,747

Fees and contributions to recovery received to date: \$2,729,948

Grant funding awarded in 2011: \$10,631,582

Grant funding awarded to date: \$45,746,267

Number of properties acquired in 2011: 4

Acres conserved in 2011: 2,185

Number of properties acquired to date: 17

Acres conserved to date: 6,741

Number of restoration projects constructed to date: 5

Impacts relative to conservation

	<i>Impacts</i>	<i>Conserved</i>
<i>Terrestrial</i>	86 acres	6,687 acres
<i>Aquatic</i>	0.61 acres	54 acres
<i>Streams</i>	197 linear feet	155,012 linear feet

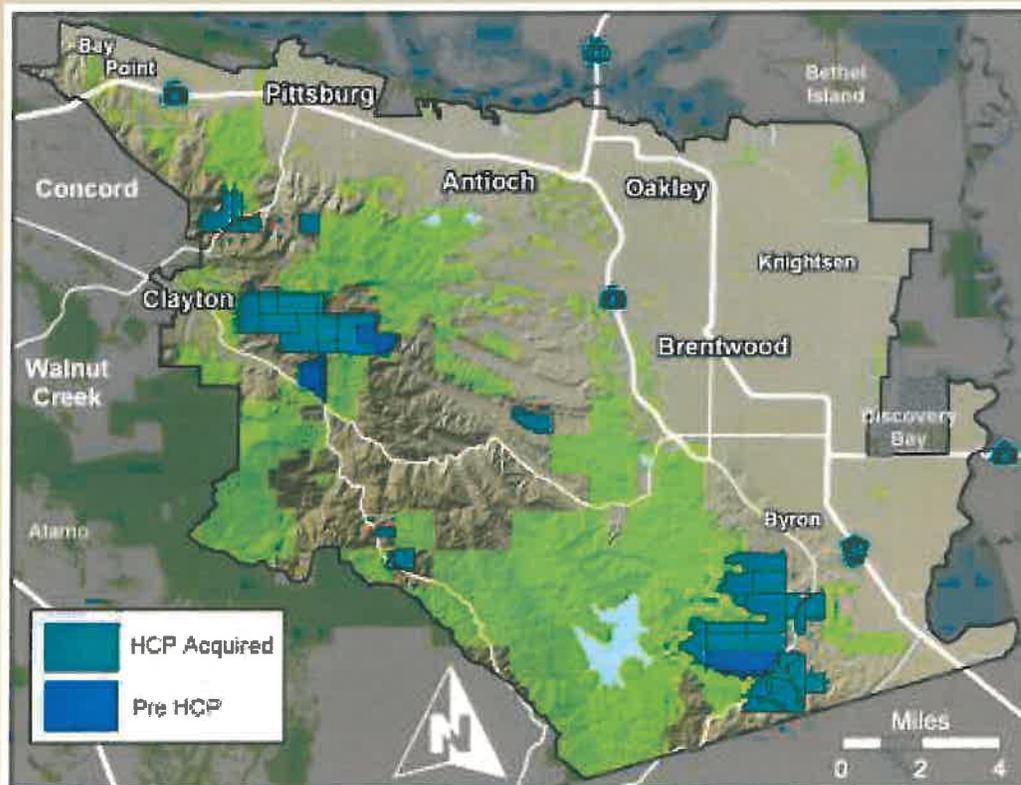


... Land Acquisition ...

The first four years of Plan implementation have resulted in significant progress toward acquisition goals, including four properties acquired in 2011. All acquisitions to date, totaling 6,741 acres, have been completed in partnership with East Bay Regional Park District (i.e. EBRPD will own and manage Preserve System lands).

Highlights of the Preserve System include the following achievements:

- More than 5,000 acres of annual grassland preserved
- Oak woodland preservation requirement exceeded by 168%
- 56% of the oak savanna preservation requirements achieved
- 38% of pond and 12% of alkali wetland preservation requirements achieved
- 19 covered plant occurrences preserved
- Intermittent and ephemeral stream preservation requirements achieved
- Occupied or suitable habitat provided for at least 20 of the 28 covered species

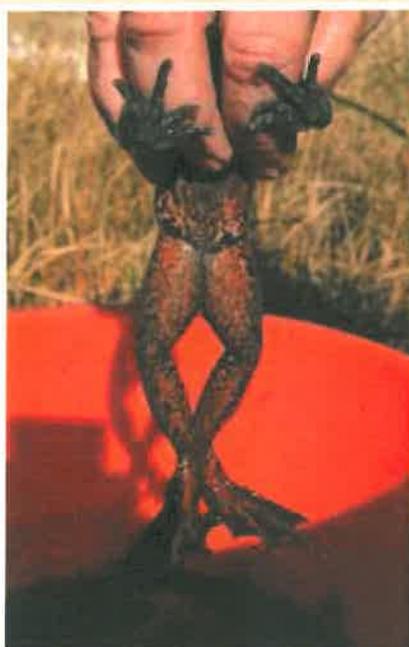


There is still a long way to go, but the Conservancy is currently ahead of the average pace necessary to assemble the 30,300-acre Preserve System estimated to be required by Year 30.

... Habitat Restoration and Creation ...

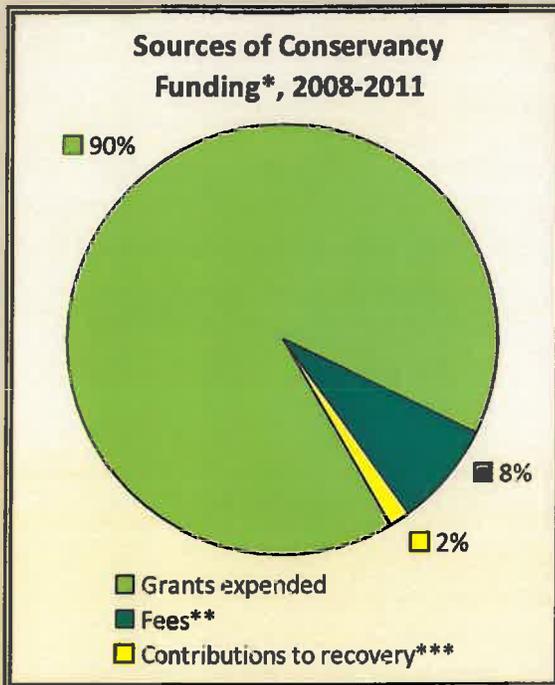
The Plan requires stream, wetland and pond restoration and creation to compensate for impacts to these habitat types. The Conservancy has aggressively pursued wetland and pond restoration requirements; to date, five restoration projects have been constructed. During 2011, the Conservancy completed construction of one restoration project in the Upper Hess Creek watershed. This project resulted in the restoration or creation of creek channel, seasonal wetland, alkali wetland and pond. The restored aquatic habitats and surrounding upland areas will support California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), native grasses and alkali vegetation, as well as improve the hydrologic connectivity in the upper watershed.

Conservancy projects that were constructed in prior years are monitored and managed adaptively to help ensure they are functioning well for species. This more intensive monitoring and management will continue for a minimum of five years. Close monitoring of restoration sites has informed management actions including re-seeding areas, adjusting grazing patterns, and aggressively combating invasive weeds.



... Funding ...

The Conservancy takes in revenue from three primary sources: grants, fees and contributions to recovery. Various federal, state and private funding sources generously awarded \$10,631,582 in grant money to Conservancy activities during 2011. Most grant funding awarded will be received and spent in future years. Fees received from the thirteen projects permitted in 2011 totaled \$531,322, while contributions to recovery received from five projects totaled \$317,425.



* Funding from partners not included

** Includes development, wetland, stream and administrative fees

*** Payments by permit recipients that fund habitat improvements beyond required avoidance and mitigation measures

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 Game
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

New Conservancy funding in 2011	Amount
Grants awarded in 2011:	
USFWS ¹ administered by WCB ² (acquisition)	\$4,463,936
Prop. 84 through DWR ³ (acquisition/restoration)	\$650,000
CDGF ⁴ , NCCP Local Assistance (3 grants) (inventory/monitoring/mgmt. plan)	\$165,000
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (acquisition)	\$1,300,000
WCB Prop. 84 (4 grants) (acquisition)	\$4,052,646
Fees received in 2011	\$531,322
Contributions to recovery received in 2011	\$317,425
Total new funding in 2011₅	\$11,480,329

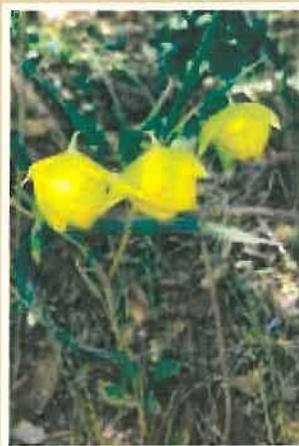
¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

² Wildlife Conservation Board

³ Department of Water Resources

⁴ California Department of Fish and Game

⁵ Funding from partners not included. EBRPD contributed more than \$2.2 million of its own funds or its grant funds to joint land acquisitions in 2011.



Key Plan Facts and Figures:

Year the Plan went into effect:
2007

Term of regional permits: **30 years**

Inventory area: **174,018 acres**

Amount of urban development impact allowed for: **8,670 to 11,853 acres**

Amount of rural infrastructure impact allowed for: **1,126 acres**

Eventual size of Preserve System:
23,800 to 30,300 acres

Number of species covered: **28**



For more information on the Conservancy and HCP/NCCP, see the website www.cocohcp.org, the HCP/NCCP Overview Booklet and the 2011 Annual Report (both available on website)

To reach the Conservancy, please contact
Maureen Parkes:

maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us
(925) 674-7831