



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

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 East Contra Costa County Habitat 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

Randy Pope
City of Oakley

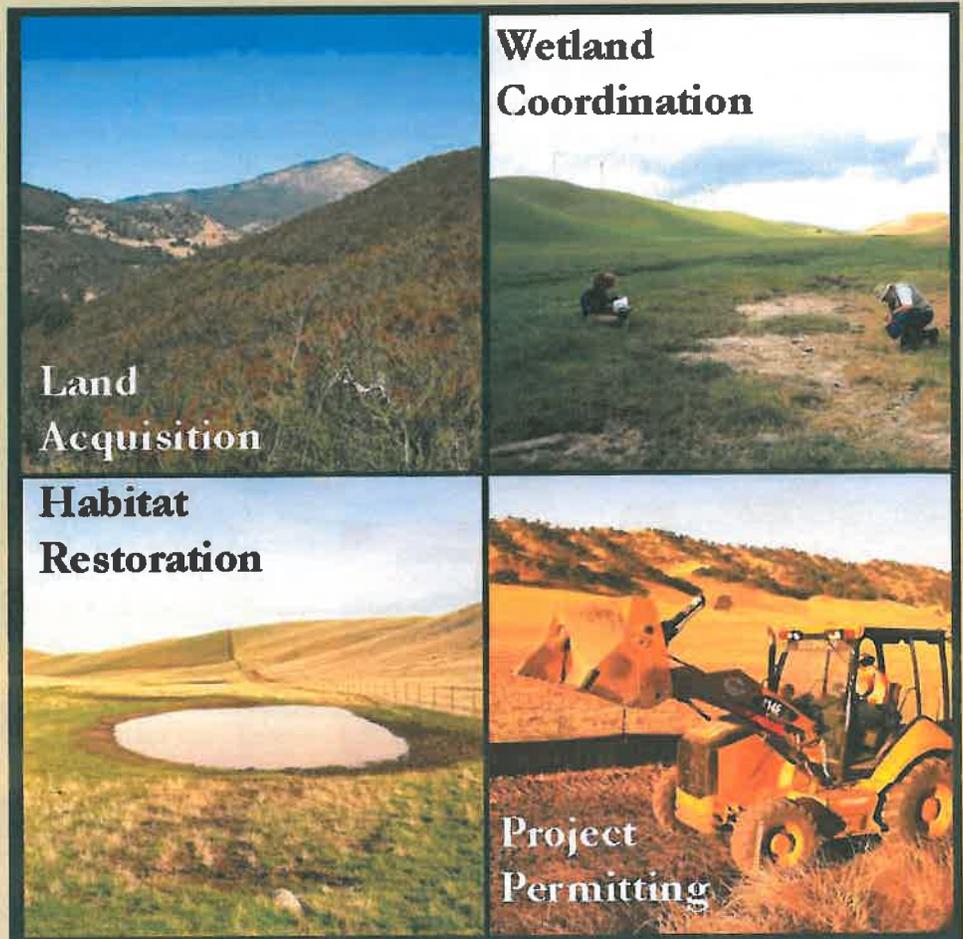
Salvatore Evola
City of Pittsburg

Mary Piepho
Contra Costa County

EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVANCY

2012 Year in Review

2012 marked the issuance of another regional permit for the plan area, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit 1, the first permit of its kind to coordinate wetlands permitting with the species permitting offered by a regional HCP. A number of projects were permitted under the HCP/NCCP in 2012, including the new BART station at Hillcrest. The Conservancy added 673 biologically-rich acres to the preserve system all in partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District. Three new wetlands were created, designed specifically to benefit special status crustaceans within the preserve. The Conservancy continues to stay far ahead of impacts as it oversees the implementation of the HCP/NCCP.

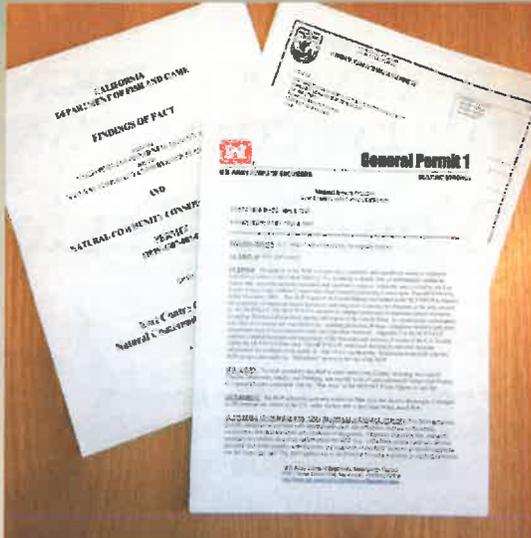


**Land
Acquisition**

**Wetland
Coordination**

**Habitat
Restoration**

**Project
Permitting**



The U.S. Army Corps issued RGP 1 in 2012. Regional permits from the state and federal wildlife agencies were issued in 2007.

... 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. 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. A few days earlier, on April 30, 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a Biological Opinion on the RGP. The Biological Opinion for the RGP relies on the HCP/NCCP for mitigation measures and eliminates the need for the Corps to consult individually with the USFWS for each project covered by the RGP. The term of the Biological Opinion corresponds with the 30-

year term of the HCP/NCCP. This new permit was immediately put to use by the Conservancy and applicants and has moved five projects quickly through the permitting phase.

... Project Permitting ...

The HCP/NCCP or "Plan" gives local cities and agencies control over endangered species permitting in their jurisdiction. Fourteen projects received take coverage under the Plan in 2012, including 3 urban development projects and 11 rural infrastructure projects, totaling approximately 60.6 acres of permanent impacts and 94.9 acres of temporary impacts on terrestrial land cover types. In addition, there were 324 linear feet of permanent and 3,663 linear feet of temporary impacts to streams.

The City of Pittsburg received a permit for the construction of a trash capture system at the outfall of an existing residential storm drain system in central Pittsburg. Once installed, the full trash capture device will treat runoff from an area equivalent to 30 percent of the City's retail/wholesale land. This project was covered under the Corps' new Regional General Permit (RGP) which streamlines the Section 404 permitting process by integrating it with the HCP/NCCP.



Upper Sand Creek Basin during construction

The Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District received a permit for the construction of Upper Sand Creek Detention Basin. This project will expand an existing 123-

acre-foot basin to approximately 900 acre-feet. The purpose of the basin expansion is to attenuate flows from the upper Marsh Creek watershed to provide improved flood protection for the downstream communities. The Upper Sand Creek Detention Basin project was also covered by the new Army Corps RGP.

HCP/NCCP Activities By the Numbers: 2012 and Cumulative (through 12/31/2012)

Projects Permitted:
In 2012: 14
To date: 44

Fees and Contributions to Recovery Received:
In 2012: \$1,643,575
To date: \$8,090,000

Acres Impacted :
In 2012: 60.6
To Date: 148

Properties Acquired:
In 2012: 6
To date: 23

Acres Conserved:
In 2012: 673
To date: 7,429

Restoration Projects Constructed:
In 2012: 2
To Date: 7

Grants Received:
In 2012: \$6,288,144
To date: \$28,970,000

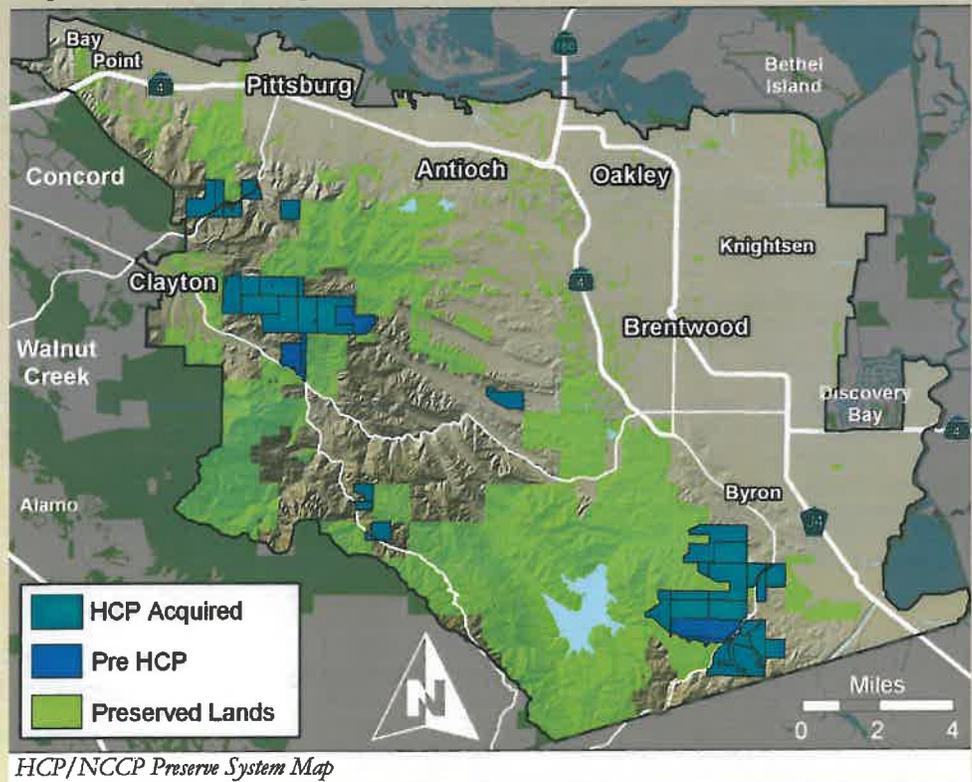
... Land Acquisition ...

The first five years of Plan implementation have resulted in significant progress toward acquisition goals, including six properties acquired in 2012. All acquisitions to date, totaling 9,097 acres, have been completed in partnership with East Bay Regional Park District (i.e. EBRPD will own and manage Preserve System lands). Acquired lands will also become part of the regional park system.

Highlights of the Preserve System include the following achievements:

- More than 6,800 acres of annual grassland preserved
- Oak woodland preservation requirement exceeded by 292%
- 62% of the oak savanna preservation requirements achieved
- 38% of pond and 13% of alkali wetland preservation requirements achieved
- 19 stands of covered plants 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 has conserved 7,429 acres and is currently ahead of the average pace necessary to assemble the 30,300-acre Preserve System estimated to be required by Year 30 (2037).



California tiger salamander occupying Conservancy restoration sites.

...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, seven restoration projects have been constructed and each is now monitored and adaptively managed. The seven restoration projects provide a range of benefits to covered species. Each of the seven projects benefit covered amphibian species (CA red-legged frog and CA tiger salamander). Wetland restoration and creation in 2012 on Souza II and Vaquero Farms South properties increases habitat for covered vernal pool crustaceans (fairy shrimp).

Conservancy projects constructed in prior years are monitored and managed to ensure they function 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: reseeding areas, adjusting grazing patterns, and aggressively combating invasive weeds.



One of three pools constructed in 2012.

... Funding ...

The Conservancy takes in revenue from three primary sources: grants, fees, and contributions to recovery. These sources fund Preserve System acquisitions, management, monitoring and restoration. Various federal, state, and private funding sources generously granted \$6,288,144 to Conservancy activities during 2012. Fees received from the fourteen projects permitted in 2012 totaled \$1,275,057, while contributions to recovery received from five projects totaled \$368,518. Local matching funds, which include funds provided by or grants awarded to local partners, totaled \$1,327,890.

New Conservancy Revenues in 2012	Amount
Grant Funds received in 2012*	\$6,288,144
Local Matching Funds leveraged in 2012**	\$1,327,890
Fees received in 2012***	\$1,275,057
Contributions to recovery received in 2012****	\$368,518
Total new funding in 2012	\$9,259,609

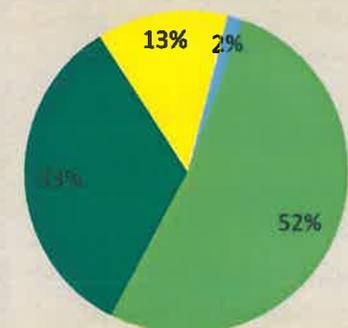
* The grants in 2012 were awarded by various State and Federal Agencies including DWR, CDFW, USFWS, and WCB and by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

**Local matching funds include estimated contributions by the East Bay Regional Park District of its own funds or grant funds to 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, 2008-2012



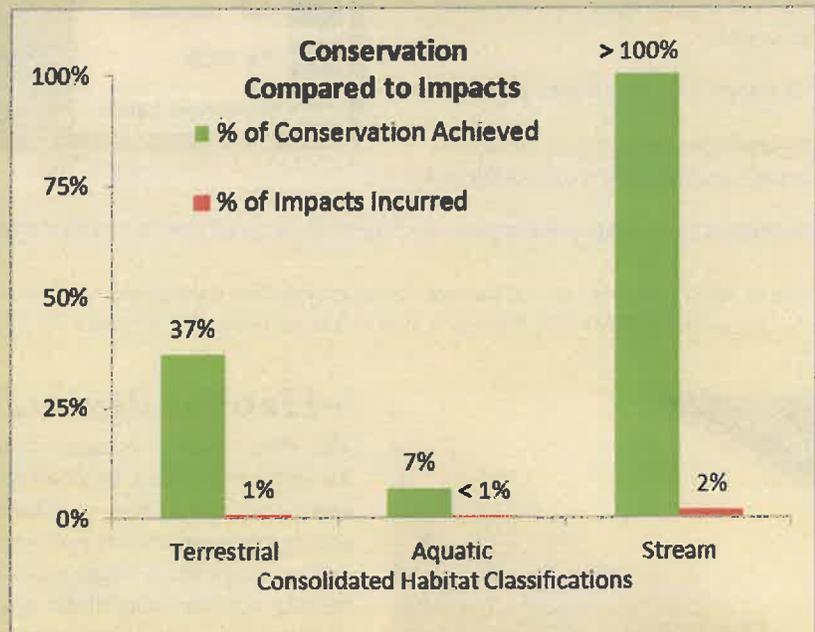
■ Grants Received*
 ■ Local Matching Funds**
 ■ Fees****
 ■ Contributions to Recovery*****

... Staying Ahead ...

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 is displayed here showing that 37% of all conservation of terrestrial habitat expected over the 30 year life of the plan has already occurred. All categories of habitat conservation are well ahead of the impacts to these habitat types.

A more detailed accounting of conservation, restoration, creation and impacts is provided in Figure ES1 and Table 14 in the 2012 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 Game
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Additional Information

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

The HCP/NCCP Overview booklet and the 2012 Annual Report can both be downloaded from the website. To reach the Conservancy, please contact Maureen Parkes at (925) 674-7831 or maureen.parkes@ded.cccounty.us.



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 (3)
 Save Mount Diablo