

BALANCING CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Placer County Conservation Program

Placer County has a wealth of natural resources and open space areas that make the county a desirable place to live, work and visit. With that desirability comes more proposed development related to new jobs and housing, and that growth is expected to continue into the foreseeable future.

Most development projects, public and private, require permitting and



The proposed PCCP is designed to ensure that land is managed to support the continued survival and well-being of 14 covered species, as well as hundreds of other species that are dependent on the same habitat.



corresponding mitigation to compensate for the loss of wetlands and habitat. That mitigation typically is in the form of providing preserved land or restoration activities, such as open space and wetlands improvements.

Project permits are currently handled on a case-by case basis, which sometimes delays projects by several years and makes it difficult to anticipate costs, schedule projects and implement effective mitigation. The result is an unpredictable and expensive process often resulting in substandard conservation results.

What Will the PCCP Achieve for Our County?

The PCCP will achieve better conservation by requiring that mitigation for development projects create a large and interconnected reserve system to more effectively protect species and habitats. The PCCP achieves economic development goals by helping public and private projects save time and money through a streamlined permitting process managed primarily at the local level.



What is the PCCP?

The Placer County Conservation Program (PCCP) is designed to coordinate and streamline local, state and federal permitting processes required as a condition of development, and to create a large, interconnected reserve system to more effectively protect legally covered species.

Geographic Area

The PCCP covers more than 260,000 acres of Western Placer County and the City of Lincoln. These areas include wetlands and vernal pools, oak woodlands, streams, natural areas and open space.

Within the proposed PCCP plan area, roughly 47,000 acres would become part of a reserve system.

Innovative Approach

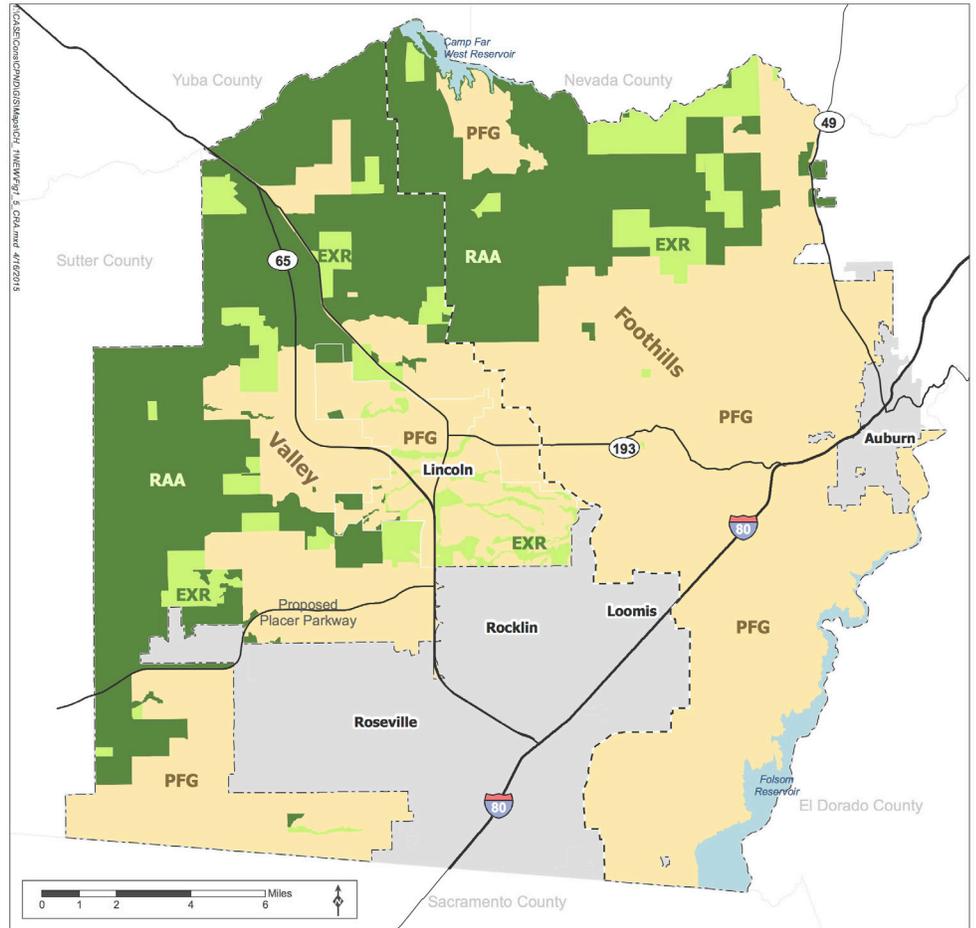
Placer County developed the PCCP to help reduce the costs and uncertainties associated with state and federal permitting processes for development projects. The proposed PCCP allows project permits to be issued locally based on a project's contributions to the County's natural, social, and economic health now and in the future.

Benefits of the PCCP

- Responds to needs of private landowners and public agencies
- Ensures the long-term protection of sensitive species through the creation of a natural reserve
- Moves decision making to the local level based on one large-scale conservation strategy and maintains it over the long term

State and Federal Requirements

The proposed PCCP is a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) under the Federal Endangered Species Act and a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. The PCCP would also include the County Aquatic Resources Program (CARP) to issue permits related to the Federal Clean Water Act and the California Fish and Game Code.



Source: Placer County, 2014; MIG | TRA 2015



Placer County Conservation Program Elements

Plan	Permits Required by:	Resources Protected
Western Placer County HCP/NCCP	Endangered Species Act (federal) CA Natural Community and Conservation Planning Act (state)	Fish, wildlife and their habitat
Western Placer County Aquatics Resources Program (CARP)	Clean Water Act (federal)	Streams, wetlands and other water resources
In-Lieu Fee Program	Section 404 Clean Water Act (federal)	Aquatic resources



For More Information

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