

# Antelope Valley Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

## Public Meeting

Antelope Valley Transit  
Authority Community Room,  
Lancaster CA

March 7, 2017  
1-4pm

### AV RCIS Project Team:

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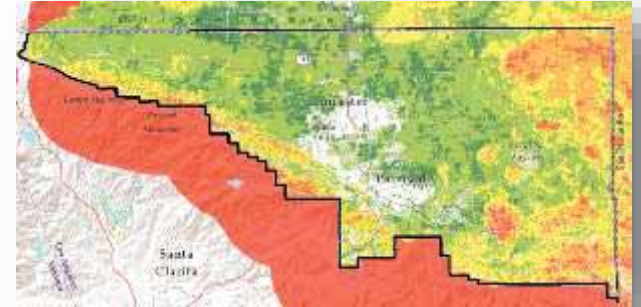
# Antelope Valley RCIS Public Meeting



## Agenda

### ■ 1:00 – 2:00 Welcome, Introductions, and RCIS Presentation

- Overview of the new State RCIS program
- Description of the Antelope Valley RCIS process to date



### ■ 2:00 – 4:00 – Open House

- Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)
  - What is an RCIS
- Biological Information for the AV RCIS
  - Regional Mapping Process & Building Blocks
  - Focal Species & Natural Communities
  - Existing Protected Lands within the AV RCIS



### ■ Comment

- Comment Cards
- How to comment and be engaged in the process



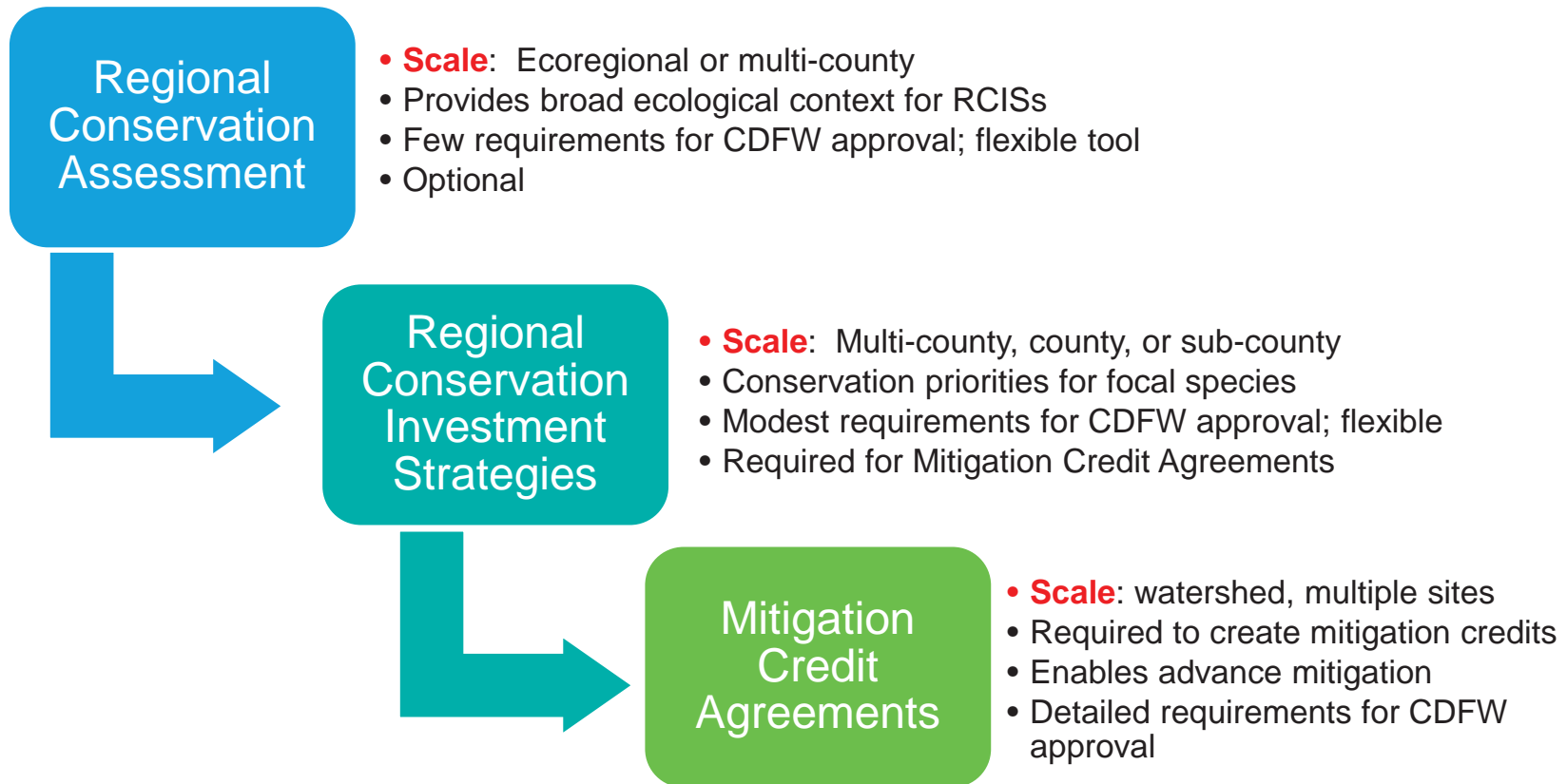


# Regional Conservation Investment Strategies

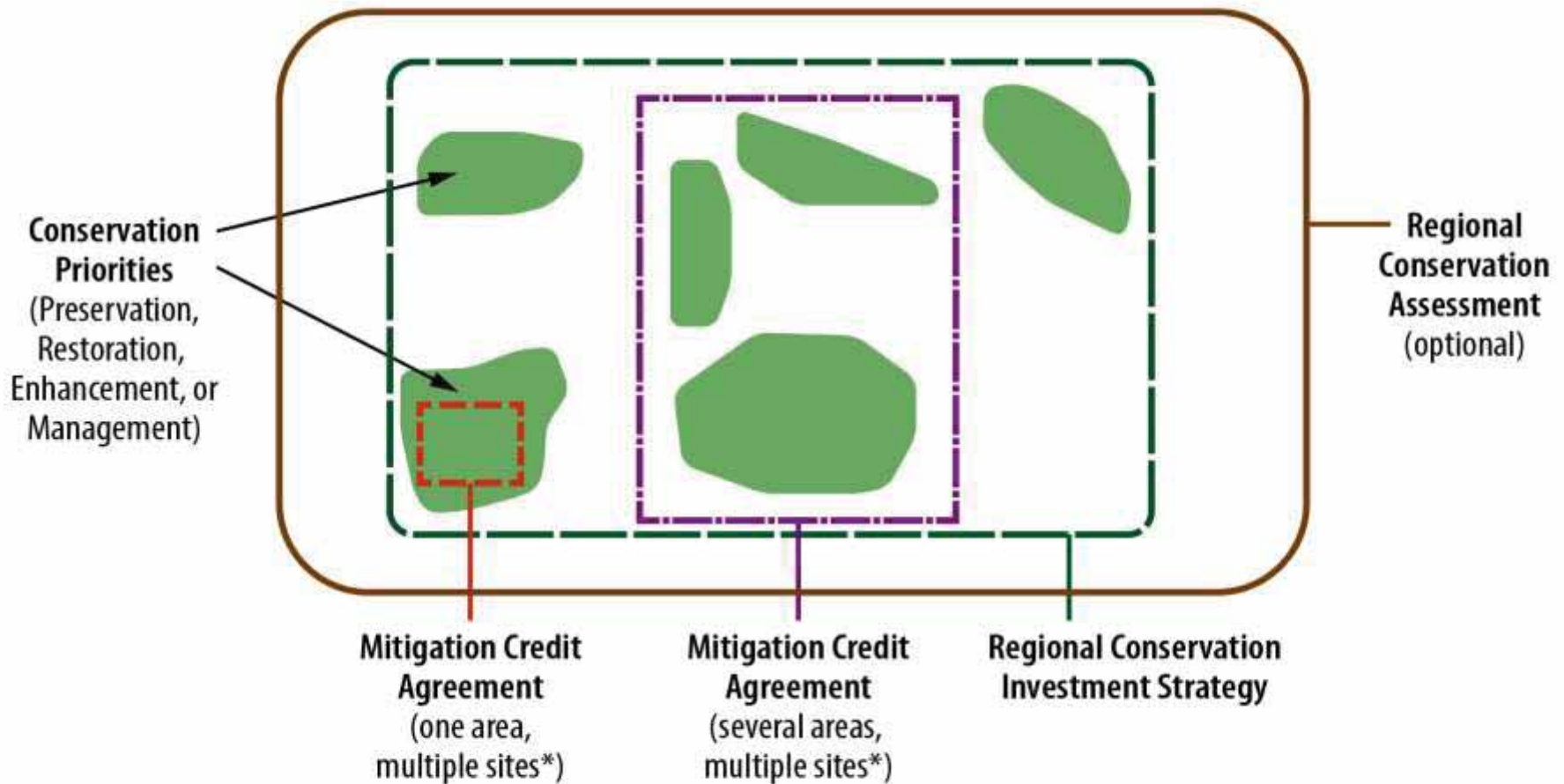
- **AB 2087 Signed by Governor Sept. 22, 2016; effective Jan. 1, 2017**
  - Added to Section 1850-1861 of California Fish and Game Code
- **Voluntary, non-regulatory program**
- **Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)**
  - Prepared by public agency
  - CDFW can approve a RCIS for up to 10 years, and extend for 10 year periods
  - Intended to be *nimble, landscape-scale* conservation tool
  - Once approved by CDFW, enables Mitigation Credit Agreement and advance mitigation
  - Focused on species needs, but can be used for other mitigation needs
  - Compatible with, not replacement of, NCCPs
  - State tool, but could serve other regulatory needs



# Program Framework: Hierarchy



# Program Framework: On the Ground



\* One or more MCAs can be developed within an RCIS for multiple sites or parcels on public or private lands.



# Regional Conservation Investment Strategies

- **Limits & Sunset:**
  - *A pilot program*
  - All approvals must occur before January 1, 2020 (RCIS and MCA)
  - Department can approve up to 8 RCISs before sunset
  
- **CDFW will adopt Guidelines (expected April 3, 2017)**
  
- **Four pilot RCISs underway**
  
- **Must be compatible with approved or draft NCCPs and HCPs that overlap**
  - RCISs supplement, but do not replace NCCPs and HCPs
  - Activities covered in NCCPs and HCPs must use those plans
  - NCCP and HCP implementing entities must approve release of credits in MCA

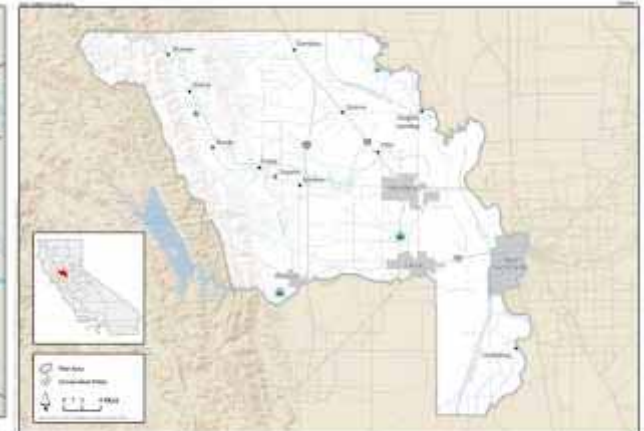
# Pilot Regional Conservation Investment Strategies



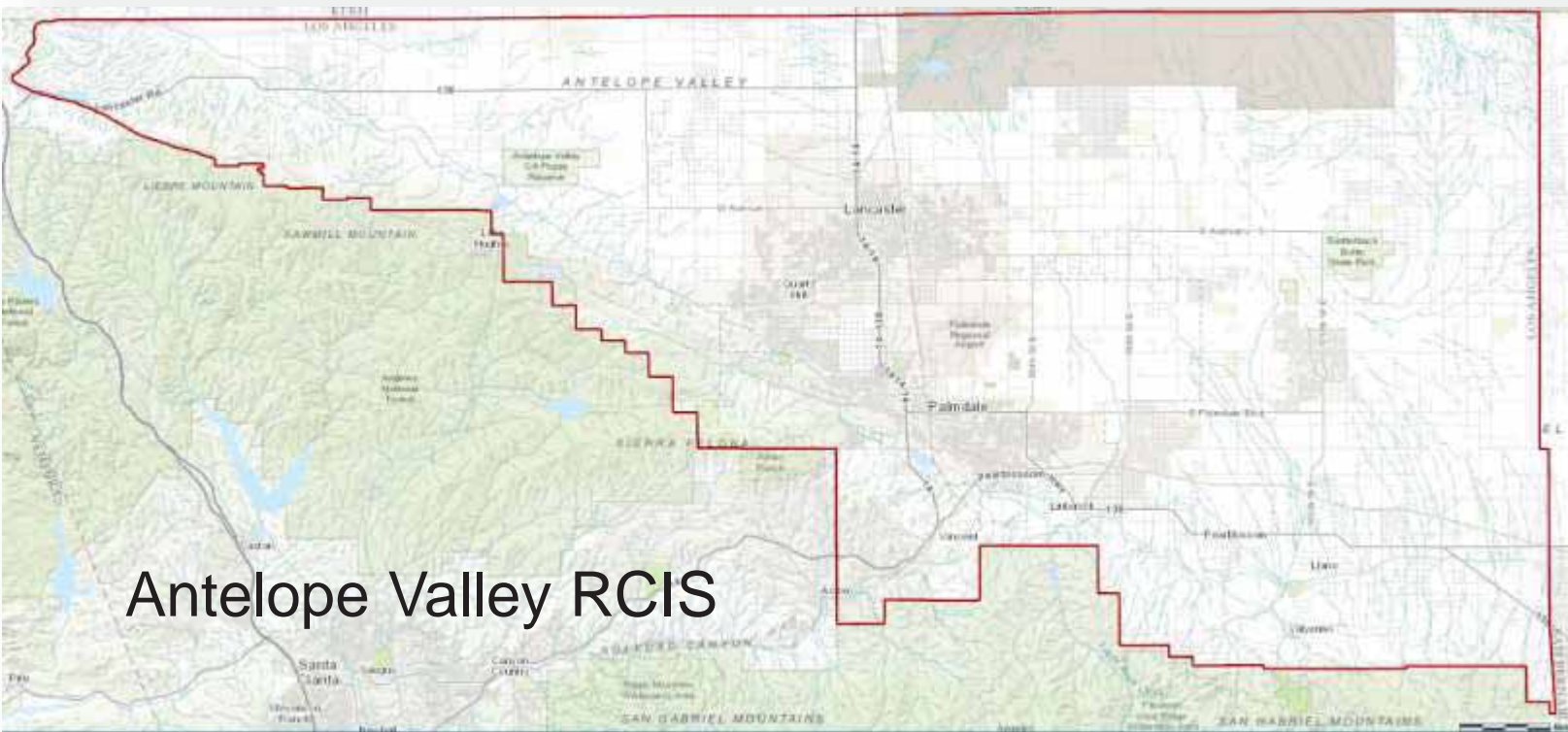
East Bay RCIS



Santa Clara RCIS



Yolo RCIS

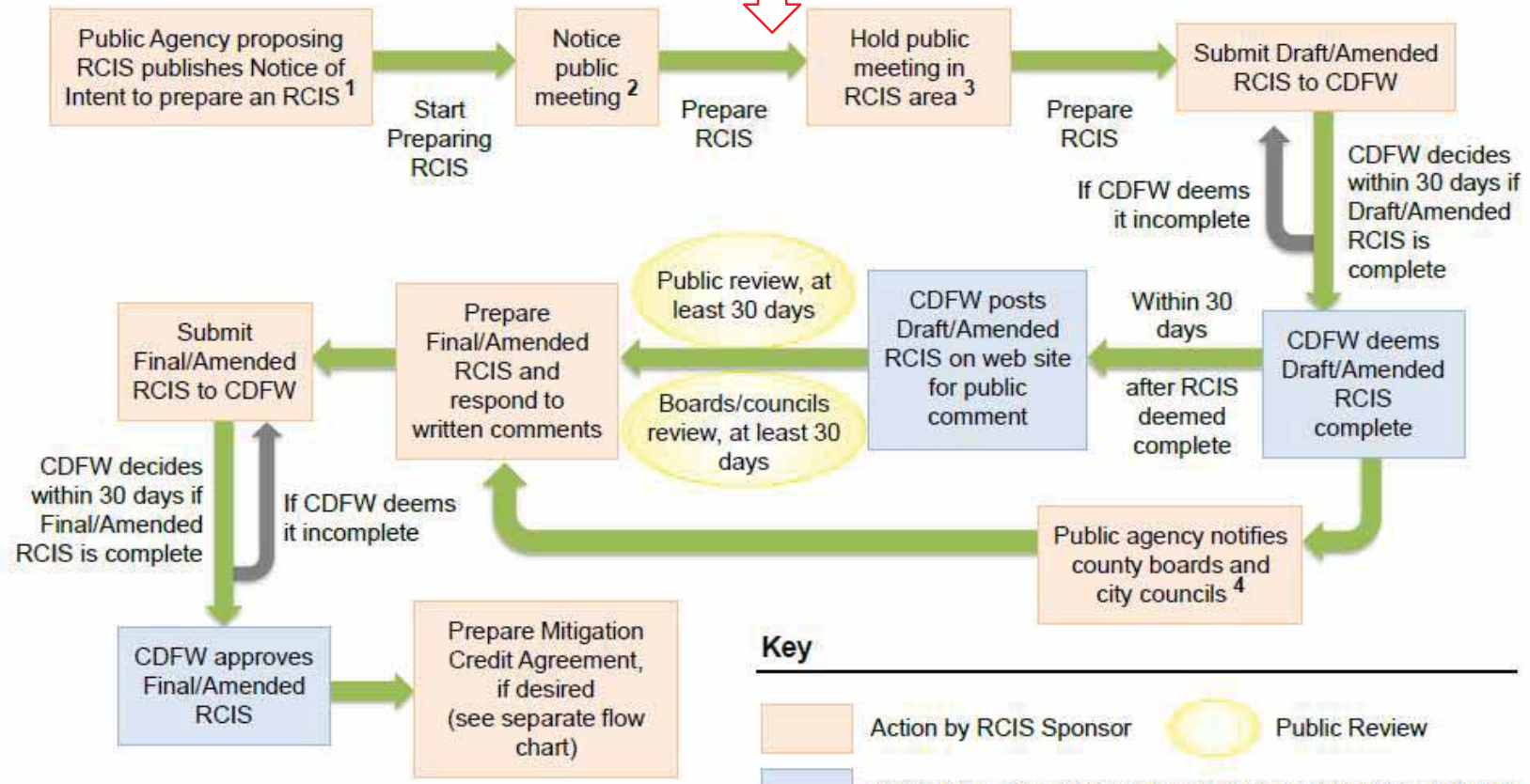


Antelope Valley RCIS

Figure 1-1  
LCP Pilot Area

# RCIS Approval Process

WE ARE HERE  
for AV RCIS



**Key**

- Action by RCIS Sponsor
- Action by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Public Review

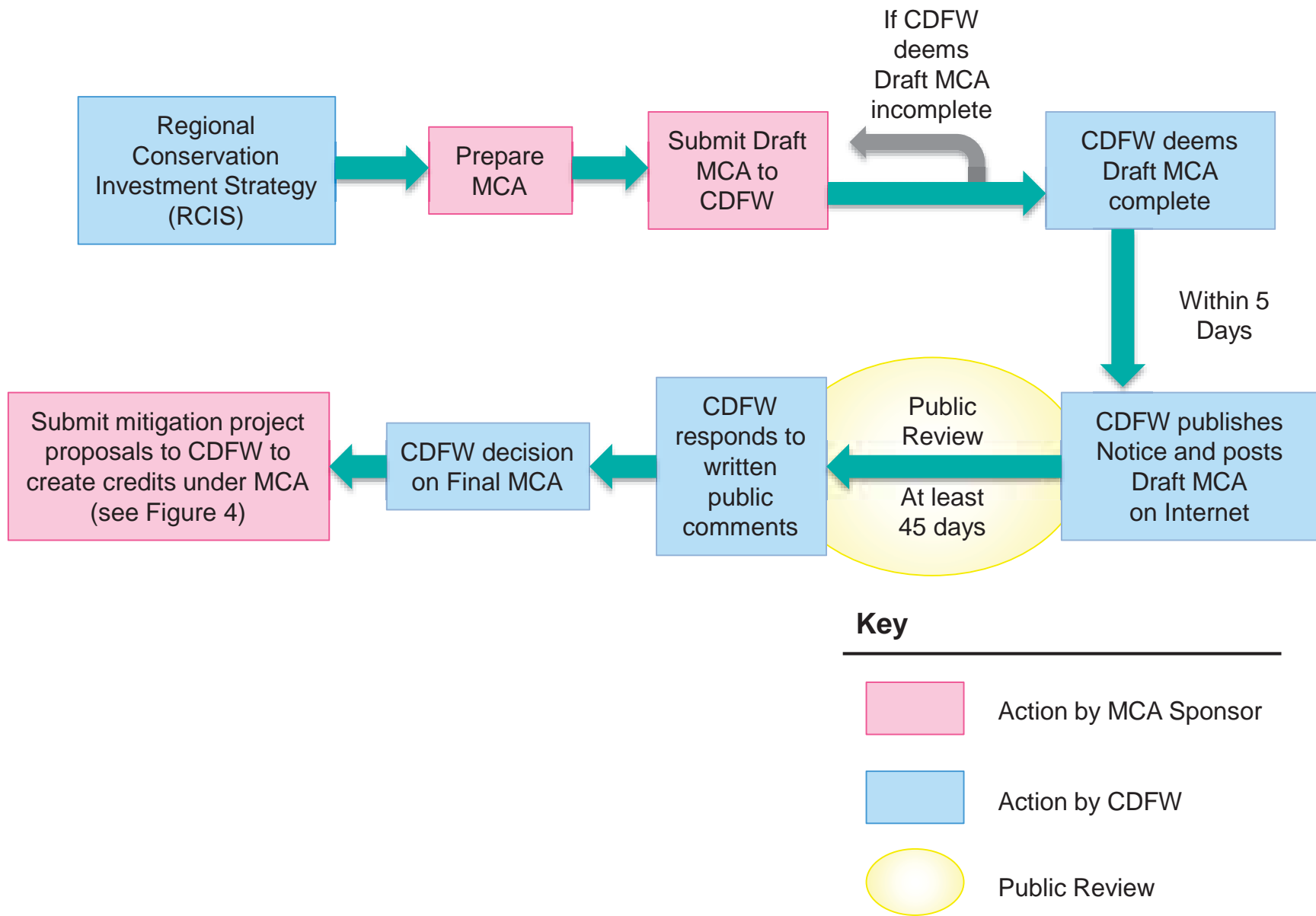
**Notes**

1. File with Governor’s Office of Planning and Research and county clerk of all overlapping counties (filing not required if RCIS started before Jan. 1, 2017).
2. Notice public meeting to 1) each city or county within or adjacent to the RCIS, 2) each implementing entity for overlapping HCPs or NCCPs, and 3) each agency, organization, or individual who has filed a request for such notices, including those who have filed a general request with CDFW to receive all RCIS notices.
3. Hold public meeting “early in the process of preparing it” to allow adequate opportunity for the public to provide written and oral comments. If RCIS started before January 1, 2017, the public meeting can occur anytime as long as occurs at least 30 days before submitting draft RCIS to CDFW.
4. Notify county boards of supervisors and city councils in RCIS area at least 60 days prior to submitting final RCIS to CDFW for approval, and allow them at least 30 days to submit written comments.





**Figure 3. Process for Mitigation Credit Agreement (MCA) Approval**





# Benefits of Regional Conservation Investment Strategies and Mitigation Credit Agreements

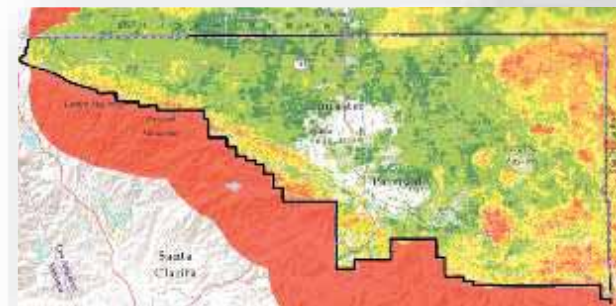
- **Flexible and comparatively inexpensive and efficient tool**
- **Provides regional context for conservation and mitigation**
- **Voluntary – anyone can use it**
- **Supports public infrastructure with efficient mitigation delivery**
- **Can create mitigation credits for habitat enhancement actions (in addition to traditional protection and restoration)**
- **Unlocks Advance Mitigation for public agencies for first time**

# Antelope Valley RCIS Status



# Antelope Valley RCIS

- **Planning process began in Spring 2016**
- **Steering Committee (9 entities)**
  - Desert and Mountains Conservation Authority (lead)
  - Conservation Strategy Group
  - Los Angeles County Planning
  - California Energy Commission
  - SoCal Edison
  - LA Metro
  - Transitions Habitat Conservancy
  - Sierra Club
  - The Nature Conservancy
- **Active Advisory Committee (30+ members)**







# 26 Focal Species

Plants (4)	Reptiles (4)	Birds (13)	Mammals (5)
Alkali mariposa-lily	Coast horned lizard	Burrowing owl	American badger
Joshua tree	Desert horned lizard	California condor	Desert kit fox
California juniper	Desert tortoise	Golden eagle	Mohave ground squirrel
Spreading navarretia	Western pond turtle	Le Conte's thrasher	Mule deer
		Least Bell's vireo	Tehachapi pocket mouse
		Loggerhead shrike	
		Mountain plover	
		Northern harrier	
		Prairie falcon	
		Willow flycatcher	
		Swainson's hawk	
		Tricolored blackbird	
		Long-billed curlew	



# Data Layers Obtained or Created for Analysis



## Species Distribution Models

- Statistical modeling approach
  - 23 species available from UCSB, USGS, & DRECP
  - New models developed for 3 species

## Landcover and Natural Communities

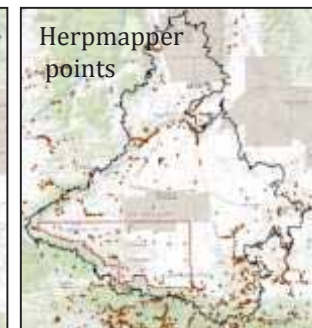
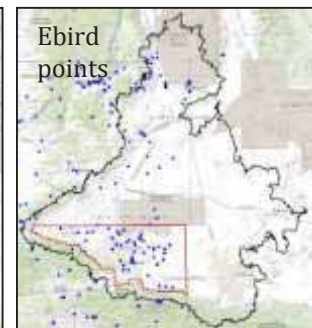
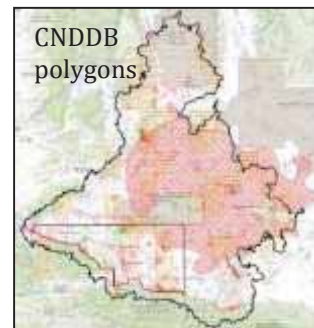
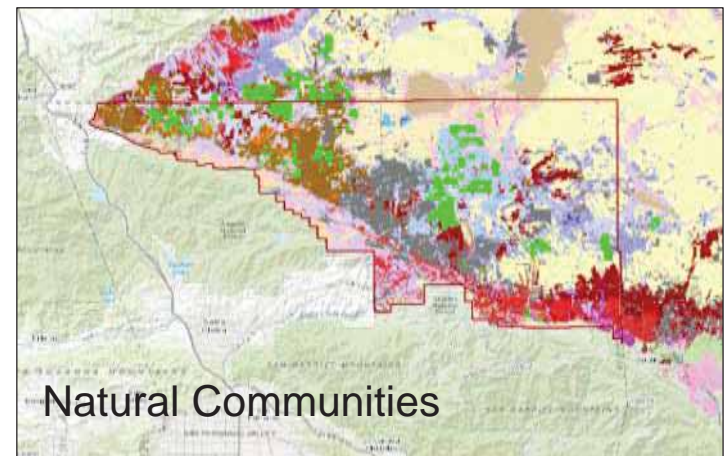
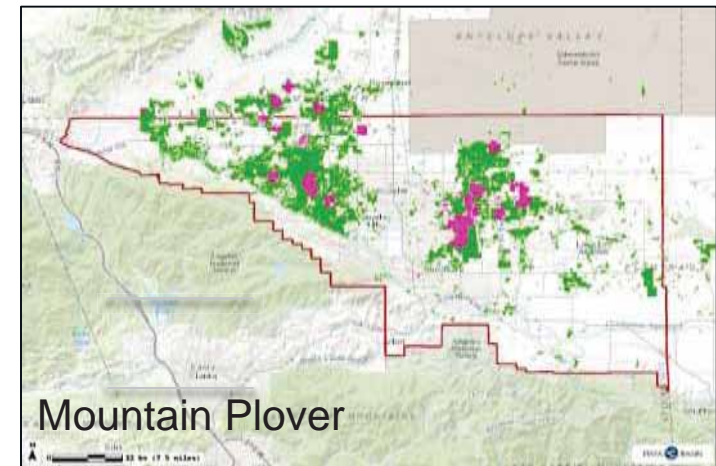
- CDFW VegCAMP/DRECP

## Protected Areas

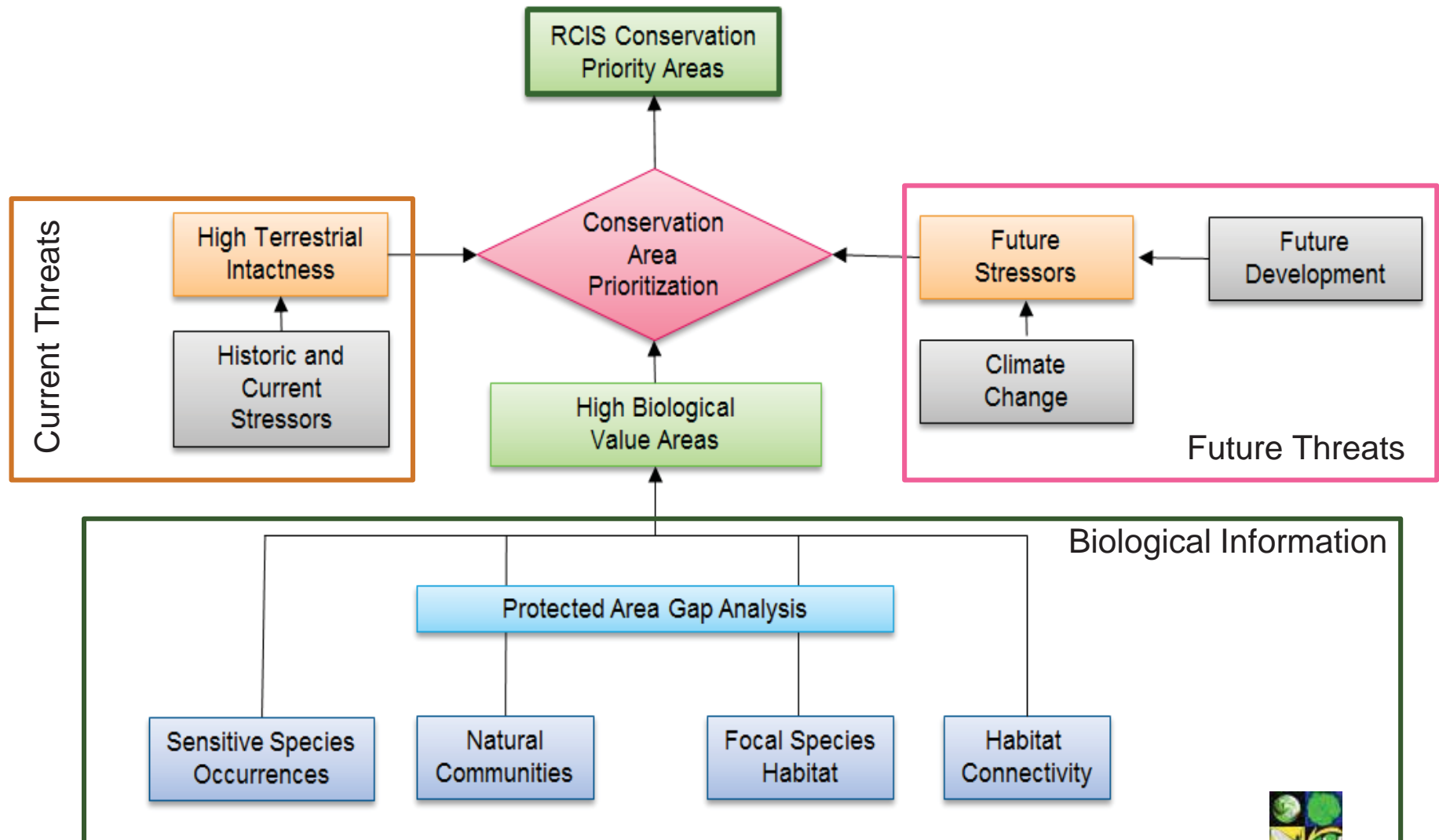
- California Protected Areas Database (CPAD)
- Supplemented with stakeholder data

## Land Use and Roads

## Species Occurrences

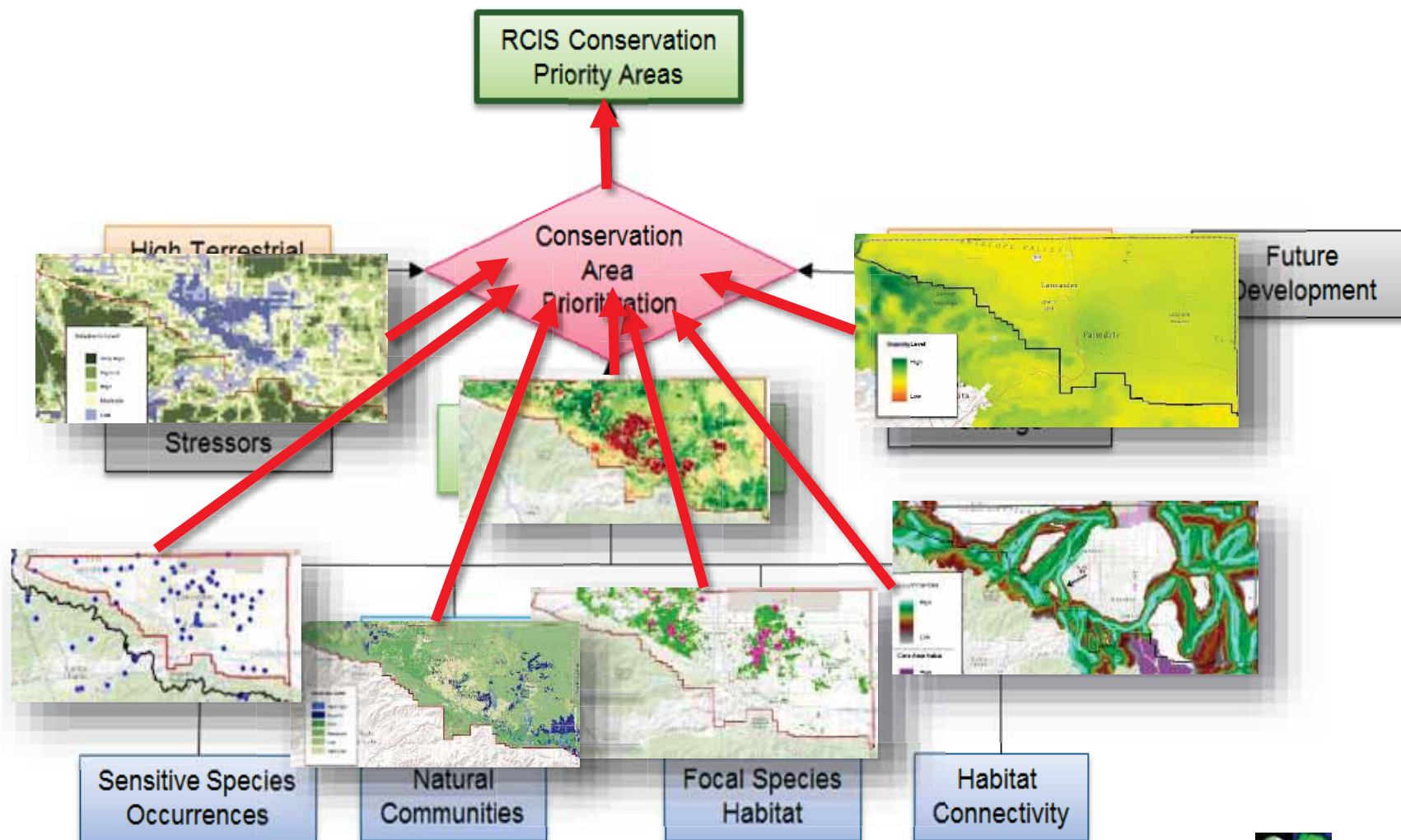


# Antelope Valley RCIS Integration of Information, Data, and Models





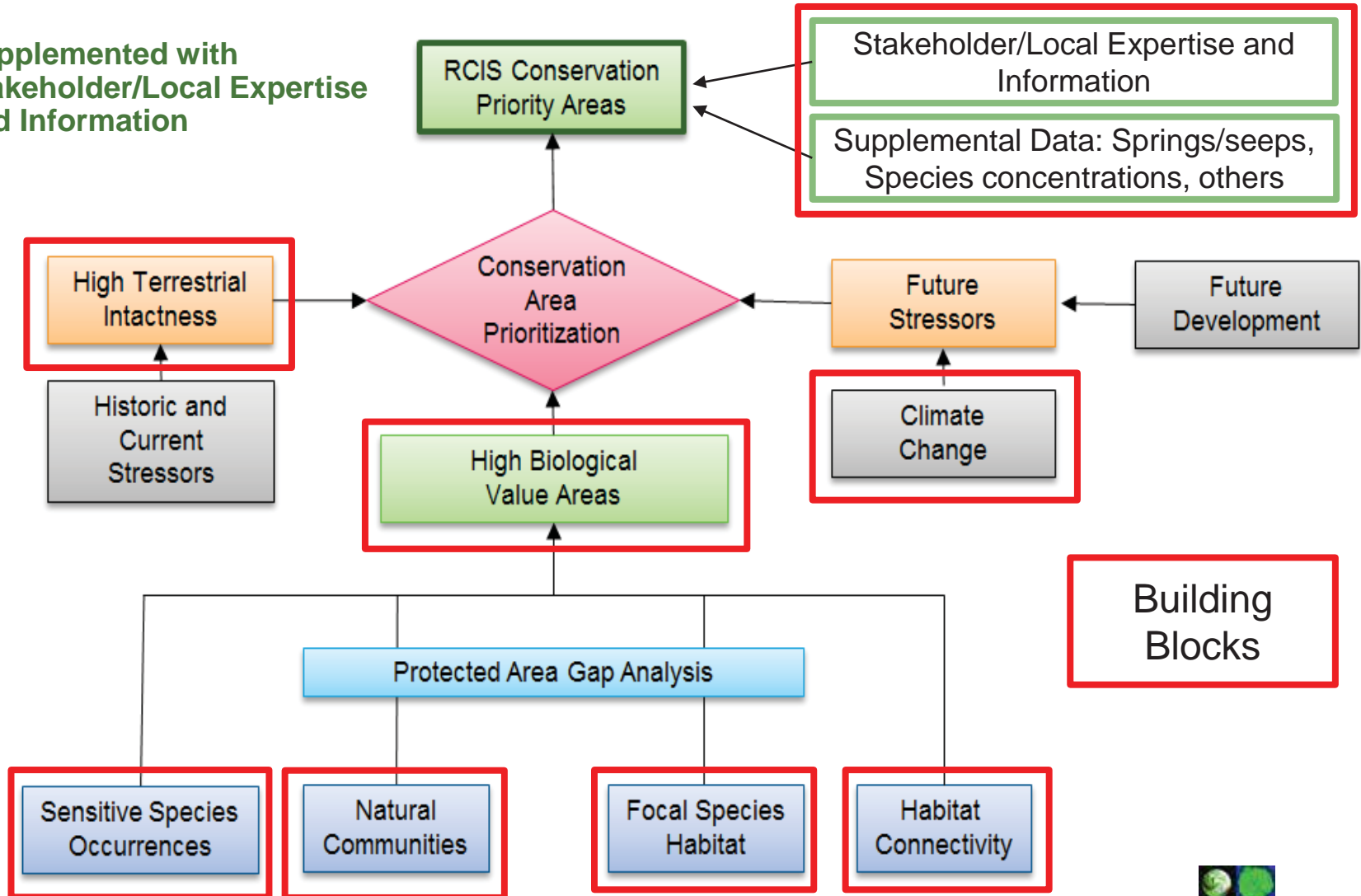
# Selection of Conservation Priority Areas



# Building Blocks to I.D. Conservation Priority Areas



Supplemented with Stakeholder/Local Expertise and Information



## Antelope Valley RCIS: Next Steps

- **Continued stakeholder outreach**
- **Conservation Goals and Objectives**
- **Selection of Priority Conservation Areas**
- **Formalization of RCIS Implementation Structure for AV RCIS**
- **Draft expected in late spring/early summer 2017 to submit to CDFW**
- **Public review period of at least 30 days**
- **Final RCIS expected in late 2017**
- **Seeking sponsors of Mitigation Credit Agreement(s)**





# Antelope Valley Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

Open House Session: 2-4pm

