



SANTA CLARA VALLEY  
HABITAT AGENCY



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION



SANTA CLARA  
Valley Transportation Authority



Apex Strategies

## Santa Clara County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

A new State law passed in 2016, AB 2087, establishes a conservation planning tool called a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) to promote the conservation of species, habitats, and other natural resources. The Santa Clara County RCIS, which addresses Santa Clara County and northern San Benito County, is one of four pilot RCISs currently being developed in California.

The Santa Clara County RCIS:

- Is a voluntary, non-binding assessment of conservation priorities;
- Is being developed based on existing plans and other information, including the *Santa Clara Valley Greenprint*, the *Valley Habitat Plan*, and the Bay Area's *Conservation Lands Network*, among others;
- Promotes implementation of landscape-scale conservation actions, such as habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement measures including efforts to enhance landscape connectivity for wildlife;
- Coordinates various types of conservation investments, such as:
  - local, state, and federal government conservation projects;
  - private foundation and conservation organization (e.g. land trust) projects;
  - mitigation projects by private entities and public agencies;
- Considers focal species and sensitive habitats, and addresses working lands, proposed infrastructure, and development projects;
- Is designed to be consistent with and complement the Valley Habitat Plan, a regional HCP/NCCP that covers a portion of the RCIS plan area;
- Is being sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, which is developing the RCIS in collaboration with partner organizations and agencies and with the assistance of a consultant team, through a planning process providing opportunities for public input; and

The draft Santa Clara County RCIS has been submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for completeness review. Once the draft is complete, it will be available for public review. There will be opportunities for other regulatory agencies to 'sign on' and similarly utilize the RCIS for their work. Once finalized, the Santa Clara County RCIS can then help expedite delivery of public infrastructure projects by facilitating regional advance mitigation planning: a process in which the environmental mitigation for impacts from multiple projects is pooled and conducted in advance, resulting in larger conservation projects that have greater benefits, while expediting delivery of public infrastructure projects such as transportation or water supply projects.

Additional information about the RCIS program can be found at:

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Regional-Conservation>

To request information, please contact: Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority at 33 Las Colinas Lane, San Jose, CA 95119, or [RCIS@openspaceauthority.org](mailto:RCIS@openspaceauthority.org).