



California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC)
Steering Committee Meeting Summary
September 15, 2011

Participants:

Steering Committee Members and Alternates:

Whitney Albright, Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
Natalie Cosentino-Manning, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Peter Dederich, US National Park Service (NPS)
Diana Craig, US Forest Service (USFS)
Erica Fleishman, Southwest Climate Science Alliance (SWCSA)
Dave Graber, NPS
Tom Hedt, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Chrissy Howell, USFS
Kevin Hunting, DFG
Mark Kramer, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Nadine Peterson, California Coastal Conservancy (CC)
Bob Shaffer, Joint Venture (JV)
Michelle Selmon, CA Department of Water Resources (DWR)
Eric Shott, NMFS
Wayne Spencer, Conservation Biology Institute (CBI)
Tom Suchanek, US Geological Service (USGS)

CA LCC Staff:

Debra Schlafmann, CA LCC Coordinator, Rebecca Fris, CA LCC Science Coordinator and Brady Mattsson, Research Ecologist.

Consultants:

David Ceppos, Managing Senior Mediator and Heidi Hill Drum, Associate Mediator - Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP)

Welcome and Introductions:

Debra welcomed everyone in attendance both in person at the CA LCC office and on the webinar/conference call. She thanked everyone for taking the time to attend and acknowledged that this is the first official Steering Committee (SC) meeting.

Debra noted that the organization has been working for almost two years with the help of an Interim Steering Committee (ISC), but now the CA LCC is at a pivotal point, with challenging and important decisions coming up in the next few months. The CA LCC staff looks forward to working with the SC members on these upcoming milestones.

CA LCC staff and consultants introduced themselves and their roles. Debra oversees operations and primarily works with the SC members to achieve the CA LCC goals. Rebecca focuses on the technical and scientific efforts and works directly with the science subcommittee. Brady is responsible for the analytic data and integration. In addition, the consultant team from CCP (a program of Sacramento State) introduced themselves. CCP provides support to the CA LCC on the website, listserve, collateral materials, strategic planning and communications. Dave Ceppos is the managing senior mediator and works with the client directly on governance, charter development and the Strategic Planning process. Heidi Hill Drum, associate mediator oversees the current communications and outreach efforts and is the interim project coordinator.

Orientation to CA LCC

Debra reviewed the reason for LCCs' around the country and why the CA LCC is so important. She acknowledged that they owe the ISC a lot for setting the foundation for success since they developed the purpose, goals, and Charter.

She also reviewed the geographic region of the CA LCC and noted that SC members have been specifically selected to bring their talents and perspectives to the group to help continue the initial success and ensure long-term goals are reached.

Introductions of Steering Committee Members and Alternates

Each SC member was asked the following questions as a part of introductions:

1. What would you like the CA LCC to bring to your organization?
 2. What unique support does your organization bring to this partnership?
- Diana Craig, USFS, Ecologist. The USFS works on conservation management across all lands. Integrating science into management is a key factor. The USFS can help with opportunities to actively do projects on the ground.
 - Chrissy Howell, USFS, Regional Wildlife Program Manager. Chrissy was previously at PRBO and has been working on climate change for the past 10 years. Environmental change network and climate change adaptation strategies are areas she hopes to work on with the CA LCC. She will be one of the alternates for Diana.

- Bob Shaffer, Central Valley Joint Venture Coordinator. Bob noted that they will appoint a member from all three Joint Ventures soon to the SC. The JVs link science with conservation delivery and have science coordinators that can help.
- Kevin Hunting, Chief Deputy, DFG. DFG is going through a visioning process now with two emerging themes – a stronger science presence and partnerships. Rebuilding and integrating science in the organization is important so working with the CA LCC enhances their work.
- Whitney Albright, DFG. Her role is to integrate climate change into DFG activities and supports the DFG SC members. She also coordinates with other national and state agencies including the 4 LCCs in California.
- Dave Graber, Chief Scientist, NPS. Dave believes we need the CA LCC to help find large-scale solutions on a landscape level.
- Peter Dederich, Natural Resources workgroup with the NPS. He will help support Dave as needed on SC duties and helps coordinate with several LCCs' in the Pacific NW region. He noted that this one seems to be the furthest along in its development.
- Tom Suchanek, Lead Scientist and Climate Change Coordinator, USGS, Western Ecological Research Center (WERC). He helps scientists on climate change issues all across the region. WERC provides scientific research and expertise. There is also interaction and overlap of the LCC and USGS Climate Science Centers that should be useful.
- Natalie Cosentino-Manning, NMFS – Fisheries restoration center. They provide funding and execute large-scale restoration projects. They also do damage assessments. They need to understand impacts of climate change and make sure management decisions are up to speed with those changes – especially as they relate to endangered species. They can bring broader partnerships to the CA LCC across multiple landscapes and across the country.
- Eric Shott, NMFS. He will help coordinate with the National Marine Fisheries Service and is an alternate for Natalie. He is a fishery biologist and Section 7 Coordinator (for ESA) as well as a technical staff lead.
- Tom Hedt, Assistant State Conservationist, NRCS. They bring a broad perspective by looking at landscape level approaches and priorities such as strategic planning with technical and financial assistance with private landowners on conservation efforts. They have focused on individual lands and want to help take some of the broader perspectives and translate that into private landowner decisions.

- Nadine Peterson, Deputy Director, Coastal Conservancy. They help to preserve, protect and restore coastal resources as well as provide recreational opportunities at the coast. They have acquired lands that may be inundated due to sea level rise and/or have endangered species concerns so climate change issues are very important to them. They want to help with specific project planning and are looking for assistance with adaptive management. It is very important to convey to scientists what managers needs are in order to better communicate and plan ahead. They can help fund on the ground projects as well.
- Wayne Spencer, Senior Conservation Biologist, Conservation Biology Institute. They work on regional scale conservation plans with an emphasis on spatial modeling, species distribution, population and connectivity modeling. They offer decision support to large-scale conservation plans. He works primarily in CA and provides science information and data for those efforts. They just finished a connectivity project with some of the partners on this group and he hopes to bring that continued partnering and information sharing to this effort.
- Michelle Selmon, Climate Change Specialist, CA Dept. of Water Resources. She is a regional climate change specialist. They work primarily on Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs). Stewardship and sustainability is important. The new Water Plan addresses climate change significantly and that can support CA LCC's efforts.
- Mark Kramer, TNC. Mark is sitting in for Scott Morrison. TNC has statewide efforts and bring to the table on the ground experience in many areas. They also bring science to bear in the dialogue sharing. TNC is connected up geographically in all LCCs across the country.

Ms. Peterson noted that the Coastal Conservancy has a climate change committee, which has expressed interest and concern over whether southern California is adequately represented. Debra explained that when the LCC was launched, it was done in a phased approach and was northern California-centric. The CA LCC officially rolled out into southern California early this year and they are trying to encourage greater participation. A small part of Baja Mexico is also a part of the region. The CA LCC is hopeful to bring more coastal representation and looks for input from the SC members to ensure the entire geographic region is being represented.

Accomplishments

Rebecca reviewed the accomplishments of the CA LCC to date. The CA LCC has developed its purpose, goals and a charter with help from ISC. They have hosted numerous workshops bringing scientists and managers together. They funded 25

projects for over \$2 million and that funding has been leveraged to bring almost \$4 million to those efforts.

Some of the projects include:

2010

- Web-based tool to evaluate bird responses to different climate scenarios
- Effects of sea level rise on intertidal habitats
- Monitoring protocols for shorebirds
- Tracking change of key bird habitats in the Central Valley

In 2011, they made more of an effort to fund projects in the entire geographic region, including:

- On-line risk mapping tool for invasive species
- Website to provide access to climate change data
- Climate adaptation and fire management strategies
- Effects of Climate Change on Inland Fishes

The CA LCC will also host a structured decision making workshop this October.

Charter and Roles

Debra then reviewed the organizational chart and explained the two main management levels – the Steering Committee and the Alliance. The Alliance is a larger set of interests with criteria for an alliance member to share the CA LCC purpose and mission, to actively contribute resources and/or staff support or provide scientific expertise.

SC members have all the criteria of Alliance members, but in addition, they provide the CA LCC with leadership, help to select priorities and have authority to make decisions on behalf of their organization. The SC serves as the executive body for decision-making. They will help chart the vision, develop the Strategic Plan and guide its progress, prioritize projects and serve as ambassadors of the CA LCC.

The SC will have a Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair will serve for one year, with the Vice-Chair stepping into the Chair role the following year. Nominations for these positions can be sent to Debra or Rebecca up to a week before the October meeting. Debra will send out a survey link to find the best date in October for a SC meeting to vote on the Chair and Vice-Chair as well as the subcommittee chairs. A majority vote process will be used for SC decisions. In addition, they would like to schedule an in-person meeting for December.

Questions were asked about the process for identifying Alliance members or if they have already been identified. Debra explained that they can be self-selected to be a part of the Alliance, or others can encourage participation. Currently, the CA LCC has a list

that came from the initial workshops. Staff will share that with SC members to review to see who may be missing. In addition, Dave Ceppos, CCP, noted that the website will have the capability to have people add themselves to the Alliance listserve. Then staff can check to make sure they meet the criteria.

Strategic Planning Process

An important first step for the CA LCC is to start meeting with partners throughout the entire geographic region of the LCC to develop a list of priorities, common conservation objectives, and answering the question: what can the LCC do that others can't? The expectation is that at the December SC meeting, they will revise a draft Interim Strategy. After the SC reviews and revises it, the Interim Strategy will be sent to the Alliance for feedback so the LCC can have a strategy in place in January.

Another important goal is to have a set of priorities for funding in 2012 projects. The science subcommittee will use those priorities as a part of the criteria for identifying projects to fund in 2012.

The outreach and communications subcommittee is expected to help with options for outreach related to encouraging Alliance membership as well as external affairs. SC members will have direct input on the list of questions to ask managers during the Strategic planning process.

Subcommittees

Deb reviewed the roles of the subcommittees. A question was asked if managers should be on the science subcommittee due to potential for conflict of interest with project proposals. Rebecca noted that managers are welcome on the subcommittee especially given the need to connect science to management so continuing that will be important. They also have a process in place to ensure transparency in decision-making related to project funding that will continue to ensure fairness.

Another question was asked about a cap on how many can be on the committee. Rebecca said it is open at this point, as long as there is diversity and expertise then she sees no reason for a cap. Finally, one other question was how often and where the subcommittees will meet. She explained that most meetings happen primarily over the phone, but in-person meetings occur for initial project concept review and final project selection.

Regarding the Strategic Planning Strategy, Debra explained that they expect to have an Interim Strategy this year, which the Strategic Planning subcommittee will help develop

and that they will continue throughout the next year during the final Strategic Planning process.

There was some discussion regarding Chair positions for subcommittees and whether they should be SC members or staff. One member suggested that LCC staff should be the subcommittee chairs and several SC members agreed with this. It was decided that a final decision on this will be voted on at the October SC meeting.

It was asked if the CA LCC has been asked to tie in what jobs are being created from these efforts and Debra said that has not yet happened, but is good to be aware of for future planning.

Another question asked was how important is it to broadcast CA LCC accomplishments and to whom? Debra feels it is critical and that is why a communication specialist is being hired and why there is an outreach subcommittee. Highlighting the results of funded projects and evaluating how they get integrated into management decisions is very important. She also noted that the CA LCC reports its accomplishments to the federal Office of Management and Budget on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Ceppos followed up that the brochure sent out with the webinar email is something that the partners can use and showcases what the CA LCC is doing. Staff is also hoping to create something similar that will highlight the success of funded projects.

Schedule

October:	Call to approve Strategic Planning Process and Chairs
December:	In-person meeting to discuss Interim Strategy
February:	Approve 2012 priorities and project selection process
May:	Approve recommended projects for funding and perhaps an annual Open House.

Debra asked that SC members please respond to the upcoming Doodle Survey for dates for an October and December meeting and the meeting was then adjourned.



**California Landscape
Conservation Cooperative
Steering Committee Meeting
September 15, 2011**

Agenda Review



- Welcome!**
- Orientation to our LCC**
- Introductions**
- Quick Status Report**
- Discuss Charter and Roles**
- Strategic Planning Process**
- Discuss Chairs & Subcommittees**
- Meeting Schedule & Wrap up**

CA LCC Staff



Coordinator – Debra Schlafmann

Science Coordinator – Rebecca Fris

Research Ecologist (USGS) – Brady Mattsson

Administrative Officer – Rita Howard

**Consultant Staff – Center for Collaborative
Policy - David Ceppos and Heidi Hill Drum**

Steering Committee



Introduce Yourself.....

Name /Job Duties

What would you like the CA LCC to bring to your organization?

What unique support does your organization bring to this partnership?

Steering Committee



Southwest Climate Science Alliance



Why LCCs?



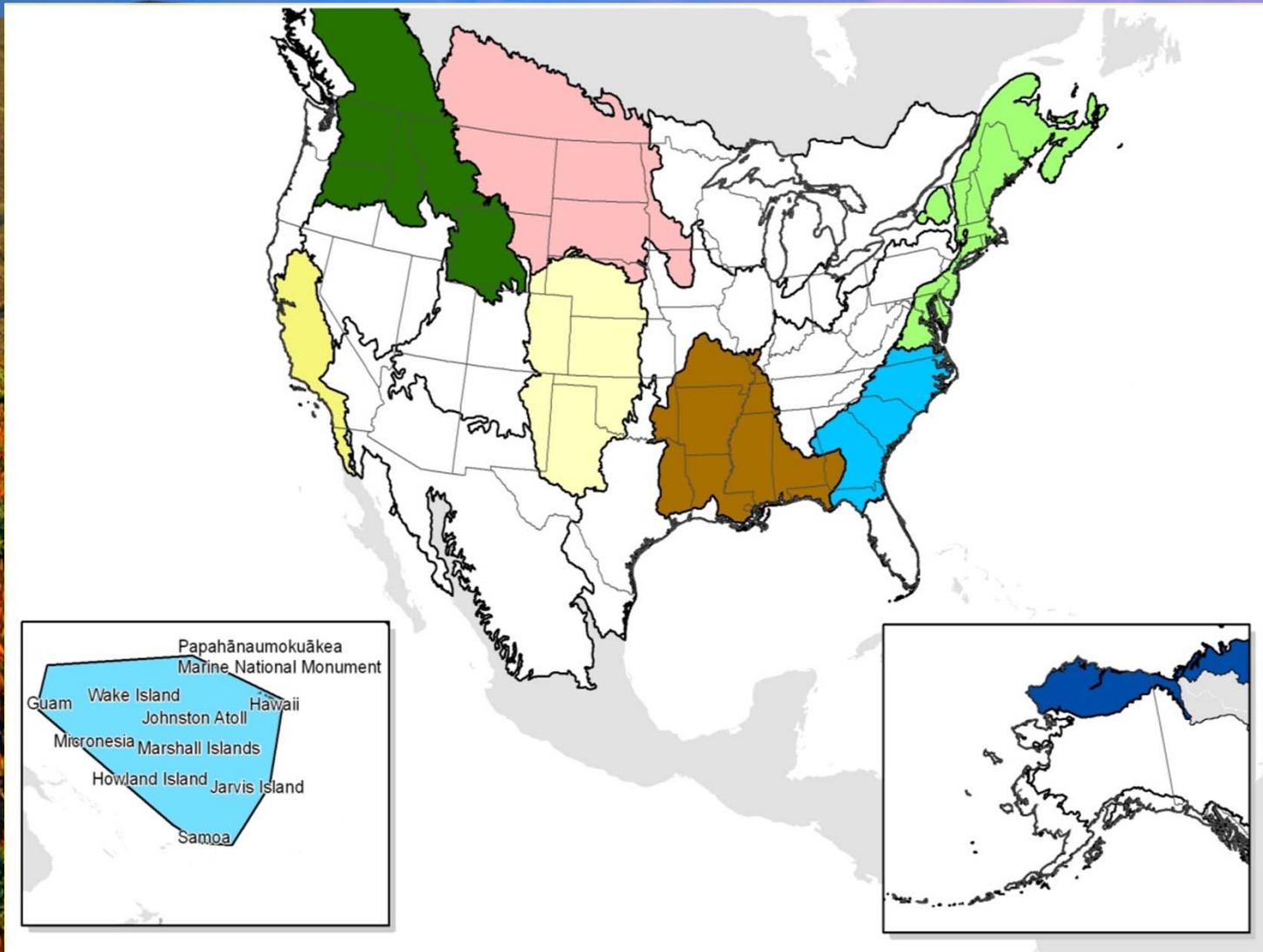
- ✓ **Need for better coordination of science and resource managers across jurisdictions**
- ✓ **Need for integrated climate and land use data to create spatially-explicit, landscape-scale conservation design**
- ✓ **Need for easier access to information and data, data standards and common language**
- ✓ **Need for common goals and flexible decision-making that adjusts with new information**

What are LCCs?



- ✓ Self-directed public-private partnerships that inform management actions to reduce climate change impacts on fish, wildlife, and habitats
- ✓ Develop jointly established conservation objectives
- ✓ Provide science and technology support on a landscape scale
- ✓ Links science with conservation delivery

9 of 22 Funded in 2010



California LCC Purpose



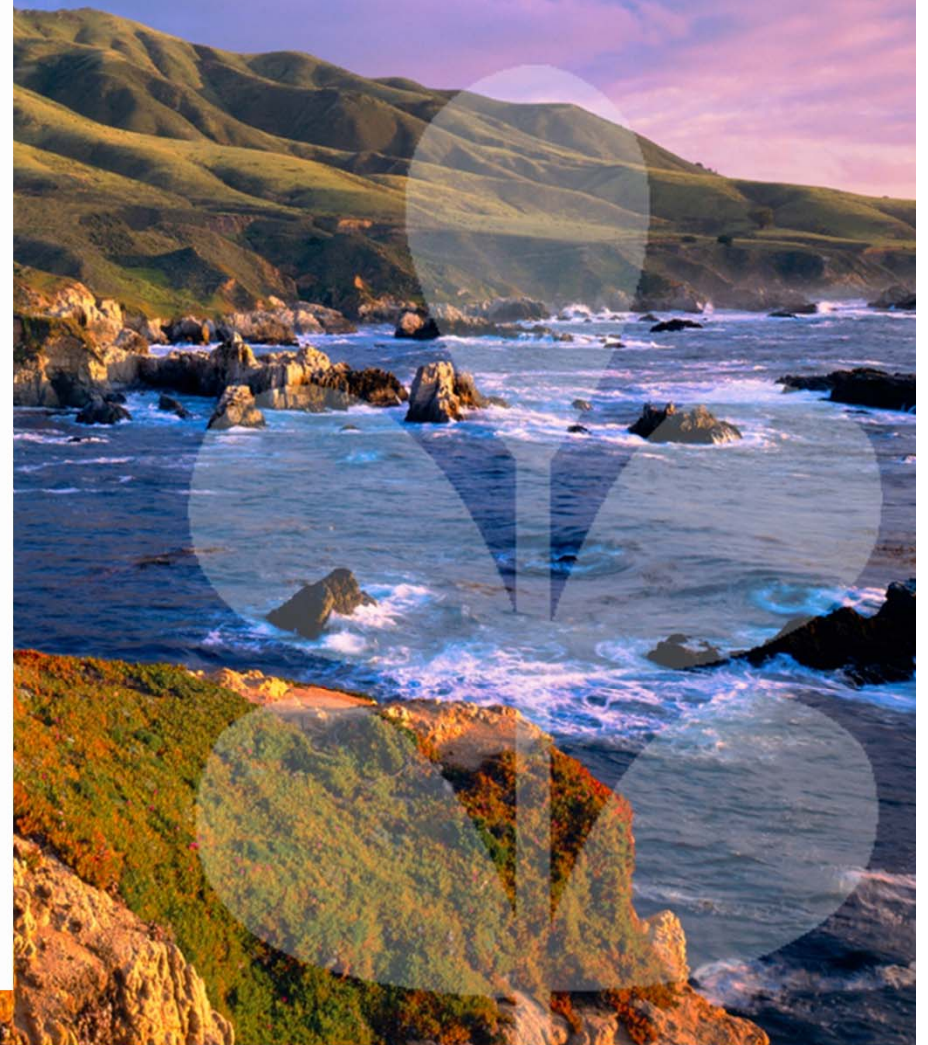
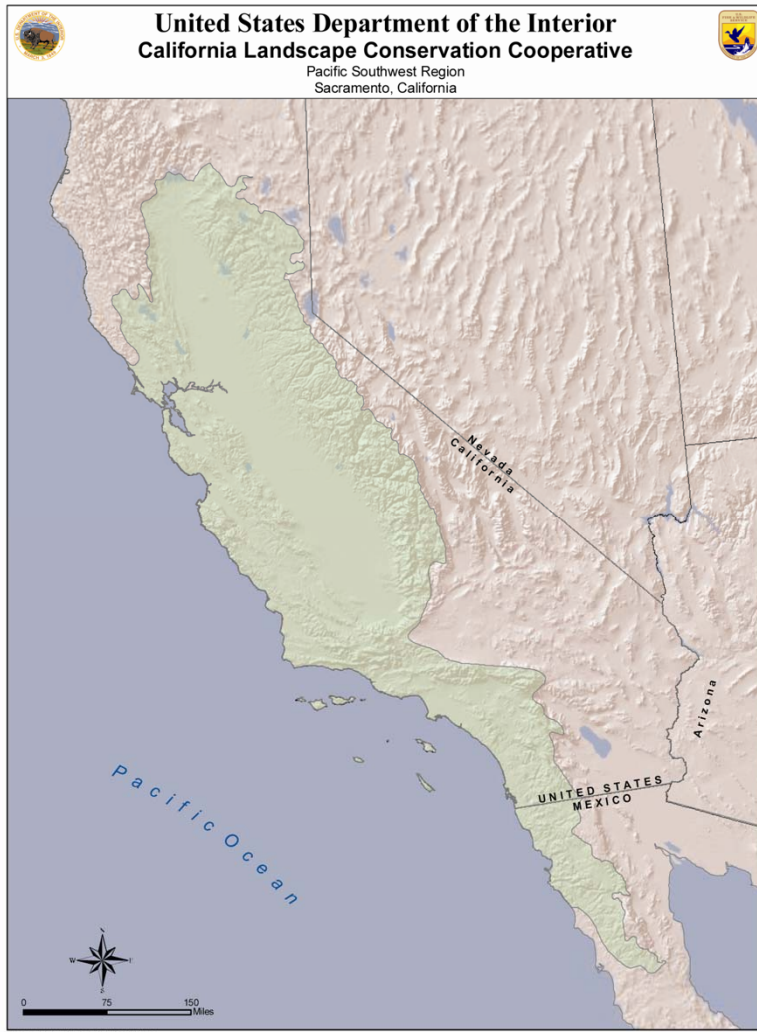
The CA LCC is a management-science partnership informing and promoting integrated science, natural resource management and conservation to address impacts of climate change and other stressors within and across ecosystems.

California LCC Goals



- **Foster collaboration and integration of science and management.**
- **Support development of technical products for natural resource management.**
- **Facilitate information acquisition, interpretation, translation, exchange and availability.**
- **Communicate information within and outside the LCC Community.**

Scope of CA LCC



Steering Committee



Introduce Yourself.....

Name /Job Duties

What would you like the CA LCC to bring to your organization?

What unique support does your organization bring to this partnership?

Accomplishments



- ✓ **Development of goals and charter with Interim Steering Committee**
- ✓ **Hosted numerous workshops and events to bring people together**
- ✓ **Funded 25 projects for over \$2 million dollars**

2010 Project Products



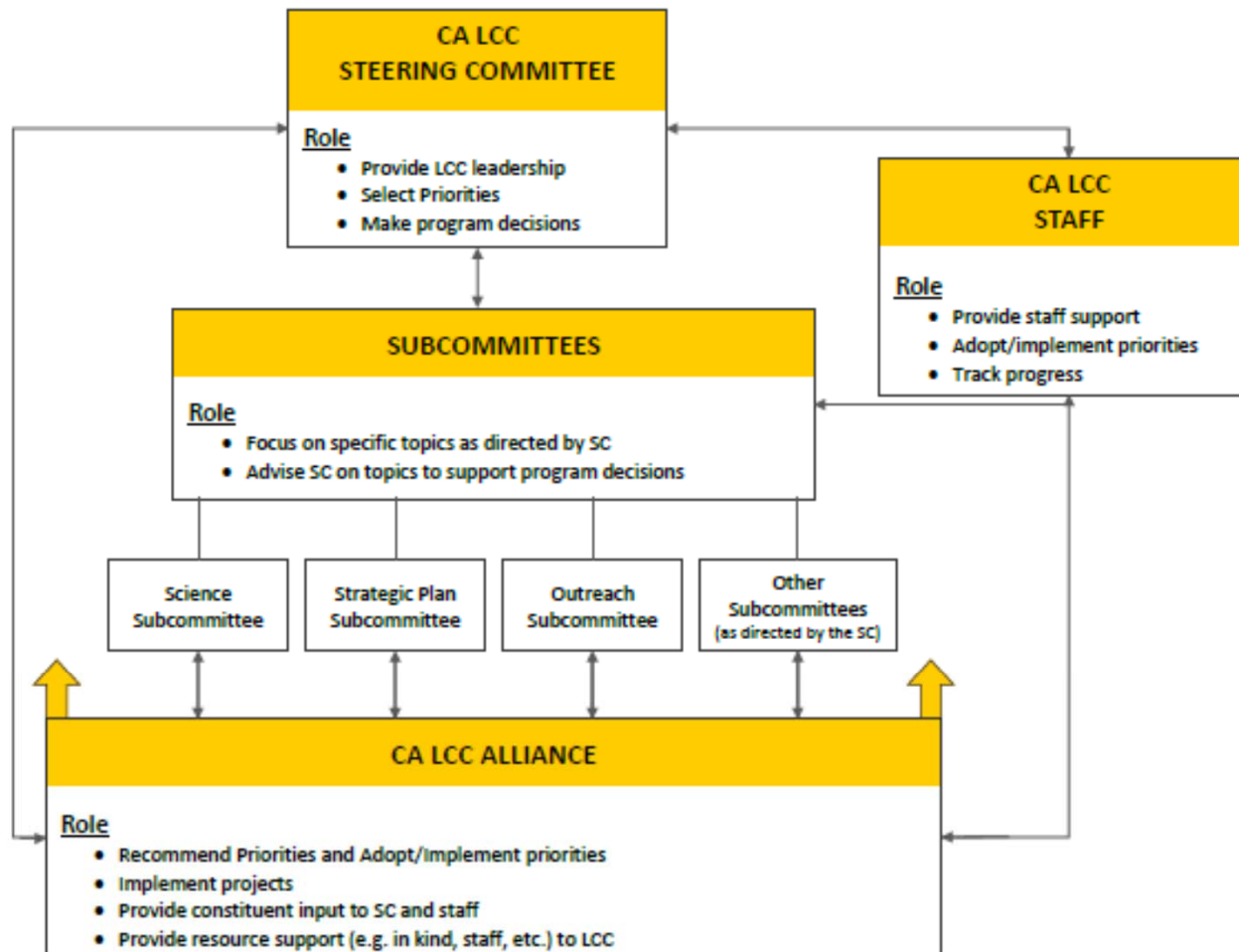
- ✓ **Web-based tool to evaluate bird responses to different climate scenarios**
- ✓ **Effects of sea level rise on intertidal habitats**
- ✓ **Monitoring protocols for shorebirds**
- ✓ **Tracking change of key bird habitats in the Central Valley**

2011 Projects



- ✓ **On-line risk mapping tool for invasive species**
- ✓ **Website to provide access to climate change data**
- ✓ **Climate adaptation and fire management strategies**
- ✓ **Effects of Climate Change on Inland Fishes**

Charter and Governance



SC Responsibilities



- ✓ **Serve as the executive body for decision-making.**
- ✓ **Chart the vision, develop Strategic Plan, and guide the progress of CA LCC**
- ✓ **Prioritize projects and make funding decisions.**
- ✓ **Serve as ambassadors to the CA LCC**

Alliance Responsibilities



- ✓ **Bring priorities to the Steering Committee.**
- ✓ **Support the development and progress of the Subcommittees.**
- ✓ **Promote cooperation, coordination, consolidation of information, and collaboration.**

Alliance Responsibilities



- ✓ **Identify funding opportunities and other available resources.**
- ✓ **Use and/or implement the products and tools developed.**

Chair/Vice-Chair Roles



- ✓ Organize and conduct meetings
- ✓ Review and modify meeting agendas
- ✓ Assess status of SC work and assignments
- ✓ Act as the formal external speakers for the SC

Chair/Vice-Chair



- ✓ Chair and Vice-Chair selected by majority vote
- ✓ Chair is one-year term
- ✓ Vice-Chair takes over as Chair after one year

Chair/Vice-Chair



Questions?

Nominations?

Path Forward



- **What is our long-term strategy?**
- **What are the management needs?**
- **What are the CA LCC conservation objectives?**



Toward Implementation



- **Identify common objectives**
- **Assess decision-making capacity**
- **Develop Interim Strategy**
- **Implement**
- **Adapt/develop Strategic Plan**

Plan of Action

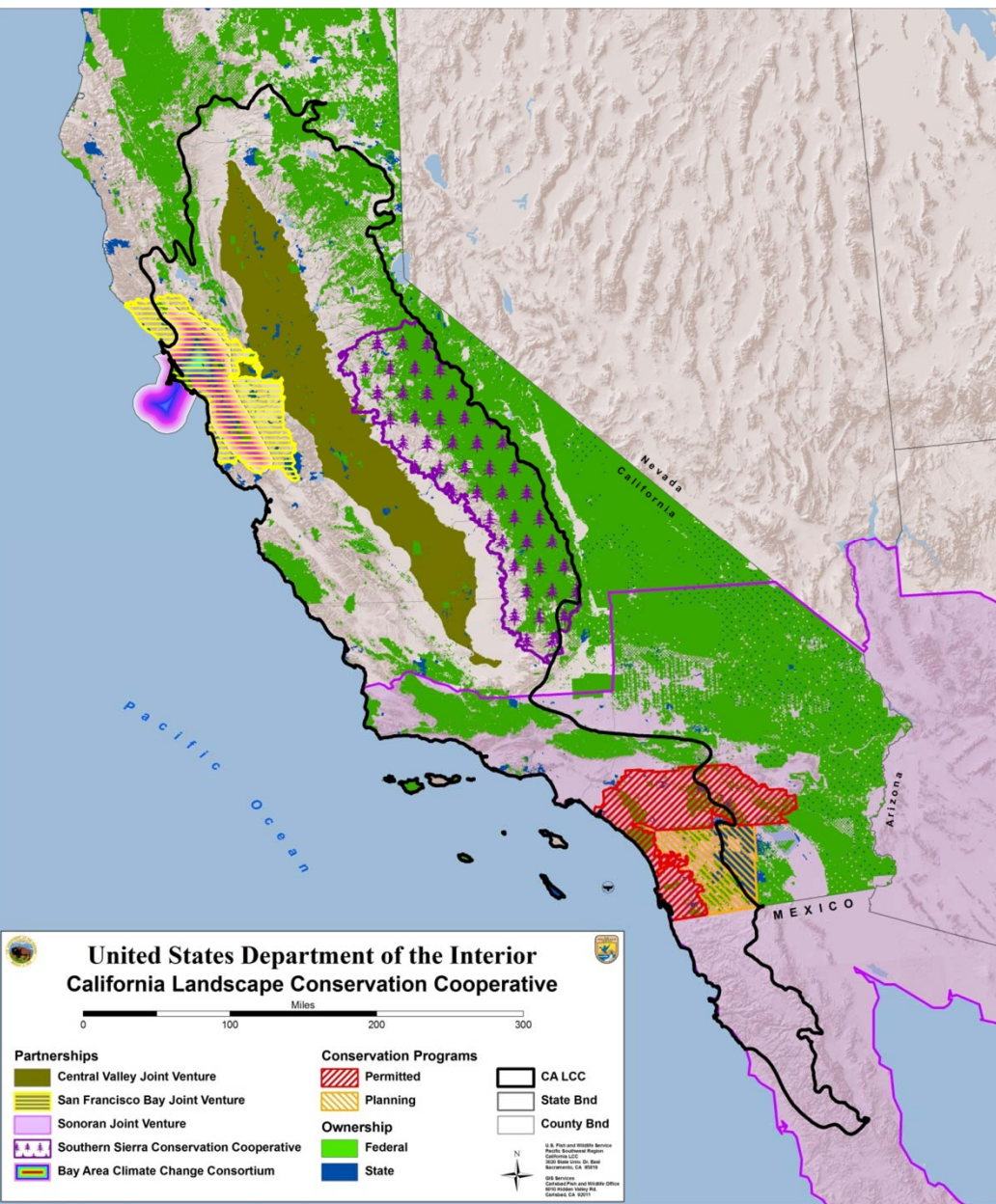


- **Engaging Partners**
 - ✓ **Multi-group organizations**
 - ✓ **Individual organizations**
- **Conservation Objectives**
- **Capacity/challenges to achieve**
- **Scale up to entire LCC**





Existing Regional Partnerships within the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative



Linking Partnerships

Timeline



SC approves
Strategic Planning
process

Prepare
Interim
Strategy

SC approves
Interim
Strategy

Implement
Strategy

Sept.

Oct.

Nov.

Dec.

Jan.

Meet with
Partnerships and
Managers

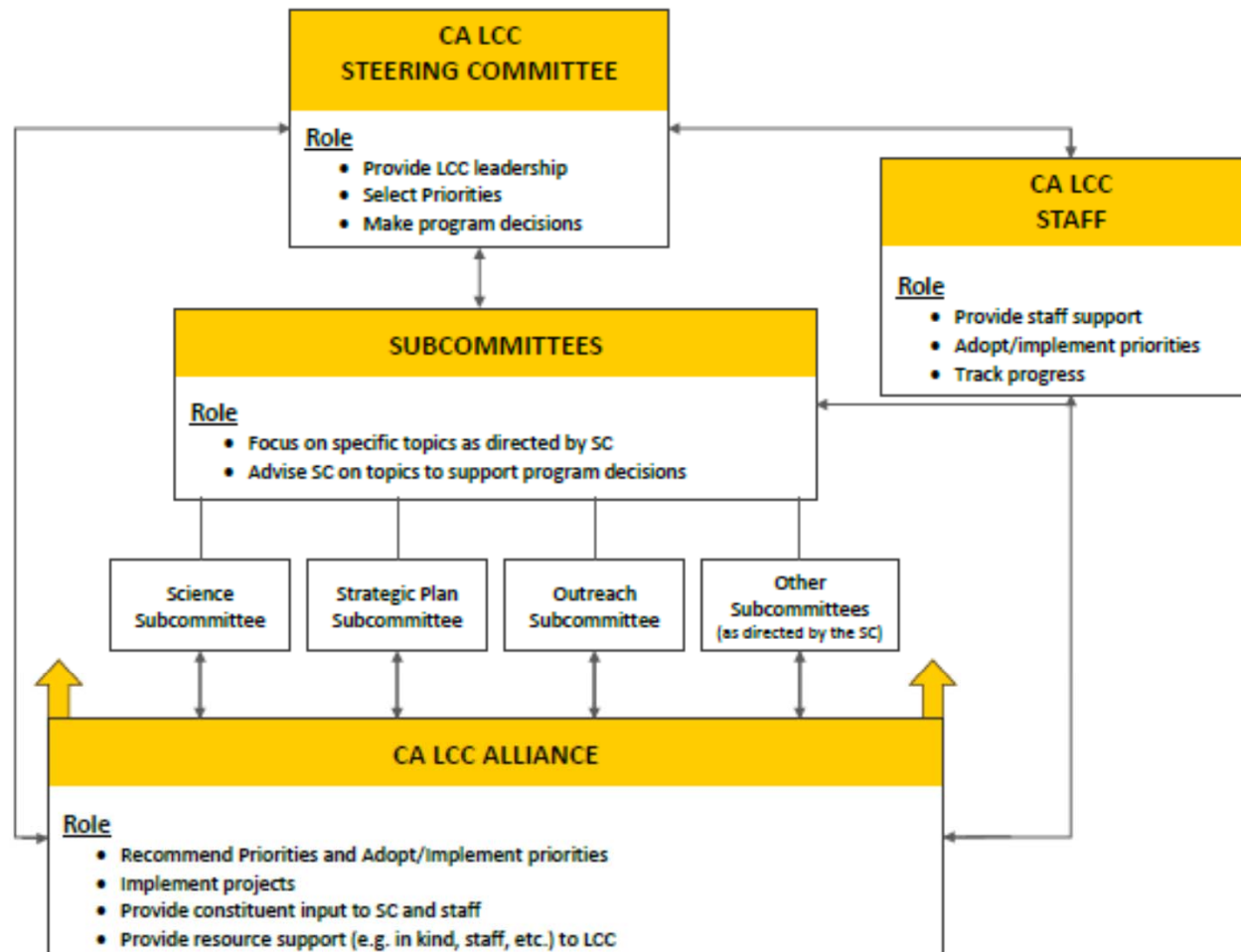
Alliance Reviews
Interim Strategy



Questions?

Feedback?

Governance



Subcommittees



- ✓ **Strategic Planning** – work to begin immediately with Interim Strategy done by end of this year
- ✓ **Science** – work to begin this fall with regular calls and review of work products
- ✓ **Communication** – work to begin this fall, ongoing

Meeting Schedule



- | | |
|------------------|--|
| October: | Call to approve Strategic Planning Process and Chairs |
| December: | In person meeting to discuss Interim Strategy |
| February: | Approve 2012 priorities and project selection process |
| May: | Approve recommended projects for funding
--Annual Open House? |

