

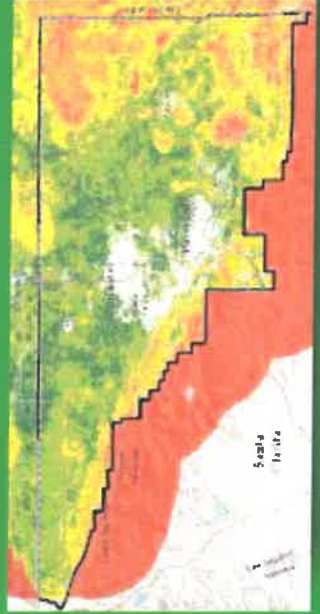
# Antelope Valley Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

## Administrative Draft Comment Review Check-in

August 9, 2017  
9am

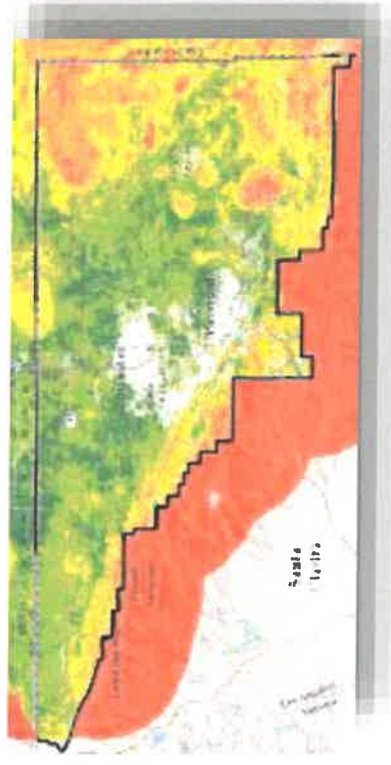
### AV RCIS Project Team:

- Scott Fleury, Ph.D.
- Jim Stritholt, Ph.D.
- Lucas Bare
- Terry Watt
- Michelle Osborn
- Aaron Gabbe, Ph.D.
- Troy Rahmig
- David Zippin, Ph.D.
- Graham Chisholm



# Agenda

- Refresher of where we are in the RCIS process
  - Steps and timeline
- Summary of comments received
  - Number of comments and sources
  - Nature and type of comments
  - Approach to response
- Bigger topics for discussion
  - Definition of “protected lands”
  - Implementation Structure and Process

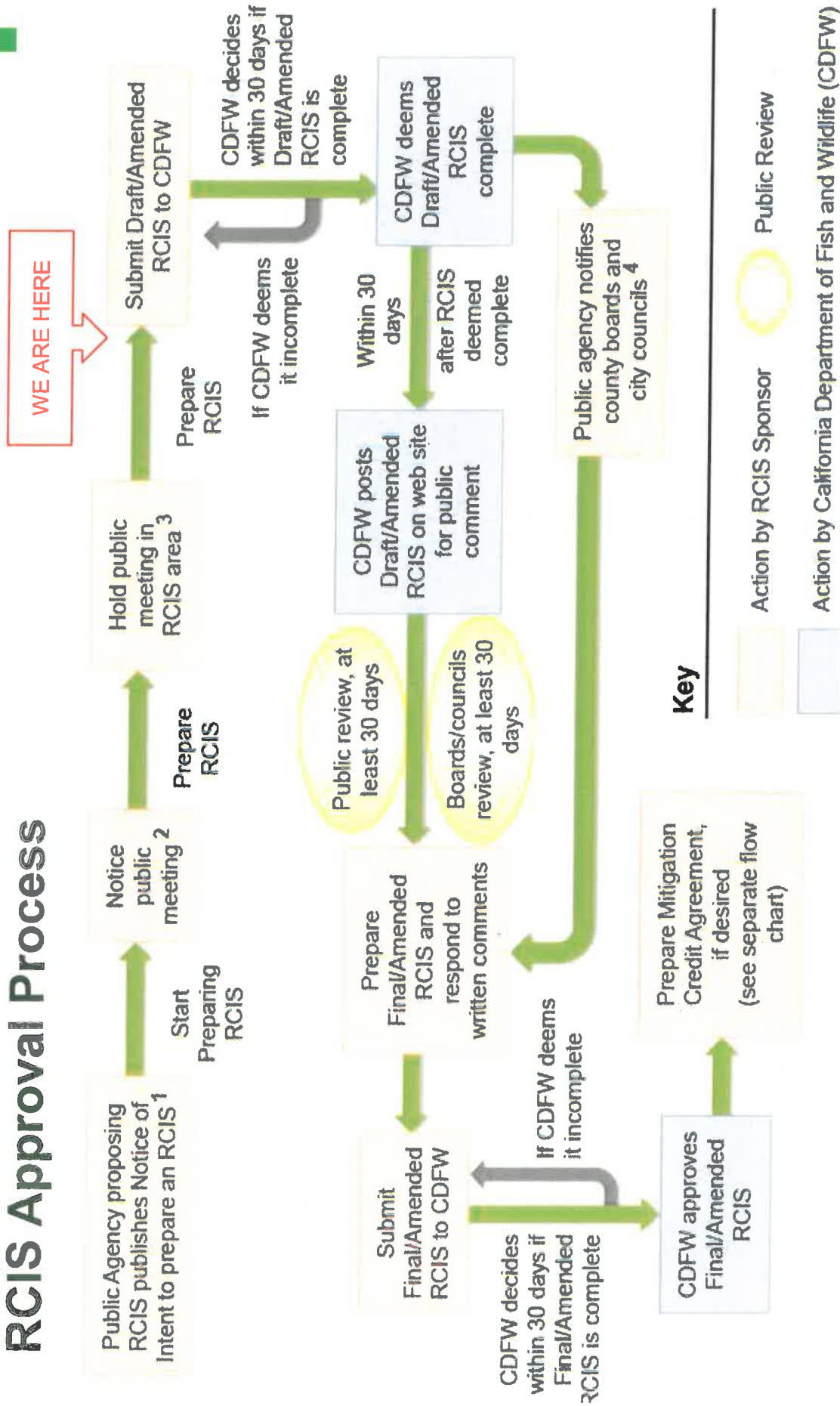


# AV RCIS Timeline and Steps in the Process

- **Began in Spring 2016**
- **Formed Steering and Advisory Committees in Summer 2016**
  - Very active engagement through meetings and webinars on key components of RCIS
- **Public Meetings in Fall 2016 and Spring 2017**
- **Key Local Experts/Stakeholders Technical Group in Winter/Spring 2017**
  - Very involved in technical development of approach to conservation priorities and key elements of the RCIS
- **Administrative Draft RCIS for Steering Committee/Stakeholder Review in June 2017**
- **CDFW Review Draft August 14, 2017 (30 day review)**



# RCIS Approval Process





# Summary of Comments on Admin Draft AV RCIS

- **737 individual comments**
  - Los Angeles County
  - Audubon
  - Defenders of Wildlife
  - Center for Biological Diversity
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank
  - Tejon Ranch Company



- **Comments were very thorough, well-thought out, and helpful**
  - Range from providing additional technical data to recommendations on RCIS document structure

# Comments Fell into Five Main Groups



- **Providing additional detail or data** – vast majority addressed in RCIS
  - Specific info on existing conditions/land use of certain areas
  - Biological data on focal species and natural communities
  - Recommendations on specific conservation actions
- **Structure and Organization of RCIS**
  - Additional subsections/order of sections – generally addressed in RCIS
  - Major reorganization of RCIS – revisit after CDFW input

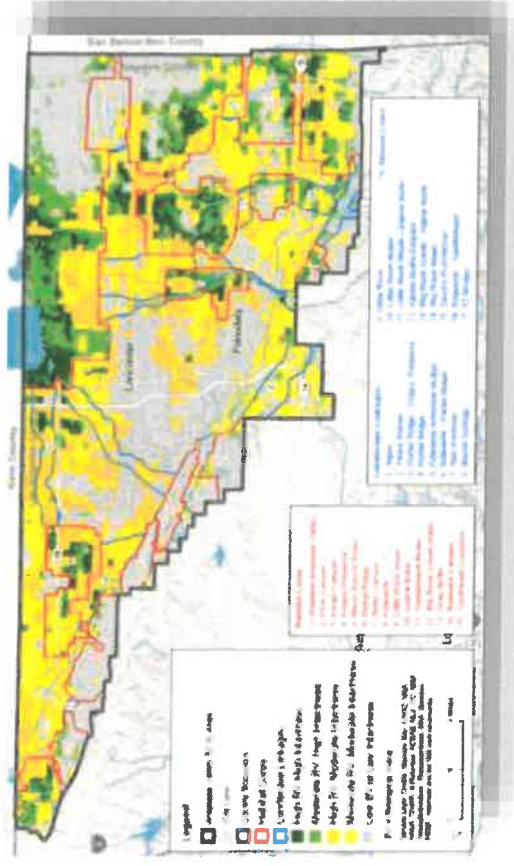
- **Analytical Methods and Modeling Process**– revisit after CDFW input

- For example,
  - Adding focal species, changing species groupings
  - Change in RCIS boundary (i.e., Gorman Post Ranch)
  - Additional modeling for plant connectivity/corridors



# Comments Fell into Five Main Groups (con't)

- **Level of Specificity in RCIS**
  - Increased clarity in RCIS – addressed
  - Potentially limit flexibility in RCIS - revisit after CDFW input
- **Implementation Chapter Comments**
  - Clarification of required vs. optional implementation - addressed
  - Emphasis on importance of Conservation/Stakeholder partnerships – addressed
  - Recommendations of additional implementation requirements or specific implementation structure- revisit after CDFW input



# Larger Issues Discussion

- **Definition of “protected areas”**
  - New definitions and clarity
- **Implementation Structure and Process**
  - Limited detail in RCIS Guidelines
  - Only general discussions with Steering and Advisory Committees to date





## Definition of “protected areas”

- **Challenge: Variation in definition between RCIS Guidelines and CPAD**

### RCIS Guidelines

- Land Preservation: Generally, the preservation of natural resources by acquiring land in fee title or a permanent conservation easement.
- Permanently Protect: Permanent protection means: (1) recording a conservation easement and (2) providing secure, perpetual funding for management of the land, monitoring, and legal enforcement.

### California Protected Areas Database (CPAD)

- CPAD is basis for AV RCIS protected areas database
- CPAD uses GAP Status to classify level of protection
- GAP Status 1, 2, 3 all are defined as “An area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover...”
  - remaining definition varies by status
- Therefore, GAP Status 3 has permanent protection but is unlikely to be permanently protected

• CONFUSING



## Definition of “protected areas” (con’t)

- **Solution: Establish clear AV RCIS Definitions**
  - **Protection** is defined as having permanent protection through fee title ownership and/or a conservation or agriculture easement.
  - **Preservation** is defined to mean additional conservation measures above and beyond basic land protection, as defined above, and includes funding and implementation of long-term management and monitoring.
- Caveats:
- Degree of permanence and level of preservation (management and monitoring) varies between and within GAP Status categories
  - Simplification needed for landscape-scale analysis in the RCIS
  - Site-specific information needed during implementation for MCA preparation and other conservation actions

# Protection and Preservation in Gap Analysis Results



# Protection and Preservation in Gap Analysis Results (con't)

Total potentially suitable habitat (modeled or mapped) in the RCIS area

Higher conservation value suitable habitat in the RCIS area

Higher conservation value suitable habitat in the Cores and Linkages

Protected higher conservation value suitable habitat in the cores and linkages

Unprotected higher conservation value suitable habitat in the cores and linkages

## Conservation Targets

Possible Preservation Gap

Conservation Priorities for Preservation

Potential conservation actions including restoration, enhancement, and long-term management

Protection and Preservation Gap

Conservation Priorities for Protection and Preservation

Conservation actions including acquisition, conservation easements, long-term management, restoration, and enhancement

Table 3-9. Gap Analysis Results and Quantitative Conservation Priorities

Local Species	in RCIS Area			Higher Conservation Value Habitat in Cores and Linkages			Conservation Priorities		
	All Predicted Habitat	Higher Conservation Value Habitat	Total	Protected	Unprotected	Priority Level	Conservation Target	Protection and Preservation Gap	Possible Preservation Gap
<b>Birds</b>									
Kali mannosia	52,098	49,148	33,761	69%	18,025	53%	15,736	47%	17,266
California junco	31,010	27,508	18,364	67%	12,566	3%	18,108	99%	18,364
Shrub tree	43,738	40,601	31,868	78%	4,849	15%	27,019	85%	27,019
Reading nighthawk	20,526	19,181	12,806	67%	1,103	9%	11,703	91%	11,703
<b>Reptiles</b>									
Least horned lizard	17,861	17,472	14,351	82%	3,915	27%	10,436	73%	10,436
Desert horned lizard	25,323	23,435	15,811	67%	1,964	12%	13,848	88%	13,848
Desert tortoise	80,678	74,337	73,898	99%	40,235	54%	33,663	46%	33,663
Eastern pond turtle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Birds</b>									
Arrowwing owl	360,703	301,805	184,621	61%	36,540	20%	148,082	80%	148,082
California condor	54,077	51,072	32,973	65%	6,016	18%	26,956	82%	26,956
Golden eagle (Desert)	51,069	34,083	30,174	89%	3,017	10%	27,158	90%	27,158
Golden eagle (Ag/Grazland)	51,069	47,257	40,758	86%	4,665	11%	36,092	89%	36,092
Greater roadrunner	344,725	295,697	222,949	75%	61,730	28%	161,219	72%	161,219
Greater roadrunner	344,725	279,666	195,772	70%	44,633	23%	151,139	77%	151,139
Greater roadrunner	7,903	7,435	6,421	86%	2,019	31%	4,402	69%	4,402
Greater roadrunner	422,995	356,409	222,098	62%	37,874	17%	184,224	83%	184,224
Greater roadrunner	174,592	145,198	81,017	56%	15,181	19%	65,836	81%	65,836
Greater roadrunner	130,218	99,682	53,479	54%	3,755	7%	49,724	93%	49,724
Greater roadrunner	16,610	13,815	7,182	52%	1,933	27%	5,249	73%	5,249
Greater roadrunner	404,548	345,115	208,341	60%	31,991	15%	176,440	85%	176,440
Greater roadrunner	196,681	155,327	94,642	61%	10,626	11%	84,016	86%	84,016

# Implementation Structure and Process

- **Implementation Structure and Process**
  - Limited detail in RCIS Guidelines
  - Only general discussions with Steering and Advisory Committees to date
  - Chapter is general with few requirements
    - Provides flexibility
    - What does the Steering Committee and Stakeholder want to see in the Chapter?
      - Open Discussion
    - CDFW input on draft and Steering Committee guidance to add specifics as needed