



**Butte Regional**  
CONSERVATION PLAN  
BALANCING GROWTH AND CONSERVATION

# **BRCP Preliminary Public Draft**

## **(Chapter by Chapter Overview of Revisions)**

Presentation to:

# **BRCP Stakeholder Committee**

December 5, 2012





## Major Revisions from Last Drafts

- ▶ Update of covered activities and land cover mapping/rerun of impact assessment
- ▶ Increased permit duration to 50 years
- ▶ Inclusion of Butte County meadowfoam CMs
- ▶ Addition of Clean Water Act (CWA) wetlands impacts, mitigation, and conservation
- ▶ Revisions to mitigation requirements (especially for wetlands and riparian habitats)
- ▶ Description of BRCP implementation process
- ▶ Revisions to implementation cost assumptions and estimates and inclusion of impact fee structure



## Chapter 1. Introduction

- ▶ Revised to include CWA 404/401 wetlands and waters and Section 1602 Streambed Alteration compliance as BRCP goal
- ▶ Revisions to address changes to other chapters and appendices





## Chapter 2. Covered Activities

- ▶ Revisions primarily in response to agency comments
- ▶ Updated to reflect new information regarding the covered activities
- ▶ Reorganized major covered activity categories
- ▶ Added detail to description of the activities
- ▶ Added section for emergency activities
- ▶ Added section for activities explicitly not covered under the BRCP



## Chapter 3. Ecological Baseline Conditions

- ▶ Updated to include information relevant to CWA and Section 1602 compliance (methods, acreage)
- ▶ Updated land cover type mapping (e.g., re-designated habitat areas that have been removed by development since the original mapping)
- ▶ Divided “dredger tailings with riparian” category into “stream-associated” and “non-stream-associated” types
- ▶ Added more detail to descriptions of natural communities
- ▶ Updated description of potential future conditions with climate change





## Chapter 4. Impact Assessment and Estimated Level of Take

- ▶ Reorganized format to address agency comments
- ▶ Expanded description of methods and impact mechanisms
- ▶ Re-ran the GIS impact analysis to address updates to the land cover database and covered activities
- ▶ Added sections summarizing the estimated level of take and the population-level affect of the take on species
- ▶ Developed a giant garter snake abundance model to estimated take of snakes and benefits of habitat protection and restoration





## Chapter 4. Impact Assessment and Estimated Level of Take (cont.)

- ▶ Completed section describing the requested level of take
- ▶ Completed the cumulative effects analysis
- ▶ Added a section describing impacts on jurisdictional wetlands and streams for CWA and riparian for Section 1602 compliance





## Chapter 5, *Conservation Strategy*

- ▶ Moved/consolidated sections describing land acquisition process to/with Chapter 6, Plan Implementation (Sec 5.2)
- ▶ Revised mitigation requirements for some natural communities and associated habitats to commensurate with recent mitigation requirements for similar impacts (Sec 5.2)
- ▶ Revised the goals and objectives based on agency comments (species G&Os now overlap with natural community G&Os) (Sec 5.3)
- ▶ Added a Sacramento River ecological corridor (Sec 5.3)







## Chapter 5, *Conservation Strategy* (cont.)

- ▶ Added conservation measure (CM4) to address barriers to movement (Sec 5.4)
- ▶ Added detail to CM descriptions (Sec 5.4)
- ▶ Consolidated several conservation measures (e.g., habitat restoration, fish, BCM) (Sec 5.4)
- ▶ Revised approach to giant garter snake conservation (increased focus on habitat restoration rather than protection of existing rice land)
- ▶ Expanded description of avoidance and minimization measures (Sec 5.4.4)
- ▶ Removed redundancies in outcome sections (Secs 5.5 and 5.6)



## Chapter 5, *Conservation Strategy* (cont.)

- ▶ Added sections describing ecological uncertainties regarding species outcomes and summary of overall population-level effects with full BRCP implementation (Sec 5.6)
- ▶ Expanded giant garter snake outcome to express benefits as estimated increase in snake abundance relative to existing conditions (Sec 5.6)
- ▶ Expanded description of the monitoring program, including monitoring actions tables (Sec 5.8)
- ▶ Consolidated monitoring into two types, compliance and effectiveness (Sec 5.9)





## Chapter 5, *Conservation Strategy* (cont.)

- ▶ Added section to describe conservation outcome of Section 404 jurisdictional wetlands and other waters and Section 1602 riparian habitats (Sec 5.10)
- ▶ Added a description of conservation actions that will continue into the post-BRCP permits period (Sec 5.11)





## Chapter 6, *Plan Implementation*

- ▶ Added complete schedule for implementation of all conservation actions (Sec 6.1)
- ▶ Added “stay ahead” provisions (Sec 6.1)
- ▶ Added description of regulatory assurances (Sec 6.3)
- ▶ Revised changed circumstances (Sec 6.4)
- ▶ Expanded discussion of process for revisions to the BRCP, minor modifications and amendments (Sec 6.6)
- ▶ Added BRCP implementation process description, including process and requirements for use of BRCP permits (Sec 6.7)
- ▶ Added description of allowable activities on BRCP conservation lands (Sec 6.8)
- ▶ Added Neighboring Landowner Assurances (Sec 6.9)



## Chapter 7, *Implementation Structure*

- ▶ Revised description and composition of the BRCP JPA Board of Directors and its relationship to BCAG





## Chapter 8, *Implementation Costs and Funding Sources*

- ▶ Revised to address agency comments
- ▶ Reorganized from “Local Share/Public Share” to “Mitigation/Conservation” components
- ▶ Added detail to costing assumptions in Appendix F
- ▶ Revised cost estimates for habitat restoration projects based on new input (*detail in Appendix F*)
- ▶ Revised endowment costs for funding of expanded post-BRCP permits requirements (*detail in Appendix F*)





## Chapter 8, *Implementation Costs and Funding Sources*

- ▶ Revised administrative costs to include DFG staff funding (*detail in Appendix F*)
- ▶ Recalculated costs of mitigation/conservation components to reflect revised Chapter 5 mitigation requirements (*detail in Appendix F*)
- ▶ Mitigation component changed from \$143.2 million to \$153.2 million over 50 years
- ▶ Conservation component changed from \$623.7 million to \$428.1 million over 50 years
- ▶ Total cost reduction of \$185.6 million from previous estimate





## **Chapter 9, *Alternatives to Take Considered and Rejected***

- ▶ Updated to reflect revisions to Chapters 4 and 5 (mainly acreage changes)







## Chapter 10, *Independent Science Advisory Process*

- ▶ Updated to include the July 2011 ISA review of the Conservation Strategy elements (Chapter 5)





## Appendices

- ▶ All except Appendix L, *Implementing Agreement*, are completed
- ▶ Appendices updated to reflect revisions to Chapters 3-5





## Next Steps

- ▶ Public workshops in January 15-16, 2013 to receive input
- ▶ Receive Stakeholder Committee comments at the February 6, 2013 meeting
- ▶ Updates to County Board of Supervisors and City councils
- ▶ All comments on Preliminary Public Draft due by January 31, 2013
- ▶ Prepare Public Draft BRCP based on Stakeholder Committee, public, and agency comments received
- ▶ Release Public Draft and initiate 90 day review period in May 2013



# Questions & Discussion

