



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE AGENCY
Environmental Coordination Services
County of Placer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Current and Future Applicants

FROM: Environmental Coordination Services Division

DATE: December 11, 2020

SUBJECT: Adoption of the Placer County Conservation Program

On September 1, 2020, the Placer County Board of Supervisors adopted the Placer County Conservation Program (PCCP) adding Chapter 19, Article 19.10 to the Placer County Code (effective November 2, 2020).

The PCCP will allow applicants to engage in a streamlined permitting process for mitigating project impacts to aquatic resources and sensitive wildlife species, where previously applicants would need to obtain permits from the reviewing state and federal regulatory agencies (i.e. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, etc.).

The PCCP is a multi-component program comprised of:

- Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) under the Federal Endangered Species Act and a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act
- County Aquatic Resources Program (CARP) to fulfill the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and state laws and regulations
- In-Lieu Fee Program to fulfill Clean Water Act Section 401/404 compensatory mitigation requirements for impacts to aquatic resources.

The PCCP addresses 14 Covered Species and several Covered Natural Communities and includes conservation measures to protect those Covered Species and their habitats.

Projects that occur within the PCCP Plan Area will be subject to applicable avoidance and minimization measures set forth in Chapter 6 (Program Participation and Conditions on Covered Activities) of the PCCP, which are intended to ensure that adverse effects on Covered Species and natural communities are avoided and minimized. Any conversion (ground disturbance) of natural or semi-natural lands, including oak woodland, grasslands, and wetlands will be subject to the applicable PCCP state and federal permits and impact fees. During the local impact authorization process, impact fees including Land Conversion fees and Aquatic/Wetland Special Habitat fees will be calculated utilizing land cover data.

The Placer Conservation Authority (PCA) is nearing completion of a PCCP User's Guide which will provide guidance for users of the PCCP who are involved in preparing, processing, approving, and tracking project applications. The User's Guide will provide detailed instructions to ensure project applications, including supporting studies, provide the necessary information to ensure compliance with the PCCP's local, state, and federal requirements.

It is important to note that an analysis of non PCCP covered species (e.g., sensitive plants, bats, etc.) may still be required as part of the environmental review process.

If you have any questions regarding the new PCCP requirements, please contact Rebecca Lillis, PCCP Conservation Planner (530.745.3043), Jennifer Byous with Planning Services (530.745.3008), or Leigh Chavez with Environmental Coordination Services (530.745.3077). For inquiries related to a specific project, please contact your project's lead planner. Further information about the PCCP can be found at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/3362/Placer-County-Conservation-Program>.

Sincerely,



LEIGH CHAVEZ, PRINCIPAL PLANNER
Environmental Coordinator

cc: Steve Pedretti, Director – CDRA
Ken Grehm, Director - DPW
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