



RAMNA and RCIS: Similarities and Differences

Caltrans' Regional Advance Mitigation Needs Assessments ("RAMNA") is an independent advance mitigation planning document separate from CDFW's Regional Conservation Investment Strategy ("RCIS") document. Though the documents support different programs and have different drivers, they share some common interests and objectives, as well as rely on much of the same data.

What is the purpose of each document?

The RCIS is a strategy to guide conservation needs of wildlife, habitat, and other sensitive resources within the RCIS area, regardless of jurisdiction or funding source. An RCIS recognizes advance mitigation as one of many investment types.

The RAMNA informs Caltrans investment in advance mitigation credits¹ that may be applied to satisfy (with regulatory approval) a CDFW or another natural resource regulatory agency² condition placed upon transportation projects funded by California's gas tax.

How does each document direct investments?

The RCIS may be used to guide conservation-related investments, including mitigation-related and advance mitigation-related investments, in the RCIS Area.

The RAMNA guides Caltrans advance mitigation investments towards environmental objectives that can be directly linked to Caltrans forecast compensatory mitigation needs in a geographic area, within credit establishment mechanism, transportation funding, and scheduling constraints.

Is the document voluntary?

The RCIS is voluntarily performed by those with an interest conservation planning.

The RAMNA is a required step in Caltrans advance mitigation planning, prior to an advance mitigation project being scoped, funded, or delivered.

How does each document relate to existing HCPs, NCCPs, or conservation/mitigation banks?

An RCIS outlines existing NCCPs, HCPs, or banks to identify the existing conservation within the RCIS region, and for NCCP/HCPs, to also evaluate consistency with the RCIS.

A RAMNA outlines existing NCCPs, HCPs, or banks to identify gaps in compensatory mitigation opportunities available to transportation projects—gaps that could potentially be rectified through an advance mitigation project(s).

¹ Or values

² Seven natural resource regulatory agencies have the authority to condition Caltrans transportation projects: CDFW, Coastal Commission, State Water Board, Corps, USFWS, NMFS, and EPA.



What does information in the RAMNA and the RCIS have in common?

To the maximum extent practicable, the information required for an RCIS is presented in the RAMNA (SHC § 800.9). Hence, both the RCIS and the RAMNA use current readily available information and data, apply accepted scientific principles, and strive for consistency with conservation documents (HCP, land use plans, etc.). Nevertheless, it is during CDFW's review of an RCIS, when CDFW determines whether or not information presented in the RCIS is consistent with FGC § 1852 (c)(8).