



ADVANCE MITIGATION PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL GUIDANCE FOR MITIGATION PROVIDERS

GUIDANCE NUMBER: 4

ISSUE DATE: March 19, 2026

TITLE: Credit Attribute Terminology

BACKGROUND

This guidance document was developed to support the Advance Mitigation Program's (AMP's) Request for Proposal (RFP) process for establishing credits. Its purpose is to define the terms Caltrans uses within the RFP to describe the attributes of the credits it seeks to purchase.

During their July 2, 2025, meeting of the California Interagency Project Delivery Team (PDT) under the 2011 *Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Mitigation and Conservation Banking and In-Lieu Fee Programs in California*¹, the PDT agreed to Caltrans' use and application of these three terms and definitions (California Interagency Project Delivery Team 2025).

The terms include the following:

- **“Multi-agency credit”**
A credit whose value is approved by multiple agencies (e.g., Corps-approved and CDFW-approved). A credit cannot be used to compensate for the regulated impacts of more than one project; however, a credit can be used to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements of multiple agencies for one project's impacts, when those impacts overlap. Once the credit is sold and transferred, it is withdrawn and no longer available for use in the ledger.
- **“Multi-species credit”**
A credit whose value applies to multiple species (e.g., desert tortoise/Mohave ground squirrel). A credit cannot be used by more than one project; however, a credit can be used to satisfy multiple species compensatory mitigation requirements for one project's species impacts, when those species impacts overlap. Once the credit is sold and transferred, it is withdrawn and no longer available for use in the ledger.
- **“Multi-resource credit”**
A credit whose value applies to more than one type of resource, usually species and habitat, but could vary (e.g., desert tortoise/desert wash; desert tortoise/Mohave ground squirrel/desert wash). A credit cannot be used by more than one project; however, a credit can be used to satisfy multiple resource compensatory mitigation requirements for one project's impacts, when those resource impacts overlap. Once the credit is sold and transferred, it is withdrawn and no longer available for use in from the ledger.

¹ CNRA (California Natural Resources Agency), CDFW (California Department of Fish and Wildlife), Corps (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), FWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service), EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), Natural Resources Conservation Service, and SWRCB (State Water Resources Control Board). 2011. Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Mitigation and Conservation Banking and In-Lieu Fee Programs in California. September 22. Available from <https://www.spd.usace.army.mil/Portals/13/docs/regulatory/banking/2011-MOU.pdf>