North Bay Baylands
Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

Public Meeting – October 19, 2022

Today's Agenda

- Introductions and Welcome
  - Participant Poll
- Project Presentation
  - Existing Conditions and Project Purpose
  - What is an RCIS? (and Other Questions)
  - Goals and Objectives
  - Outreach Process and Input
  - Schedule
  - Participant Poll
- Question and Answer Period

NORTH BAY BAYLANDS REGIONAL CONSERVATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Welcome and Introductions

Project Team

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

ESA

SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

scta
SONOMA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Caltrans®

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Poll

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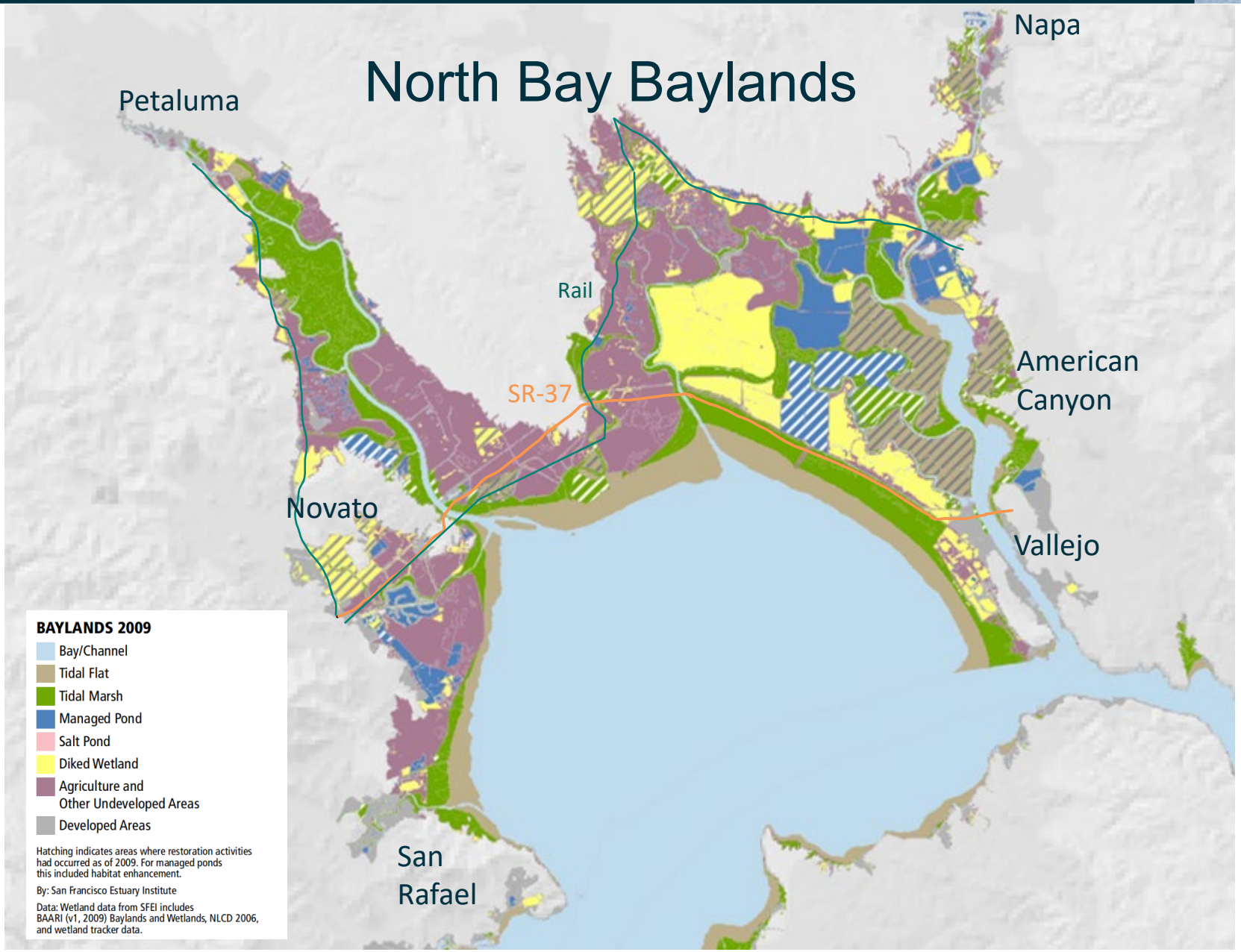
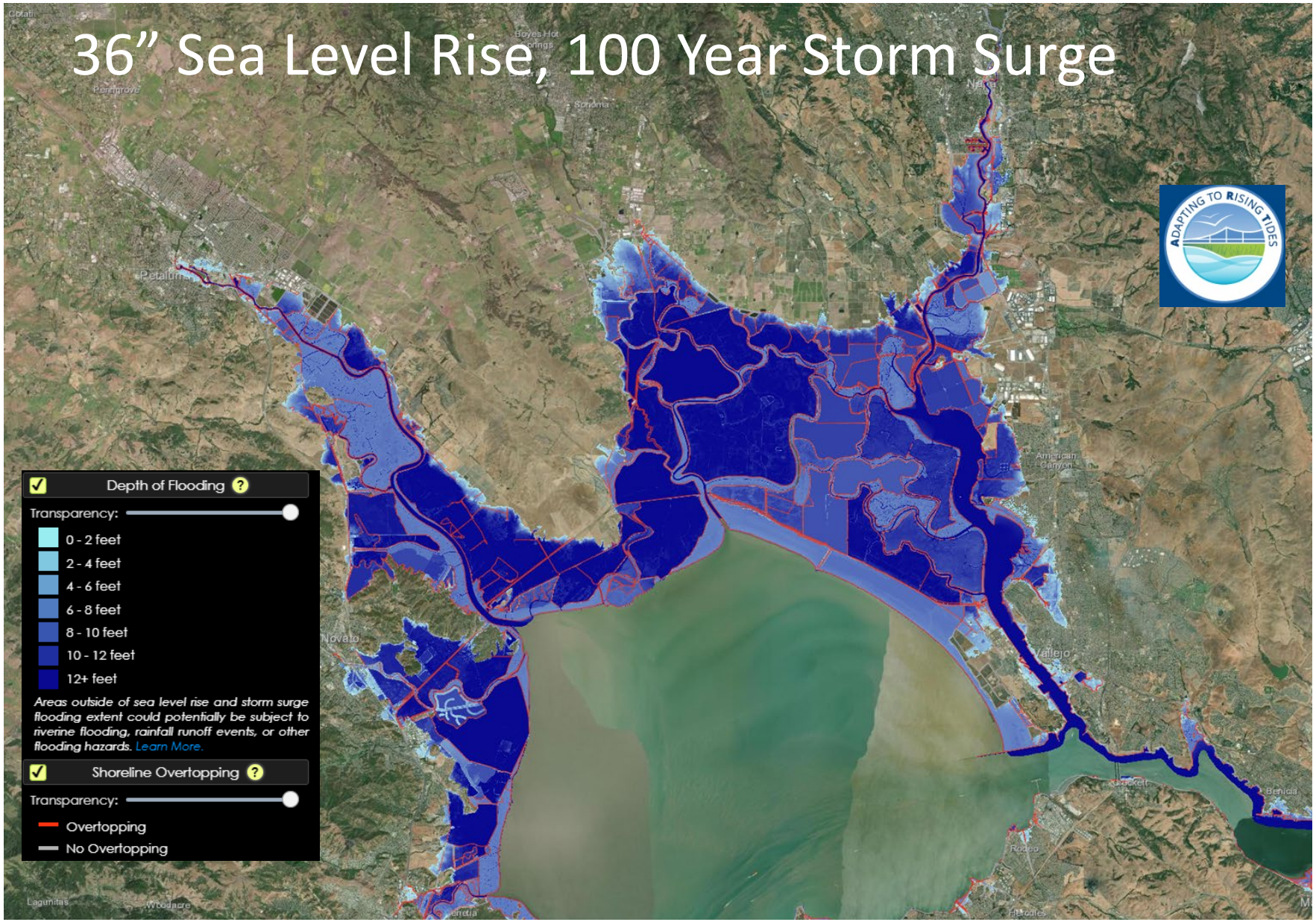
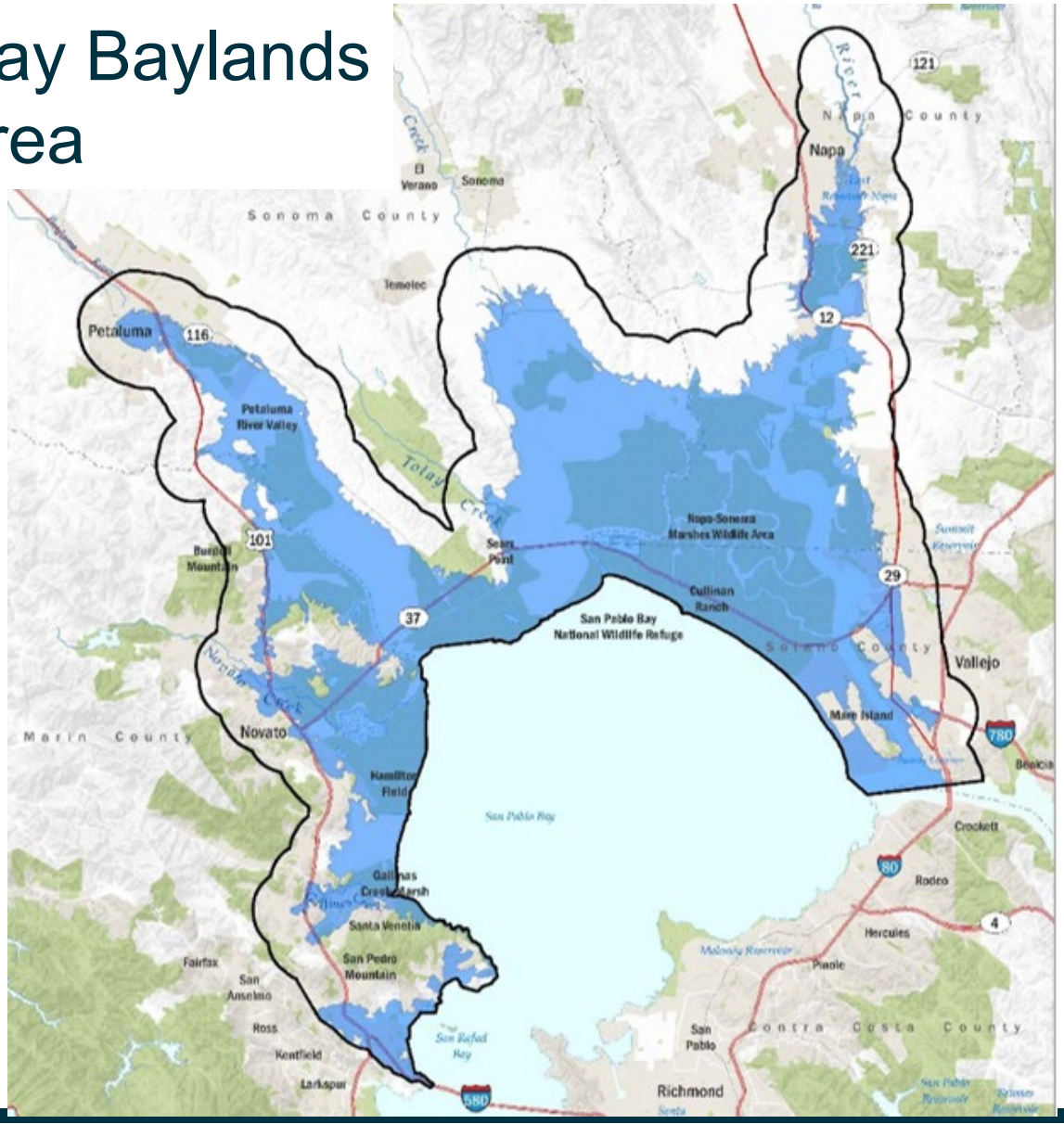
Project Presentation


North Bay Baylands
Napa
Petaluma
Rail
SR-37
American Canyon
Novato
Vallejo
San Rafael
BAYLANDS 2009
Bay/Channel
Tidal Flat
Tidal Marsh
Managed Pond
Salt Pond
Diked Wetland
Agriculture and Other Undeveloped Areas
Developed Areas
Hatching indicates areas where restoration activities had occurred as of 2009. For managed ponds this included habitat enhancement.
By: San Francisco Estuary Institute
Data: Wetland data from SFEI includes BAARI (v1, 2009) Baylands and Wetlands, NLCD 2006, and wetland tracker data.

36” Sea Level Rise, 100 Year Storm Surge



North Bay Baylands RCIS Area



What is an RCIS?

Guide for Regional Conservation

Voluntary, Non-regulatory, Non-binding

Based on Best Available Science

Key RCIS Terms

- Conservation Element
  - An **element identified and analyzed in an RCIS** that would benefit from actions set forth in the RCIS. May include species, natural communities, biodiversity, habitat connectivity, ecosystem functions, water resources
- Focal Species/Non-Focal Species
  - Focal Species are sensitive species identified and analyzed in an RCIS. Non-focal species are associated with a focal species or other conservation element, but are not specifically analyzed. Both may **benefit through conservation investments** and MCAs.
- Conservation Strategy
  - Collection of **goals, objectives, actions, and priorities** identified in the RCIS to benefit a conservation element
- Mitigation Credit Agreement
  - **Agreement** between CDFW and an entity that identifies the type and number of credits an entity will receive by implementing one or more RCIS actions.

Why Prepare an RCIS?

To Guide Action

To Improve Outcomes

To Enable Mitigation Credit Agreements

Photo: Camp 4, R. Janover, SLT

Who Benefits from An RCIS?

Conservation, land managers

Identify high value areas for conservation

Local Communities

Prepare ecologically sensitive General and Master Plans

Facilitate and streamline advance mitigation

Mitigation bank sponsors

Project Proponents

Avoid Impacts to high value areas

Gain support for grant applications and funding

Successful projects with more ecosystem and community benefit

Regulatory Agencies

Government, Municipalities

How Does This Build on Existing Plans?

RCIS Program

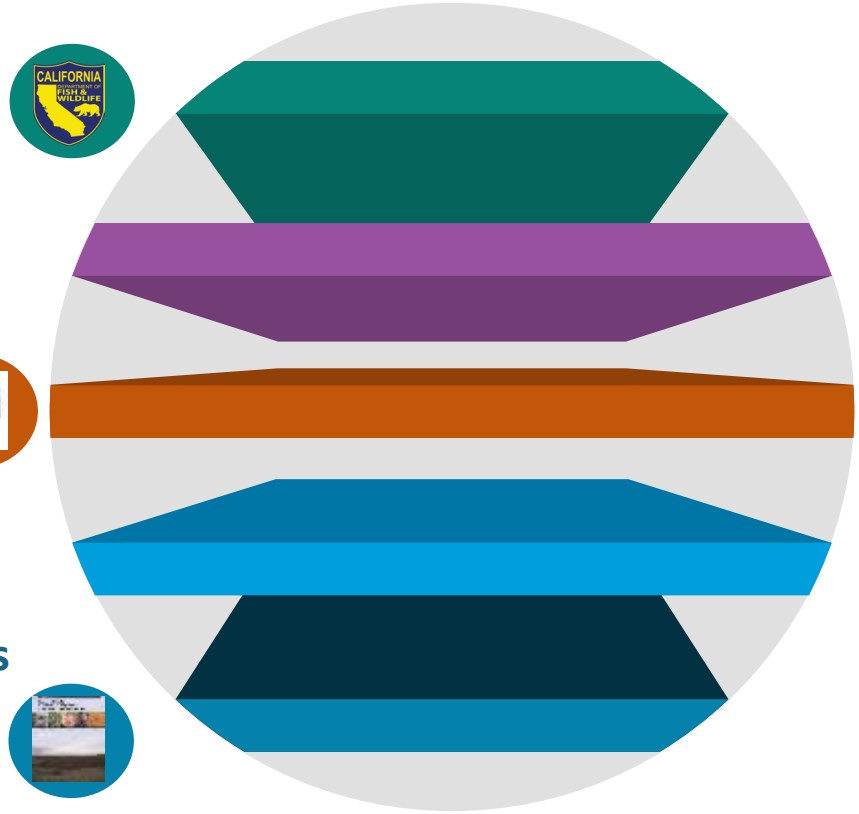
- CDFW Program Guidelines
- AB 2087
- Implementation lessons-learned

Subregional Plans

- San Pablo Bay NWR
- Napa Sonoma Marshes
- Sonoma Creek
- Novato Creek
- Petaluma River
- Climate Ready Sonoma
- Solano Multi-species HCP

State and Federal Plans

- State Wildlife Action Plans
- Species Recovery Plans
- Tidal Marsh Ecosystem Recovery Plan
- San Francisco Bay Plan



Technical Studies

- Adapting to sea level rise
- SR-37 and SLR
- Restoring the Estuary
- Sediment for Survival
- Carbon valuation of wetlands
- Biosolids

Baylands Habitat Goals

- Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals (1999)
- Baylands Goals Climate Update (2005)
- Baylands Ecosystem Species and Community Profiles
- Conservation Lands Network 2.0

Conservation Strategy Overview

- Goals
- Objectives
- Actions
- Priorities

Regional

Focal Species

Other Conservation Elements

What Will a Conservation Strategy Look Like?

Goal

- Have sustainable and resilient salt marsh harvest mouse populations

Objective

- Protect habitat with known occurrences measured by acres preserved.

Action

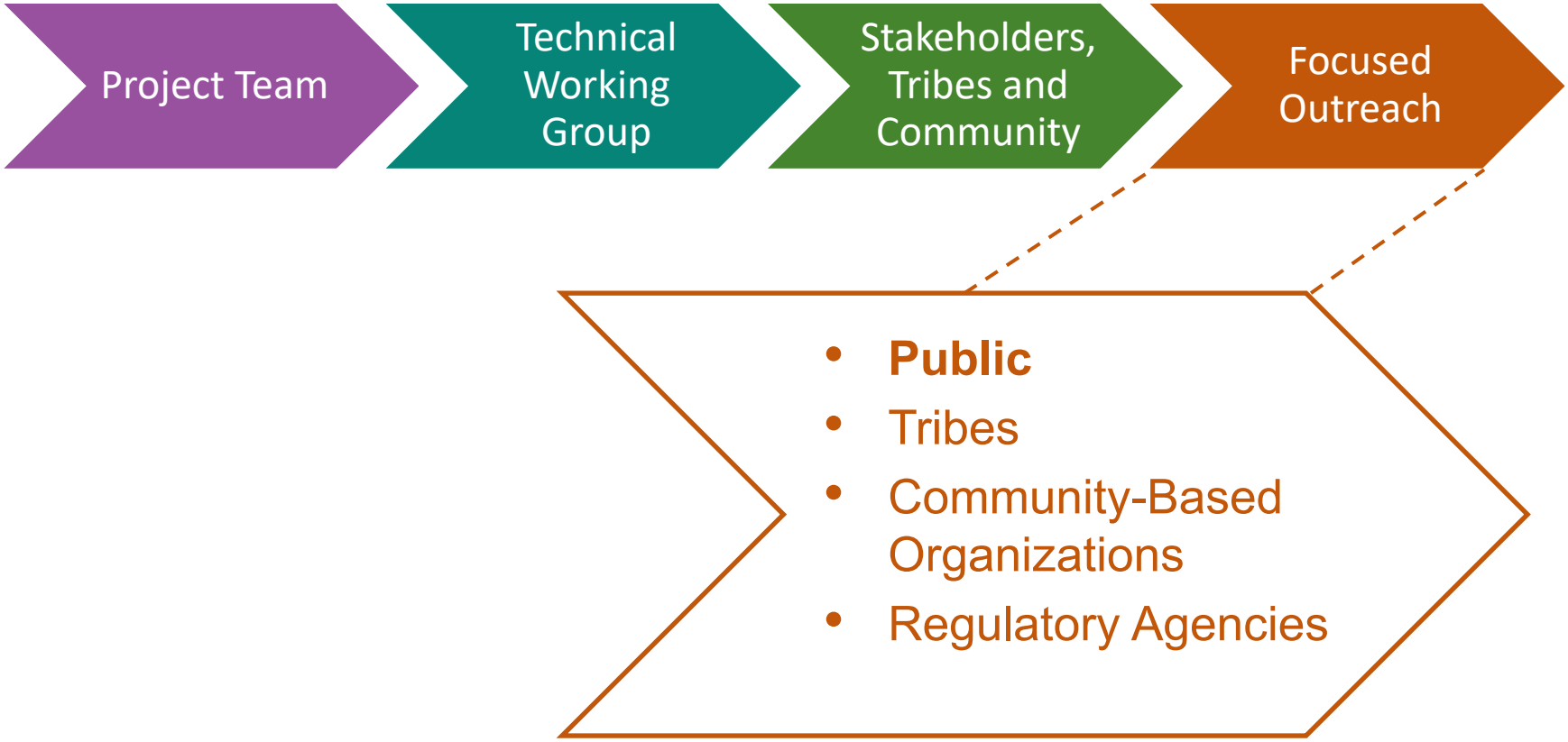
- Acquire lands at XX and protect by fee/easement

Priorities (Top 3-4 Actions)

- Acquire and protect areas of core habitat of XX areas
- Connect population centers at XX and XX through creation of suitable migration habitat between these areas

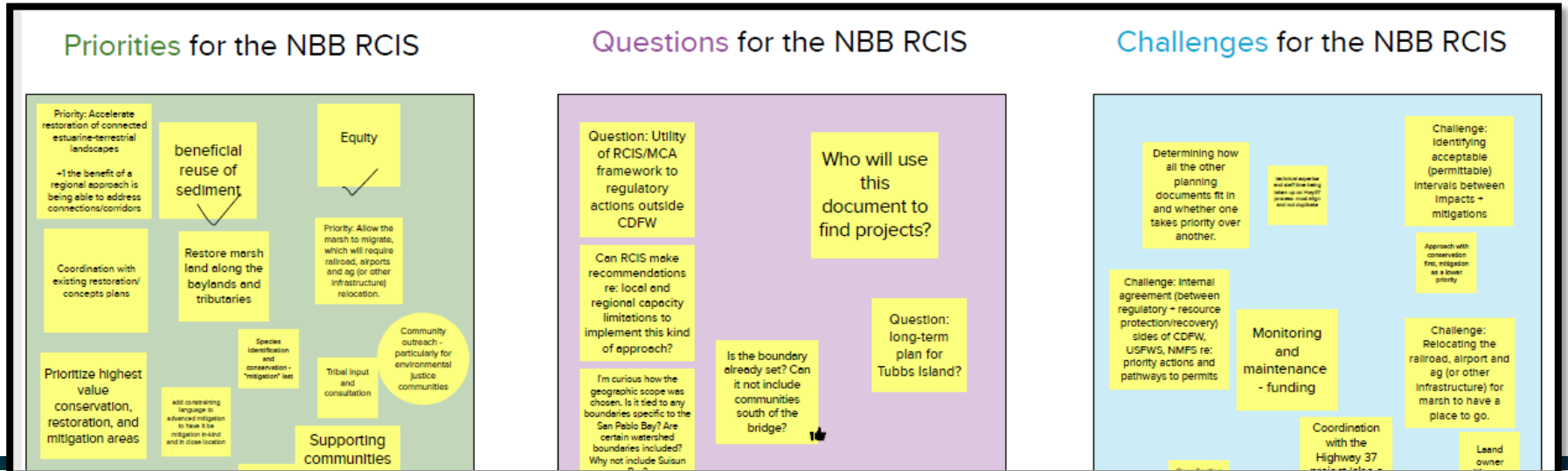
How Is the RCIS Being Developed?

- Through a Multi-step Input Process



Input from Stakeholder Meetings

- ✓ Focus on overall ecosystem health and resilience
- ✓ Accommodate habitat migration
- ✓ Accelerate restoration and promote resilience
- ✓ Gather diverse stakeholder input
- ✓ Focus on equity and support communities impacted by climate
- ✓ Incorporate and coordinate existing efforts and strategies
- ✓ Attract state and federal funds for multi-benefit climate adaptation



Revised Focal Species/Conservation Elements

Focal Species	Focal Other Conservation Elements	Non-focal Species	Non-focal Other Conservation Elements

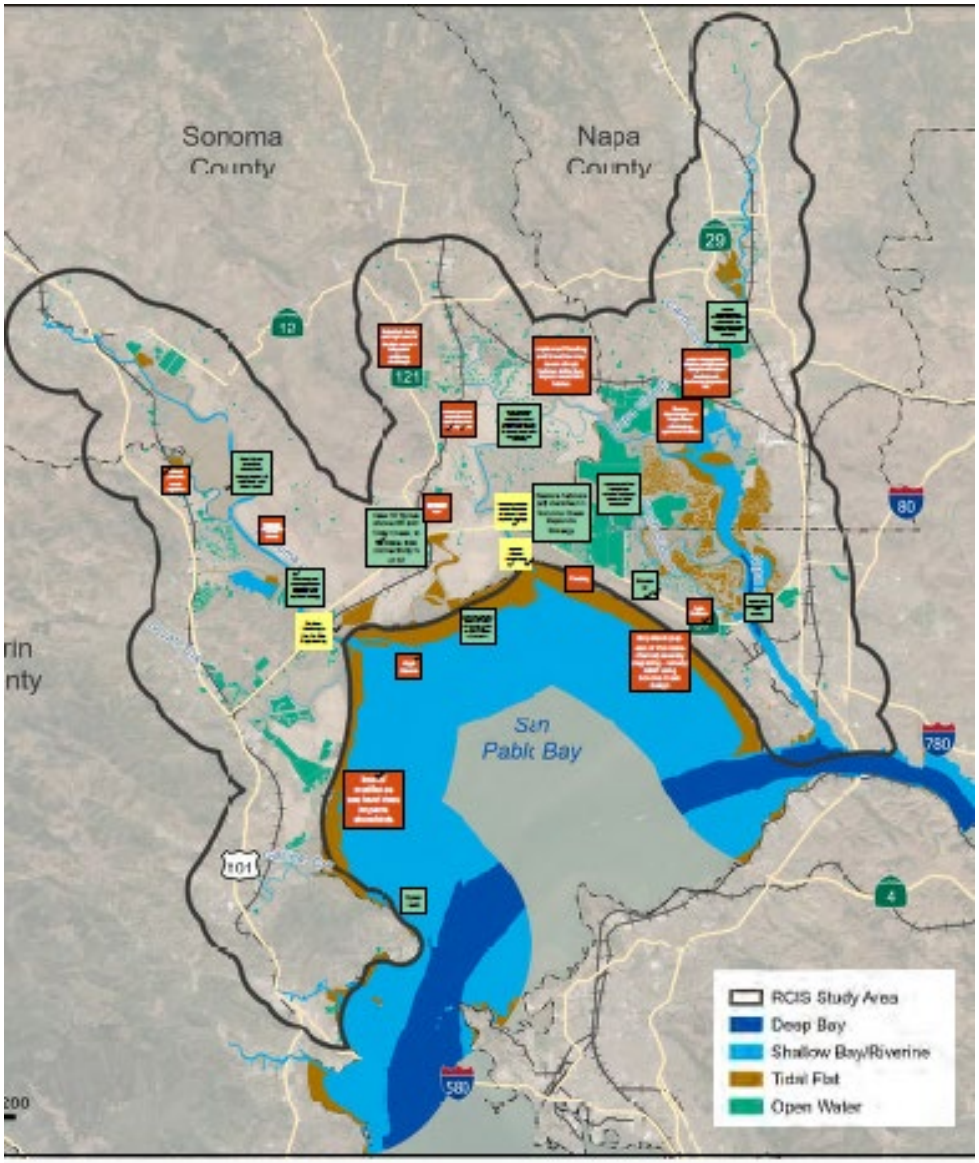
• Green sturgeon southern DPS
• Steelhead central California coast DPS
• Chinook salmon
  • Sacramento River winter-run ESU
  • Central Valley fall/late fall-run ESU
  • Central Valley spring-run ESU
• Western bumble bee
• Western pond turtle
• **Burrowing owl**
• CA black rail
• Ridgway's rail
• Salt marsh harvest mouse
• Marin western flax
	• Habitat Connectivity
	• Working lands/Agricultural baylands
	• Tidal marsh
	• Vernal pool
	• **Riparian**
	• **Lagoons and Ponds**
	• **Tidal Flats**
	• **Bats**
		• Delta smelt
		• Sacramento splittail
		• Longfin smelt
		• Western ridged mussel
		• CA freshwater shrimp
		• **Callippe silverspot butterfly**
		• **Tricolored blackbird**
		• **Swainson's Hawk**
		• Saltmarsh common yellowthroat
		• San Pablo song sparrow
		• **Soft salty bird's-beak**
			• **Riverine**
			• **Shallow Bay**
			• **Diked wetlands**
			• **Grasslands**
			• **Freshwater wetlands**
			• **Rookeries**
			• **Waterfowl**
			• **Shorebirds**

Changes **in Bold**

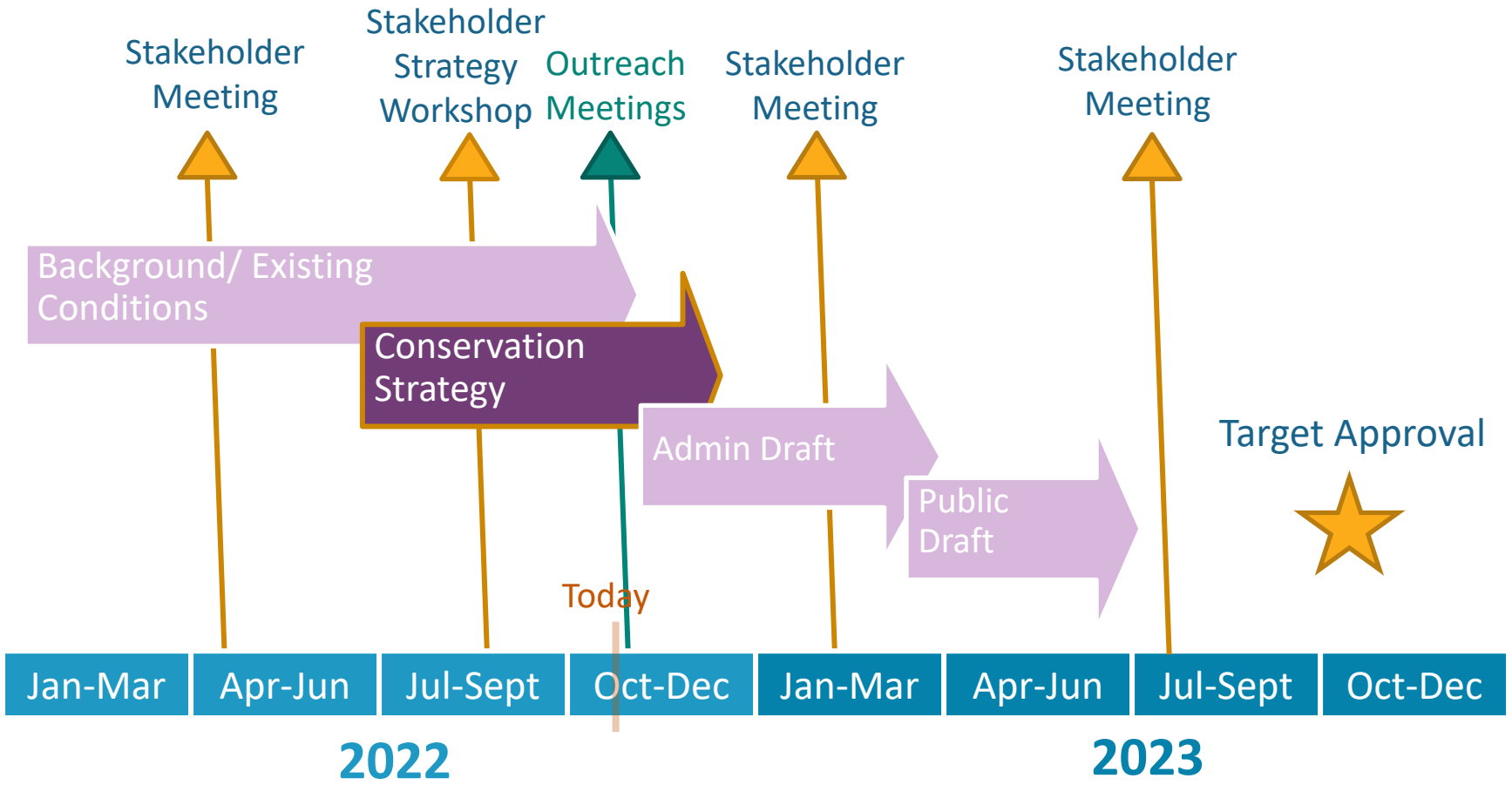
Stakeholder Workshop:
Draft Regional Goals & Objectives

Goal #1: An adaptive landscape that supports a mosaic of native species and habitats, intact ecological processes, and healthy ecosystem function.

- Conserving land
- Restoring/enhancing habitats and processes
- Increasing connectivity
- Improving water quality
- Increasing understanding



Schedule


Stakeholder Meeting
Stakeholder Strategy Workshop
Outreach Meetings
Stakeholder Meeting
Stakeholder Meeting
Background/ Existing Conditions
Conservation Strategy
Admin Draft
Public Draft
Target Approval
Today
Jan-Mar
Apr-Jun
Jul-Sept
Oct-Dec
Jan-Mar
Apr-Jun
Jul-Sept
Oct-Dec
2022
2023

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Question and Answer Session

Participating in Today's Question and Answer Session

- Verbal Comments
  - Select the "Raise Hand" button at the bottom of the Zoom window
  - Press ***9** if you're joining via the phone
  - You'll be placed in a queue until called on

- Written Comments
  - Select the "Q&A" button at the bottom of the Zoom window
  - Type in your question or comment and click submit

- Commenting Etiquette
  - Limit comments to 3 minutes
  - Allow others a chance to comment before asking a second question.
  - Be respectful

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THANK YOU

Contact us at: info@baylandsrcis.org