

August 9, 2016

**Subject:** Integrated Regional Conservation and Development

**Reporting Period:** April 12, 2016 – August 9, 2016

**Staff Lead:** Dennis Grossman, Senior Advisor for Environmental Science and Policy

---

## **Recommended Action:**

For information only – no action required.

## **Background:**

The Strategic Growth Council passed a resolution on Oct 6, 2014 to “coordinate state agencies for the development and implementation of an Integrated Regional Planning approach to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of regional development and natural resource conservation in California”. The California Biodiversity Council (CBC) quickly followed with a separate resolution to align their member agencies in support.

The Integrated Regional Conservation and Development (IRCAD) initiative is advancing on the following fronts.

1. Refining the framework for the implementation of regional conservation assessments.
2. Demonstrating the value of IRCAD products to inform strategic sustainable conservation and development projects.
3. Developing a technology platform that supports access to this information by all stakeholders.
4. Advancing and supporting policy and financial strategies that will ensure program institutionalization and implementation of IRCAD approach.

## **Update:**

1. Working with the Wildlife Conservation Board to help inform the identification of priority investments in conservation.
2. Working to inform new legislation that can incorporate regional conservation assessments into a defined process to advance the effectiveness and efficiency of mitigation processes that will result in improved conservation outcomes.
3. Providing regional conservation assessment support for numerous pilot projects across the state.
4. Implementing an Ecoregional Conservation Assessment in the Mojave ecoregion that is generating the following products.
  - A. List of priority species and ecosystems, with conservation goals for each target.
  - B. Coarse filter / fine filter strategy to meet conservation goals.

- C. Incorporation of opportunities (ownership, corridors, intact landscapes, connectivity) and threats (development projections, invasives, climate change) into conservation strategy.
- D. Incorporation of ecosystem service co-benefits (carbon, water and prime agriculture) into conservation strategy.
- E. On line technology platform providing access to data and planning tools.

