



**Orange County Transportation Authority
Measure M2 Environmental Mitigation Program**

Background



- Measure M2 (M2) includes a provision for comprehensive mitigation of freeway projects
 - Satisfies state and federal Wildlife Agencies' permitting processes
 - Satisfies other mitigation needs (e.g., state and federal Clean Water Act permits)
- Planning Agreement established framework to endeavor in the conservation planning process



M2 Ordinance No. 3



5. At least five percent (5%) of the Net Revenues allocated for Freeway Projects shall fund Programmatic Mitigation for Freeway Projects. These funds shall be derived by pooling funds from the mitigation budgets of individual Freeway Projects, and shall only be allocated subject to the following:

a. Development of a Master Environmental Mitigation and Resource Protection Plan and Agreement (Master Agreement) between the Authority and state and federal resource agencies that includes:

Introduction



- Natural Community Conservation Plan/
Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP)
- Environmental Impact Report/
Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS)
- 90-day public comment period ended in February
2015

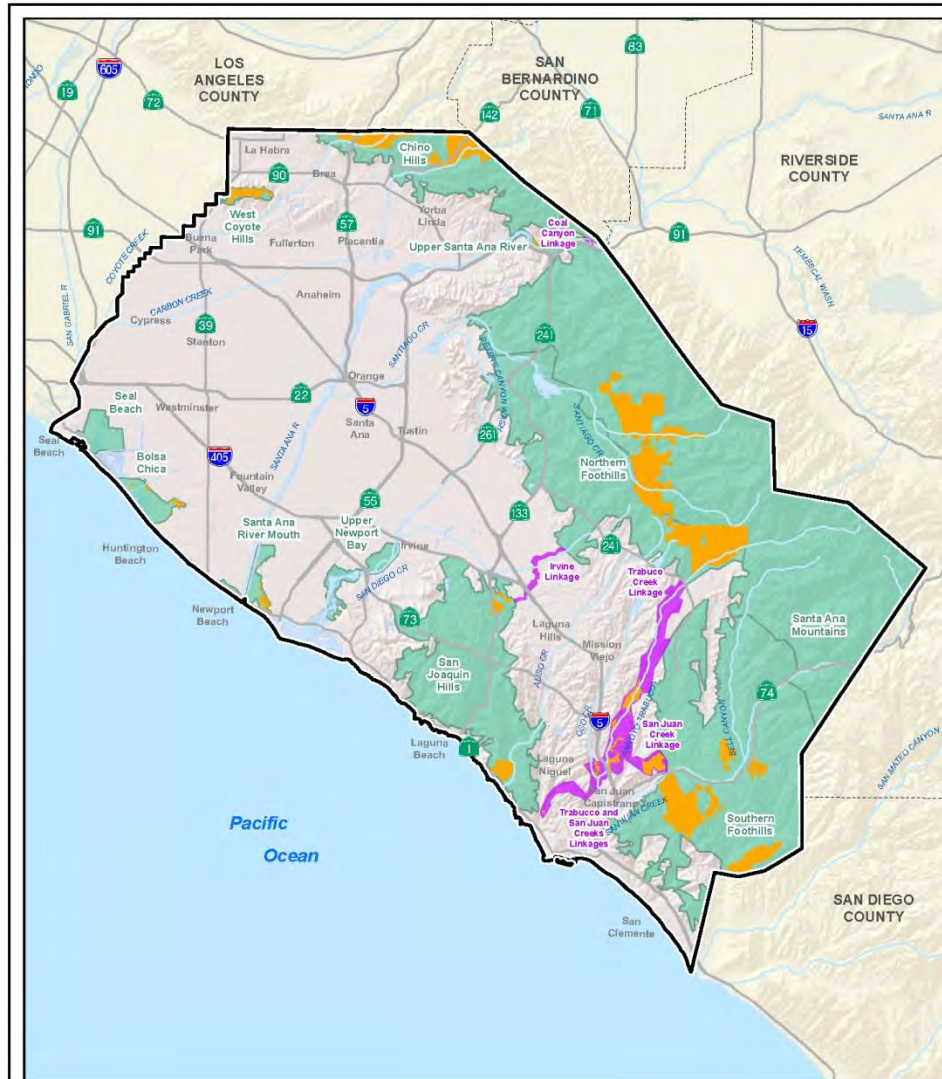


Advantages of NCCP



- Certainty in Endangered Species Act permitting
- Upfront agreements on impacts and mitigation
- Broader perspective on habitat conservation
- Long-term management and monitoring of habitat quality
- Biological permits for all of the M2 freeway projects

Conservation Strategy



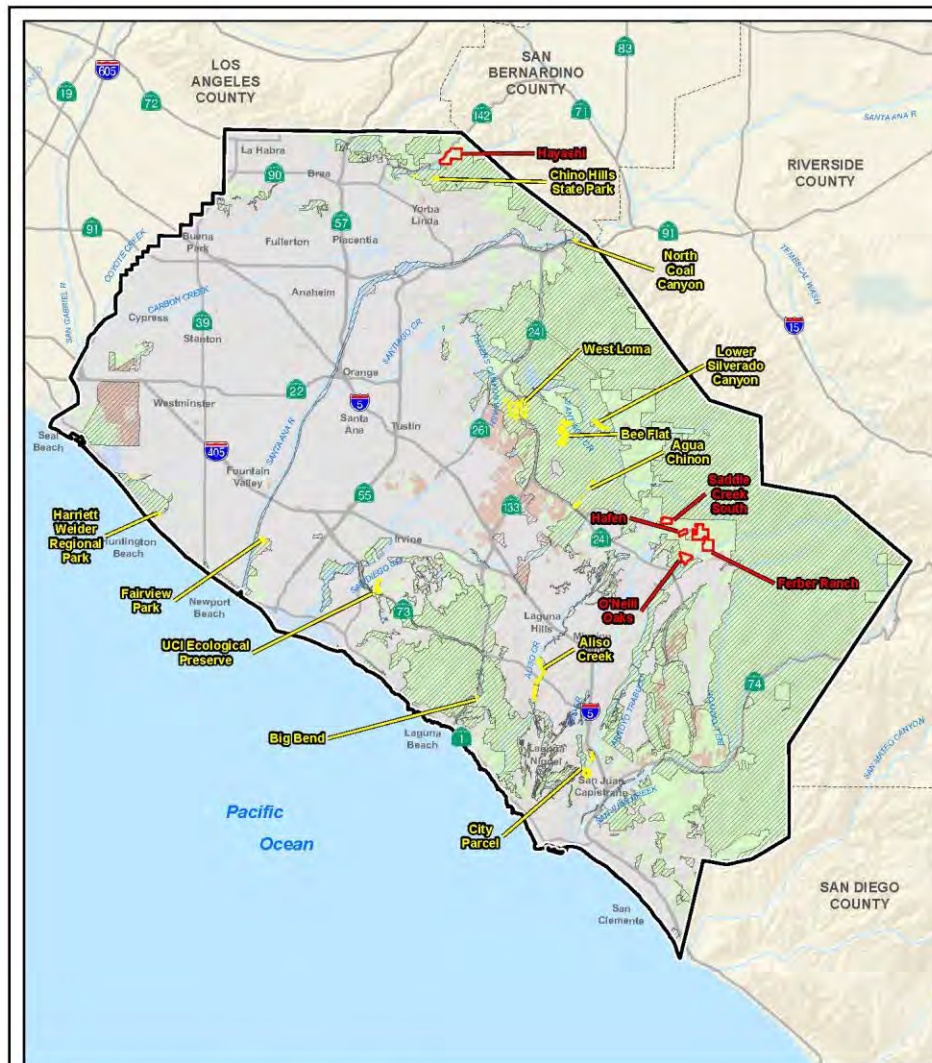
Legend
Core Habitat Areas
Linkages
Priority Conservation Areas



Miles



OCTA NCCP/HCP Results



Legend

	Currently Protected Lands		Natural Habitats
	OCTA Acquired Preserves		Agriculture
	OCTA Funded Restoration Projects		Developed

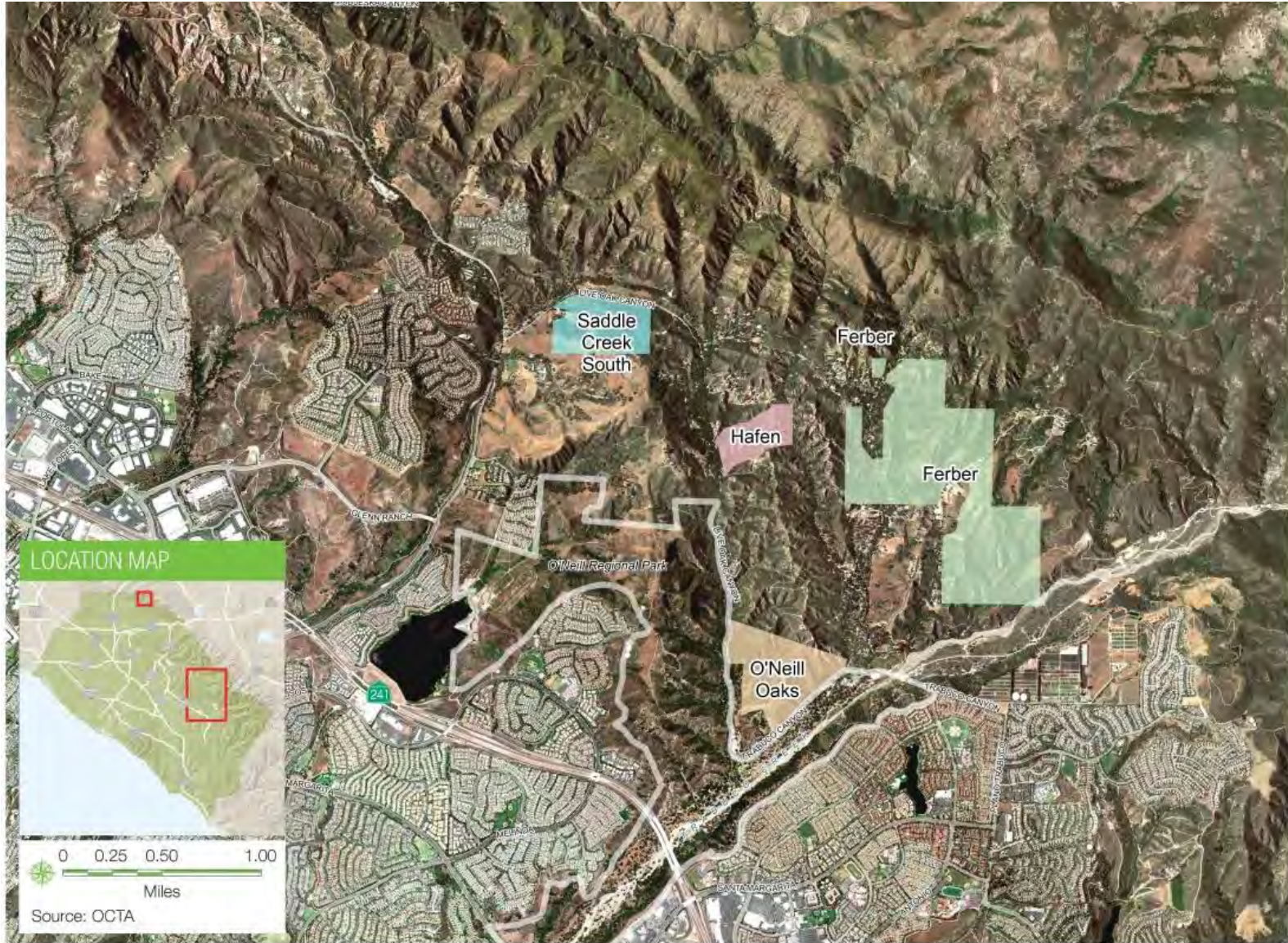


Miles

Sources:
Preserves/Restoration Projects: OCTA 2013
Projected Areas: C3I 2008; CFI/AO/OCTA 2013



OCTA Preserves



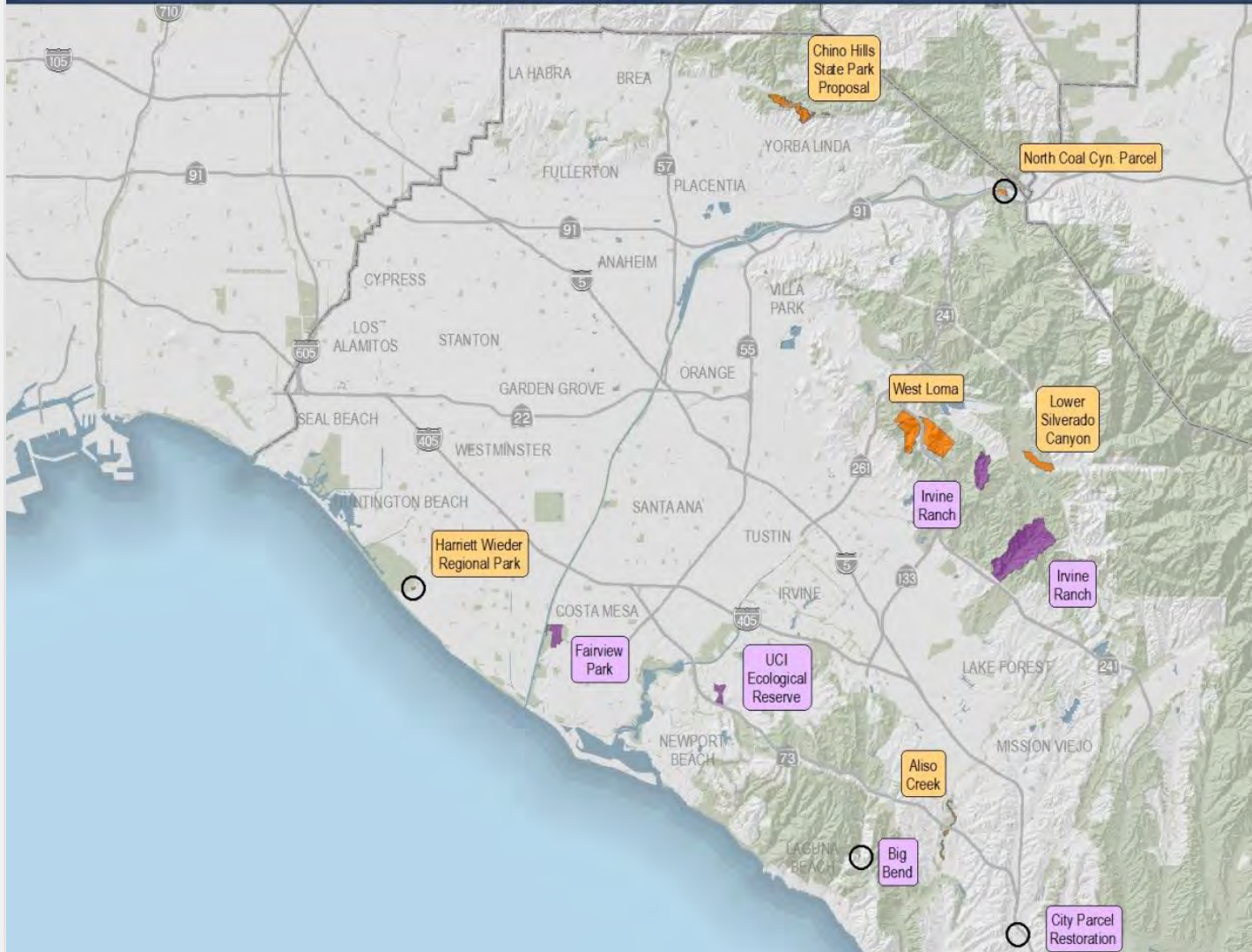
OCTA Preserves



OCTA Restoration Projects



Funded Restoration Projects Map



Regulatory Permitting



Parallel process to NCCP/HCP
Advanced mitigation “credits”

- Mitigation Bank/ILF Program
- Watershed vs. species



Future Mitigation Anticipated



- NCCP/HCP Commitments
- Regulatory Permitting Needs
- Anticipated in 2015/2016



Long-Term Management of Preserves



- Contracting for interim management needs
- Finalizing NCCP/HCP and Implementing Agreement
- Finalizing Resource Management Plans
- Recording Conservation Easements
- Transfer of titles to appropriate entity(ies)
- Annual Reporting/Monitoring

Key Considerations Ahead



- Engaging key stakeholders such as Caltrans and Army Corps of Engineers
- Market conditions factor into property acquisitions
- Encumbrances factor into timely completion of restoration projects
- Endowment requires knowledge of financial forecasts
- Agency needs to fully understand commitments of the Implementing Agreement

Program Benefits



- Funding established
- Stakeholders engaged
- Economic opportunities
 - Early Action Plan
 - Willing Sellers
- Developed positive relationships
- Satisfied commitments (pending)

Summary/Next Steps



- Investments made substantially meet NCCP and HCP requirements for mitigation
- Additional targeted restoration will be needed
- Army Corps of Engineers and Regional Water Quality Control Board permits
- Endowment and long-term management agreements must be established
- Future policy decisions on remaining M2 Mitigation Program revenues