



## NEWS RELEASE

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### South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan Permits Secured

**Sacramento, Calif., July 29, 2019** – The South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) has received permits from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and water quality certification from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. A permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is under preparation and anticipated soon.

Issuance of the permits follows local adoption in 2018 by South Sacramento HCP plan partners Sacramento County, the City of Galt, the City of Rancho Cordova and the Capital SouthEast Connector Joints Powers Authority.

The South Sacramento HCP streamlines permitting processes for proposed development and public infrastructure projects in much of south Sacramento County while more effectively conserving habitat, open space and agricultural land.

Proposed development and infrastructure projects covered by the South Sacramento HCP now will be reviewed locally rather than by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act. Under the related Aquatic Resources Program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will implement an abbreviated federal Clean Water Act, Section 404 permitting strategy for proposed projects.

The South Sacramento HCP is the first habitat conservation plan in the country to integrate endangered species and aquatic resource permitting into one locally managed process.

In addition to more efficient project permitting, the South Sacramento HCP will help create an interconnected regional preserve system, which will be more beneficial to species and habitat than current and uncoordinated mitigation processes.

“Many years of hard work by a whole lot of folks has resulted in the South Sacramento HCP becoming a reality. The plan is structured to effectively balance habitat preservation, efficient project permitting and protections for farming and ranching operations,” said Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli, who represents much of southern Sacramento County and serves as chair of the South Sacramento Conservation Agency Board of Directors.

The South Sacramento HCP plan area encompasses 317,656 acres bordered by Highway 50 on the north, San Joaquin County on the south, El Dorado County and Amador County to the east and the Sacramento River to the west. It includes Galt and most of Rancho Cordova. Within the plan area, 36,282 acres will become part of an interconnected preserve system, including approximately 1,000 acres of vernal pool habitat. Twenty-eight plant and wildlife species, and their natural habitats, will be protected under the plan.

Under the South Sacramento HCP, property owners or project sponsors required to mitigate species and habitat impacts will either dedicate land to the preserve system or pay fees to support free-market easement or property acquisitions.

The South Sacramento HCP was developed through a multi-jurisdiction partnership that includes Sacramento County; the cities of Rancho Cordova and Galt; the Sacramento County Water Agency; the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District; and the Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority. It is managed by the South Sacramento Conservation Agency (SSCA) Joints Powers Authority that includes Sacramento County, the City of Galt and the City of Rancho Cordova.

The SSCA holds title to conservation easements and, in limited cases, fee title to preserved lands. It also oversees cooperative agreements with other entities that own or manage preserves or conservation easements as part of the South Sacramento HCP preserve system.

South Sacramento HCP documents and other information are available on the South Sacramento HCP website at [www.southsachcp.com](http://www.southsachcp.com).

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