



Regional Advance Mitigation Needs Assessments Frequently Asked Questions

What is the advance mitigation planning process?

The advance mitigation planning process is critical to achieving the goal of performing landscape-scale mitigation. Through advance mitigation planning, estimated impacts from multiple transportation projects are consolidated into a single, large mitigation project likely to maximize environmental benefits and accelerate transportation project delivery by ensuring the availability of sufficient and appropriate mitigation. [See five-step process below.]



What information is presented in the RAMNA?

The RAMNA presents information that resource agencies are likely to both consult and apply during their permitting actions and Caltrans districts will consult when scoping and justifying advance mitigation investments/projects.

How will Caltrans use the information in the RAMNA?

Caltrans Districts will consult the RAMNA when they justify and scope advance mitigation investments/projects when seeking funding approval and when delivering advance mitigation projects.

For the RAMNA's purposes, what are conservation goals and objectives?

For the RAMNA's purposes, conservation goals and objectives are a broad set of regional natural resource sustainability goals and objectives that are consistent with both regulatory requirements and conservation science.

How are the RAMNA and the SAMNA related?

The SAMNA's estimates of the state's compensatory mitigation needs are used to identify GAs in the Caltrans' Districts, which determines which RAMNAs will be written. In addition to SAMNA results, the SAMNA's analysis and data layers provide a starting point for the RAMNA. The RAMNA's vegetation, wetland, and water information, for



example, is extracted from the SAMNA's layers. Assumptions and choices are consistent between the SAMNA and the RAMNA.

How does Caltrans determine the planning area or “GAI” for the RAMNA?

GAIs are located where SAMNA results indicate that investing program funds to implement landscape-scale mitigation in the area is likely to maximize SHOPP- and STIP-funded transportation project acceleration in the region while maximizing environmental benefits. GAIs are established at watershed or ecoregion scales to assist with appropriate planning areas for mitigation implementation and anticipated use areas that align with resource agency practices.

How are RAMNAs and Regional Conservation Investment Strategies (“RCIS”) related?

To the maximum extent practicable, the information required for an RCIS is presented in the RAMNA. However, it is during CDFW's review of an RCIS, when CDFW determines whether or not information presented in the RCIS is consistent with FGC § 1852(c)(8).

What does Caltrans hope to gain through the public review process?

The RAMNA will support Caltrans' decision-making. Hence, Caltrans hopes that interested parties will see where Caltrans' advance mitigation planning would benefit from information that is not presented in the RAMNA and provide it to Caltrans. For example, information that is not yet readily available, such as letting Caltrans know if there are new mitigation or conservation banks under development for the GAI. Further, Caltrans hopes that interested parties will seek to learn more about transportation project permitting and the regulatory pathways for establishing mitigation credits.

What does Caltrans hope to gain through the natural resource agency review process?

Caltrans believes that communicating with resource agencies during advance mitigation planning will improve the chances that advance mitigation projects undertaken by Caltrans will align with regional conservation goals and objectives and improve the chances that the resultant advance compensatory mitigation will be considered adequate and/or suitable by an agency for a specific future transportation project's impact. To facilitate this communication, Caltrans and the resource agencies have signed a master agreement on the advance mitigation process, including the expectations and interactions needed to move the RAMNA forward.