



**Metro**

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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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July 20, 2017

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**THROUGH:** PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON *PAW*  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**FROM:** RICHARD CLARKE *RF Clarke*  
CHIEF PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICER

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CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

**SUBJECT:** REGIONAL ADVANCED MITIGATION PROGRAM  
UPDATE

### ISSUE

On January 19, 2017 at the Executive Management Committee, Director Kuehl introduced a motion for Metro to consider a Regional Advance Mitigation Program (RAMP). The motion directed staff to meet with environmental stakeholders and representatives of regional and state agencies to discuss the interest in a multijurisdictional RAMP approach, convene a working group to develop an early screening process, and prepare a report back to the Board within 120 days on the preliminary results. This report serves as the requested report back on staff progress.

### BACKGROUND

With the passage of Measure M, Metro has begun to strategize efficient and cost effective methods to deliver projects on time and on budget, and look beyond traditional methods of planning, permitting, design, and construction. Metro's proposed future and expanded pipeline of highway, transit and active transportation capital projects include infrastructure to be developed over an extended period of time. These projects may potentially have an impact on plant and wildlife species, protected habitat, or other biological systems. Rather than mitigate these impacts through a traditional project-by-project approach, the Board has directed Metro to consider mitigation mechanisms that integrate

Metro's long-term capital plans with the needs of conservation at the County and/or regional level.

Staff has since completed the following related efforts:

1. Organized a RAMP internal working group within Metro facilitated by the Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Department to also include representatives from Metro's Planning, Highways, Regional Rail, Real Estate groups;
2. Engaged in a workshop at LA Metro Headquarters on April 4, 2017 with consultants who have been involved in a number of RAMP and Regional Conservation Investment Strategies (RCIS) projects. Staff learned in this workshop the difference between RAMP and RCIS projects as well as the applicability of these and similar strategies to Metro's projects. One of the four RCIS's that are currently in pilot phase is the Antelope Valley RCIS all within LA County;
3. Commenced the following efforts:
  - a. Development of a RCIS/RAMP feasibility study and implementation plan. Feasibility study to include the:
    - i. Identification of key stakeholder agencies and the appropriate representatives from such agencies.
    - ii. Identification of LA Metro's current and future mitigation needs.
    - iii. Inventory of Metro owned parcels/assets as well as the identified stakeholder's assets/parcels.
  - b. Development of an early screening process for biological evaluations to be applied to the review of projects scheduled for planning and/or construction over the next thirty years.
  - c. Development of a framework and approach to identifying high value conservation lands, water resources, wildlife corridors, and other resources requiring mitigation in the natural environment.
4. Staff had incorporated a discussion on the RAMP/RCIS as an agenda item in the Metro Sustainability Council meeting for June 9<sup>th</sup>. The discussion led to a consideration of expanding the working group membership to Sustainability Council members who may be interested in participating in the RAMP discussion.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will be reaching out to other agencies within our region, continue meeting with environmental stakeholders and representatives of regional and state agencies primarily through the Sustainability Council. Additional opportunities will be organized.

Staff will periodically report back on the progress of this program, but no less than annually.