

# Renewable Energy in California:

Implementing the Governors Renewable  
Energy Executive Order

## *Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan*

DRECP UPDATE

September 16, 2009

RETI Stakeholder Steering Committee

Sacramento, California



California Energy Commission



Department of Fish and Game



Fish and Wildlife Service



Bureau of Land Management

## **Renewable Energy in California:** *Implementing the Governors Renewable Energy Executive Order*

The Executive Order is intended to provide a more predictable and streamlined regulatory compliance framework while completing a conservation plan that will balance renewable energy development with natural resource conservation

Establish and operate REAT

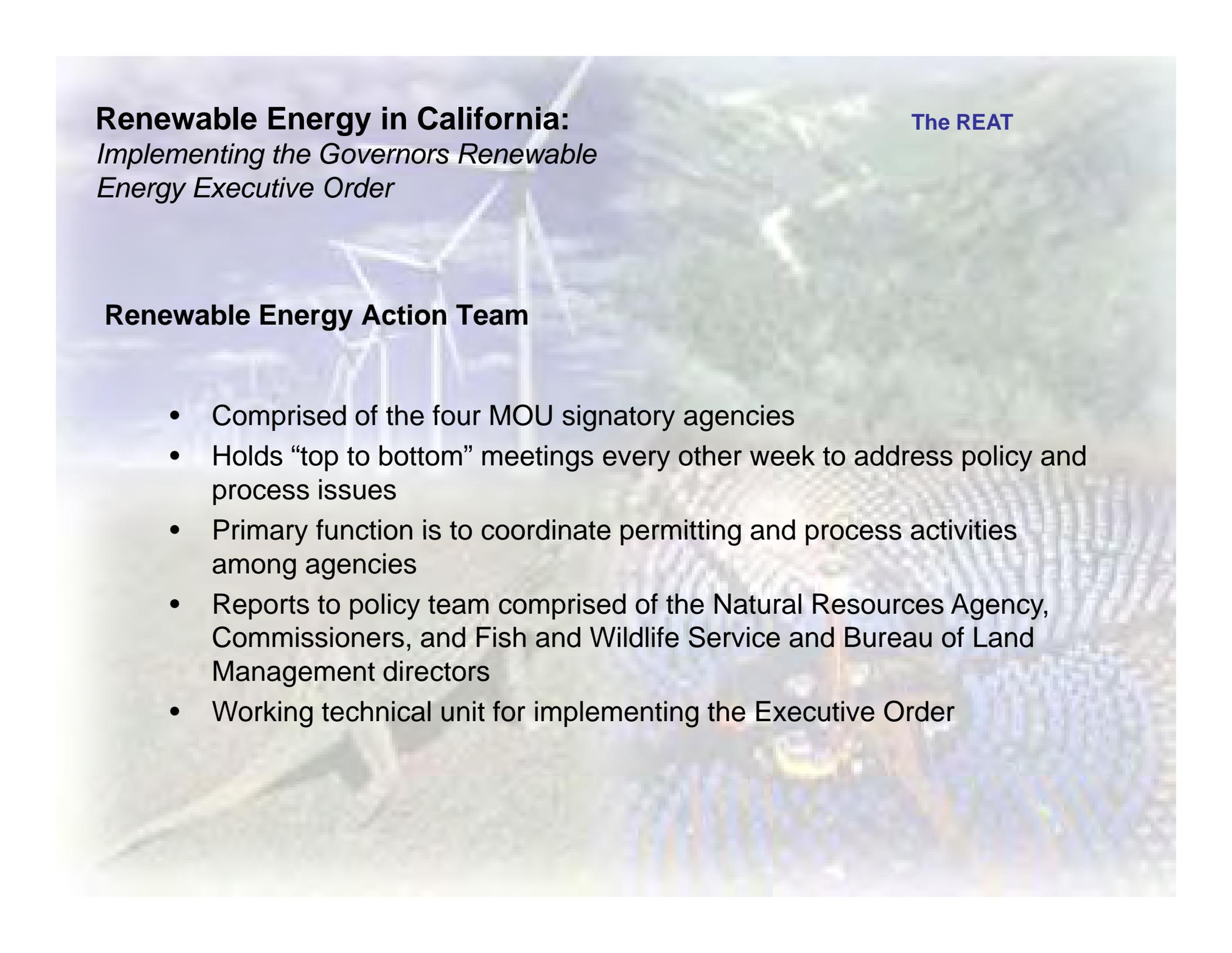


Create tools and collect and interpret data



Develop Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan





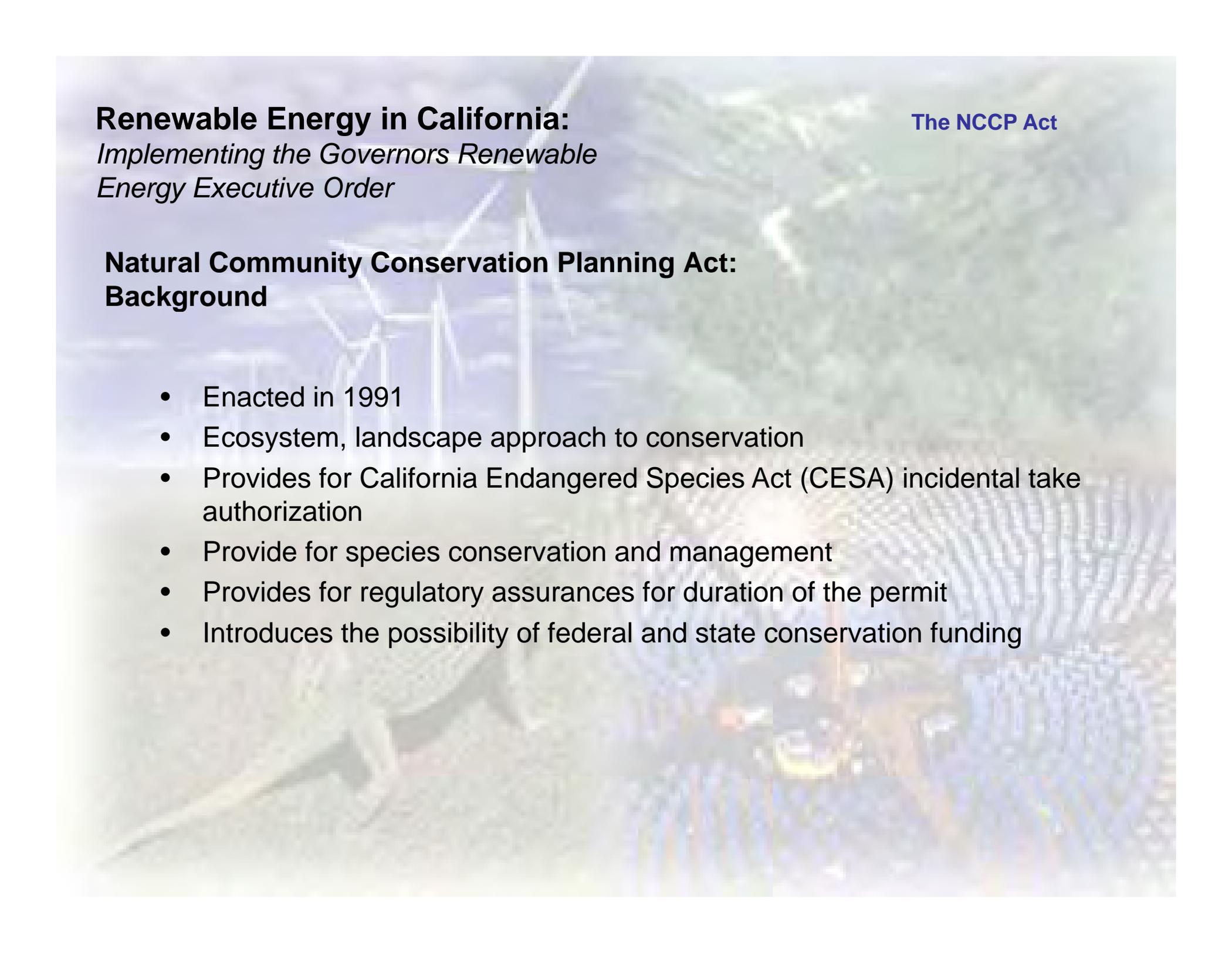
## **Renewable Energy in California:**

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The REAT

### **Renewable Energy Action Team**

- Comprised of the four MOU signatory agencies
- Holds “top to bottom” meetings every other week to address policy and process issues
- Primary function is to coordinate permitting and process activities among agencies
- Reports to policy team comprised of the Natural Resources Agency, Commissioners, and Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management directors
- Working technical unit for implementing the Executive Order

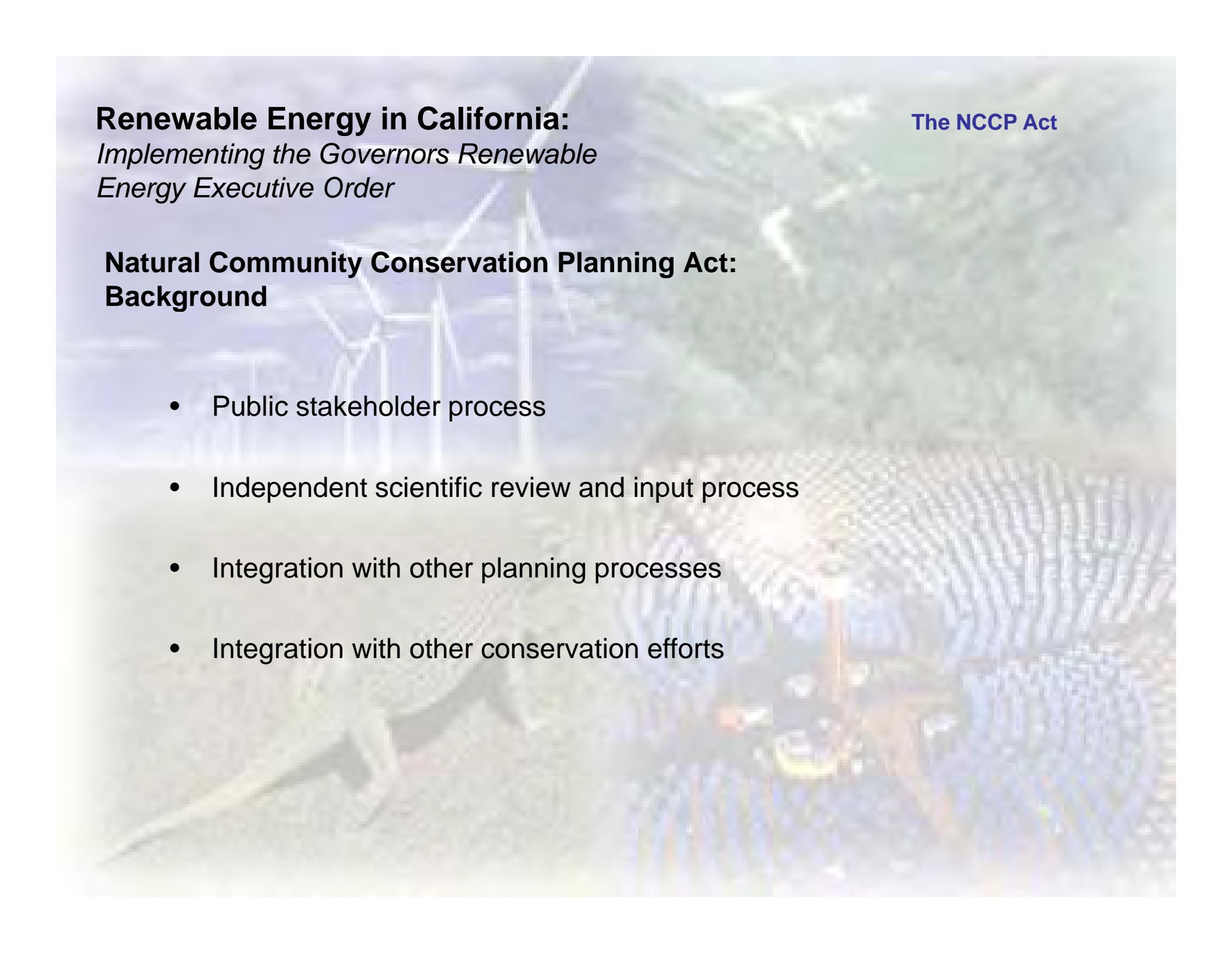


**Renewable Energy in California:**  
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The NCCP Act

**Natural Community Conservation Planning Act:  
Background**

- Enacted in 1991
- Ecosystem, landscape approach to conservation
- Provides for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) incidental take authorization
- Provide for species conservation and management
- Provides for regulatory assurances for duration of the permit
- Introduces the possibility of federal and state conservation funding

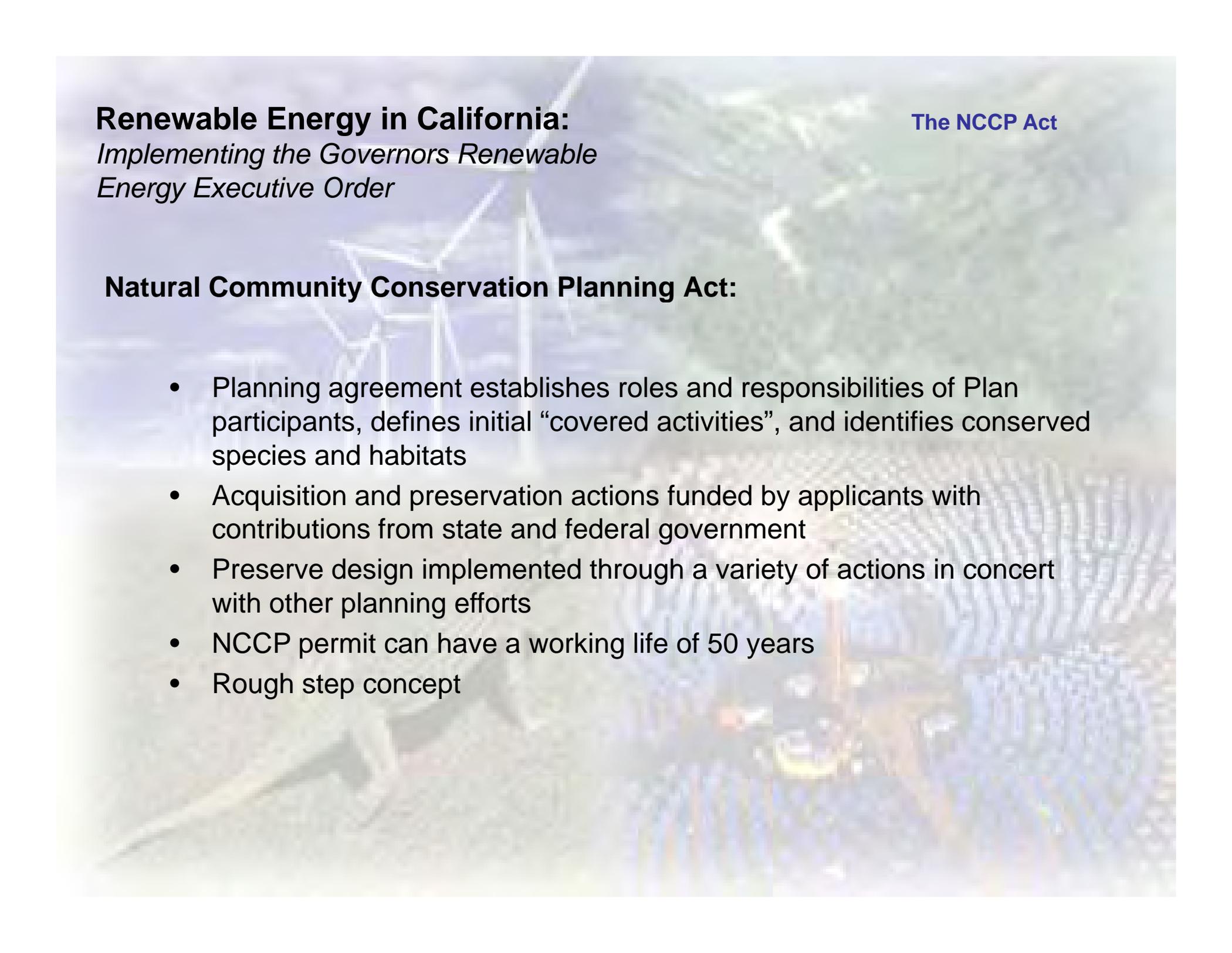


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The NCCP Act

**Natural Community Conservation Planning Act:  
Background**

- Public stakeholder process
- Independent scientific review and input process
- Integration with other planning processes
- Integration with other conservation efforts



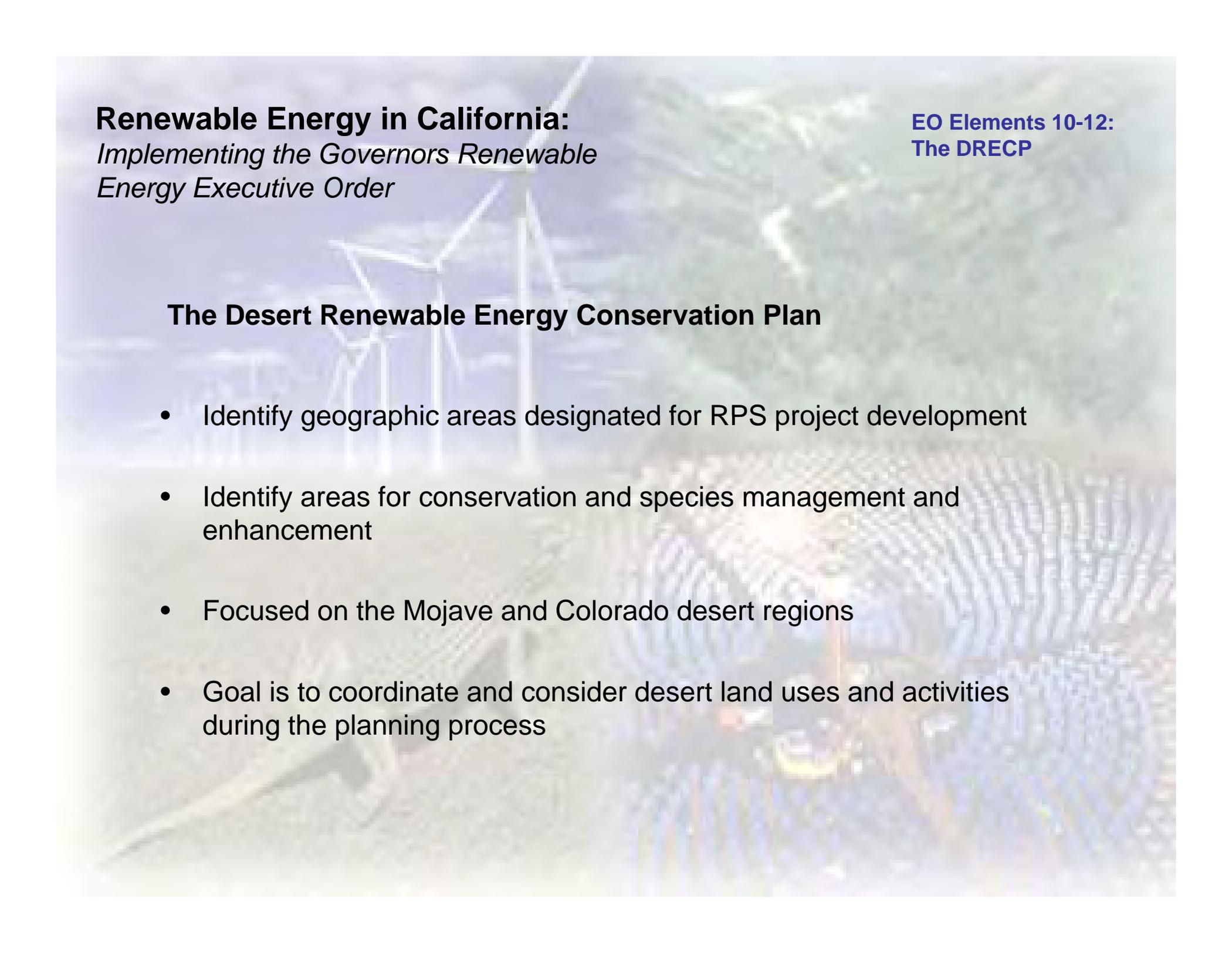
## **Renewable Energy in California:**

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The NCCP Act

### **Natural Community Conservation Planning Act:**

- Planning agreement establishes roles and responsibilities of Plan participants, defines initial “covered activities”, and identifies conserved species and habitats
- Acquisition and preservation actions funded by applicants with contributions from state and federal government
- Preserve design implemented through a variety of actions in concert with other planning efforts
- NCCP permit can have a working life of 50 years
- Rough step concept



**Renewable Energy in California:**  
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EO Elements 10-12:  
The DRECP

**The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan**

- Identify geographic areas designated for RPS project development
- Identify areas for conservation and species management and enhancement
- Focused on the Mojave and Colorado desert regions
- Goal is to coordinate and consider desert land uses and activities during the planning process



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**The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan:  
Planning Agreement**

- Identify Planning Area – Geographic Scope
- Identify Ecosystems, Natural Communities, Preliminary Covered Species List
- Identify Covered Activities – RPS Energy Projects, Transmission
- Identify Independent Science Process
- Identify Public Participation Process
- Identify Interim Project Siting and Permitting Processes
- Identify Joint Agency Planning Processes

# Renewable Energy in California:

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EO Elements 10-12:  
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## The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

- Includes the Mojave and Colorado Desert ecoregions
- Parts of six counties
- Focus is on Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) projects



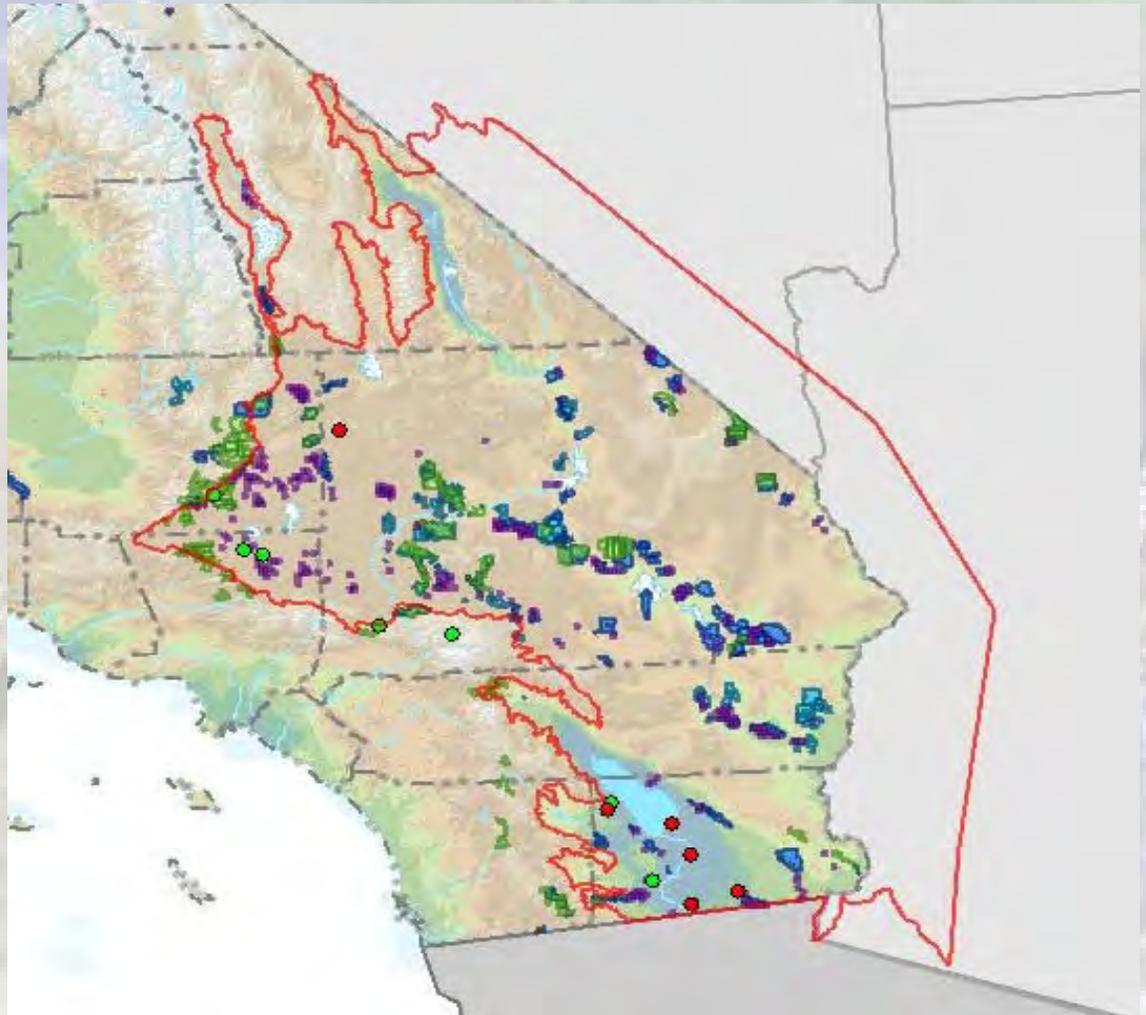
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## The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

- Designed to incorporate existing and potential project areas
- Specific covered activities (RPS projects) drive permit coverage
- RETI results will modify and help direct covered activity area design



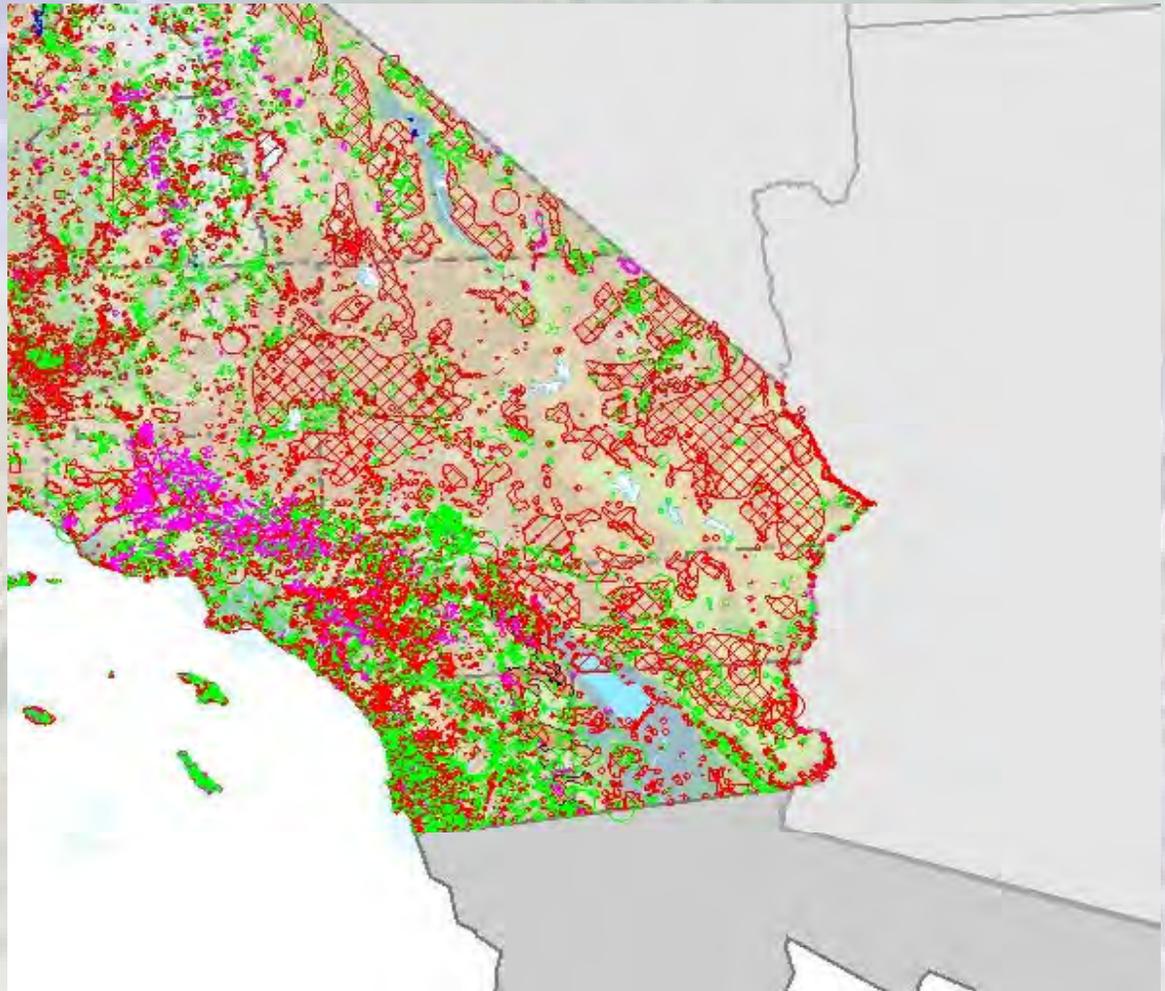
# Renewable Energy in California:

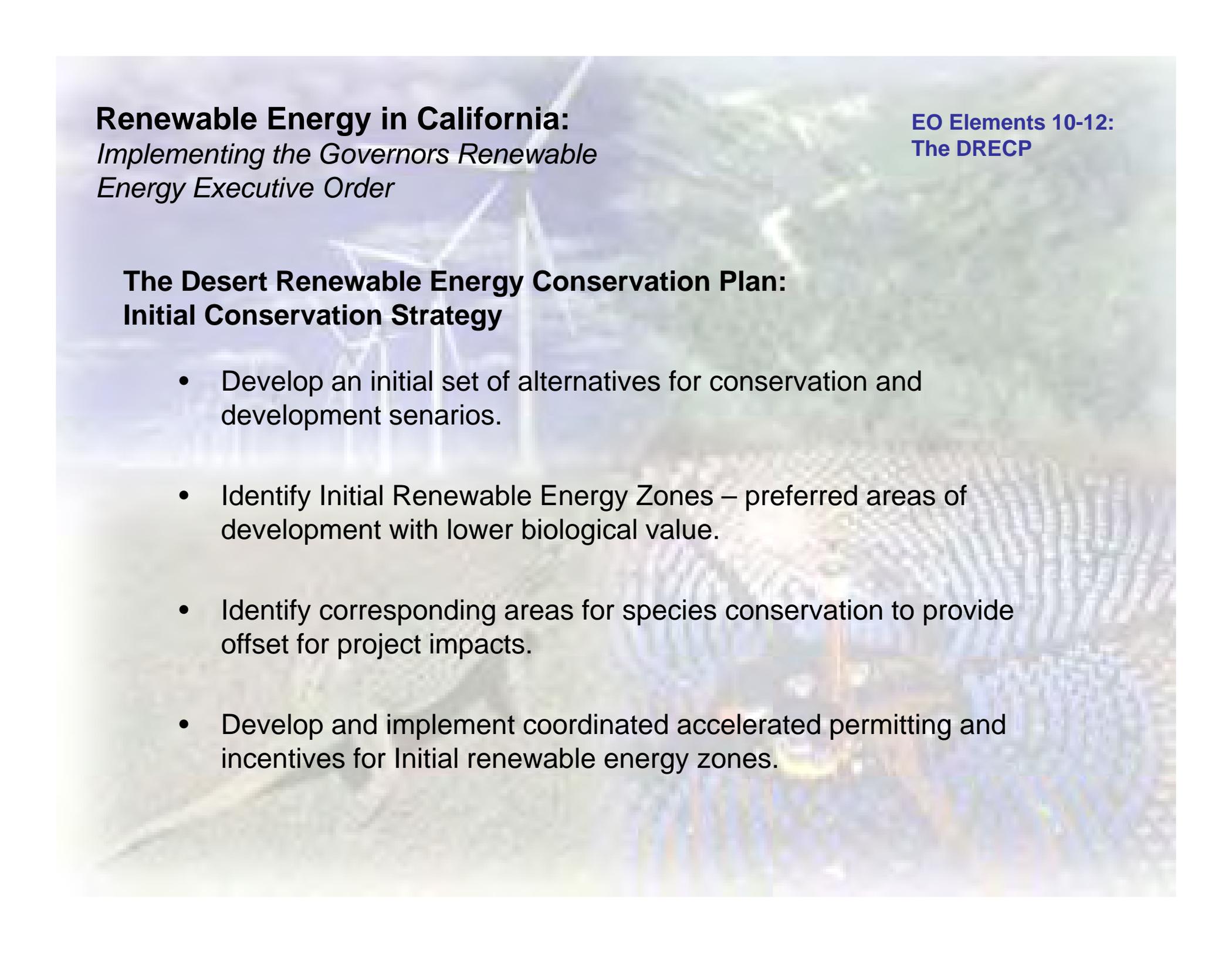
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## The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

- Incorporates best existing biological data
- Conservation area designation will consider many factors
- Data quality, extent, and availability will be key!



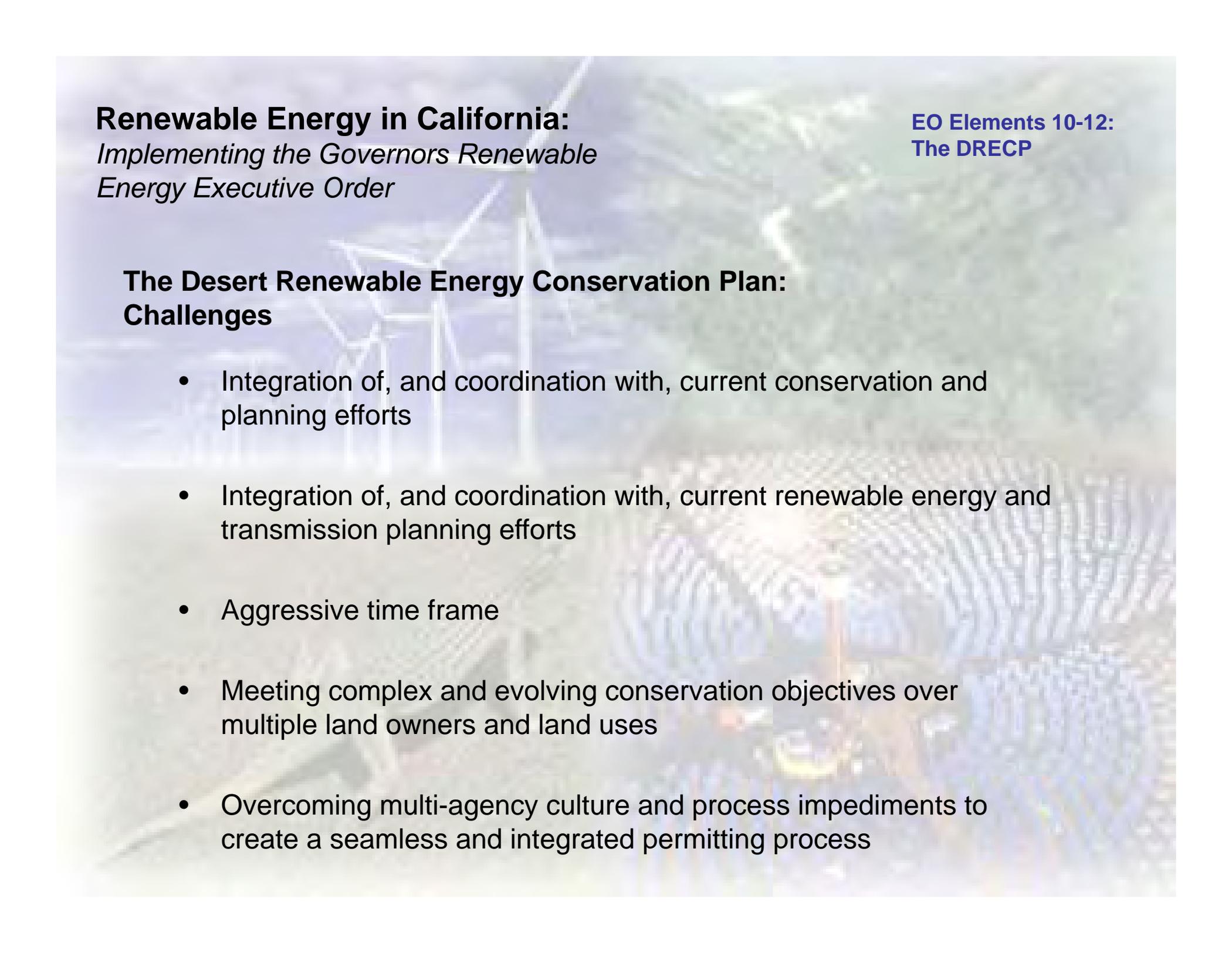


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**The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan:  
Initial Conservation Strategy**

- Develop an initial set of alternatives for conservation and development scenarios.
- Identify Initial Renewable Energy Zones – preferred areas of development with lower biological value.
- Identify corresponding areas for species conservation to provide offset for project impacts.
- Develop and implement coordinated accelerated permitting and incentives for Initial renewable energy zones.



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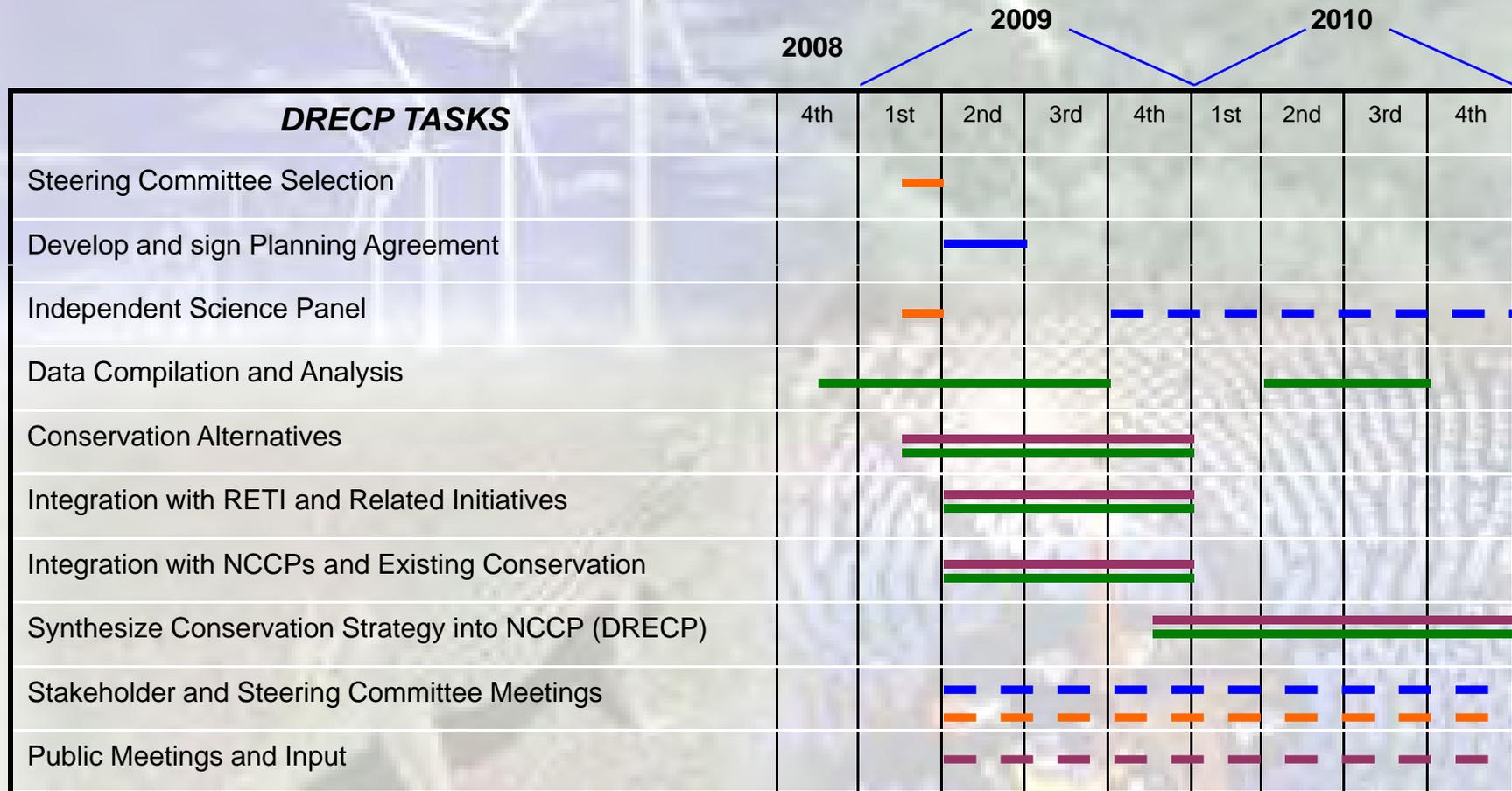
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### **The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan: Challenges**

- Integration of, and coordination with, current conservation and planning efforts
- Integration of, and coordination with, current renewable energy and transmission planning efforts
- Aggressive time frame
- Meeting complex and evolving conservation objectives over multiple land owners and land uses
- Overcoming multi-agency culture and process impediments to create a seamless and integrated permitting process

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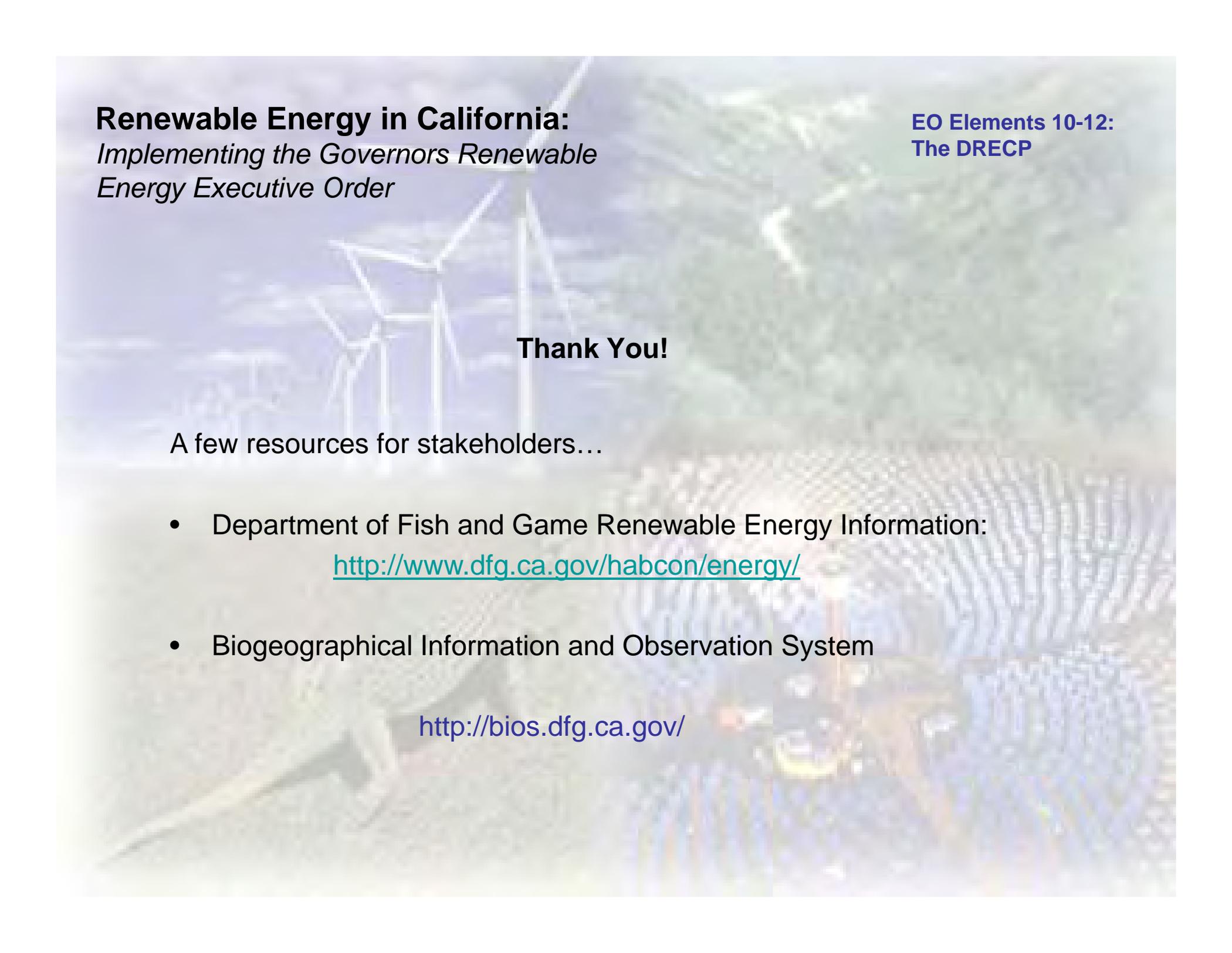


REAT

Resources Agency/CEC

Steering Committee

DRECP



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**Thank You!**

A few resources for stakeholders...

- Department of Fish and Game Renewable Energy Information:  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/energy/>
- Biogeographical Information and Observation System

<http://bios.dfg.ca.gov/>