

Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan/ Natural Community Conservation Plan

Overview of HCP/NCCP Process

Pajaro Watershed Council
September 15, 2006

Ken Schreiber, Program Manager



SANTA CLARA VALLEY HCP/NCCP PARTNERSHIP



 Jones & Stokes

Overview Outline

- ◆ What is an HCP and NCCP?
- ◆ HCP/NCCP Origins
- ◆ Study Area
- ◆ What the Plan will do
- ◆ Benefits to Santa Clara County
- ◆ Process and Schedule
- ◆ Covered Species

What is an HCP/NCCCP?

- ◆ Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan
- ◆ Federal/State mechanism to resolve conflicts between threatened and endangered species and development
- ◆ Plan to conserve species and habitats in exchange for permits to “take” threatened or endangered species
- ◆ What is “take”?
 - Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), “take” is defined as “an action or attempt to hunt, harm, harass, pursue, shoot, wound, capture, kill, trap, or collect a species.”

Santa Clara Valley HCP/NCCP Origins

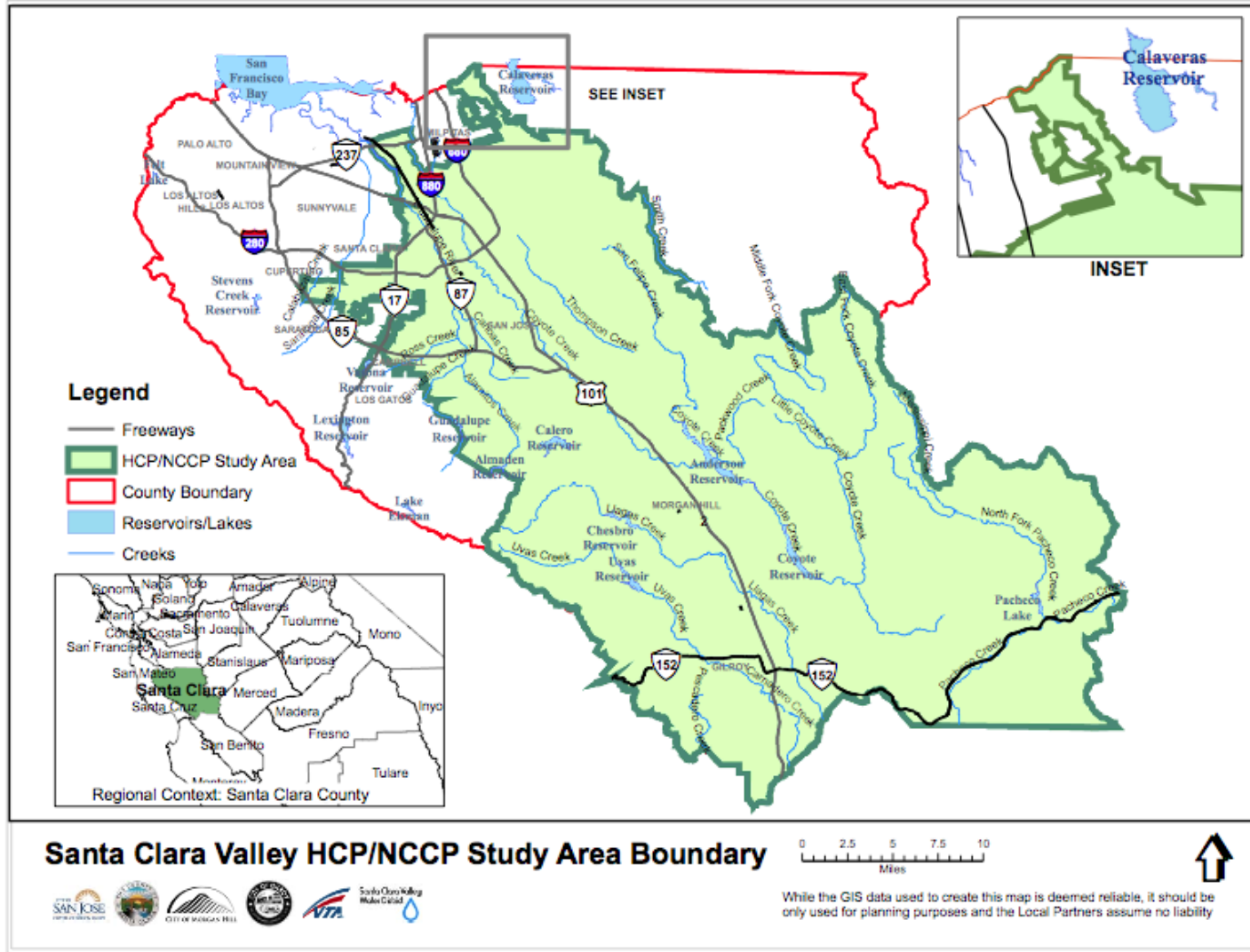
- ◆ USFWS Sect. 7 Biological Opinion (2001) requires regional HCP as condition of approval for
 - Highway 101 widening (San Jose to Morgan Hill)
 - Bailey Avenue interchange
 - Highway 85/101 interchange
 - Coyote Valley Research Park
- ◆ Original Local Partners bound by MOU (June 2004)
 - Santa Clara County
 - City of San Jose
 - Santa Clara Valley Water District
 - Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
- ◆ New Partners added in 2005
 - City of Gilroy
 - City of Morgan Hill
- ◆ NCCP Planning Agreement signed by all October 2005



Study Area

- ◆ SCV HCP/NCCP Boundary based on
 - Watershed boundaries (Coyote, Uvas/Llagas/Pacheco)
 - Serpentine and Bay checkerspot butterfly habitat
 - Jurisdictional boundaries (San Jose, County)
 - Land use boundaries (County Parks)
- ◆ 520,000 acres

Study Area



What the HCP/NCCP Will Do

- ◆ **Provide permits** from USFWS, NMFS, and CDFG for “take” of listed species to Local Partners
- ◆ **Streamline projects.** Local Partner jurisdictions will extend this take authorization to applicants who meet requirements of HCP/NCCP
- ◆ **Improve mitigation.** Provide large-scale habitat and species conservation in areas of high biological value—avoid project-by-project approach
- ◆ **Provide new money.** Attract new sources of state and federal funding for conservation in Santa Clara County

Benefits to Santa Clara County

- ◆ Project proponents have streamlined permitting process
- ◆ Local control over endangered species permit
- ◆ Creates more open space opportunities within the county
- ◆ Help implement County General Plan
- ◆ Protects watersheds

The HCP/NCCP Process & Schedule

1. Establish Decision Making Structure (Done)
2. Collect and analyze data; develop and evaluate alternative conservation strategies including costing and funding analysis; prepare monitoring and adaptive management plan (2005-07)
3. Public Draft *HCP/NCCP, EIR/EIS, Permit Application* (2008)
4. Obtain Permits (2009)
5. HCP/NCCP Implementation (Post-permit)

HCP/NCCP Schedule and Phases

Phase	Major Deliverables	Schedule
Phase 1: Baseline Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Covered species and activities◆ Land cover and land use maps◆ Existing conditions in study area	July 2005 - June 2006 (1 year)
Phase 2: Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 3 preliminary draft alternatives for conservation strategy◆ Draft selected conservation strategy	July 2006 – Aug. 2007 (14 months)
Phase 3: Draft Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 1st Administrative Draft HCP/NCCP◆ 2nd Administrative Draft HCP/NCCP◆ Public Draft HCP/NCCP	Sept. 2007 – Aug. 2008 (1 year)
Phase 4: Permit Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Final HCP/NCCP and Permits◆ Assistance with IA and Permitting	Sept. 2008 to Jan. 2009 (5 months)

Covered Species

Currently recommend 35 species be covered by Plan:
18 wildlife species



Townsend's big-eared bat



Western pond turtle



San Joaquin kit fox



Golden eagle



Steelhead trout



Tricolored blackbird



California red-legged frog



California tiger salamander



Bay checkerspot butterfly



Western burrowing owl

Covered Species

17 plant species

Most beautiful
jewelflower

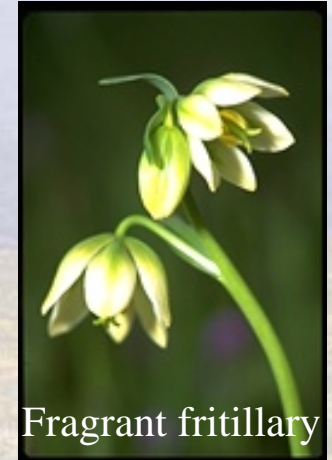


Santa Clara Valley dudleya



Smooth lessingia

© 2003 Dean Wm. Taylor



Fragrant fritillary

© 1999 California Academy of Sciences



Coyote ceanothus

© 2005 Janell Hillman



Mt. Hamilton thistle



Hall's bush mallow

© 2005 David A. Tharp



Chaparral harebell

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Community Meeting – Sept 28th

- ◆ Learn more about the HCP/NCCP
- ◆ Comment on key habitat conservation planning issues such as study area, permit term, covered species and covered activities

Thursday, September 28

Isaac Newton Auditorium, First Floor
County of Santa Clara Government Center
70 W. Hedding, San Jose
6:30pm Open House
7:00pm – 9:00pm Presentation and Q&A

Questions & Answers

Contact Information

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