

SANTA CLARA VALLEY
Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan

**Santa Clara Valley
Habitat Conservation Plan /
Natural Community Conservation Plan**



COMMUNITY MEETING
September 28, 2006
Isaac Newton Senter Auditorium
70 W. Hedding, San Jose

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Meeting Format

6:30 – 7:00 pm Open House

7:00 – 8:30 pm Presentation – Project Overview

**8:30 – 9:00 pm Additional Comment and
Question & Answer Session**



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Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions**
- Meeting Objectives**
- HCP/NCCP Overview**
- Project Team & Study Area**
- Covered Species & Habitat Models**
- Covered Activities**
- Permit Term**
- Next Steps**
- Additional Comment w/ Q&A**



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Meeting Objectives

- Explain HCPs/NCCPs in general
- Explain the Santa Clara Valley HCP/NCCP
- Review the Planning Process
- Q&A with technical staff
- Receive input and comments
- Discuss next steps




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Project Overview

HCP/NCCP Overview

- What is a HCP and NCCP?
- HCP/NCCP Benefits
- HCP/NCCP Origins
- Required Elements - HCP/NCCP Contents
- What the Plan Will & Won't Do
- Phases and Schedule
- Question and Answer (Q&A)



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What is an HCP/NCCP?

- Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan
- Federal/State mechanism to resolve conflict between protected species and development
- Plan to conserve species and habitats in exchange for permits to “take” protected species
- What is “take”?
 - Under 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.”

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HCP/NCCP Benefits

An HCP/NCCP is a Partnership:

- **To protect quality of life in the community (watersheds, recreation, water quality, etc.)**
- **To protect listed and rare species and their habitats**
 - Long-term, ecosystem scale conservation better for species than piecemeal mitigations
- **To provide regulatory certainty and cost savings**
 - As opposed to project-by-project approach

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SCV HCP/NCCP Origins


US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) required regional HCP to approve various projects:

- Highway 101 widening (San Jose to Morgan Hill)
- Bailey Avenue Interchange
- Highway 85/101 Interchange
- Coyote Valley Research Park

Local Partners signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in June 2004

- County of Santa Clara
- City of San Jose
- Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)
- City of Gilroy and Morgan Hill (2005)


Planning Agreement signed October 2005

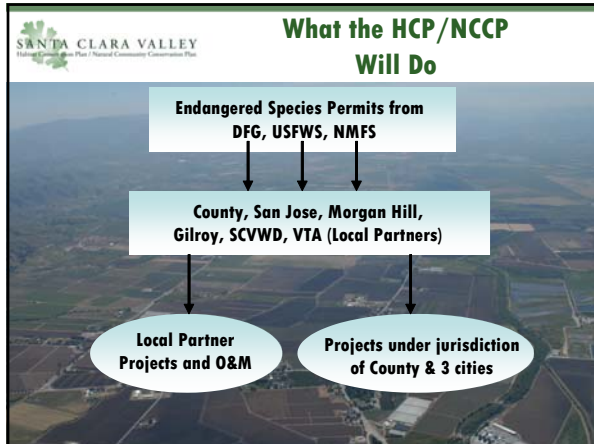



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What the HCP/NCCP Will Do

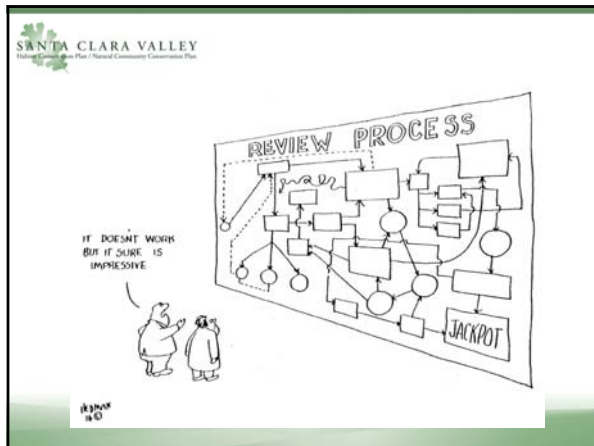
- **Enhance and expand conservation lands and open space in the County**
- **Provide permits to local agencies from**
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
 - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
 - CA Dept. of Fish & Game (DFG)
- **Streamline projects**
- **Attract new state and federal money for local conservation**

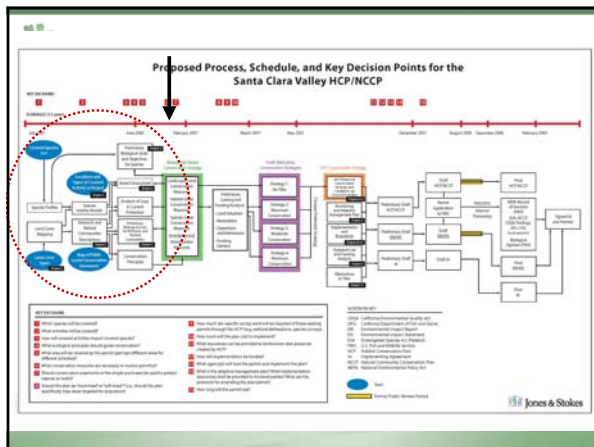


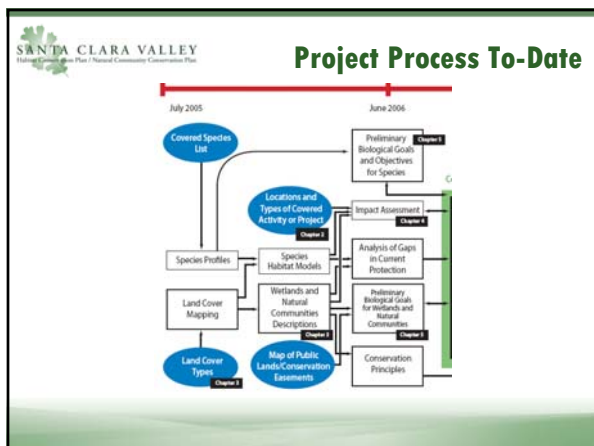


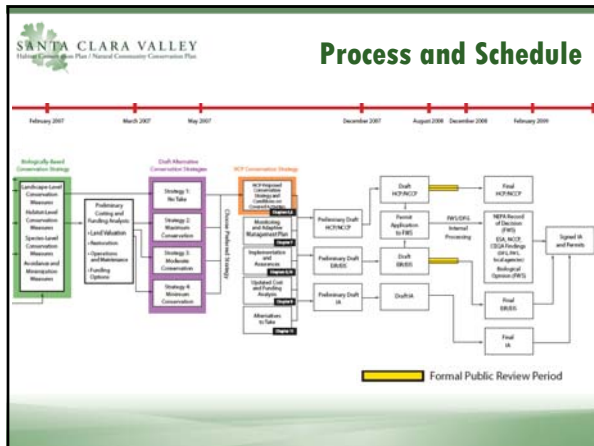
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- ### What the HCP/NCCP Will Not Do
- Address all endangered species needs in the County
 - Eliminate all other permitting requirements.
 - Projects must still comply with CA Environmental Quality Act, other local, state, and federal laws
 - Solve all environmental conflicts in Santa Clara county
 - Water quality
 - Viewsheds
 - Riparian setbacks
- 

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- ### HCP/NCCP Contents
- Scope – Geographic coverage
 - Permit duration
 - Covered activities
 - Covered species / Natural communities
 - Species/biological goals
 - Impacts on covered species
 - Conservation strategy
 - Monitoring and adaptive management
 - Cost and funding
 - Alternatives to take
 - Assurances requested
 - Amendment process
- 

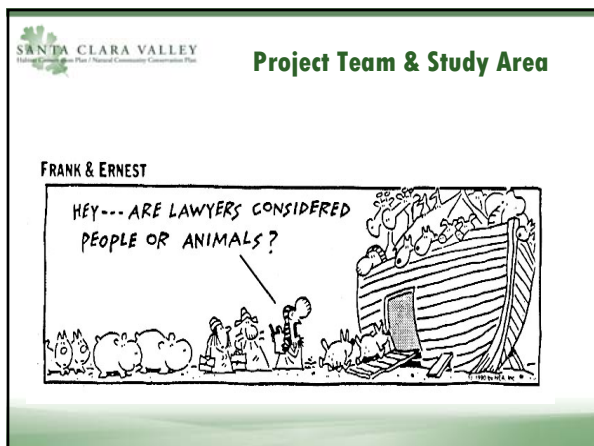












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Project Team

6 Local Partners

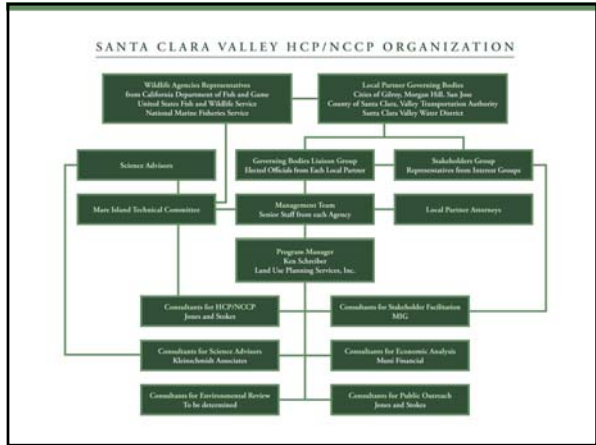
- County, Cities of San Jose, Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)
- Elected Officials, Management/Technical Staff

3 Wildlife Agencies

- USFWS, NMFS and CDFG

Consultant Team

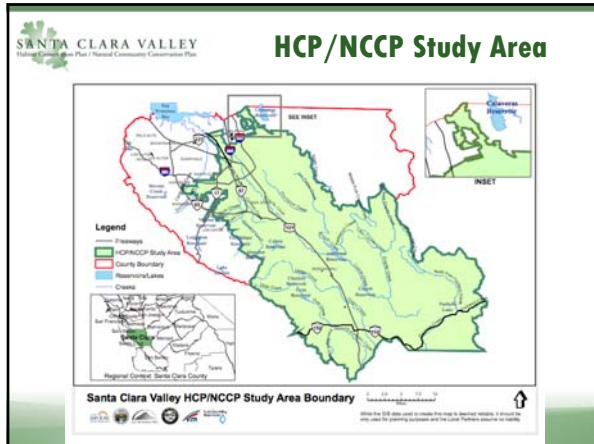
- Project Management, Technical, Science Advisors, Environmental Review, Stakeholder Facilitation, Outreach, and Economics Analysis



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Study Area

- **SCV HCP/NCCP boundaries based on:**
 - Watershed Boundaries (Coyote, Llagas/Uvas/Pajaro)
 - Habitat Areas
 - Jurisdictional boundaries
 - Land use boundaries
- **Approximately 520,000 acres**





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Covered Species

- Covered Species research and criteria
- Habitat Models
- Q&A

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Covered Species

- **Covered Species** = species on the final permits and for which “take” is authorized
- 147 rare species evaluated
- 35 recommended as Covered Species: listed on final permits
- No Take Species – Impacts on 8 extremely vulnerable species will not be authorized/permited
- Additional species may be included in analysis
- Will evaluate benefits of Plan to many other species

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Covered Species

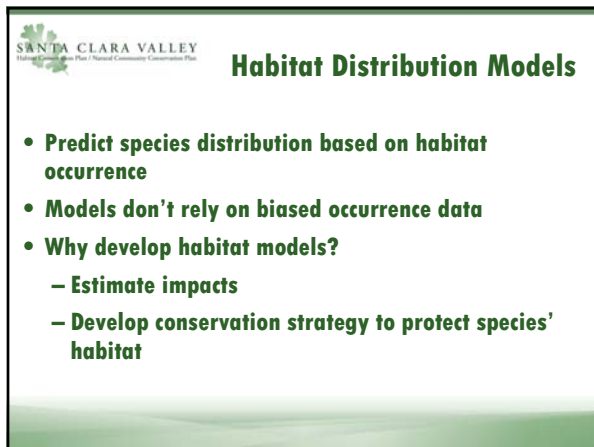
- **Criteria for Covered Species**
 - **Occurrence:** Does species occur, or is it expected to occur in study area?
 - **Legal Status:** Is species currently or expected to be listed?
 - **Impact:** Will species likely be affected by covered activities?
 - **Data:** Is data sufficient to determine impacts and conservation measures?

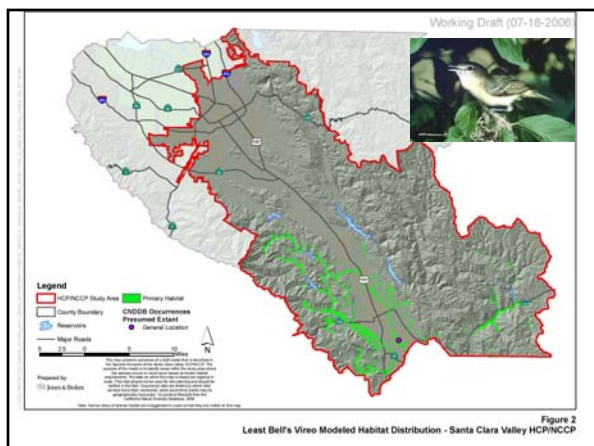
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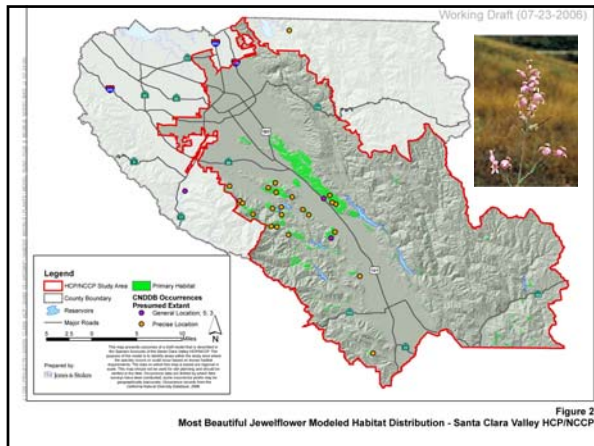
Covered Species

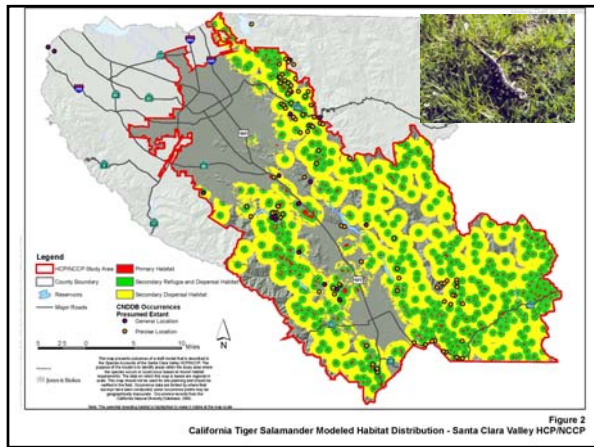
Proposing 35 species be covered by Plan:
 20 wildlife species

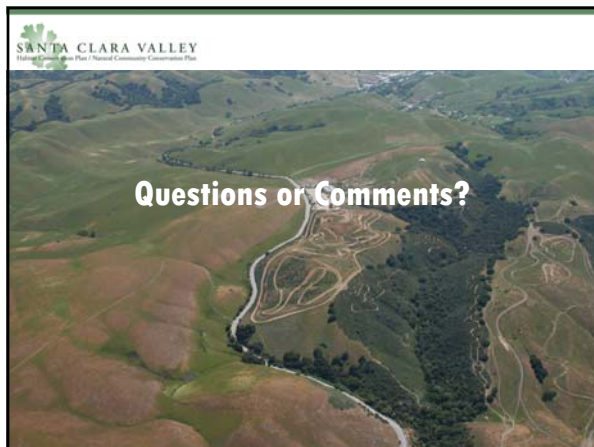












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Covered Activities

- **Criteria for Covered Activities**
- **Recommended Activities**
- **Q&A**

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Covered Activities

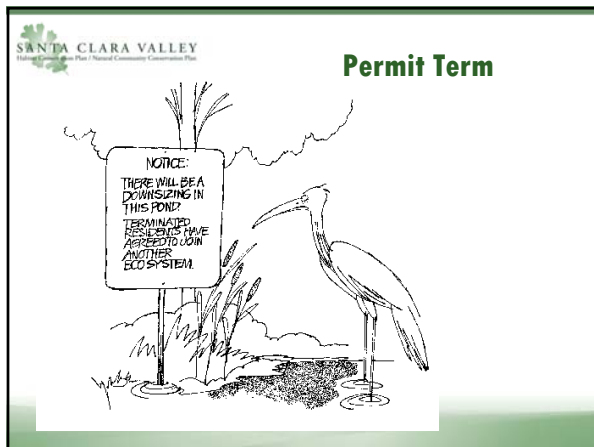
- **Criteria for Covered Activities/Projects**
 - Within HCP/NCCP Study Area
 - Occur during HCP/NCCP Permit term
 - Activity needs “take” coverage
 - Impacts are well defined
 - Consistent with HCP/NCCP schedule

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Covered Activities

- **Includes activities and projects likely to occur during the Plan's permit term**
 - Urban Development
 - Activities within streams
 - Rural development and operation
 - Public infrastructure and maintenance
 - Preserve land (acquisition during Plan implementation)
- **All in accordance with approved land use plans**







- **Incidental take permits and covered projects/activities valid throughout permit term**
- **All land acquisition, habitat restoration, and mitigation must occur during permit term**
 - **Habitat management and monitoring continue beyond permit term**

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Permit Term

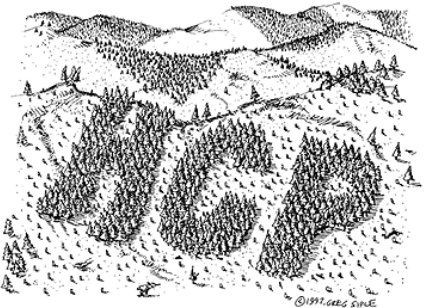
- **Considerations**
 - Local planning documents and time horizons
 - Time needed to fund and implement all covered activities and HCP/NCCP conservation strategy
- **Currently recommend a 50-year permit term**
 - Permit terms of large, regional HCP/NCCPs generally 30-50 yrs
- **Continuing analysis will help inform final decision**

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Questions or Comments?

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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 - August 2006 (1 year)
Phase 2: Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting alternatives for conservation strategy Draft selected conservation strategy 	Sept. 2006 – Aug. 2007 (1 year)
Phase 3: Draft Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIR/EIS Scoping Public Draft HCP/NCCP Public Draft EIR/EIS 	Sept. 2007 – Aug. 2008 (1 year)
Phase 4: Permit Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final HCP/NCCP and Permits Final EIR/EIS Assistance with IA and Permitting 	Sept. 2008 to Jan. 2009 (5 months)

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Benefits & Concerns

Interest group	Benefit	Concern
Development	Certainty of process, reduced permit costs, faster approval	May limit land use, new fees, long process
Landowner/Ag	Ag/ranchland preservation, new market for open space	May restrict land managemt, perception of more govt regs
Environmental	Large habitat preserves, controls urban sprawl, ongoing monitoring & adaptive management	Facilitates development, may be net loss of habitat
Local Agencies	Local control of ESA issues, streamline approval process for public projects and O&M, new funding sources	Long, staff intensive process, responsible for implementing plan
General Public	More open space, more recreational opportunities	Perception of new fee, high cost to develop and implement plan

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Public Input Opportunities

Meetings

- Monthly Stakeholder Meetings**
 - 4th Tuesday, Morgan Hill, 4:00pm- 6:30pm
- Bi-monthly Liaison Group**
 - 4th Thursday, San Jose (a.m. and p.m. – check calendar on web site)
- Community meetings over the next three years**
 - HCP/NCCP development, review, and approval
 - Public review of associated environmental documents
- Speakers Bureau – check calendar on web site**

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Public Input Opportunities

- Public hearings on Draft and Final HCP/NCCP and EIR/EIS
- Provide written or verbal comments at meetings, via web or to Program Manager
- Web Site: www.scv-habitatplan.org

For More Information:
Ken Schreiber, Program Manager
Ken.schreiber@pln.sccgov.org
 (408) 299-5789 phone

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Next Steps

- Provide feedback
- Visit web site
- Review draft documents
- Attend on-going meetings (Stakeholders, Liaison Group or Speakers Bureau)
- Newsletter
- Next Community Meeting Winter 2007- TBD
 Biological Goals
 Methods and results of impact analysis

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Contact Information

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