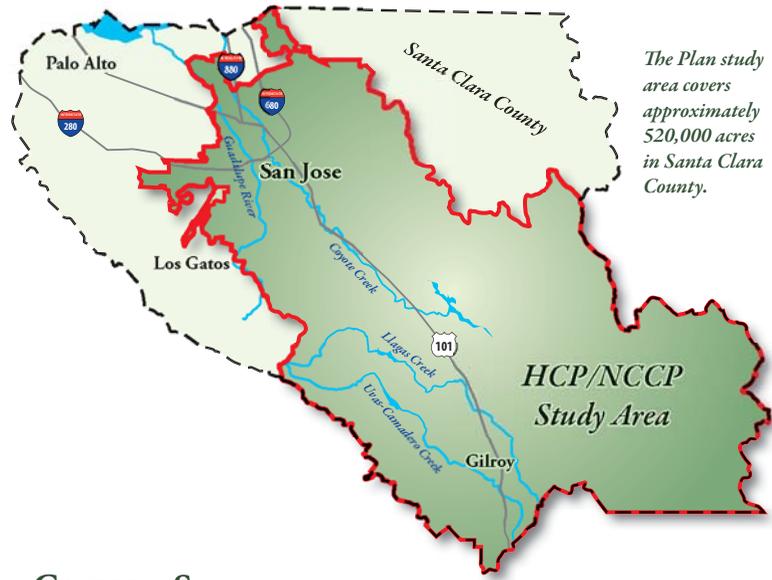


STUDY AREA



COVERED SPECIES

Amphibians and Reptiles

California Tiger Salamander
California Red-legged Frog
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog
Western Pond Turtle

Birds

Golden Eagle
Least Bell's Vireo
Tri-colored Blackbird
Western Burrowing Owl

Insects

Bay Checkerspot Butterfly

Mammals

San Joaquin Kit Fox
Townsend's Big-eared Bat

Plants

Coyote Ceanothus
Fragrant Fritillary
Loma Prieta Hoita
Metcalf Canyon Jewelflower
Most Beautiful Jewelflower
Mt. Hamilton Thistle
San Francisco Collinsia
Santa Clara Valley Dudleya
Smooth Lessingia
Tiburon Indian Paintbrush

GLOSSARY

Biological Goals - Guiding principles for conservation within the study area, biological goals are based on the conservation needs of the covered species and natural communities. Descriptive, broad statements of desired future conditions, biological goals are typically qualitative rather than quantitative – they convey a purpose, but do not define measurable results.

Biological Objectives - Quantitative, measurable targets, derived from biological goals, biological objectives are concise statements of what and how much should be achieved, when and where it will be achieved, and who is responsible. Biological objectives are measured to evaluate the Plan's success.

Conservation Actions - Specific activities to achieve the biological goals and objectives, conservation actions make up the conservation strategy.

Conservation Strategy - A comprehensive set of conservation actions, a conservation strategy is designed to achieve all biological goals and objectives.

EIR/EIS – Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement describing the environmental effects of the Habitat Plan.

Endangered – Species at risk of becoming extinct.

Incidental Take Permit - Permits allowing the “take” of endangered species incidental to an otherwise lawful activity (such as building a road or constructing a development).

Reserve System – A compilation of discrete areas of conserved habitats managed collectively under the habitat plan.

Take – Defined in the Federal or State Endangered Species Acts as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, or collect a species.

Threatened – Species at risk of becoming endangered in the foreseeable future.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY

H A B I T A T P L A N

...A Conservation Legacy

*Planning for land use and habitat protection
in the Santa Clara Valley*

**Building a common vision – Balancing projected
development with the natural environment**



County of Santa Clara · City of San José · City of Gilroy · City of Morgan Hill
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority · Santa Clara Valley Water District
California Department of Fish and Game · U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

November 2010

www.scv-habitatplan.org

PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES WHILE PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



To promote the recovery of endangered species while accommodating planned development, infrastructure, and maintenance activities, the County of Santa Clara, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and San Jose (Local Partners) are preparing a joint Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). The Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan (Plan) is being developed in association with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game in consultation with stakeholder groups and the general public to protect and enhance ecological diversity and function within more than 500,000 acres of Santa Clara County. The final Plan will provide a framework for the Local Partners and landowners to complete projects while protecting at-risk species and their essential habitats, some of which only occur in Santa Clara County.

THE CASE FOR HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANNING

The current process of obtaining development permits and mitigating for habitat loss on a project-by-project basis is inefficient and often ineffective. Before a land-disturbing project may proceed, project applicants (such as a public agency or private landowner) may need to pursue endangered species permits from many regulatory agencies – a lengthy and costly process frequently resulting in fragmented, piecemeal habitat areas. Long-term habitat-conservation planning provides a more efficient mechanism for protecting the environment while streamlining the permitting process.

Rather than separately permitting and mitigating the endangered species impacts of individual projects, the Plan will look at natural-resource impacts and mitigation requirements comprehensively. Instead of applying for permits through several regulatory wildlife agencies, this coordinated approach will allow project applicants to receive their endangered-species permits through local agency Planning Departments.

Application and permit fees are among the funding sources that will help purchase and enhance habitat from willing sellers and provide long term monitoring and adaptive management of a reserve system. These permits will facilitate the projects and activities included in the Habitat Plan, such as planned public infrastructure, road and water projects, and approved developments currently included in existing general plans.

In addition to strengthening local control over land use and species protection, the Plan will provide a more efficient process for protecting natural resources by creating a number of new habitat reserves that will be larger in scale, more ecologically valuable, and easier to manage than the current project-by-project approach. By proactively addressing long-term conservation needs, the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan will promote the recovery of endangered species and habitats while accommodating planned development and infrastructure.

CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The Conservation Strategy is a series of conservation actions that collectively achieve the biological goals and objectives of the Plan.

Conservation Strategy in a nutshell:

- Create a Reserve System that will preserve an estimated 45,000 acres of high-quality habitat for the benefit of covered species, natural communities, biological diversity, and ecosystem function.
- Enhance approximately 13,000 acres of existing open space areas and incorporate into the Reserve System for long-term management and monitoring.
- Restore over 500 acres of riparian woodland, wetlands, ponds, and 12 miles of degraded streams to offset losses of these land cover types and contribute to species recovery.
- Preserve and upgrade major local and regional wildlife connections between key habitat areas and between existing protected areas.
- Establish a framework for long-term management and monitoring of the Reserve System to enhance populations of covered species and maintain biological diversity.

The Final Draft Habitat Plan and Draft EIR/EIS will be released December 2010. A public review and comment period will follow, including two community meetings and Local Partner meetings in early 2011. For more information please visit www.scv-habitatplan.org.



Western Pond Turtle



Coyote Ceanothus



Loma Prieto Hoita



Townsend's Bat

PROJECT MILESTONES AND SCHEDULE

Developed Baseline Data (covered species; covered activities; land cover and land use maps).	Draft Conservation Strategy. Release 1st & 2nd Admin Draft Habitat Plan.	Prepare Public Review of Draft Plan & Draft EIR/EIS.	Public Review & Comment Period on Draft Plan & Draft EIR/EIS. Prepare Final Plan & EIR/EIS.	Adopt Plan & EIR/EIS. Wildlife agencies issue endangered species permits. Local ordinances adopted.
2006-2007	2008-2009	2010	Early 2011	Late 2011



San Joaquin Kit Fox



Mt. Hamilton Thistle



California Red-Legged Frog



Golden Eagle