



SANTA CLARA VALLEY
HABITAT AGENCY

Habitat Plan Community Meeting

June 23, 2009

By Gilroy Dispatch Staff

Citizens can learn more about the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan at a community meeting in Morgan Hill tonight.

Staff from more than 10 participating agencies will present the plan's second draft and be available to answer questions from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The meeting will take place in the El Toro Room of the Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center at 17000 Monterey Road.

The Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan is a long-range conservation strategy to enhance ecological diversity and habitat function in about two-thirds of South County. A goal of the plan is to work with stakeholders and the general public to determine how to achieve that plan, while accommodating development and streamlining the environmental permitting process.

The plan includes the protection of native wildlife, including vegetation species found only in Santa Clara County.

The final plan will be developed over the next year. A draft and associated environmental documents are expected to be completed later this year. Tonight's meeting will give the public an opportunity to learn about the Habitat Plan and the Draft Conservation Strategy, which covers future land acquisition plans. Stakeholders will also be available to discuss the plan's costs and funding options, and how it will be implemented.

Participating in the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan are Santa Clara County, the cities of Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and San Jose, the Valley Transportation authority, Valley Water District, the California Dept. of Fish and Game, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California State Parks.

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