



Key Terms

Term	Definition
Covered activities Covered projects	Activities and projects that obtain endangered species permits under the Habitat Plan.
Determination of Consistency	Issued by the local jurisdiction, this document certifies coverage of the project under the Habitat Plan and grants endangered species permits.
Geographic Information System (GIS)	Computer-based mapping technology that manipulates geographic data in digital layers and facilitates a wide array of environmental analyses.
Land cover	The habitat type found on the land or ground. There are many land cover types, including both natural land cover types (e.g., Grasslands or Oak Woodlands) and land that has been affected by agriculture or development (e.g., Vineyard or Urban Development). During preparation of the Habitat Plan, land cover types were mapped for all areas included in the Habitat Plan.
Local jurisdiction	Agency with planning authority in a project’s location: City of Gilroy, City of Morgan Hill, City of San José, or the County of Santa Clara.
Natural community	A collection of plants and animals that exist in the same habitat or area and interact with one another.
Permanently Disturbed Footprint	The permanently disturbed footprint is determined by calculating the total land area that will be permanently affected by the proposed development project. This area includes all new buildings, new impervious surfaces (parking areas, roads, sidewalks, pools, etc.), and other areas that will be permanently affected by the project (lawns or formal landscaping areas, etc.).
Permanent impact	Actions that permanently remove or alter a land cover, or that affect a land cover for longer than 1 year.
Proposed Development Area	The land area that will be affected through construction of a development project. This includes areas that are permanently impacted (such as new buildings and driveways) or areas that are temporarily impacted during construction but restored (such as the installation of underground utilities and septic systems), as well as a buffer, if applicable. Most Habitat Plan fees are calculated based the size of the Proposed Development Area. In addition, the location of the Proposed Development Area, with respect to land cover or a mapped wildlife or plant survey area, will often determine what Habitat Plan conditions apply to a project.
Take	Term used to represent certain impacts on endangered species and their habitats. The Federal Endangered Species Act defines take as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect any threatened or endangered species.” The California Endangered Species Act defines take as “to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.”



Take authorization (also called endangered species permits)	Permits granted to entities undertaking otherwise lawful projects that may result in the take of endangered species. Traditionally, such take permits are granted by USFWS and/or CDFW. However, because the Habitat Plan meets federal and state Endangered Species Act requirements and has been approved by USFWS and CDFW, covered projects permitted under the Habitat Plan can obtain take authorization through local agencies.
Temporary impact	Actions that alter land cover for less than 1 year and allows the impacted area to recover to pre-project or ecologically improved conditions within 1 year.
