Working DRAFT Biological Goals

The Basis of the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan Conservation Strategy

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The Conservation Strategy for the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan (Plan) is a series of conservation actions that collectively achieve the biological goals and objectives of the Plan.

Working DRAFT Conservation Strategy in a nutshell:

- Create a Reserve System that will preserve between approximately 30,000 and 58,000 acres of land for the benefit of covered species, natural communities, biological diversity, and ecosystem function.
- Provide protection and management of aquatic resources in the study area, particularly native fish–bearing streams, inside and outside the Reserve System.
- Preserve major local and regional connections between key habitat areas and between existing protected areas.
- Establish a framework for long-term management of the Reserve System and streams outside the Reserve System to enhance populations of covered species and maintain biological diversity.
- Incorporate up to approximately 98,000 acres of existing protected areas into the Reserve System to enhance their long-term management.
- Restore approximately 1,250 acres of valley oak woodland, riparian woodland, wetlands, and ponds to offset losses of these land cover types and contribute to species recovery.

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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.

Conservation Strategy Alternatives - The alternatives present different combinations of conservation actions for analysis in developing a final strategy that best meets the goals and objectives.

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

For more information on the Habitat Plan, Biological Goals and Objectives, and the Draft Conservation Strategy Alternatives, please visit www.scv-habitatplan.org

SANTA CLARA VALLEY

HABITAT PLAN

...A Conservation Legacy

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County of Santa Clara • City of San Jose • 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
National Marine Fisheries Service

STRUCTURE OF THE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The Plan identifies 165 conservation actions, that when combined and implemented during the permit term, will meet the 107 biological objectives and the 22 biological goals.*

Biological goals and objectives are the backbone of the conservation strategy and are applied at three levels:

- **Landscape-level goals are the largest scale and encompass ecological processes, biological diversity and regional wildlife movement.**
- **Natural community-level goals apply to the enhancement, restoration and management of specific land cover types, such as oak woodlands, grasslands and streams.**
- **Species-level goals ensure that all of the needs of a particular species are addressed, such as Bay checkerspot butterfly or California red-legged frog.**

The Plan's biological goals are designed to at least maintain current populations of covered and other native species in the study area. In most cases, populations of covered species are expected to increase as a result of land preservation, improved water management, habitat enhancement, habitat restoration, and habitat creation. Biological goals are discussed in detail in Chapter 5 and Tables 5-1a through 5-1d available at *www.scv-habitatplan.org*.

*see definitions on the back

WORKING DRAFT BIOLOGICAL GOALS

The following 22 biological goals have been identified for the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan.

Landscape–Level

Goal 1. Protect and maintain natural and seminatural landscapes that are large enough to accommodate natural processes beneficial to populations of covered species.

Goal 2. Sustain and enhance the effective movement and genetic exchange of native organisms within and between natural communities inside and outside the study area.

Goal 3. Enhance or restore representative natural and seminatural landscapes to maintain or increase native biological diversity.

Natural Community–Level

Goal 4. Maintain and enhance functional grassland communities that benefit covered species and promote native biodiversity.

Goal 5. Maintain and enhance chaparral and northern coastal scrub communities to benefit covered species and promote native biodiversity.

Goal 6. Maintain and enhance functional oak woodland communities to benefit covered species and promote native biodiversity.

Goal 7. Maintain and enhance functional conifer woodland communities to benefit covered species and promote native biodiversity.

Goal 8. Improve the quality of streams and the hydrologic and geomorphic processes that support them to maintain a functional aquatic and riparian community to benefit covered species and promote native biodiversity.

Goal 9. Maintain a functional riparian forest and scrub community at a variety of successional stages and improve these communities to benefit covered species and promote native biodiversity.

Goal 10. Maintain, enhance, and create or restore pond, freshwater perennial wetland, and seasonal wetland habitats that benefit covered species and promote native biodiversity.

Species–Level

Goal 11. Maintain or improve viability of existing Bay Checkerspot butterfly populations, increase the number of populations, and expand the geographic distribution to ensure the long-term persistence of the species in the study area.

Species–Level (cont'd.)

Goal 12. Maintain or increase the breeding population of golden eagles.

Goal 13. Maintain or increase the size and sustainability of the breeding population and increase the distribution of breeding and wintering burrowing owls.

Goal 14. Increase the ability of San Joaquin kit fox to move through and use the study area.

Goal 15. Expand the distribution and enhance the reproductive success and survival of all life stages of Central California Coastal steelhead, Central Valley fall-run Chinook salmon, and Pacific lamprey in the Coyote and Guadalupe watersheds.

Goal 16. Expand the distribution and enhance the reproductive success and survival of all life stages of South Central California Coastal steelhead and Pacific lamprey in the Uvas and Pacheco Creek Watersheds, and maintain distribution and reproductive success of all life stages in the Llagas and Pescadero Watersheds.

Goal 17. Facilitate the expansion of a breeding population of least Bell's vireos into the study area and increase reproductive success of least Bell's vireo.

Goal 18. Maintain and, where appropriate, increase the foothill yellow-legged frog population in the study area.

Goal 19. Maintain and, where appropriate, increase the number of individuals and expand the distribution of California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and western pond turtle within the Reserve System to maintain viable populations and contribute to the regional recovery of these species.

Goal 20. Increase the population size of Tricolored Blackbird to enhance the viability of the species in the study area.

Goal 21. Maintain viability, protect, and increase the size and number of populations of Coyote ceanothus, Santa Clara Valley dudleya, Metcalf Canyon jewelflower, most beautiful jewelflower, smooth lessingia, fragrant fritillary, Mt. Hamilton thistle, Loma Prieta hoita (i.e., covered serpentine plants) within the study area.

Goal 22. Protect and increase the size and number of plant populations to maintain viability of big scale balsamroot, chaparral harebell, San Francisco collinsia, Loma Prieta hoita, robust monardella, rock sanicle, and Hall's bush mallow within the study area.