

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

## Overview of HCP/NCCP Process

City of Gilroy  
August 7, 2006



**Ken Schreiber, Program Manager**

SANTA CLARA VALLEY HCP/NCCP PARTNERSHIP



 Jones & Stokes

# Overview Outline

- ◆ What is an HCP and NCCCP?
- ◆ Gilroy's Obligations
- ◆ HCP/NCCCP Origins
- ◆ Study Area
- ◆ What the Plan will do
- ◆ Benefits to Santa Clara County
- ◆ Process and Schedule

# What is an HCP/NCCCP?

- ◆ Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan
- ◆ Federal/State mechanism to resolve conflicts between threatened and endangered species and development
- ◆ Plan to conserve species and habitats in exchange for permits to “take” threatened or endangered species
- ◆ What is “take”?
  - Under the 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.”

# Gilroy's Obligations

- ◆ Participate in preparation of the HCP/NCCP
  - Cash: in the range of \$250,000
  - Staff time
  - Policy development involvement (e.g., Liaison Group, Council review of key issues)
  - Engage local community to participate in the HCP/NCCP process and solicit public feedback (e.g, community meetings and presentations)

# Gilroy's Obligations

- ◆ Adopt the HCP/NCCP---an approximately 1500 page document that identifies:
  - Geographic area, program goals and the length of the desired permits (in the range of 30 to 50 years with the specific length to be determined)
  - Activities that will be covered by the Federal and State permits
  - Specific species and their natural communities with analysis of the biological impacts of the covered activities
  - Detailed biological and conservation goals, strategies and actions
  - Conditions to be applied to future public and private sector development
  - A detailed implementation plan
  - Detailed ongoing (in perpetuity) monitoring and adaptive management requirements
  - Funding actions that demonstrate a clear ability to fund future administration, land acquisition, monitoring and adaptive management activities
  - State and Federal procedural and implementation assurances to the local agencies

# Gilroy's Obligations

- ◆ Adopt the HCP/NCCP Implementing Agreement
  - A 100 +/- page contract between the local agencies and the Wildlife Agencies setting out the obligations of all parties
- ◆ Adopt funding mechanisms
  - Development impact fee(s)
  - As necessary, adopt or concur with other local funding obligations

# Santa Clara Valley HCP/NCCP Origins

- ◆ USFWS Sect. 7 Biological Opinion (2001) requires regional HCP as condition of approval for
  - Highway 101 widening (San Jose to Morgan Hill)
  - Bailey Avenue interchange
  - Highway 85/101 interchange
  - Coyote Valley Research Park
- ◆ Original Local Partners bound by MOU (June 2004)
  - Santa Clara County
  - City of San Jose
  - Santa Clara Valley Water District
  - Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
- ◆ New Partners added in 2005
  - City of Gilroy
  - City of Morgan Hill
- ◆ NCCP Planning Agreement signed by all October 2005

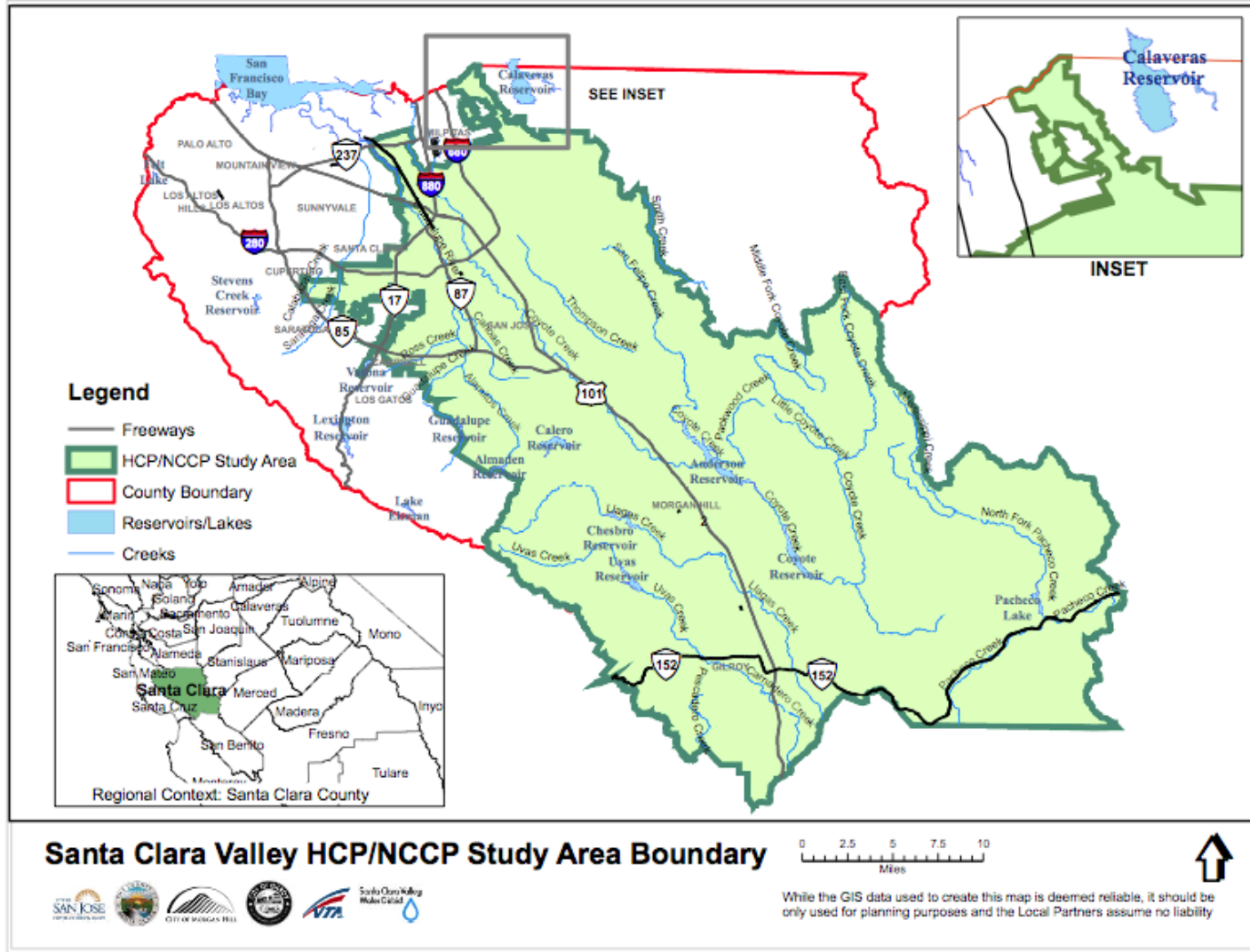


# Study Area

- ◆ SCV HCP/NCCCP Boundary based on
  - Watershed boundaries (Coyote, Uvas/Llagas/Pacheco)
  - Serpentine and Bay checkerspot butterfly habitat
  - Jurisdictional boundaries (San Jose, County)
  - Land use boundaries (County Parks)
- ◆ 520,000 acres



# Study Area



# What the HCP/NCCP Will Do

- ◆ **Provide permits** from USFWS, NMFS, and CDFG for “take” of listed species to Local Partners
- ◆ **Streamline projects.** Local Partner jurisdictions will extend this take authorization to applicants who meet requirements of HCP/NCCP
- ◆ **Improve mitigation.** Provide large-scale habitat and species conservation in areas of high biological value—avoid project-by-project approach
- ◆ **Provide new money.** Attract new sources of state and federal funding for conservation in Santa Clara County

# Benefits to Santa Clara County

- ◆ Project proponents have streamlined permitting process
- ◆ Local control over endangered species permit
- ◆ Creates more open space opportunities within the county
- ◆ Help implement County General Plan
- ◆ Protects watersheds

# The HCP/NCCP Process & Schedule

1. Establish Decision Making Structure (Done)
2. Collect and analyze data; develop and evaluate alternative conservation strategies including costing and funding analysis; prepare monitoring and adaptive management plan (2005-07)
3. Public Draft *HCP/NCCP, EIR/EIS, Permit Application* (2008)
4. Obtain Permits (2009)
5. HCP/NCCP Implementation (Post-permit)

# Questions & Answers

## Contact Information

Ken Schreiber or Ranu Aggarwal  
Santa Clara Valley HCP/NCCP Program  
East Wing, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
County Government Center  
Ken (408) 299-5789  
Ranu (408) 299-5795

[ken.schreiber@pln.sccgov.org](mailto:ken.schreiber@pln.sccgov.org)  
[ranu.aggarwal@pln.sccgov.org](mailto:ranu.aggarwal@pln.sccgov.org)