

Table 6. Preliminary Working Draft Biological Goals, Objectives and Conservation Actions for the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan: Landscape Level.

Note: These goals and objectives were developed during a workshop in February with Local Partner staff and biologists, Wildlife Agency staff and species experts, outside species experts, and consultants. Comments from workshop participants have been incorporated and there was a follow up conference call to review those comments and allow for further input.

Biological Goals and Objectives	Conservation Actions	Monitoring Action
Ecosystem/Landscape		
<p>Goal 1. Protect and maintain natural and semi-natural landscapes that are large enough to accommodate natural processes that are beneficial to populations of covered species. (Excerpted and modified from the NCCPA)</p>		
<p>Objective 1.1. Establish a reserve system over ___ acres and ___ stream miles. (Excerpted from the NCCPA)</p>	<p>LAND – A. Acquire in fee title or obtain conservation easements on ___ acres and ___ stream miles within the study area.</p>	

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<p>Objective 1.2. Protect a range of environmental gradients (such as slope, elevation, aspect, rainfall) across a high diversity of natural communities within the reserve system. <i>(Excerpted from the NCCPA and modified)</i></p>	<p>LAND - B. Acquire in fee title or obtain conservation easements on land for the Reserve System that includes the full range of topographic and geographic diversity in the study area.</p>	
<p>Objective 1.3. Protect river systems and hydrologic function within and outside the reserve system.</p>	<p>LAND - C. Acquire in fee title or obtain easements on ___ acres in the Coyote Watershed, ___ acres in the Guadalupe Watershed, ___ acres in the Llagas Watershed, ___ acres in the Uvas Watershed, ___ acres in the Pescadero Watershed and ___ acres in the Pacheco-Santa Ana Watershed.</p> <p>LAND - D. Acquire in fee title or obtain easements on ___ stream miles, ___ acres of ponds, ___ acres of freshwater wetlands, including ___ acres of seasonal wetlands in both the Northern and Southern watersheds of the study area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Consider acquisition in areas outside of the study area such as San Felipe Lake [but need clear criteria to justify doing this—J&S to develop criteria]</i> <p>STREAM - A. Regulate flow to improve passage in areas where partial or seasonal barriers prevent migratory aquatic species from completing their life cycle [more clearly define what we are doing here].</p> <p>Add other stream actions?</p> <p>Add invasive species?</p>	
<p>Goal 2. Sustain and enhance the effective movement and genetic exchange of native organisms within and between natural communities inside and outside of the study area. <i>(Excerpted from the NCCPA and modified)</i></p>		

Biological Goals and Objectives	Conservation Actions	Monitoring Action
<p>Objective 2.1. Protect and enhance habitat linkages within and connecting to outside the study area.</p>	<p>Action – H1. Acquire and, where appropriate, enhance natural and semi-natural landscapes between the Santa Theresa Hills and Metcalf Canyon that will provide a wildlife corridor between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range that can accommodate the movement of covered and other native species at many spatial scales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For text: Bay checkerspot butterfly, California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, American Badger, Tule elk, mountain lion. <p>Action – H2. Acquire in fee title or obtain easements on ___ acres of serpentine grassland along Coyote Ridge to link existing protected areas and to create a large core reserve for serpentine grassland species to move within.</p> <p>Action – H3. Acquire in fee title or obtain easements on ___ acres of Grassland, Chaparral & Coastal Scrub, and Oak Woodland natural communities south of Henry Coe State Park to link this core reserve with extensive wetlands surrounding San Felipe Lake in San Benito County.</p> <p>Action – H4. Acquire in fee title or obtain easements on ___ acres of Oak Woodland and Chaparral & Coastal Scrub natural communities east of Henry Coe State Park to link this core reserve with the large protected area of Romero Ranch.</p> <p>Action – H5. Acquire in fee title or obtain easements on ___ acres of Grassland, Chaparral & Coastal Scrub, and Oak Woodland natural communities in the NE corner of the study area to link the core reserve that includes Joseph Grant County Park with SFPUC lands and other protected lands in Alameda County.</p> <p>Action – H6. Acquire in fee title or obtain easements on ___ acres of Grassland, Chaparral & Coastal Scrub, and Oak Woodland natural communities to connect Almaden Quicksilver County Park with protected open space to the east near Calero Lake.</p> <p>Action – H7. Acquire in fee title or obtain easements on ___ acres of Grassland, Oak Woodland, and Agricultural natural communities to link the new core reserve of serpentine grassland (see Action - H2) along Coyote Ridge with Joseph Grant County Park.</p>	<p>List of options for wildlife connectivity across major roads (for text):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metcalf Canyon-Tulare Hill (not passable now) • Coyote Creek crossings from Bailey Road south to Coyote Creek/Hwy 101 overpass (likely used now) • Hwy 152 east of Gilroy in Diablo Range (may be used now) • Hwy 152 west of Gilroy in Santa Cruz Mtns. (may be used now) • SW Corner of study area from Santa Cruz Mtns to Gabilan Range (may be used now) <p>Detailed Connectivity Options Across Santa Clara Valley (for text):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convert the Metcalf Road overpass to a wildlife movement bridge and link it to Tulare Hill by extending the bridge over Monterey Highway and the railroad tracks. 2. Modify land use both east and west of Bailey Avenue/Hwy 101 intersection and enhance “habitat patches” on either side of the corridor to increase success of movement 3. Modify land use both east and west of the Coyote Creek/Hwy 101 and enhance “habitat patches” on either side of the corridor to increase success of movement <p>-Need to determine structure for conservation actions that incorporates phased actions (use a process similar to FAHCE Phase 2/3 actions?).</p>

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<p>Objective 2.1. Continued.</p>	<p>Action – H8. Acquire in fee title or obtain easements on ___ acres of Conifer Woodland, Riparian Forest & Scrub, Oak Woodland, and Grassland natural communities, in the portion of the Pescadero Watershed that is in the study area, to help maintain wildlife connections between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Gabilan Range outside the study area.</p> <p>Action – I1. Increase the permeability of Highway 152 for species movement across the highway from the Highway 152/156 interchange east to the Santa Clara/Merced county line at locations and with structures that have the potential to most benefit movement of a variety of native species. <i>[will copy from final SJ kit fox action and expand it so that it benefits many species.]</i></p> <p>Action – I2. Increase the permeability for species movement across Santa Clara Valley between San Jose and Morgan Hill at locations and with structures that have the potential to most benefit movement of a variety of covered and other native species.</p> <p>Action – I3. Increase the permeability for species movement across Santa Clara Valley from the southern edge of urban development in Morgan Hill south to the northern edge of urban development in Gilroy at locations and with structures that have the potential to most benefit movement of a variety of covered and other native species.</p> <p>Action – I4. Increase the permeability for species movement across Santa Clara Valley from the southern edge of urban development in Gilroy to the county line at locations and with structures that have the potential to most benefit movement of a variety of covered and other native species.</p> <p>Action – I5. Increase the permeability for species movement of Highway 152 from Gilroy west to the Santa Cruz County line at locations and with structures that have the potential to most benefit movement of a variety of covered and other native species.</p> <p>South county – pajaro, Diablo range – southern connectivity – link to I4 (Troy - talk to Ken/David)</p>	

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<p>Objective 2.1. Continued.</p>	<p>Action – K1. Acquire or obtain easements on ___ miles of streams, all of which will help to allow wildlife movement.</p> <p>Action – L. Focus riparian restoration (estimated to be ___ acres) in areas that will increase the continuity of riparian corridors and better facilitate wildlife movement within the study area along stream corridors.</p> <p>STREAM – A. Regulate flow to improve passage in areas where partial or seasonal barriers prevent migratory aquatic species from completing their life cycle [more clearly define what we are doing here].</p> <p>Action – M. May develop action around ecological processes like pollination or predation to determine the effectiveness of the Reserve System.</p>	
<p>Goal 3. Enhance or restore representative natural and semi-natural landscapes to maintain or increase native biological diversity. (Excerpted from the NCCPA and modified)</p>		
<p>Objective 3.1. Enhance or restore terrestrial and aquatic land-cover types within the Reserve System to increase area and quality of habitat for covered and other native species and to improve hydrologic function.</p>	<p>LAND – E. Enhance or restore an estimated ___ acres of grassland, ___ acres of chaparral and northern coastal scrub, ___ acres of oak woodland, and ___ acres of conifer woodland.</p> <p>LAND - F. Enhance or restore an estimated ___ miles of stream, ___ acres of riparian woodland and forest, ___ acres of freshwater marsh, ___ acres of seasonal wetlands, and ___ acres of ponds to maintain and when necessary improve hydrologic functions in the study area.</p>	

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<p>Objective 3.2. Allow natural disturbance regimes such as fire and flooding to occur within the Reserve System or implement management actions that mimic those natural disturbances.</p>	<p>Action – F1. Develop specific actions for “allowable fire use” (i.e., let-burn policy) and natural flood protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fire (let-burn policy; helping Calfire with staffing), <i>it was brought up by the stakeholders group that maybe there should be specific guidance on this at the natural community level for each natural community that will benefit (e.g., grassland, chaparral).</i> Establish county-wide burn team <p>Action G1. Develop specific action for natural flood protection.(integrate with District Policy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natural flood protection 	

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<p>Objective 3.3. Eradicate or reduce the cover, biomass, and distribution of existing target, non-native invasive plants and reduce the number and distribution of non-native, invasive animals, where possible.</p>	<p>Action – R. Graze, mow, hand-pull, or selectively use herbicide to reduce non-native invasive plant species to a level where native plants can reestablish and remain dominant within the Reserve System.</p> <p>Rewrite to focus on tools for eradication, reduction, etc.: mowing, spraying, grazing, mechanical, etc. We will ultimately pull actions up from the Natural Communities level and consolidate them into broader actions.</p>	<p>For Text: Action X. Identify the non-native invasive plants and animals with the greatest adverse effects on ecosystem processes, natural communities, covered and other native species, and biological diversity and determine suitable control techniques (<i>note: high priority</i>) Action – M. Document a baseline distribution of the target non-native invasive plant and animal species within the study area. Action – T. Monitor areas where connectivity will be restored under the Plan to establish a baseline distribution of non-native invasive wildlife species and control these species to remain at or below this baseline level once the connection has been restored.</p> <p>For AMM Chapter: Action – O. Control the introduction of non-native species through regulations on pet stores, nurseries or other purveyors of plants, seeds, or animals. Action – P. Reduce the number of roads within the Reserve System to the minimum number necessary to meet operational needs. Action – Q. Maintain only the minimum number of trails necessary within the Reserve System to allow adequate public access while directing the public away from sensitive resource areas (e.g., threatened plant population, tiger salamander breeding pool).</p>
<p>Objective 3.4. Prevent or control new invasions of non-native, invasive plants and animals, where possible.</p>	<p>Rewrite actions to focus on tools for prevention and control [may pull some examples up from the natural community level and roll them into one action that is broad enough to capture everything.</p>	
<p>Natural Communities</p>		

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TBD		
Species		
TBD		