



Jones & Stokes

Memorandum

Date: July 25, 2006

To: Santa Clara Valley HCP/NCCP Stakeholders

cc: David Zippin, *Project Manager*

From: Troy Rahmig

Subject: **Chapter 3 – Points to Consider**

The following outline details several points that I hope you will consider during your review of Chapter 3. I realize that reviewing this material is time consuming but your feedback is valuable. Hopefully this outline will focus your reading and inspire your comments.

Section 3.1 – Introduction

Section 3.2 – Physical Setting

Purpose: to give a general sense of the physical character of the study area.

Points to consider

1. Does this capture the general lay of the land within the study area?
2. Note that this characterization is not meant to be exhaustive but rather descriptive. Does it satisfy that charge?

Section 3.3 – Ecosystem, Natural Communities, and Land Cover

Purpose: To outline the development of the land-cover mapping process. To describe the ecosystem function of the natural communities in the study area and the covered species that have the potential to occur in those communities.

Points to consider

1. Does the land-cover data collection methodology make sense and seem defensible?
2. Does the methodology and descriptions of the communities compliment the land-cover map?

3. Are the descriptions and species associations helpful? Are they too much or too little?
4. Does the covered species modeling methodology make sense and does it seem defensible?
5. Please note that as we move forward and begin to determine the impacts that covered activities may have on the covered species, impact calculations will be dependent on the land-cover data and modeled species habitat. We need to make sure that it is as accurate as possible now to ensure that the impact analysis is defensible and robust later.
6. Note that the Biological Diversity section (3.3.4) is very general and is intended to provide context for the discussion of study area natural communities that follows.
7. The disparity between the description of serpentine grassland (and serpentine habitats in general) and all other natural communities is due to the tremendous amount of information that has been collected on serpentine habitats over the years, particularly the Coyote Ridge Study.
8. An additional section that discusses stream habitats and function within the study area is forthcoming.