



Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan ... A Conservation Legacy

MEDIA ADVISORY

Local Leaders Seek Input on Habitat Plan

Community Meeting on Long-term Conservation Planning, Land Acquisition, and Habitat Preservation in Santa Clara County

- What:** Community and EIR/EIS Scoping Meeting for the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan
- When:** Wednesday, September 26, 2007 - 6:30 to 9:00 pm
6:30 pm Open House
7:00 pm Presentation
8:00 pm Scoping Comments and Questions and Answers
- Where:** Morgan Hill Community & Cultural Center, El Toro Room
17000 Monterey Road (at East Dunne), Morgan Hill, CA
- Format:** 6:30 pm - Open House
7:00 pm - Presentation
8:45 pm - Questions and Answers
- Who:** County of Santa Clara, Cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill and San Jose, Santa Clara Valley Water District and Valley Transportation Authority, in association with the California Department of Fish and Game, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Web:** www.scv-habitatplan.org

The goal of the **Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan** is to develop a long-range (i.e. 30-50 year) conservation strategy in consultation with stakeholders and the general public to enhance ecological diversity and function within roughly two-thirds of southern Santa Clara County (approximately 520,000 acres) while accommodating planned development by streamlining the environmental permitting process.

The September 26th meeting is an opportunity for the public to learn about the Habitat Plan and comment on:

- **Draft alternative conservation strategies**, which cover a range of future land acquisition options including amounts of land to be acquired and the highest priority acquisition areas
- The **range of issues to be studied during environmental review** of the habitat plan
- **Permit term, study area, and biological goals and objectives.**

Over the next two years a final plan will be developed to protect native wildlife, including rare vegetation found only on serpentine soils and species that only exist in Santa Clara County. A draft Habitat Plan and associated environmental documents are anticipated to be complete in 2008, followed by approval of a final habitat plan and Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) in 2009.

For More Information, please contact:

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The Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan will:

- **Integrate land use and conservation planning** to promote the recovery of endangered species while accommodating planned development and infrastructure
- **Develop a long-range plan to protect and enhance ecological diversity and function** within more than 500,000 acres of Santa Clara County
- **Create a number of new habitat reserves** that are larger in scale, more ecologically valuable, and easier to manage than the fragmented, piecemeal habitats currently yielded by mitigating projects on a project-by-project basis
- **Increase local control over development and streamline the permitting process** by looking at habitat resources, impacts of planned development, and mitigation in a comprehensive manner

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