



SANTA CLARA VALLEY
HABITAT AGENCY

Draft Habitat Plan Accepting Public Comment

December 19, 2010

By Michael Moore

Morgan Hill Times

Citizens have 120 days to comment on the long-awaited Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan and the Natural Community Conservation Plan, a countywide plan to protect endangered species from future development.

Public comment on the 2,000-page draft plan starts today, and will continue until April 18, 2011.

The SCVHCP imagines a contiguous 500,000-acre swath, mostly in South County, to preserve and protect 21 endangered and threatened species. Participating in the plan are the cities of Morgan Hill, Gilroy, San Jose, Santa Clara County, the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Valley Transportation Authority.

When completed, the plan will use building permits to allow developers and home builders to build on land where the covered species live if they implement mitigation efforts. Species covered under the plan include the Bay checkerspot butterfly, California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander.

17575 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037