



SANTA CLARA VALLEY
HABITAT AGENCY



Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

MEDIA ADVISORY

Local leaders pledging partnership to protect Santa Clara County's native wildlife, grasslands and trees

An agreement has been reached among six local agencies to develop a plan for protecting native wildlife and vegetation in most of Santa Clara County's remaining undeveloped areas, while still allowing appropriate development to occur.

On Oct. 20, a public signing ceremony at a site along the Guadalupe River in downtown San Jose will bring together officials from local, state and federal agencies to start the three-year process of developing a comprehensive conservation strategy – known as a Habitat Conservation Plan under federal law and a Natural Community Conservation Plan under state law.

Participating in the plan will be Gilroy, Morgan Hill, San Jose, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Santa Clara County and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, along with the state Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Over the next three years, a final plan will be designed to protect native wildlife, including the California tiger salamander and steelhead trout, rare vegetation found only on serpentine soils, such as California live oaks, and wetlands throughout Santa Clara County. The planning area includes roughly 700 square miles of Santa Clara County. Large tracts of land, from the Santa Clara County/Alameda County border south to the county's boundary with San Benito County, and from the western edge of San Jose east to the crest of the Diablo Range, may be included in the plan.

What: Planning agreement signing ceremony

17575 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037



SANTA CLARA VALLEY
HABITAT AGENCY

When: 3 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 20, 2005

Where: Guadalupe River Park Arena Green (adjacent to HP Pavilion, between St. John and Santa Clara streets), San Jose

Parking: Available along Autumn Street and HP Pavilion's parking lot D, 525 W. Santa Clara St.

More information: Lindsey Wolf, City of San José, (408) 535-8554; Gwendolyn Mitchell, Santa Clara County: (408) 299-5119; Mike Di Marco, Santa Clara Valley Water District, (408) 265-2607, ext. 2423; Bernice Alaniz, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, (408) 321-7539; Joe Kline, City of Gilroy, (408) 846-0254; Kathy Molloy-Previsich, City of Morgan Hill, (408) 779-7248.

17575 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037