East Alameda County Regional Conservation Strategy: A Blueprint for Action

Users Advisory Group

July 10, 2008

Meeting Objectives

- Revise Open Space categories and map
- Revised Land Use categories and map
- Focal Species Occurrence Data
- Intro to habitat modeling
- California Rangeland Resolution
- Report from the Land Owner Meeting

Open Space Mapping

Open Space Map

- Map all “open space” areas in study area
- Open Space = all publicly owned parklands or private lands with easements or deed restrictions
- Open space lands can range from EBRPD parkland to private mitigation banks to city parks and golf courses.
- Basically these lands are undeveloped and will remain so for the foreseeable future

Open Space Map

- The level of protection is different for all Open Space units
- Separate all Open Space units into 4 categories (Type 1 – 4)
- Categories account for:
  - Permanence of protection
  - Land management focus

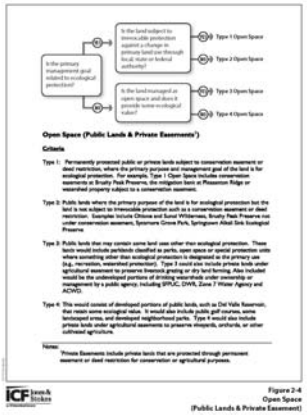
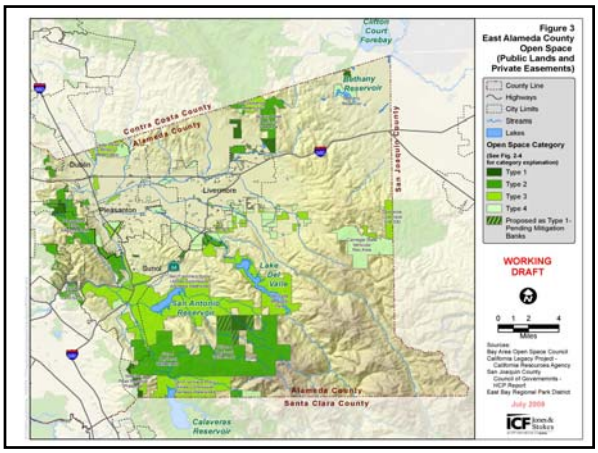


Figure 2-4
Open Space
(Public Lands & Private Easement)



Open Space Map

- Total study area = 271,485 acres
- Open Space currently under some level of protection = 91,301* acres (34% of study area)
  - Type 1 = 4,463* ac (4.9%)
  - Type 2 = 46,248 ac (50.6%)
  - Type 3 = 27,663 ac (30.3%)
  - Type 4 = 12,927 ac (14.2%)

*1,238 acres are currently proposed Type 1

Open Space Map

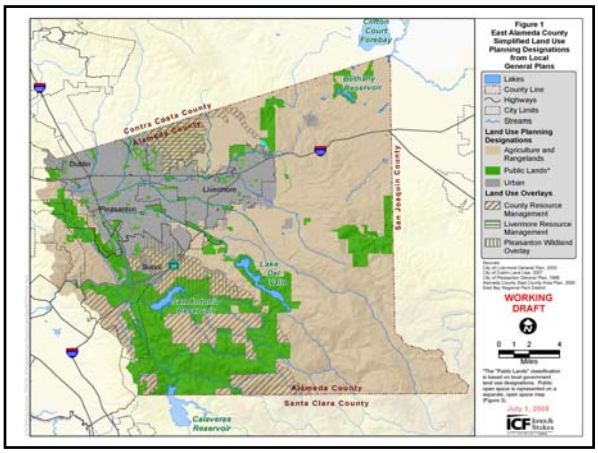
- Data will be used to
  - Assess gaps in protection of natural communities and species
  - Identify logical conservation areas where mitigation could occur in the future
- Additional information to come: DFG parcel, Haera Wildlife Conservation Bank, some updated data from the City of Dublin

Questions?

Land Use Mapping

Land Use Map

- Use existing General Plan designations from the three cities and the county
- Simplify those planning designations into a few useful categories
  - Urban/Developed
  - Agriculture or Rangeland
  - Public Land



Land Use Map

- Shows the current land use across the study area
- Identifies potential threats due to changes in land use
- Shows where conservation could occur in the future and where it would be restricted
- Potentially identifies areas where conflicts could arise between resource management and future growth

Questions?

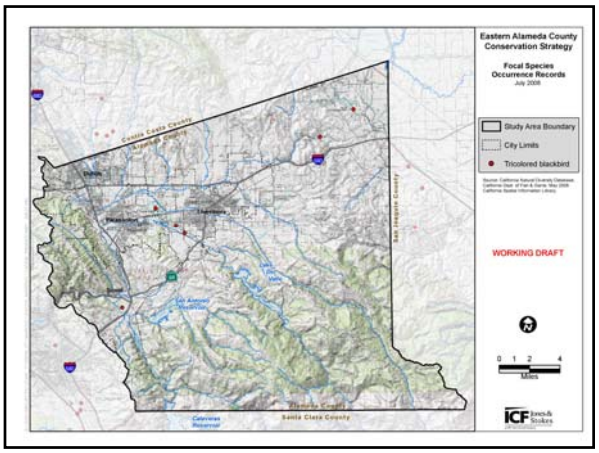
Species Occurrence

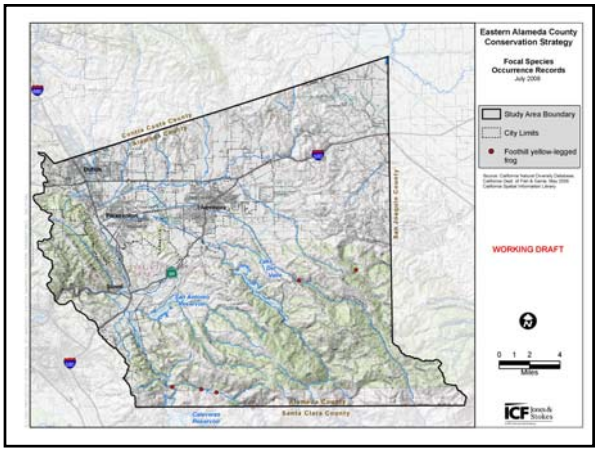
Species Occurrence

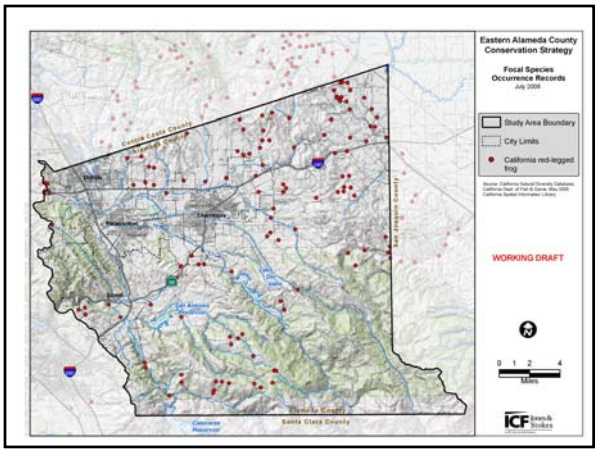
- Use species observations or “occurrence” records to give a quick overview of where focal species occur in the study area
- Data sources include the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), California Native Plant Society, species experts
- A lot of variability in the occurrence data
- More reliable for plants than wildlife

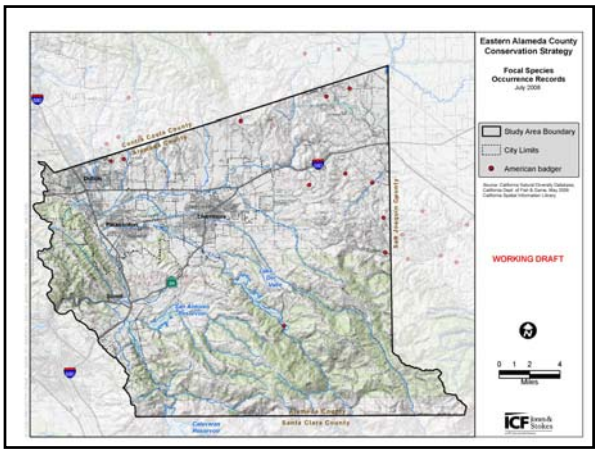
Shortcomings of Occurrence Data

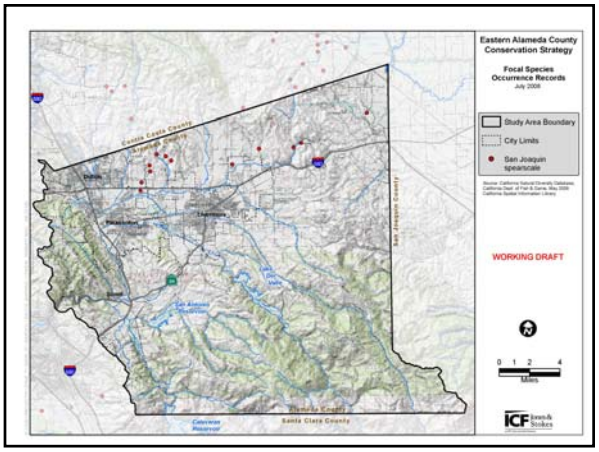
- A lot of variability in the occurrence data
- Does not show negative survey results
- Not all occurrences are reported
- More reliable for plants than wildlife
- Surveys are typically driven by development or infrastructure projects
- But, occurrence information does give an overview of where individuals have been documented

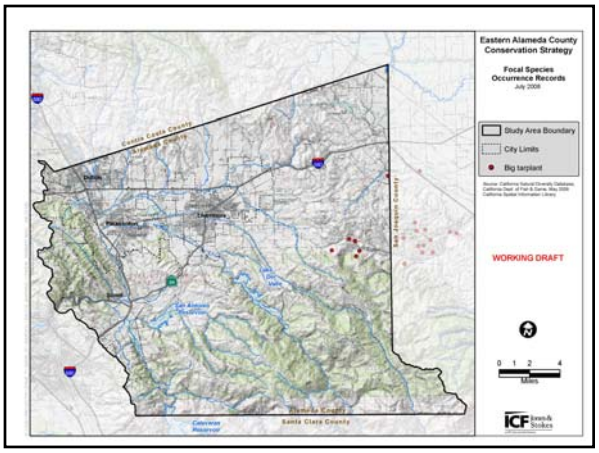

Eastern Alameda County
Conservation Strategy
Focal Species
Occurrence Records
July 2008
Study Area Boundary
City Limits
Tricolored blackbird
WORKING DRAFT
0 1 2 4
Miles
ICF Jones & Stokes


Eastern Alameda County
Conservation Strategy
Focal Species
Occurrence Records
July 2008
Study Area Boundary
City Limits
Foothill yellow-legged frog
WORKING DRAFT
0 1 2 4
Miles
ICF Jones & Stokes


Eastern Alameda County
Conservation Strategy
Focal Species
Occurrence Records
July 2008
Study Area Boundary
City Limits
California red-legged frog
WORKING DRAFT
0 1 2 4
Miles
ICF Jones & Stokes


Eastern Alameda County
Conservation Strategy
Focal Species
Occurrence Records
July 2008
Study Area Boundary
City Limits
American badger
WORKING DRAFT
0 1 2 4
Miles
ICF Jones & Stokes


Eastern Alameda County
Conservation Strategy
Focal Species
Occurrence Records
July 2008
Study Area Boundary
City Limits
San Joaquin spearscale
WORKING DRAFT
0 1 2 4
Miles
ICF Jones & Stokes


Eastern Alameda County
Conservation Strategy
Focal Species
Occurrence Records
July 2008
Study Area Boundary
City Limits
Big tarplant
WORKING DRAFT
0 1 2 4
Miles
ICF Jones & Stokes

Habitat Modeling

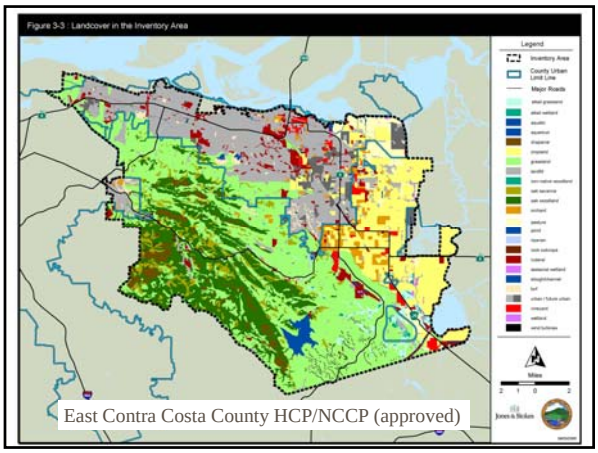
Focal Species Habitat Modeling

- Models give a better indication of where species could occur based on habitat characteristics
- Will highlight areas where mitigation could occur for given species
- Parts of the study area where modeled habitat for several species overlaps could be considered important conservation sites

Focal Species Habitat Modeling

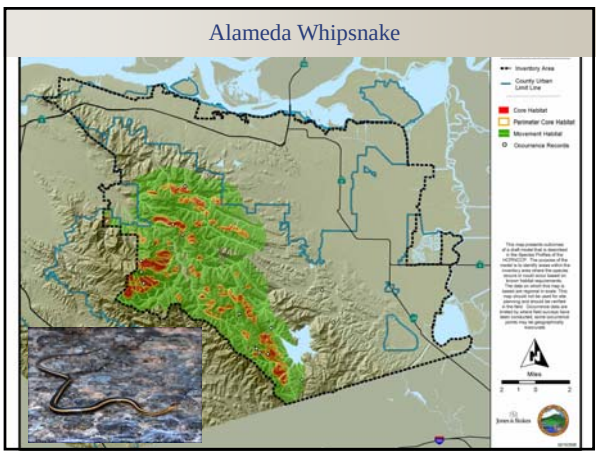
Use known life history information and available biotic and abiotic information to help determine potential distribution:

- Land-cover types
- Soils
- Elevation or slope characteristics
- Known dispersal or movement distances for wildlife
- Specific habitat features (e.g., aquatic habitat)
- Any other life history requirements that can be replicated in GIS
- Use known occurrences to check potential distribution for accuracy.

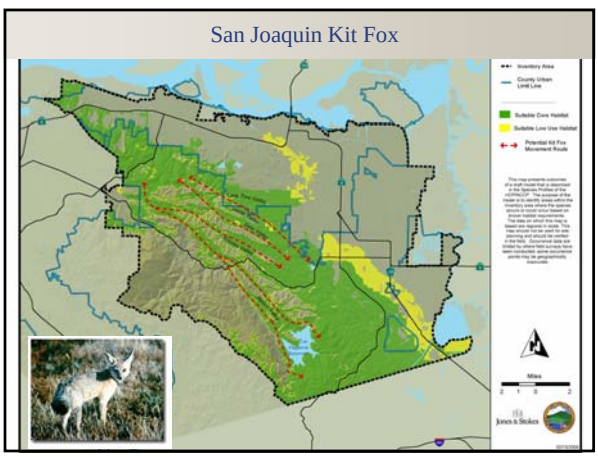


East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP (approved)

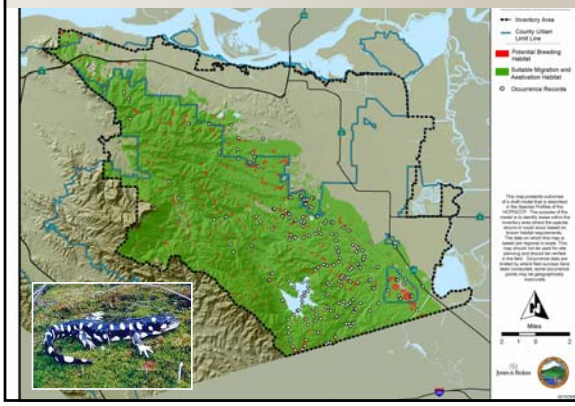
Alameda Whipsnake



San Joaquin Kit Fox



California Tiger Salamander



Uses of Habitat Models

- Determine where species might or might not occur
- Determine when mitigation is appropriate for a species and where mitigation could occur
- Determine when surveys should be required for given species and whether they should be addressed in environmental documents

Questions?

Communications Tools

- Weblink:
  www.fws.gov/sacramento/eaccs/eaccs.htm
- EACCS Coordinator
  Mary Lim
  mlim@zone7water.com
  925-454-5036