

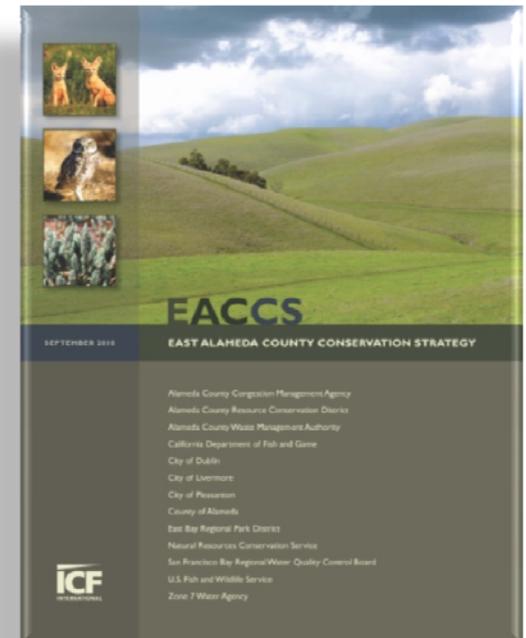
EAST ALAMEDA COUNTY
CONSERVATION STRATEGY:
A BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

Community Meeting

September 14, 2010

Agenda

- Introduction of Steering Committee and Users Advisory Committee
- Project Overview
 - Review of Project Purpose
 - Key Points of Conservation Strategy
 - Next Steps/Implementation
- Public Review Process
- Questions and Answers (panel)



Goal

EACCS Goal: provide guidelines for mitigation practices and overall conservation in east Alameda County



Palmate-bracted bird's beak



California red-legged frog



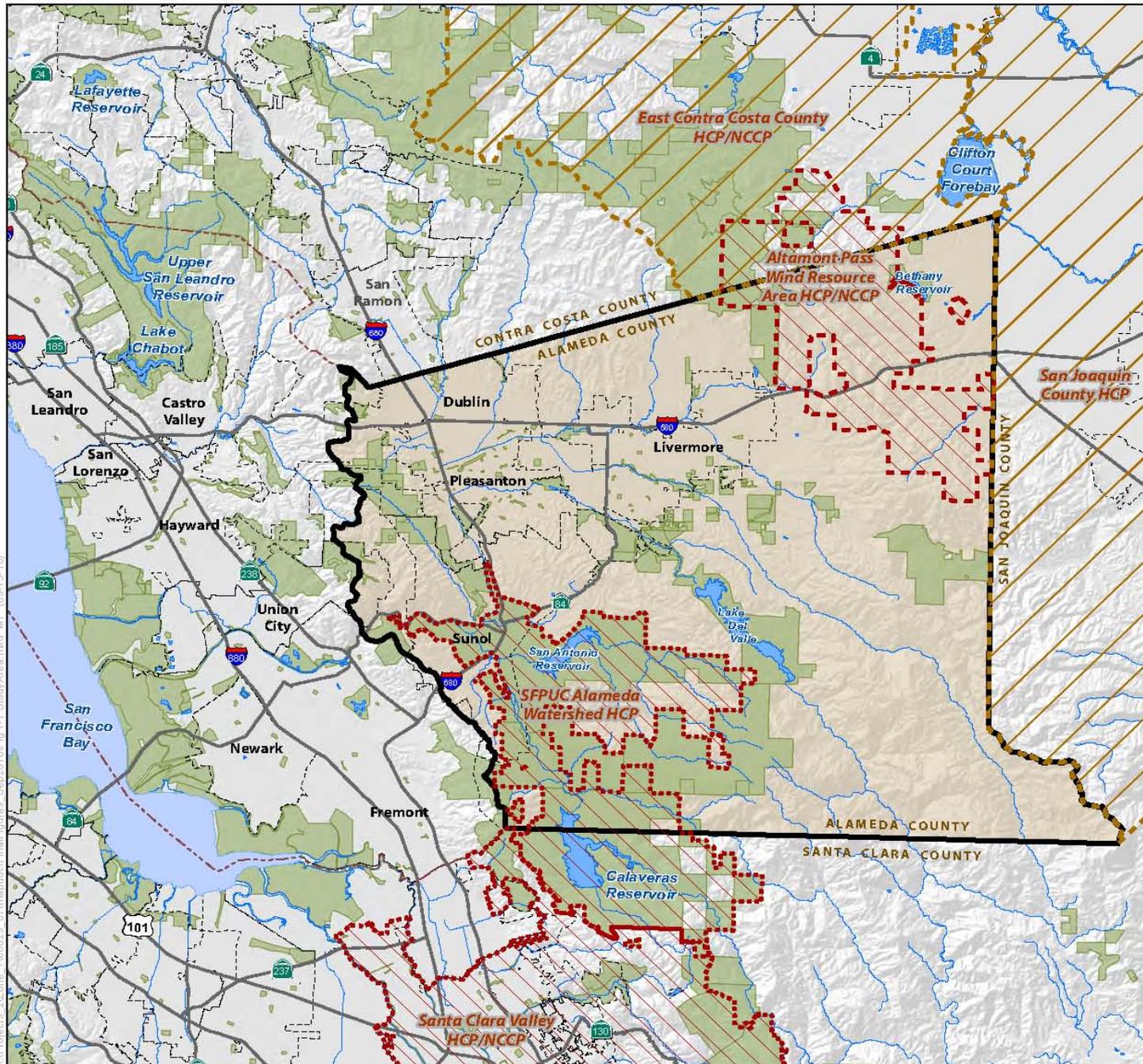
Burrowing owl



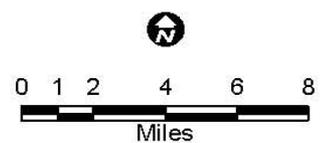
San Joaquin kit fox

**Figure 1-1
Study Area
East Alameda County**

October 2010



-  Proposed Study Area Boundary
-  Approved HCPs and NCCPs in and Adjacent to the Study Area
-  In-Process HCPs and NCCPs in and Adjacent to the Study Area
-  Parks and Protected Areas
-  County Line
-  Highways
-  Streams
-  Reservoirs



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Steering Committee

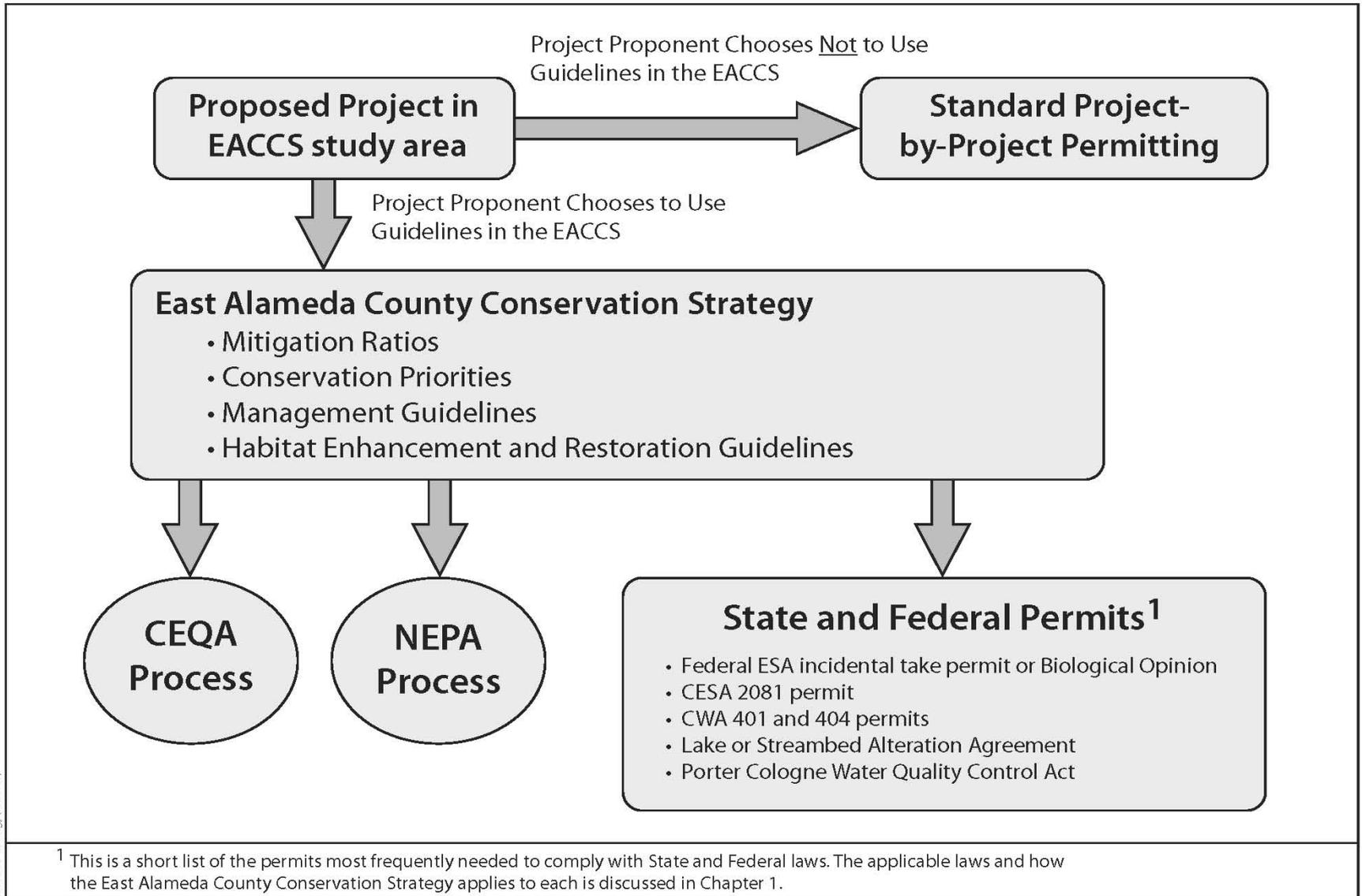
- Alameda County
- Alameda County Congestion Management Agency
- Alameda County Resource Conservation District
- Alameda County Waste Management Authority
- California Department of Fish and Game
- City of Dublin
- City of Livermore
- City of Pleasanton
- East Bay Regional Park District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Zone 7 Water Agency

User's Advisory Group

- Alameda Creek Alliance
- Alameda LAFCO
- Audubon Society – Ohlone Chapter
- California Coastal Conservancy
- California Native Plant Society
- Fletcher Conservation Properties
- Friends of Livermore
- Friends of Springtown Preserve
- Friends of the Vineyards
- Greenbelt Alliance
- Hacienda Business Park
- Home Builders Association of Northern California
- Individual Rural Landowners
- Lawrence Livermore Laboratories
- Livermore Area Recreation and Park District
- Robert Harris & Associates
- Save Mount Diablo
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- Sierra Club
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tri-Valley Conservancy

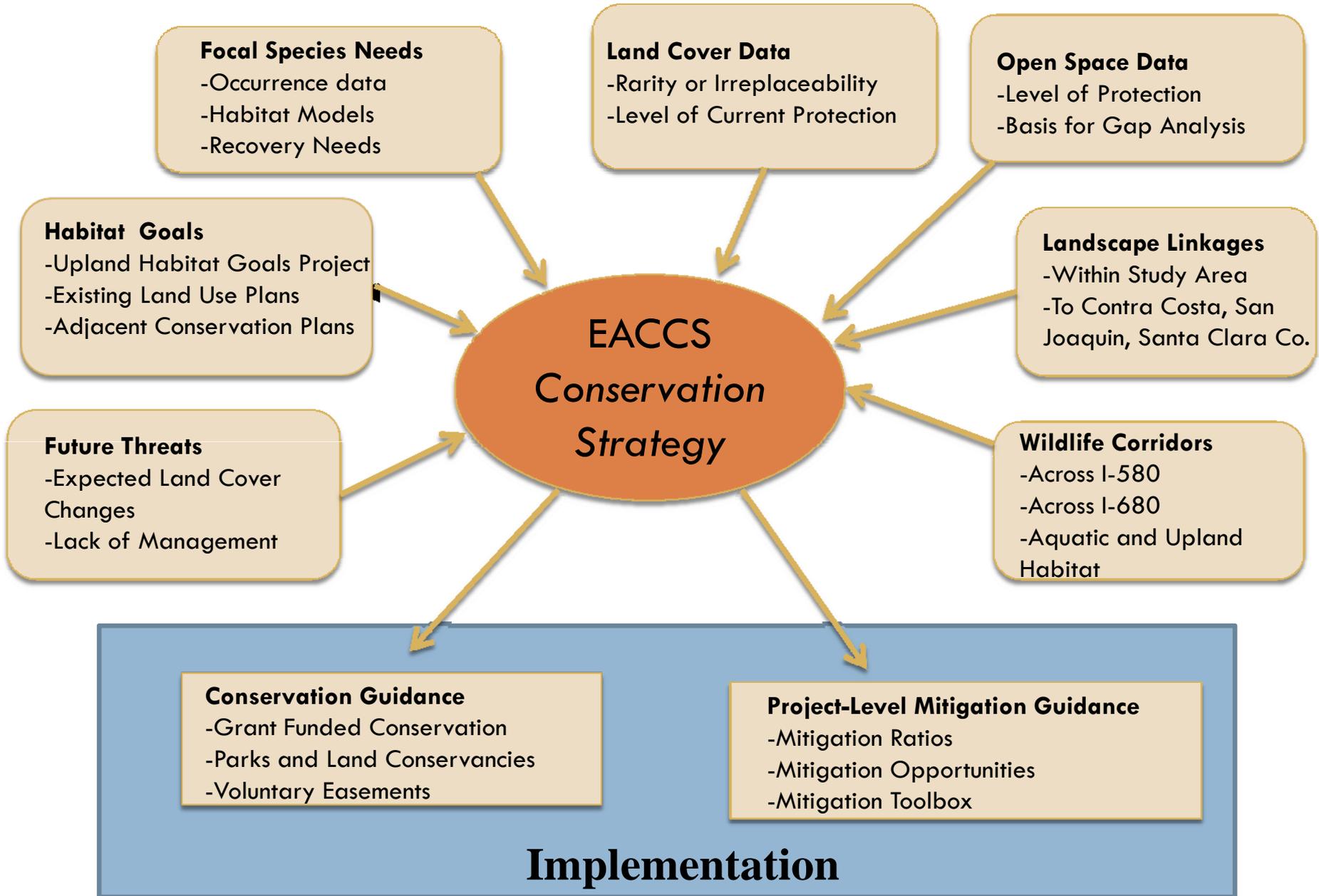
General Overview

- Biologically based strategy.
- Voluntary program offered as guidance though strongly recommended by local jurisdictions and regulatory agencies.
- Would not result in permits but would support the permitting process for local projects by providing clear guidance on mitigation needs.
- Will not create new mandates on private land in Alameda County but does provide useful information to public and private land owners.



00006.08 Strategy (rev. 3-09)

EACCS Conservation Process



EACCS Outcomes



- ❑ Quantified protected and unprotected land cover.
- ❑ Outlined conservation goals and objectives.
- ❑ Clear standards for avoidance and minimization.
- ❑ Set priorities for mitigation and conservation.
- ❑ Set mitigation ratios for focal species where possible.
- ❑ Provide a clearinghouse of information for conservation efforts on public and private lands.

Conservation Goals

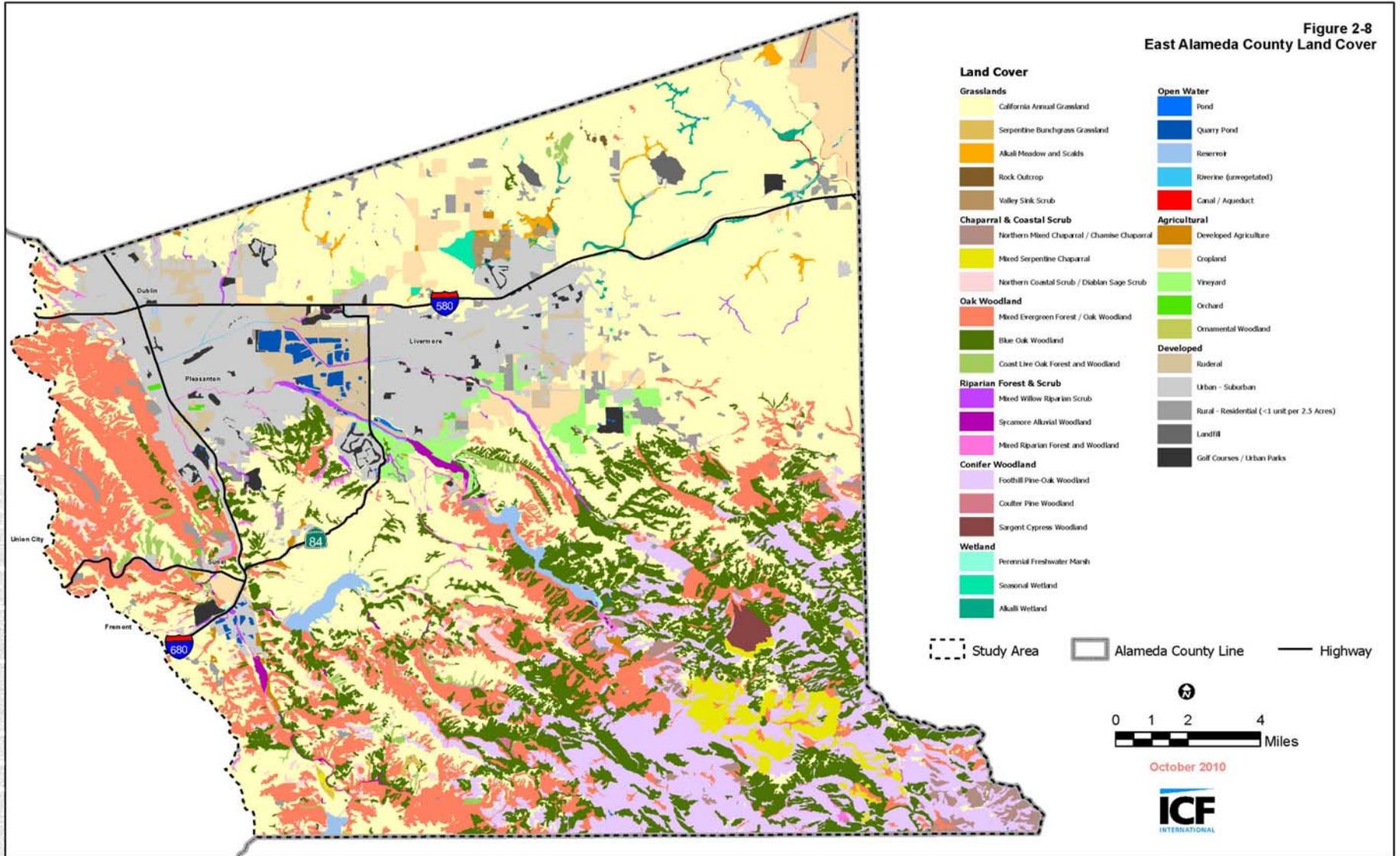


Conservation Goals



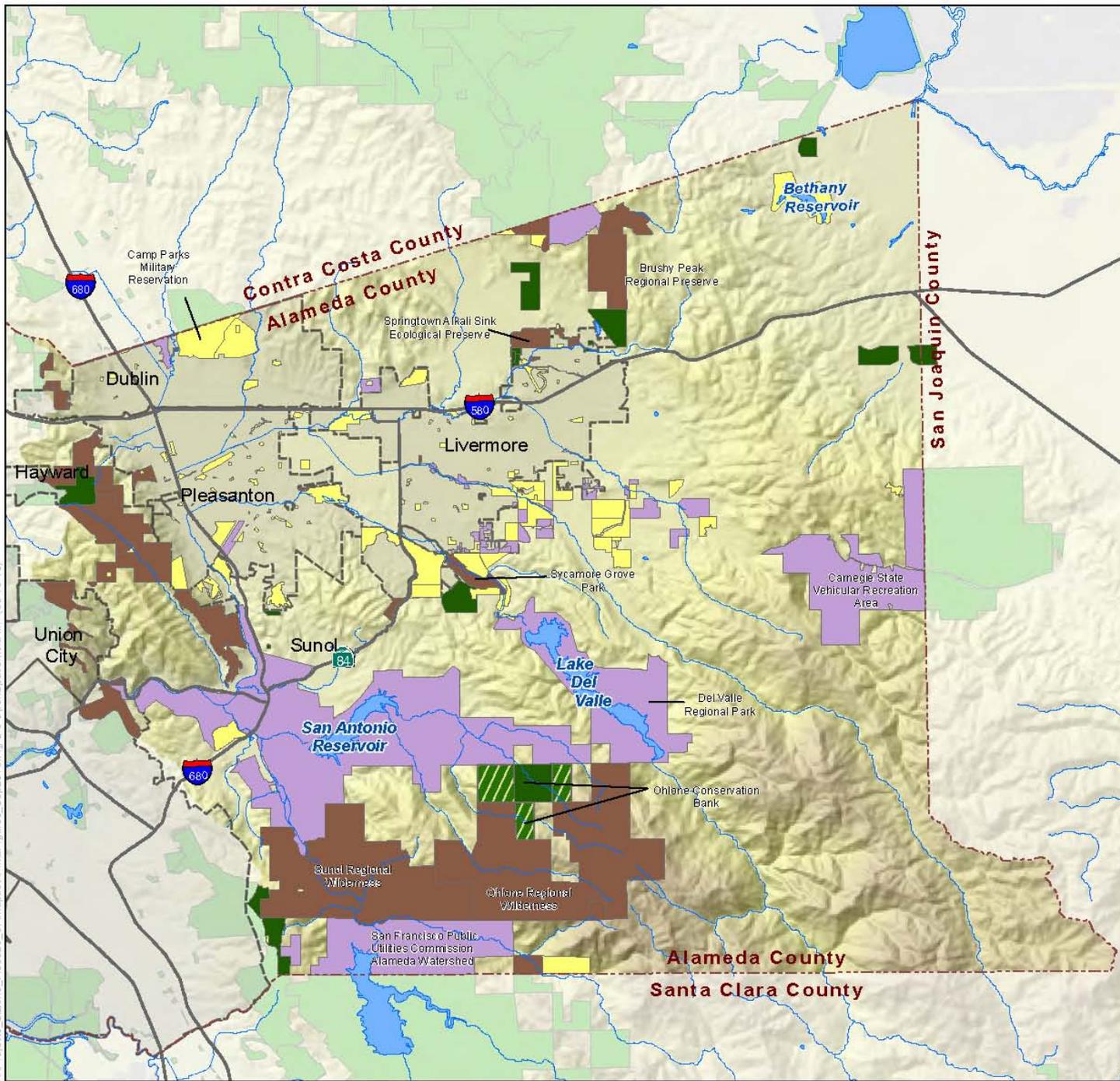
- ❑ Determined gaps in protection by conservation zone.
- ❑ Set protection goals for each natural land cover type.
- ❑ Calculated a conservation acreage goal for each land cover type.
- ❑ Highlighted areas of critical importance due to the rarity of a land cover type or areas under threat of land type conversion.

Figure 2-8
East Alameda County Land Cover



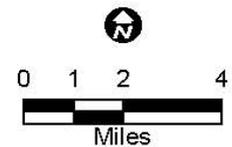
**Figure 2-3
East Alameda County
Open Space
(Public Lands and
Private Easements)**

October 2010



County Line
 City Limits
 Highways
~ Streams
☪ Lakes
Open Space Category
 (See Fig. 2-4
 for category explanation)
 Type 1
 Type 2
 Type 3
 Type 4
 Proposed as Type 1-
 Pending Mitigation
 Banks

Sources:
 Bay Area Open Space Council
 California Legacy Project -
 California Resources Agency
 San Joaquin County
 Council of Governments -
 HCP Report
 East Bay Regional Park District



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Table 3-1. Conservation Goals for Land Cover within the East Alameda County Conservation Strategy Study Area.

Land Cover	Total in Study Area (acres)	Open Space Type 1	Open Space Type 2	Open Space Type 3	Open Space Type 4	Not in Open Space (acres)	Protection Goal: percent of total in study area	Acres Already Protected: Type 1 or 2 Open Space	Acres Not Protected (Not in Type 1 or 2 Open Space)	Additional Protected Acres Needed to Meet Conservation Goal
Grassland										
Alkali Meadow and Scalds	977	41	65	4	4	863	90%	106	871	773
California Annual Grassland	116,828	3,118	8,961	13,956	2,172	88,621	75%	12,079	104,749	75,542
Non-serpentine Native Bunchgrass Grasslands	<i>Acres not known</i>									
Rock Outcrop	99	2	44	11	11	31	90%	46	53	43
Serpentine Bunchgrass Grassland	241	0	157	55		29	90%	157	84	60
Valley Sink Scrub	410	54	201	3	0	152	90%	255	155	114
Chaparral and Coastal Scrub										
Mixed Serpentine Chaparral	3,788		48	24	0	3,716	90%	48	3,740	3,361
Northern Coastal Scrub / Diabian Sage Scrub	2,700	280	494	752	130	1,044	75%	774	1,926	1,251
Northern Mixed Chaparral / Chamise Chaparral	2,684	0	0	129	233	2,322	75%	0	2,684	2,013
Oak Woodland										
Blue Oak Woodland	26,321	273	3,854	3,656	206	18,332	75%	4,127	22,194	15,614
Coast Live Oak Forest and Woodland	1,221	38	184	209	1	788	75%	222	999	694
Mixed Evergreen Forest / Oak Woodland	32,497	635	7,105	5,217	1,022	18,518	75%	7,740	24,757	16,633
Conifer Woodland										
Coulter Pine Woodland	74	0	60	13	0	0	75%	60	14	0
Foothill Pine-Oak Woodland	22,695	0	1,944	260	128	20,363	75%	1,944	20,751	15,077
Sargent Cypress Woodland	653	0	0	0	0	653	90%	0	653	588
Riparian Forest and Scrub										
Mixed Riparian Forest and Woodland	2,323	37	176	412	220	1,477	75%	214	2,110	1,529
Mixed Willow Riparian Scrub	664	0	0	11	120	533	75%	0	664	498
Sycamore Alluvial Woodland	597	0	299	239	26	33	90%	299	298	238
Wetlands										
Alkali Wetland	717	16	80	7	1	613	90%	96	621	549
Perennial Freshwater Marsh	62	0	0	31	22	9	90%	0	62	56
Seasonal Wetland	547	3	12	4	27	501	90%	15	532	477
Open Water										
Pond	413	30	24	51	23	285	75%	54	359	256
Quarry Pond	1,246	0	0	96	103	1,048	75%	0	1,246	934
Reservoir (defined by management)	1,886	0	0	1,020	867	0	75%	0	1,886	1,414
Streams ¹	244	3	26	55	15	145	90%	29	215	191
Canal / Aqueduct	198	0	0	0	8	190	0%	0	198	0
Subtotal All Natural or Water Land-Cover Types	219,844	4,218	23,971	24,740	7,271	159,643				
Developed Land-Cover Types										
Developed Agriculture	526	4	1	207	7	308	0%	4	522	
Cropland	7,923	3	4	653	1,002	6,261	0%	7	7,916	
Orchard	203	0	27	42	5	128	0%	27	175	
Vineyard	2,684	0	3	473	1,672	537	0%	3	2,682	
Ornamental Woodland	40	0	10	14	4	11	0%	10	30	
Subtotal All Agricultural Land Cover Types	11,376	7	44	1,389	2,691	7,245				
Urban - Suburban	28,973	11	33	977	668	27,283	0%	44	28,929	
Rural Residential (<1 unit per 2.5 Acres)	3,198	2	48	124	125	2,900	0%	50	3,148	
Golf Courses / Urban Parks	2,759	0	0	62	1,119	1,577	0%	0	2,759	
Landfill	536	0	0	0	0	536	0%	0	536	
Ruderal	4,798	0	10	179	286	4,324	0%	10	4,789	
Subtotal All Developed Land-Cover Types	40,264	13	91	1,343	2,198	36,620				
Total Landcover in Study Area	271,485	4,238	24,106	27,472	12,160	203,509				

¹ All numbers in table for streams are represented as miles.

Conservation Tracking

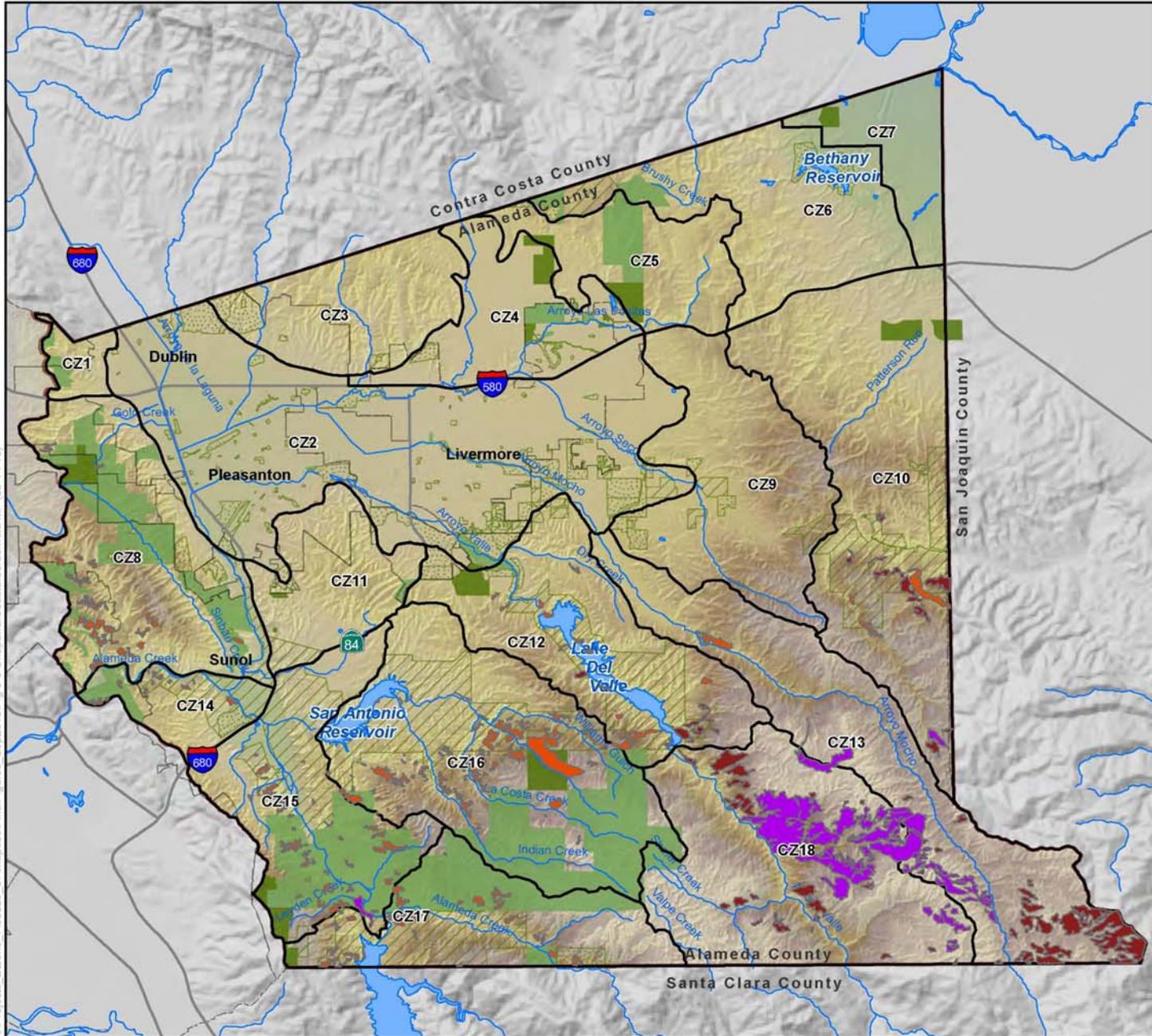
- This system allows for annual tracking of how many acres of a land cover type are lost or protected.
- Conservation targets can be updated to accommodate new discoveries or changes in conservation priorities.
- Allows for a more specific analysis in CEQA and permitting documents of the actual affects a project might have on the natural environment on a sub-watershed scale.

Natural Communities

- Discusses conservation priorities for each natural community. Often this is species related but not always.
- Shows natural community distribution/rarity in study area and described opportunities to achieve protection goals.
- Sets natural community conservation priorities in study area and by Conservation Zone.

**Figure 3-3
Chaparral and Coastal
Scrub Land Cover**

October 2010



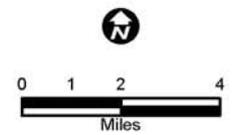
Study Area Boundary
 City Limits
 Conservation Zones
 Highways
 Streams
 Reservoirs

Chaparral Coastal Scrub Landcover

- Mixed Serpentine Chaparral
- Northern Coastal Scrub / Diablan Sage Scrub
- Northern Mixed Chaparral / Chamise Chaparral

Open Space

- Type 1
- Type 2
- Type 3
- Type 4



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Focal Species

- Discusses conservation priorities for each species in study area.
- Describes unique features or threats that should be considered during impact and mitigation analyses.
- Some of these priorities were identified based on habitat features or habitat models, others have been identified in the literature or recovery documents.



Congdon's tarplant



Alameda whipsnake



California tiger salamander

Avoidance and Minimization



Avoidance and Minimization

- Provides standardized General Avoidance Measures and Species Avoidance Measures.
- These would be incorporated into any project that wanted to utilize standardized mitigation ratios.
- Allows for project applicants to include these measures in the project description and in project budgets.

Mitigation



Mitigation Guidelines

- Standardized mitigation ratios have been set depending on the location of the project impact and proposed mitigation.
- Standardized ratios would apply unless the agencies or project applicant determined that the ratios were unreliable in a particular location.
- Standardized ratios would be applied assuming that the project applicant was avoiding and minimizing impacts to the species as much as possible on the site.

California red-legged frog

Mitigation Ratios



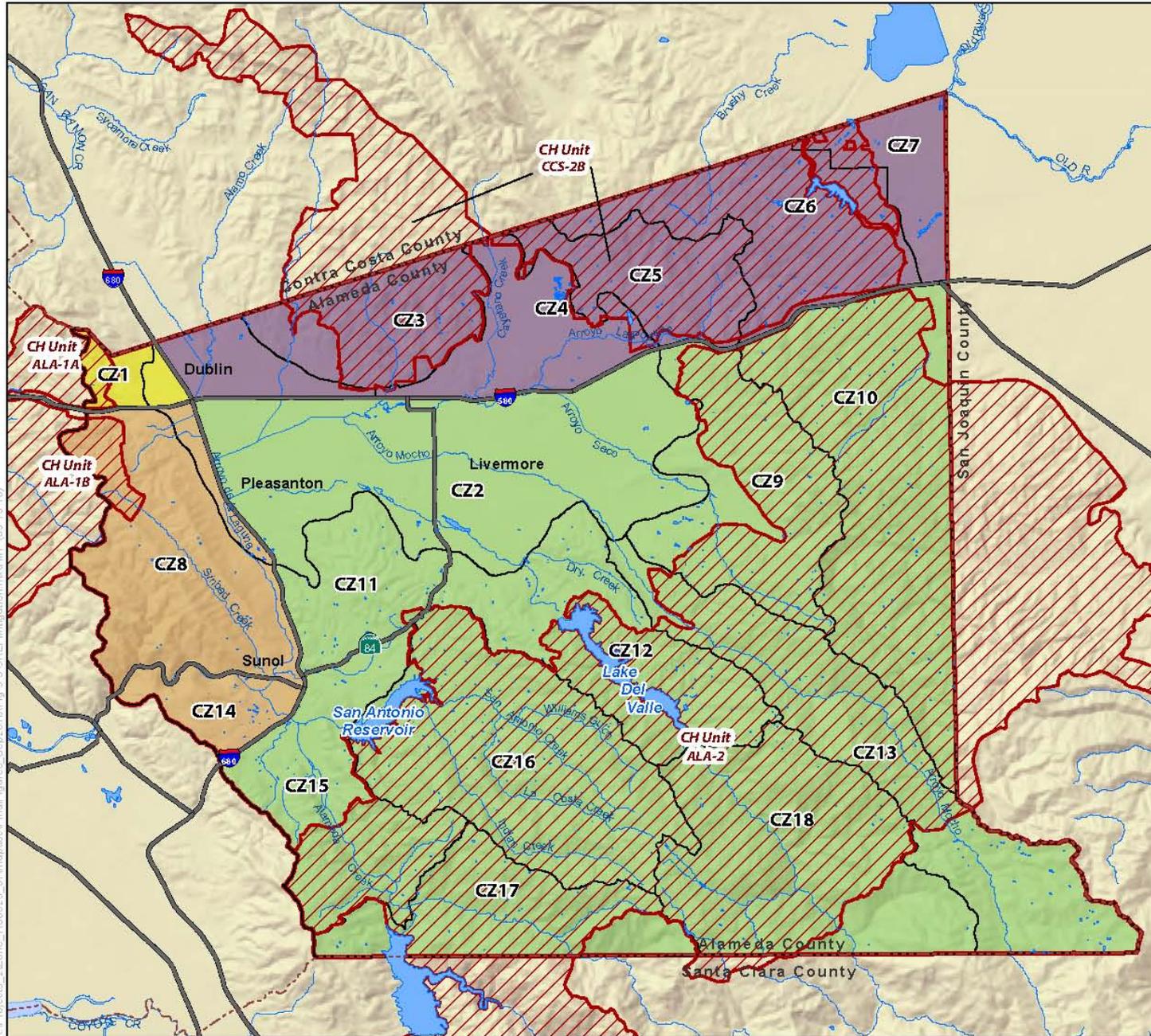
Location of Impact¹	Location of Mitigation^{1, 2}				
	Inside Critical Habitat in EACCS study area in same CRLF Mitigation Area based on Figure 3-9	Inside Critical Habitat in EACCS study area in different CRLF Mitigation Area based on Figure 3-9	Outside Critical Habitat but inside same CRLF Mitigation Area based on Figure 3-9	Outside Critical Habitat in EACCS study area in different CRLF Mitigation Area based on Figure 3-9	Outside EACCS Study Area
Inside Critical Habitat in EACCS study area	3:1	Requires site-specific agency approval	Requires site-specific agency approval	Requires site-specific agency approval	Requires site-specific agency approval
Outside Critical Habitat in EACCS study area	2.5:1	3:1	3:1	3.5:1	Requires site-specific agency approval

¹ Reference Figure 3-9 for the location of key mitigation features for California red-legged frog.

² In order to meet CDFG's standard of full mitigation for state listed species under CESA, project applicants will have to demonstrate habitat enhancement, not just permanent protection, on properties used for mitigation. If credits are purchased at a CDFG approved mitigation bank, this enhancement is assumed, therefore the full mitigation standard would be met upon purchase of the credits.

**Figure 3-9
California Red-Legged
Frog Standardized
Mitigation Reference Map**

October 2010



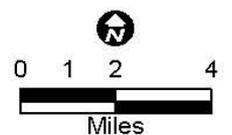
Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- Conservation Zones
- Critical Habitat
- Highways
- Streams
- Reservoirs

Mitigation Areas

- CRLF Northwest
- CRLF North
- CRLF West
- CRLF South

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2010



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Mitigation Score Sheets



Mitigation Score Sheets

- Provides a scoring system that allows a project applicant and the regulatory agencies to score a project site for species suitability.
- The same scoring system would then be used to score the suitability of a proposed mitigation site.
- The outcome is a more defensible way to ensure that mitigation is truly offsetting impacts and that the amount of mitigation is reasonable.

Table E-5. Impact/Mitigation Scoring for California red-legged frog in the EACCS study area.

California red-legged frog	5	4	3	2	1	0	Score
Closest suitable breeding habitat to site	On-site	< 1-mile	>1-mile but < 2-miles	--	--	Greater than 2-miles	
Is there occupied habitat within 2-miles of site?	Yes	--	--	No	--	--	
Aquatic land covers impacted/mitigated	Wetland, Ponds, Stream/River	--	--	--	--	All others; none	
Upland land covers impacted/mitigated	Riparian, Grassland, Oak woodland, Rural residential	Chaparral/ Scrub	Conifer woodland	Cultivated ag, ruderal	--	All others; none	
Elevation	Below 3,500 feet	--	--	--	--	Above 3,500 feet	
Presence of ground squirrels or other burrowing mammals	On site	< 0.25-mile of site	> 0.25 but ≤ 0.5 miles	> 0.5 but ≤ 1.0 miles	> 1.0 but ≤ 1.5 miles	> 1.5 miles	
Presence of bullfrogs or non-native fish in aquatic resources on site	No	--	Low numbers and not all aquatic habitats are occupied	--	Yes, occurring in high numbers	--	
Create a new barrier between breeding and upland habitat	Documented breeding location	--	Potential breeding location	--	--	No	
Protect linkage between breeding and upland habitat	Documented breeding location	--	Potential breeding location	--	--	No	
Inside East San Francisco Bay core recovery area	Yes					No	
Inside designated Critical Habitat	Yes	--	--	--	--	No	
On parcels with an approved management plan for this species.	Yes	--	--	--	No	--	
Total Score							
Note: The ratio of mitigation to impact depends on the location of the mitigation. The acres of mitigation for a given project would be determined using the ratios shown in Table 3-7. Habitat quality of the impact site and the mitigation site would be scored using this table.							

Mitigation Guidance

- Used together the scoring system and the standardized ratios provide much clearer guidance to project applicants, local planning officials, and agency personnel.
- Also informs land owners of the conservation resources on their property and provides a basis for mitigation opportunities from federal or state grant funds for conservation projects on private land.

Conservation/Stewardship

- Strategy also discusses goals and objectives that relate directly to conservation on private lands.
- Existing programs available for voluntary conservation are discussed in Chapter 5:
 - ▣ Endangered Species Act Safe Harbor Agreement
 - ▣ CDFG Voluntary Local Program
- There are also ideas presented about new stewardship programs.
 - ▣ Develop a system to better track voluntary conservation efforts on private land.
 - ▣ Incentive programs for conservation actions on public/private lands.

Other Key Features

- Sub-watershed level discussion about key resources and conservation goals.
- Conservation Easement Toolkit (Appendix F)
 - ▣ Conservation Easement Template
 - ▣ Management Plan Guide and Annotated Outline
 - ▣ Section 7 Off-site Mitigation Guidelines
- Water quality objectives for use in designing and implementing projects with impacts to creeks and wetlands (Appendix G)

Benefits

- Project applicants have a better sense of mitigation requirements.
- Private land owners have a method for assessing the conservation value of their property.
- Gained a better understanding of where high priority conservation areas are and how natural land conversion would impact the ability to conserve natural resources in the study area.
- A methodology has been established that can be refined over time.

Next Steps

- Comments will be received until October 4th.
- Steering Committee will address comments and produce a Final Public Draft of the document.
- EACCS will be presented as guidance to all local boards and councils (November/December).
- The Implementation Committee will begin to meet regularly to discuss application of the strategy in their respective jurisdictions (these meeting will be open).
- A Public Advisory Committee will be convened as needed to help the Implementation Committee rectify difficult issues.

Next Steps

- A joint annual meeting will occur where members of the Public Advisory committee and Implementation Committee will discuss successes and failures of the past year and potential fixes.
- Technical experts will be brought in by the Implementation Committee to advise on specific issues as they arise.
- An annual report will be produced updating the acres of each land cover that is converted and those that are protected to determine progress towards conservation goals.
- All data sets and maps will be updated accordingly at least on an annual basis.

Questions and Answers

- Liz McElligott – Alameda County
- Steve Stewart – City of Livermore
- Liam Davis - California Department of Fish and Game
- Cay Goude – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Lech Naumovich – East Bay California Native Plant Society
- Allison Batteate – Private Land Owner
- Troy Rahmig – ICF International
- Mary Lim – Zone 7 Water Agency

Communications Tools

- Weblink: www.eastalco-conservation.org
- EACCS Coordinator
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