



May 27, 2011

To Interested Parties:

The Steering Committee for the East Alameda County Conservation Strategy (EACCS) is pleased to release this final draft of the document and appreciates and acknowledges the time and effort provided by various stakeholders including local landowners, environmental and conservation groups, developers, and local agencies in providing ongoing feedback during the EACCS document development. We believe the EACCS document will streamline environmental permitting for projects with impacts to listed species, facilitate voluntary land stewardship conservation, as well as coordinate the connection of Tri-Valley open space and habitat in the Alameda Creek watershed with adjacent natural areas and watersheds in Contra Costa, San Joaquin, and Santa Clara Counties. This will improve overall conservation of listed and unlisted species in East Alameda County

The EACCS recognizes the importance that working ranching landscapes have and continue to have on the viability of listed species in East Alameda County. In addition, several agencies on the Steering Committee are signatories to the California Rangeland Resolution. Generally, the EACCS is one of the tools available to support the stated goals of the California Rangeland Resolution to collaboratively work together to protect and enhance the rangeland landscape. With this in mind, the EACCS Implementation Committee, as one of its first tasks, will add language in the EACCS document about historic grazing in the area and the grazing benefits for listed species. Moreover, the Implementation Committee will work with the California Rangeland Coalition and others to ensure that additional principles and techniques of range management are incorporated into future updates to the EACCS document and in management plans for listed species, as necessary and appropriate. The management plans, developed by project proponents as part of project mitigation requirements, often address rangelands that are either under active livestock management or where livestock management will be introduced as a key tool for vegetation management to enhance habitat quality for on-site biological resources.

The Steering Committee began developing the EACCS in 2007. A public draft was available in September 2010 for public review and comment. The final draft Conservation Strategy was completed in December 2010 and is expected to be formally accepted as guidance by the local agencies over the next several months.

As EACCS is implemented, the document will be updated annually, as part of the Adaptive Management process but subject to funding availability, to ensure that the best available science is used and that impacts to listed species are adequately compensated. In addition, the Implementation Committee meetings will be open to the public, which will allow interested stakeholders to provide ongoing input during the EACCS implementation.

We look forward to working with various stakeholders and local jurisdictions in implementing the EACCS. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lim, of Zone 7 Water Agency, directly at (925) 454-5036 or via email at m_lim@zone7water.com.



Albert Lopez, Deputy Director
Alameda County Community Development Agency



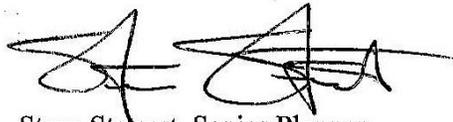
Kent Reeves, Executive Officer
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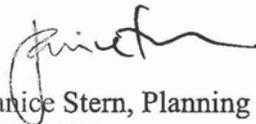
Brian Mathews, Senior Program Manager
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Gary Huisigh, Public Works Director
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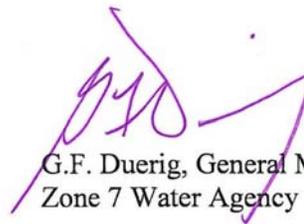
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