

# COYOTE VALLEY OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

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# USE AND MANAGEMENT PLAN





# Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

## Use and Management Plan

**As approved by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority Board of Directors  
September 26, 2013**

Prepared for:



Prepared by:  
**2M Associates**



in collaboration with:



## Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

### Vision

*The Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve is a gateway to the Santa Cruz Mountains with a strong sense of place and time. Through resource conservation and stewardship, the Preserve's cultural and agrarian values past and future, habitats and endangered species, and its position in a cross-valley wildlife corridor will be protected, celebrated, and enjoyed by visitors.*

# PLAN OVERVIEW

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Photo: xmxncm xmxncm

*In Santa Clara County, open space preservation and creation of a greenbelt are immediate high priorities needed to counter the continuing and serious conversion of these lands to urban uses, to preserve the quality of life in the county, and to encourage agricultural activities.*

*All persons owning developed parcels enjoy the privilege of using, and benefit from, the availability of open space.*

## **Santa Clara County Open Space Authority Enabling Act**

The Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Use and Management Plan addresses how the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (the Authority) will develop and manage the habitat resources of meadows drainages, and hills of this 348-acre site and public access within them. The Preserve is regionally significant because of its location along the western edge of the Coyote Valley. The Preserve's contained drainage patterns provide a key ecological link in a cross-valley wildlife corridor. The Preserve has a deeply rich history of human presence and occupation. The Preserve is highly accessible to the populations of Santa Clara County and particularly to the residents the south San Jose and Morgan Hill.

### **Balancing Use and Management**

This Use and Management Plan (the Plan) summarizes a long-term vision, goals and objectives, and a program of facilities and management activities for the Preserve. This program will serve as the basis for the Authority to steward the Preserve's resources while providing a program of low-impact, high-quality open space outdoor recreation and educational experiences for Preserve visitors.

The Use and Management Plan identifies resource conservation, stewardship and public use values that have been identified that will guide management and development to assure the sustenance of quality habitat both now and in the future.

The Plan includes all mitigation measures that were developed throughout the environmental review process conducted under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

## **Organization**

The Plan is arranged in five sections that build upon each other to portray the Preserve's resources and an overall Vision for the Preserve and the actions that will realize that Vision. These sections are:

- 1.0 Introduction:** providing background information on the planning process behind the preparation of the Use and Management Plan.
- 2.0 Preserve Context:** summarizing existing conditions, adopted agency policies, and concurrent planning processes that influence the Use and Management Plan.
- 3.0 Preserve Vision, Goals, and Objectives:** listing a series of 14 goals and 36 objectives / implementation actions to guide use and management of the Preserve.
- 4.0 The Use and Facilities Program:** identifying priority and long-range actions to facilitate resource management, support public access and use, interpret the resources of the Preserve, and work with partners.
- 5.0 Management Program:** identifying adaptive management techniques for stewarding natural resources, managing use, and protecting cultural resources. Environmental protection measures for construction activities are summarized.

## **Implementation Philosophy**

Adaptive management is a key ingredient in the Plan. Adaptive management principles will be used not only as applied to stewarding the Preserve's natural and cultural resources, but also for managing public access. Adaptive management involves making necessary changes or adjustments in a program based on the results of monitoring. Specifically this would involve observing and evaluating conditions on an ongoing basis related to the achievement of management objectives and include:

- evaluating habitat conditions and changes in use over time of the Preserve's ecological systems;
- evaluating resource management actions associated with the Preserve's grazing program; and
- considering how public access use levels and use patterns interact with and affect habitat conditions with the potential of accommodating additional use or implementing additional access restrictions.



## *A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S*

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## **PLAN OVERVIEW**

- Balancing Use and Management
- Organization
- Implementation Philosophy

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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# 1.0

## INTRODUCTION



### 1.1 Location

The 348.1-acre Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve (the Preserve) is located on the west side of the Coyote Valley approximately 1 mile south of Baily Avenue in the City of San José and approximately 3 miles north of the City of Morgan Hill.



## **1.2 Background**

The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (the Authority) acquired the Preserve in 2010. The preparation of the Use and Management Plan was initiated by the Authority in the fall of 2012. The planning approach used in preparing the Use and Management Plan involved a five step process. These steps were:

**Step 1 – Site Evaluation:** An evaluation of existing conditions, site opportunities, and site constraints concerning the Preserve was made to assist in identifying a use and management program for the Preserve. Information was summarized in an interim report titled *Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Use and Management Plan: Opportunities and Constraints*. Topics covered include the following characteristics:

- Ownership and land use
- Preserve facilities
- Agricultural resources
- Natural resources
- Historical and cultural resource

**Step 2 – Program Development:** An initial Vision for the Preserve and preliminary palette of management and use program goals and objectives were developed. This was based on:

- Individual conversations with the Open Space Authority Board’s Use and Management Committee members.
- Meetings and/or field review with:
  - the Santa Clara Valley Water District staff;
  - hiking, bicycle, and equestrian trail interests;
  - the Muwekma and Amah Mutsun tribes of the Ohlone Indians;
  - agricultural interests in and near the Preserve.
- A public workshop attended by approximately forty people.

**Step 3 – Program Options:** Based on guidance provided about the Vision, goals, and objectives, a set of staging area, trail, and management plan options was generated and reviewed in the field at a joint meeting of the Open Space Authority Board’s Use and Management Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee. Their comments directed the refinement of the plans, identification of use and management priorities, and the

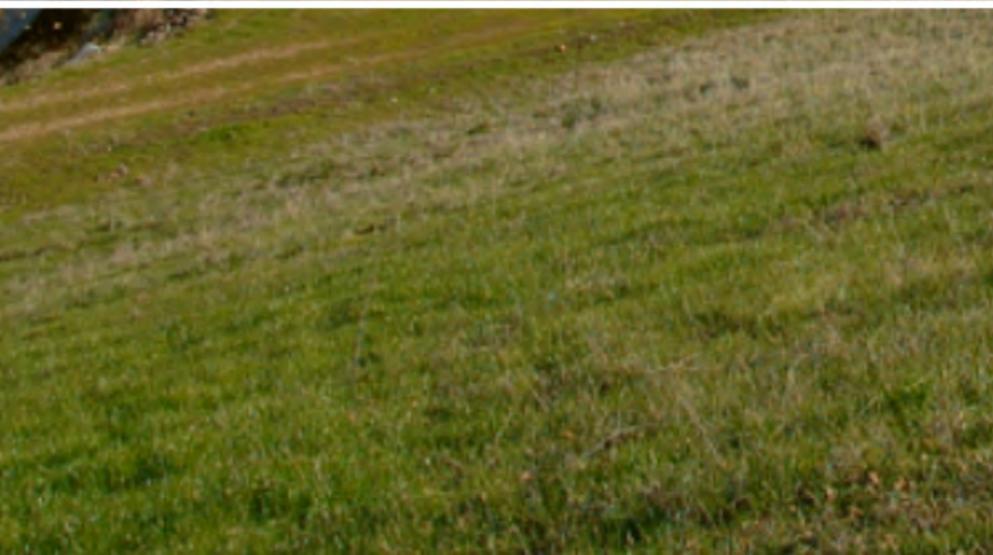
need for long-range flexibility in responding to potential future uses, in particular trail opportunities that would link the Preserve with other nearby public lands.

**Step 4 – Draft Plan Project Description and Environmental Review:** A Draft Use and Management Plan was prepared for environmental review purposes. It was determined that, based on potential environmental effects, an Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was to be pursued. Simultaneous to the IS/MND being filed with the State of California, availability of the IS/MND and a thirty-day public review and comment period was broadly announced, including notification on the Authority's web page.

**Step 5 – Draft Use and Management Plan:** Based on environmental review comments, a final IS/MND and Draft Use and Management Plan were prepared for presentation to the Authority's Board of Directors for discussion and adoption.



2.0  
PRESERVE  
CONTEXT



# 2.0

## *P R E S E R V E   C O N T E X T*

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### ***2.1 Ownership***

The 348.1-acre Preserve consists of two legal parcels divided by a 50-foot-wide linear parcel owned by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD). Attachment A provides a detailed description of land ownership and use designations for the Preserve and surrounding properties.

The Cross Valley Pipeline that connects Anderson and Calero Reservoirs consists of a 72-inch non-pressure underground pipeline and appurtenant maintenance access facilities. When the Authority purchased the Preserve, there was a Right-of-Way Agreement between the SCVWD and the previous owner that transferred to the Authority. That Right-of-Way Agreement between the SCVWD and the previous owner (“Grantor” as cited below) from whom the SCVWD property was originally purchased contains the following clauses that affect the use and management of the Preserve:

- District agrees that the property will be used for the construction, operation, and maintenance by District of an underground water pipeline or pipelines. Also, as long as Grantor’s remaining lands are used for agricultural purposes, District will not authorize the general public to enter or use the property, and further the property will not be made available for equestrian trails, hiking, hunting, or recreational uses of any kind.
- District agrees that when Grantor's remaining property is developed into a use other than agriculture, District will permit Grantor to construct and maintain

roads, bridges, sewers, and utilities on the property, provided that the location and plans and specifications of such facilities are approved by District, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

The Authority will need to coordinate use of the Cross Valley Pipe property with SCVWD to meet their responsibilities.

## **2.2 Land Use**

From an archaeological perspective the Preserve was a habitation site dating as far back as 6,000 years (see also Section 2.5). In more modern history, the Preserve has been used for cattle grazing, dry-land grain production in its valley floor areas, and as a private event area complete with an amphitheater and picnic grounds. When purchased by the Authority, a variety of storage area features, temporary structures, and other dilapidated facilities on the property were removed.

### **2.2.1 County of Santa Clara General Plan and Zoning**

The County of Santa Clara General Plan land use designation for the Preserve is “Ranchlands”.

The Santa Clara County Trails Master Plan designates Santa Teresa Boulevard / Hale Avenue as an on-street bicycle route (R1-A) and a segment of the Northern Recreation Retracement Route of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. Also shown west of the Preserve is the Paradise Valley Trail, a connector trail (C-26) between Calero Reservoir approximately 2.0 miles northeast of the Preserve and Chesbro Reservoir approximately 2.5 miles to the south of the Preserve.

The Preserve is zoned AR-d1, Agricultural Ranchlands with Combining District. The purpose of the Agricultural Ranchlands district, also known as the AR district is to preserve ranching, the natural resources, and the rural character of the areas to which it applies. Permitted uses include ranching or agriculture, low-intensity recreation, mineral extraction, and land in its natural state. However, the Authority is not subject to Zoning Ordinance permit compliance for the types of facilities typical in an open space preserve such as parking facilities, gates, kiosks, vault restrooms, small shade or similar structures, and trails that would facilitate access to the Preserve. Only building permits where they are needed would be required. (Personal communication, Bill Shoe, Santa Clara County Planning Department, 2/26/13)

### **2.2.2 San José General Plan and Coyote Valley Vision**

The Preserve is located in the center of the Coyote Valley and is entirely within the

Sphere of Influence boundary but outside the Urban Service Boundary of the City of San José.

The City's Sphere of Influence is regulated by the Santa Clara County Local Agency Formation Commission to evaluate the most efficient and effective means of providing public services. San José's Sphere of Influence is the outermost physical boundary and service area that the City is expected to serve.

The Urban Growth Boundary, also referred to as the "Greenline", defines the ultimate perimeter of urbanization in San José. Outside of this boundary, development remains rural and open in character.

In November, 2011 the *Envision - San José 2040 General Plan* was adopted by the San José City Council. The low valley areas of the Preserve are designated in the General Plan as "Central Coyote Valley Urban Reserve" while the steeper areas are designated as "Hillside". The Urban Reserve designation enables the City, through comprehensive General Plan updates, to plan and phase growth within the Urban Reserves based on need and ability to provide necessary facilities and services to support additional growth. The Hillside designation is applied to areas that are located outside of the Urban Growth Boundary with the intent of preserving a permanent greenbelt of open space and natural habitat along the City's southern edges.

Policies within the General Plan that affect the Preserve or immediately surrounding lands in the future are:

**FS-5.9** Expansion of the Urban Service Area into the Central Coyote Valley Urban Reserves will not be considered until after 2040.

**FS-5.10** Maintain the rural and agricultural character of Central Coyote Valley and do not expand the Urban Service Area to include it.

**ER-7.5** Support the on-going identification and protection of critical linkages for wildlife movement in the mid-Coyote Valley.

**LU-20.1** Protect and preserve the remaining farmlands within San José's sphere of influence that are not planned for urbanization in the timeframe of the *Envision General Plan*, such as mid- and south Coyote Valley, through the following means:

1. Strongly discourage conversion of agricultural lands outside the Urban Growth Boundary to non-agricultural uses.
2. Limit residential uses in agricultural areas to those which are incidental to agriculture.

3. Prohibit subdivision of agricultural lands, unless it can be established that the subdivision would not reduce the overall agricultural productivity of the land and that viable agricultural operations would be sustained.
4. Encourage contractual protection for agricultural lands, such as Williamson Act contracts, agricultural conservation easements, transfers of development rights, or other property tax relief measures as incentives for preservation of these lands.
5. Restrict land uses within and adjacent to agricultural lands that would compromise the agricultural viability of these lands. Require new adjacent land uses to mitigate any impacts on the use of agricultural lands.
6. Require ancillary non-agricultural land uses on agricultural lands to be ancillary to and compatible with agricultural land uses, agricultural production, and the rural character of the area, and to enhance the economic viability of agricultural operations.

**LU-20.2** Preserve agricultural lands and prime soils in non-urban areas in order to provide local and regional fresh food supplies, reduce dependence on foreign products, conserve energy, and retain the aquifer recharge capacity of these lands.

**LU-20.3** Encourage appropriate agricultural uses in Open Hillside areas that will be compatible with other goals and policies that address the specific environmental and aesthetic concerns for use of hillside lands.

**LU-20.4** Leverage agricultural lands to create and maintain a unique community character, provide open space, link to the region's history as the Valley of Heart's Delight, support the area's tourism industry, contribute to the local economy, and add to the quality of life of the community.

Attachment A presents an area view of the Preserve and the immediately adjacent lands.

## ***2.3 Existing Features and Management***

### **2.3.1 Vehicular Access**

Regional freeways and arterial roadways serving the project site include the following.

- US 101, an eight-lane north-south freeway linking the cities of San José and Morgan Hill to points north and south. From US 101, access to the Preserve is provided via the freeway interchange at Bailey Avenue.
- Monterey Road (also designated as SR 82), a four-lane divided arterial that runs parallel to Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and US 101 and intersects with Palm Avenue at a signalized intersection.
- Santa Teresa Road/Hale Avenue, a two-lane east-west arterial that runs parallel

to Monterey Road from San José to Morgan Hill.

The Preserve is accessed from Santa Teresa Boulevard / Hale Avenue via a 0.68 mile segment of Palm Avenue. Palm Avenue (County Road Number LR 95004) is a 2-lane road, with a pavement width of 21 feet within a 60-foot right-of-way. The capacity of Palm Avenue is 12,000 vehicles per day.

### **2.3.2 Transit Service**

Valley Transit Authority bus route 68 serves Santa Teresa Boulevard from downtown San José to Gilroy via the Blossom Hill and Morgan Hill Caltrain stations and the Santa Teresa light rail train station.

### **2.3.3 Bikeways**

Several bike lanes, bike routes, and bike paths are provided throughout San José and Santa Clara County. Class II (on-street) bike lanes are provided on Monterey Road from Curtner Avenue to just south of Bernal Avenue. Santa Teresa Boulevard and Hale Avenue are designated bicycle routes.

### **2.3.4 Preserve Facilities**

Since acquisition in 2010, there has been an active program of removing dilapidated facilities at the site. The only remaining features include:

- entrance gate
- perimeter and internal fencing and gates for managing cattle grazing
- approximately 3 miles of ranch roads in various states of improvement
- a flagpole and sign at the Preserve entrance.
- some barbed-wire cattle fences that do not meet current Authority fencing standards see Attachment C)
- developed springs (part of the grazing program)

### **2.3.5 Utilities and Service Systems**

Electrical and communication service lines run to the property entrance along Palm Avenue.

There is a “turn-out” of a 4-inch water pipe from the SCVWD Cross Valley Pipeline near the Palm Avenue entrance. Water from the Cross Valley Pipeline is non-potable. The Authority has the right to use this water for whatever purposes it wishes. The water is metered and rates depend upon whether use is for agricultural or municipal & industrial (M&I) purposes. Water use for habitat enhancement would be considered M&I as it is not for agriculture.

### **2.3.6 Emergency Services**

The Preserve lies within boundaries of the South Santa Clara County Fire District and for fire protection is in the State Responsibility Area as defined in Public Resource Code (PRC) 4102 covering areas in California in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires is primarily the responsibility of the State. The South Santa Clara County Fire District is an all risk emergency response agency that contracts for personnel and administration with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

### **2.3.7 Grazing**

Historically the Preserve was grazed by cattle. In order to continue grazing of the property but in a way that benefits habitat diversity, during 2011 and 2012 the Authority evaluated alternative grazing prescriptions for the Preserve at a lower intensity than done historically. In November 2012, the Authority Board of Directors accepted the grazing management recommendations for the Preserve (Jodi McGraw Consulting, *Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Grazing Management Recommendations*, March, 2012). Those actions are incorporated by reference into the Use and Management Plan in order to:

- Prevent or limit impacts to natural biological systems caused by the use of grazing as a management tool, including by preventing the spread of invasive plants, maintaining wildlife-friendly infrastructure including fences and troughs, and protecting native animals that might be regarded as a nuisance or harm to livestock (e.g., California ground squirrel, coyote, and mountain lion).
- Protect cultural resources on site from damage caused by intensive cattle use and other aspects of grazing management.
- Reduce the risk of wildfire by reducing the amount of fine fuels.
- Prevent or limit conflicts between grazing management and public enjoyment of the Preserve, including trail use.

The grazing program includes: a seasonal grazing program between November and March with specific stocking rates; a fencing program including exclusionary fencing from springs and selected creek areas for habitat and water quality purposes, and for cultural resource protection; development of water sources; and an adaptive management program based on photo monitoring, test plots, and quantitative sampling.

### **2.3.8 Dry Land Grain Production and Other Crops**

The Preserve is not classified as Prime Agricultural Land. Dry-land grain production took place in the Preserve's valley floor areas until purchased by the Authority. Those areas are now managed for seasonal cattle grazing and protection of cultural resources.

## ***2.4 Visual Setting***

From the valley floor area of the Preserve, the orientation is to the east with views bounded by the Preserve hills and ridgelines to the north, south and west. Views from the Preserve focus on the mid-Coyote Valley agricultural and rural residential areas and generally terminate at the first ridgeline of the Mount Hamilton range on the east side of the Coyote Valley. In the foreground, there are direct views to immediate neighboring residences and agricultural outbuildings. There are background views to the east of selected higher ridgelines and peaks of the Mount Hamilton range.

From the higher elevations of the Preserve, panoramic foreground and middleground views of the Coyote Valley are bounded by Coyote Peak and Tulare Hill approximately 3 to 4 miles to the north and the Mount Hamilton range ridgelines and peaks on the east. Views to the southeast extend over Morgan Hill for approximately 10 to 15 miles.

Along the western boundary of the Preserve portions of the Cinnabar Hills Golf Club greens and fairways, agricultural ponds, and some ranch outbuildings may be seen. The most predominant management feature visible from most locations within the Preserve is a high voltage electric transmission line located just outside the Preserve's western boundary.

## ***2.5 Cultural Resources***

Archaeological resources in Coyote Valley are from the Native American period up to about 1850. The entire Preserve falls within the boundary of a prehistoric district, the Circle of Circles Archaeological District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places (#82004985). The period of habitation dates back approximately 6,000 years. The Preserve contains four recorded archeological sites that evidence it was a both village and ceremonial site, and contains mineral resources that when extracted and processed were used for industry.

## ***2.6 Biological Resources***

An expanded description of biological resources is found in Attachment B.

### **2.6.1 Habitat Descriptions**

Land cover in the Preserve includes annual grassland, oak savanna, oak woodland,

serpentine grassland, serpentine scrub and developed lands.

### 2.6.2 Special-Status Plants

The following special-status plant species have been documented within the Preserve.

- Santa Clara Valley dudleya (*Dudleya setchellii*),
- Smooth lessingia (*Lessingia micradenia* var. *glabrata*), and
- Most beautiful jewel-flower (*Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *peramoenus*).

**TABLE 2.6-1: Habitats in Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**

Habitat Type	Acreage in Preserve *	Percentage of Preserve
Annual grassland	112.5	31.9%
Oak savanna	103.6	29.4%
Oak woodland	75.1	21.3%
Serpentine grassland	47.2	13.4%
Serpentine scrub	12.2	3.5%
Developed**	1.7	0.5%
Total	352.4	100%

\* Acreage values from 2012 Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Grazing Management Recommendations (McGraw, 2012)

\*\* These land cover types are all extensively altered by human management and are therefore discussed together below.

Nine additional species have a moderate to high potential to occur in the Preserve due to the presence of suitable habitat and/or documented occurrences within one mile of the Preserve. These include:

- Big-scale balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza macrolepis*)
- Tiburon Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis* ssp. *neglecta*)
- Pink creamsacs (*Castilleja rubicundula* ssp. *rubicundula*)
- Coyote ceanothus (*Ceanothus ferrisiae*)
- Mt. Hamilton thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *campylon*)
- Fragrant fritillary (*Fritillaria liliacea*)
- Loma Prieta hoita (*Hoita strobilina*)
- Hall’s bush mallow (*Malacothamnus hallii*)
- Metcalf Canyon jewel-flower (*Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *albidus*).

### 2.6.3 Special-Status Wildlife

The following special-status wildlife species have been observed within the Preserve or have a moderate to high likelihood of occurring within the Preserve:

#### Invertebrates

- Opler's longhorn moth (*Adela oplerella*)
- Bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*)
- Hom's microblind harvestman (*Microcina homi*)

#### Amphibians

- California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*)
- California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytoni*)

#### Birds

- Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*)
- White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*)

#### Mammals

- Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)
- Long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*)
- Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*)
- San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*)
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*)

Of these species, two are of note in terms of their presence and implications to use and management of the Preserve.

**Bay checkerspot butterfly:** There are two areas of the Preserve designated as Critical Habitat by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Bay checkerspot butterfly on the Preserve, critical habitat units 9a and 9b with the last observation of the species in these areas in 1997. These areas meet at least one of five Primary Constituent Elements deemed necessary by the USFWS for the species to persist on the site. The five primary constituent elements for Bay checkerspot butterfly are:

- The presence of annual or perennial grasslands with little to no overstory that provide north-south and east-west slopes with a tilt of more than 7 degrees for larval host plant survival during periods of atypical weather (for example, drought).
- The presence of the primary larval host plant, dwarf plantain (*Plantago erecta*), and at least one of the secondary host plants, purple owl's-clover (*Castilleja densiflora*) or exserted paintbrush (*Castilleja exserta*), are required for

reproduction, feeding, and larval development.

- The presence of adult nectar sources for feeding.
- Soils derived from serpentinite ultramafic rock (Montara, Climara, Henneke, Hentine, and Obispo soil series) or similar soils (Inks, Candlestick, Los Gatos, Fagan, and Barnabe soil series) that provide areas with fewer aggressive, non-native plant species for larval host plant and adult nectar plant survival and reproduction.
- The presence of stable holes and cracks in the soil, and surface rock outcrops that provide shelter for the larval stage of the Bay checkerspot butterfly during summer diapause.

The areas of suitable habitat that support persistent populations are located along Coyote Ridge, to the east of the Preserve on the east side of US 101. Smaller critical habitat units that may support “satellite” populations are located north of the Preserve in the Santa Teresa Hills, Tulare Hill, and at the Preserve. Individuals are expected to move between populations because all of the Santa Clara County populations are within flight distance of each other.

**California tiger salamander:** The California tiger salamander is listed as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act and under the California Endangered Species Act. The Preserve does not support designated Critical Habitat for California tiger salamander. There is no pond or wetland habitat on the property that could support breeding California tiger salamanders. However California tiger salamander has been documented breeding in several locations in the general area surrounding the Preserve. The most notable breeding sites or potential breeding sites are located north and west of the property. All of the Preserve is within the typical upland dispersal distance (at least 1.3 miles) from breeding ponds or wetlands on adjacent lands.

## ***2.7 Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan***

### **2.7.1 Authority Role**

The Preserve and all surrounding lands are within the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (the Habitat Plan) area. The Habitat Plan provides a framework for promoting the protection and recovery of natural resources, including endangered species, while streamlining the permitting process for planned development, infrastructure, and maintenance activities. The Habitat Plan allows the County of Santa Clara, the Santa Clara Valley Water District,

the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), and the cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and San Jose to receive endangered-species permits for activities and projects they conduct under their jurisdiction. The Authority also participated in the Plan's preparation. The Final Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan was adopted in 2013. The Plan covers approximately 519,506 acres of Santa Clara County including the Preserve. The Habitat Plan will be implemented by a Joint Powers Authority named the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency (the Habitat Agency).

Within the framework of the Habitat Plan, the Authority is considered a "Participating Special Entity", that may request coverage under the Plan during Plan implementation. Such coverage would be applicable to the Preserve and would provide "take" authorization for public access and other land improvements if necessary.

### **2.7.2 Permitting and Endangered Species**

Construction of public access features at the Preserve will require permits under both the federal Endangered Species Act and under California Endangered Species Act related to Bay checkerspot butterfly and California tiger salamander. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a "4(d) Rule" under the federal Endangered Species Act for impacts to California tiger salamander for "routine ranching activities" including:

- Grazing;
- Control of ground-burrowing rodents using poisonous grain;
- Control and management of burrow complexes using disking and grading;
- Routine management and maintenance of stock ponds and berms to maintain livestock water supplies;
- Routine maintenance or construction of fences for grazing management;
- Planting, harvest, or rotation of non-irrigated forage crops;
- Maintenance and construction of livestock management facilities such as corrals, sheds, and other ranch outbuildings;
- Repair and maintenance of unimproved ranch roads (this exemption does not include improvement, upgrade, or construction of new roads);
- Disking of fence lines or perimeter areas for fire prevention control;
- Placement of mineral supplements; and
- Control and management of noxious weeds.

These exceptions only apply to the federal Endangered Species Act. California does not have such exceptions and potential impacts to California tiger salamander resulting from these activities require review and possible permitting by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



3.0  
VISION, GOALS,  
AND OBJECTIVES



# 3.0

## VISION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

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### **3.1 Vision**

The following vision provides direction for all aspects of the Preserve Use and Management Plan program.

*The Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve is a gateway to the Santa Cruz Mountains with a strong sense of place and time. Through resource conservation and stewardship, the Preserve's cultural and agrarian values past and future, habitats and endangered species, and its position in a cross-valley wildlife corridor will be protected, celebrated, and enjoyed by visitors.*

### **3.2 Goals and Objectives**

Table 3.2-1 lists specific goals and objectives for six programs of the Use and Management Plan. These are:

- Natural Resource Management Program
- Cultural Resource Management Program
- Public Access and Use Management Program
- Agricultural Use Management Program
- Interpretive Program
- Partnership Program

**TABLE 3.2-1: Goals and Objectives**

<b>NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM</b>	
<b>Goal NRM-1</b>	<b>Preserve endangered species habitat consistent with and in support of the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (the Valley Habitat Plan) conservation strategies.</b>
Objective NRM-1.1	Preserve a habitat mosaic of annual grassland, oak savanna, and oak woodland that provides upland habitat for California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog.
Objective NRM-1.2	Reduce, and where possible eradicate, invasive plant species in serpentine grassland and serpentine rock outcrop habitat that could outcompete host or food plants for Bay checkerspot butterfly.
Objective NRM-1.3	Preserve serpentine habitats and maintain grazing infrastructure that enables grazing management in areas with serpentine grassland or serpentine rock outcrop.
Objective NRM-1.4	Avoid removal of federal or state listed plant species during construction of new trails, use areas, and facilities.
Objective NRM-1.5	Implement all appropriate conditions on covered activities, including construction-related conditions identified in the Valley Habitat Plan.
Objective NRM-1.6	Identify and designate zones within the Preserve for various habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement programs benefiting covered species.
<b>Goal NRM-2</b>	<b>Enhance wildlife cross-valley linkages through preservation of riparian habitat corridors and adjacent undeveloped natural areas for the benefit of native biodiversity and support threatened and endangered species.</b>
Objective NRM-2.1	Work with the Santa Clara County Water District to re-establish natural channel functions as feasible and consistent with the use of its pipeline property.
Objective NRM-2.2	Establish 35-foot riparian setbacks between the top of banks along the two tributaries to Fisher Creek and Preserve trails, use areas, and facilities, with the exception of perpendicular trail crossings.
Objective NRM-2.3	Use fencing that does not restrict wildlife movement or pose hazards to wildlife movement through the Preserve.
<b>Goal NRM-3</b>	<b>Restore natural hydrological functions to the Preserve’s south valley to enhance seasonal wetlands where practical.</b>
Objective NRM-3.1	Remove diversion channels and topographic modifications.
Objective NRM-3.2	Create low berms as appropriate to enhance seasonal wetland habitats.
Objective NRM-3.3	Manage grazing with alternate water sources or mineral licks to attract animals away from wetland and riparian areas during sensitive times of the year.
Objective NRM-3.4	Modify grazing fencing as necessary to isolate seasonal wetland areas and adjust the grazing program accordingly.
<b>Goal NRM-4</b>	<b>Reclaim and restore grasslands.</b>
Objective NRM-4.1	Reclaim grassland habitats by grading, disking, and seeding, as appropriate, abandoned ranch roads not used as part of the Preserve trail system to their natural slope and vegetative conditions.
Objective NRM-4.2	Remove invasive exotic plants and in particular yellow star thistle ( <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> ).
Objective NRM-4.3	Reduce feral pig population through trapping and removal effort.
<b>Goal NRM-5</b>	<b>Enhance upland habitats to promote native biodiversity and support threatened and endangered species.</b>
Objective NRM-5.1	Protect, and where appropriate, enhance serpentine habitats through adaptive management cattle grazing and revegetation programs.
Objective NRM-5.2	Protect, and where appropriate, enhance oak woodland habitat through adaptive management cattle grazing and revegetation programs.
Objective NRM-5.3	Protect, and where appropriate, enhance populations of specific special-status species through adaptive management cattle grazing and revegetation programs.
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM</b>	
<b>Goal CR-1</b>	<b>Preserve significant archaeological, historical, and cultural sites.</b>
Objective CR-1.1	Manage public access to archaeological sites and ceremonial use areas by establishing restricted areas.
Objective CR-1.2	Within recorded archaeological sites, do not allow irrigation.
Objective CR-1.3	Within the Fisher Creek valley floor area allow only facility development and uses that involve no

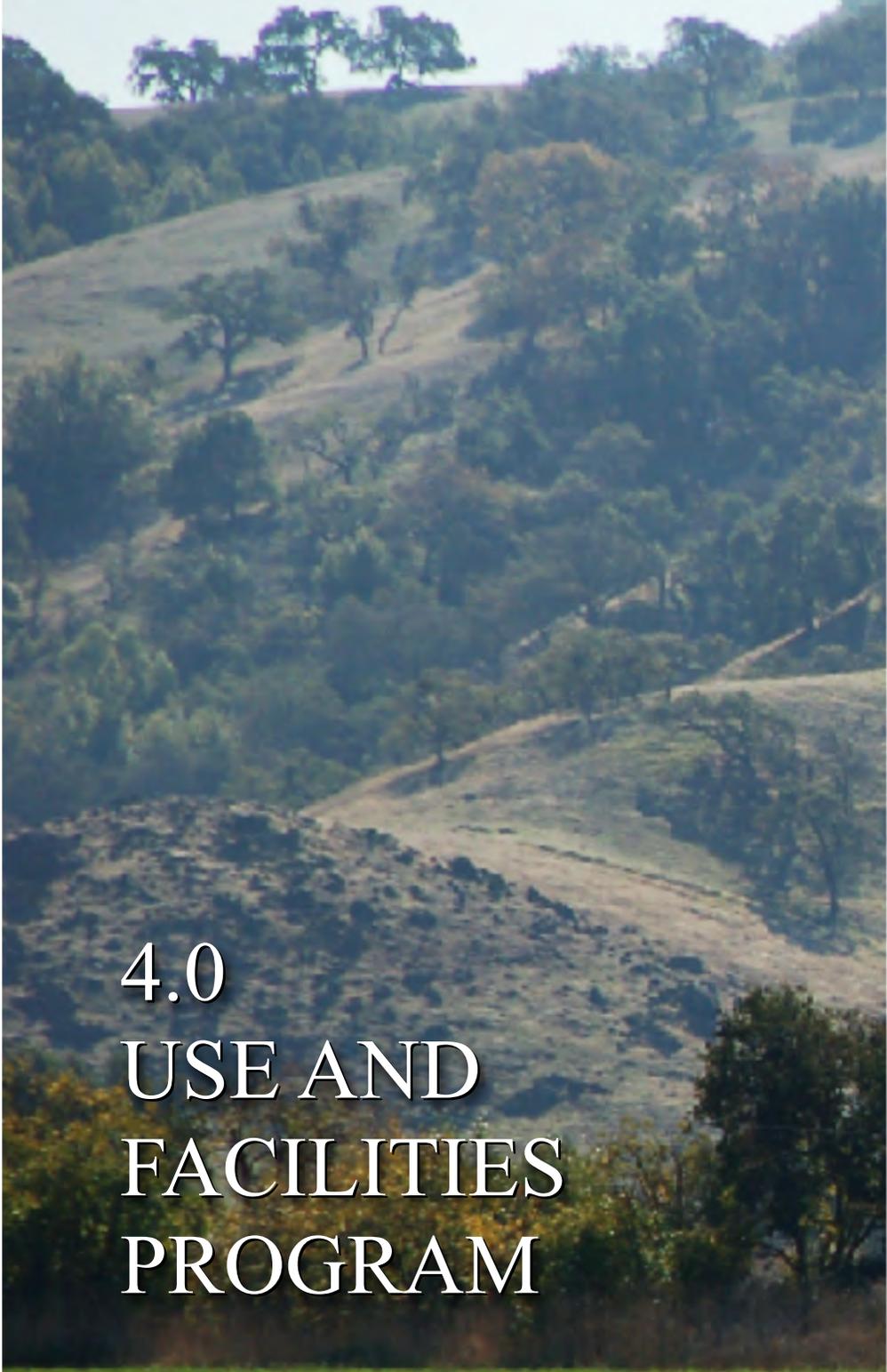
**TABLE 3.2-1: Goals and Objectives**

	downward ground disturbance. Develop facilities on imported fill materials only.
Objective CR-1.4	Implement a scientific recovery program involving archaeological testing in those areas where cultural resources are discovered or if dry-farm grain production is proposed within the Fisher Creek valley floor.
<b>PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM</b>	
<b>Goal PA-1</b>	<b>Designate and manage uses of the Preserve.</b>
Objective PA-1.1	Designate the Preserve for day use only facility with the exception of occasional evening events led by Authority staff or Docents (such as stargazing).
Objective PA-1.2	Require permits for group use or special events.
<b>Goal PA-2</b>	<b>Consistent with resource programs, develop staging areas, multi-use trails, use areas and facilities where feasible to support multiple-use public access.</b>
Objective PA-2.1	Place signs along Hale Avenue at Palm Avenue to direct travelers to the Preserve.
Objective PA-2.2	Work with the Santa Clara County to designate Palm Avenue as a signed Class III bicycle route (see also Partnership Program).
Objective PA-2.3	Install “no parking” signs along Palm Avenue from Hale Avenue to the Preserve entrance (see also Partnership Program).
Objective PA-2.4	Provide a Staging Area with related but separate areas and support facilities for general uses and equestrian use.
Objective PA-2.5	Identify opportunities for parking expansion, temporary overflow parking, and/or temporal management of parking areas to allow for maximum use of the Preserve by the general public when developed parking capacity is exceeded.
Objective PA-2.6	Prohibit motorized vehicular access beyond the Preserve staging areas except for emergency and service vehicles and appropriate power-driven mobility devices.
Objective PA-2.7	Provide a multi-use loop trail (bicycling, hiking and equestrian use) through the Preserve that takes advantage of scenic vistas, passes through or near the variety of habitats represented in the Preserve, and discourages potential trespass onto adjacent private lands.
Objective PA-2.8	Provide ADA multi-use trail loops through the Fisher Creek valley floor area of the Preserve.
Objective PA-2.9	Designate a multi-purpose Outdoor Learning Place to include a shade structure and picnic tables with a primary purpose of supporting Preserve interpretation and education programs.
Objective PA-2.10	Identify and designate locations for individual picnic tables and benches along the Preserve’s trail system.
Objective PA-2.11	Manage access and use with as minimal a sign program as possible.
Objective PA-2.12	Control inappropriate visitor use through observation and adaptive management techniques using signs and barriers as necessary.
<b>Goal PA-3</b>	<b>Provide adequate resources to ensure sufficient staff is available to manage use.</b>
Objective PA-3.1	Assign staffing and other management resources commensurate with Preserve’s use levels as necessary.
Objective PA-3.2	Allow for the potential of a caretaker location at the Preserve to provide for 24-hour presence.
<b>AGRICULTURAL USE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM</b>	
<b>Goal A-1</b>	<b>Provide demonstration programs at the Preserve to educate the visitor about the benefits of managed open space landscapes and agriculture.</b>
Objective A-1.1	Continue cattle grazing on the Preserve and implementation of the adaptive management prescriptions contained in the <i>Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Grazing Management Recommendations</i> to demonstrate the relationship between managed cattle production and habitat enhancement.
Objective A-1.2	Where feasible, designate areas that are not constrained by resource conditions for potential hedgerow demonstration gardens or other passive and intensive agricultural uses.
Objective A-1.3	Designate portions of the Preserve as a Native American harvest area and manage vegetation to encourage plants of value to traditional cultural uses.

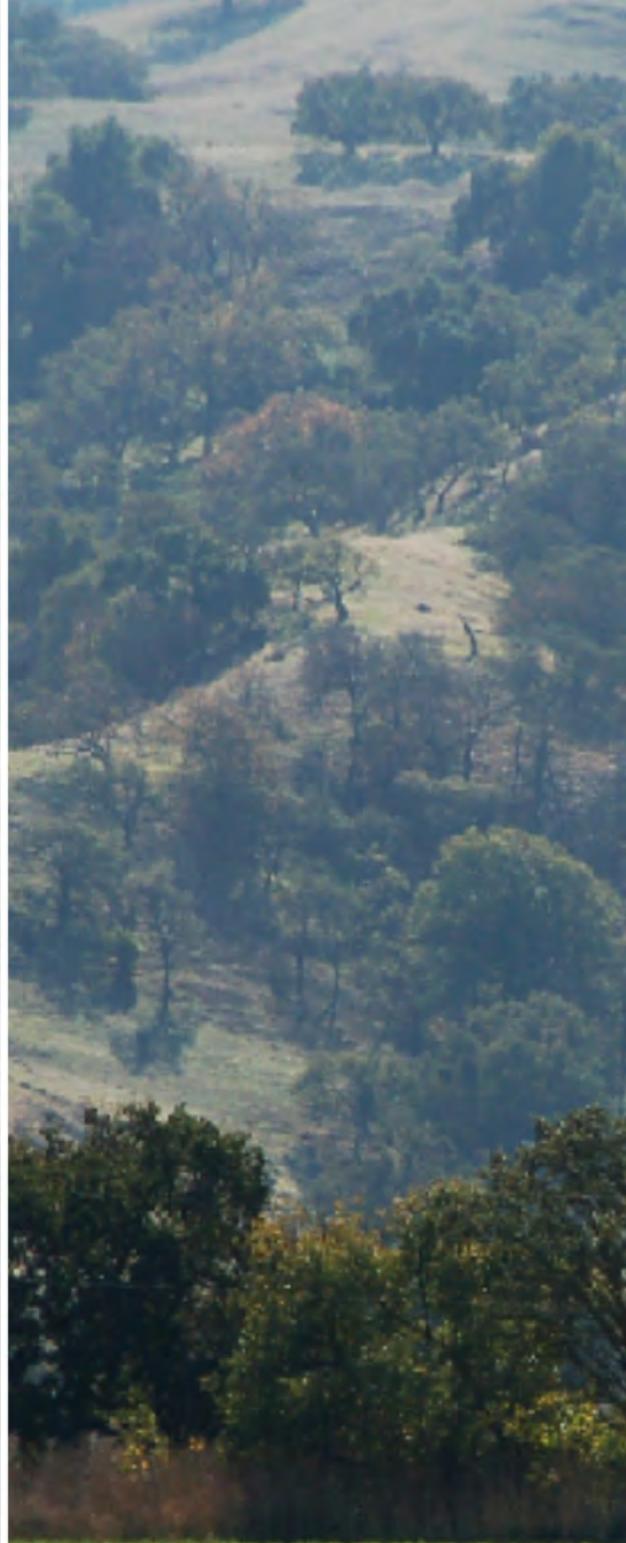
**TABLE 3.2-1: Goals and Objectives**

<b>INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM</b>	
<b>Goal I-1</b>	<b>Interpret the cultural and natural resources of the Preserve in the context of the Coyote Valley and region.</b>
Objective I-1.1	All trails within the Preserve will be interpretive trails.
Objective I-1.2	Develop the Preserve’s Foothills loop trail emphasizing the habitats, endangered species of the Preserve, raptors, and active management including beneficial cattle grazing and stewardship programs.
Objective I-1.3	Develop site-specific passive interpretive information panels about the living history of the Ohlone both past and present (see also Partnership Program).
Objective I-1.4	Develop the Valley ADA trail as an interpretive trail emphasizing the story of the Ohlone and the valley as a habitation site.
Objective I-1.5	In association with Native American representatives, choose a culturally appropriate name for the Valley ADA trail to advance a sense of tradition and place (see also Partnership Program).
<b>Goal I-2</b>	<b>Use a variety of interpretive formats at the Preserve.</b>
Objective I-2.1	Develop internet-based interpretive programs keyed to interactive stations (with QR codes) along one of the Preserve’s interpretive trails.
Objective I-2.2	Develop passive interpretive information panels at the Preserve Staging Area, Outdoor Learning Place, and along trails as appropriate.
Objective I-2.3	Work with educational institutions and interest groups to sponsor guided interpretive tours at the Preserve (see also Partnership Program).
<b>PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM</b>	
<b>Goal P-1</b>	<b>Institute a partnership program with Native Americans to research and interpret the Preserve’s cultural resources.</b>
Objective P-1.1	Develop an interpretive program about Ohlone uses of the Preserve and Ohlone culture.
Objective P-1.2	Develop a program to allow reconnaissance surveys of the Preserve for potential sites not yet recorded.
Objective P-1.3	Develop educational materials for use by school groups.
Objective P-1.4	Collaborate with tribal archaeologists to scientifically document the cultural resources of the Preserve.
<b>Goal P-2</b>	<b>Facilitate tribal use of the Preserve.</b>
Objective P-2.1	Develop protocols and monitoring programs for traditional ceremonial uses proposed by Ohlone tribes for specific Preserve sites.
Objective P-2.2	Develop protocols and stewardship programs for seeding/planting and collection of selected native plants traditionally used by the Ohlone.
<b>Goal P-3</b>	<b>Coordinate implementation of the Use and Management Plan with potential Preserve recreation and education partners.</b>
Objective P-3.1	Work with Santa Clara County to designate Palm Avenue as a Class III bicycle route and place “no parking” signs along Palm Avenue.
Objective P-3.2	Work with non-profit organizations and volunteers to construct trails and other Preserve amenities.
Objective P-3.3	Work with non-profit organizations and volunteers to manage visitor access and maintain trails.
Objective P-3.4	Encourage partners to conduct active interpretation programs at the Preserve subject to Authority approval.
Objective P-3.5	Work with Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department to coordinate cultural resource interpretation to complement programs at Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park.
<b>Goal P-4</b>	<b>Coordinate management of the Preserve’s natural resources with the Valley Habitat Agency.</b>
Objective P-4.1	Permit all covered activities through the Valley Habitat Plan.





4.0  
USE AND  
FACILITIES  
PROGRAM



# 4.0

## USE AND FACILITIES PROGRAM

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### ***4.1 Facilities to be Removed or Replaced***

Since acquisition in 2010, there has been an active program of removing dilapidated structures at the site. The only remaining features to be removed and or replaced include:

- an existing flagpole and sign at the Preserve entrance.
- barbed-wire cattle fences that do not meet current Authority fencing standards.

### ***4.2 Proposed Facilities, Use Areas, and Uses***

Table 4.2-1 presents an array of facilities for the public to access and enjoy the Preserve. Initial improvements are identified. Where feasible, facilities will be constructed with recycled materials and/or materials that are certified as sustainable. Table 4.2-2 presents the facilities program associated with public use and resource management of the Preserve.

Figures 1 through 8 illustrate the facilities to be developed at the Preserve.

- Figure 1 shows an overview of the Preserve access, trail system, and use areas.
- Figure 2 shows initial development at the Preserve entrance and future potential use areas and/or expansion areas.
- Figure 3 shows the Outdoor Learning Place and facilities.
- Figure 4 shows an overview of the initial use and management signs for the Preserve as well as potential interpretive points.
- Figure 5 shows resource management zones at the Preserve.
- Figures 6 and 7 illustrate the shade structure to be located at the Outdoor Learning Place

- Figure 8 shows the typical facility details to be used at the Preserve.

Figures S-1 through S-3 illustrate typical sections of the Preserve’s trail system.

**TABLE 4.2-1: Facility Program (see Figures 1, 2, and 3)**

Feature / Action	Spatial Characteristics	Related Features / Characteristics / Actions
<b>Vehicular Entrance, Parking, and Staging Area (see Figure 2)</b> <b>Total Area: 3.5 acres</b>		
Palm Avenue		<u>Initial Improvements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direction sign at Hale Boulevard</li> <li>• “No parking” signs along Palm Avenue between Hale Boulevard and Preserve entrance</li> </ul>
Staging Area	Area: 1.9 Acres Paved area: 20,500 square feet	<u>Initial Improvements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrance gate</li> <li>• Preserve sign</li> <li>• Entrance turn-around and drive, paved</li> <li>• Architectural screening of agricultural water supply facilities</li> <li>• Vehicle parking: 26 spaces, asphalt</li> <li>• ADA parking: 2 van-accessible, asphalt</li> <li>• Equestrian parking (3 vehicles and trailers, compacted natural surface)</li> <li>• Water quality swale</li> <li>• Restroom: vault toilet (1)</li> <li>• Picnic tables (6)</li> <li>• Interpretive kiosk</li> <li>• Use and regulatory signs</li> <li>• Irrigation main lines stubbed out for future use</li> <li>• Fire hose standpipes</li> <li>• Irrigated hedgerow / screening plants / shade trees</li> <li>• Note: No potable water or trash/recycling containers</li> </ul>
Staging Area and Future Use Area (if used exclusively for staging)	Cumulative area: 3.5 Acres Cumulative paved area: 27,500 square feet	Additional Improvements (added to above): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor Contact Point / Control Booth</li> <li>• Vehicle parking: 36 spaces, asphalt</li> <li>• ADA parking: 2 van accessible, asphalt</li> <li>• Equestrian parking (10 vehicles and trailers, compacted natural surface)</li> <li>• Water quality swale adjacent to equestrian parking</li> <li>• Restrooms: vault toilet (1)</li> <li>• Note: No potable water or trash/recycling containers</li> </ul>

**TABLE 4.2-1: Facility Program (see Figures 1, 2, and 3)**

Feature / Action	Spatial Characteristics	Related Features / Characteristics / Actions
Future Use Area	Area: 1.6 Acres	Potential Uses: including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equestrian staging (see above)</li> <li>• Overflow parking</li> <li>• Irrigated agricultural demonstration area</li> <li>• Temporary event area</li> <li>• Outdoor education</li> <li>• Portable corral</li> </ul>
<b>Outdoor Learning Place (See Figure 3)</b> <b>Total Area = 0.6 acres (note: all facility construction to be on imported fill)</b>		
Outdoor Learning Place	Area: 0.6 acres Fill: approximately 300 cubic yards	<u>Initial Improvements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fenced area for ancillary use related to shade structure</li> <li>• Trail / service access (from Gateway Trail)</li> </ul>
Outdoor Learning Place Shade Structure	To accommodate school groups (up to approximately 60 to 90 students and teachers)  Floor area: approximately 1,000 to 1750 square feet.	<u>Initial Improvements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADA-complaint / multiple use</li> <li>• Covered structure with open walls</li> <li>• Seating / movable picnic tables</li> <li>• Trash / recycling containers (option)</li> <li>• Barn architectural style</li> <li>• Interpretive panels</li> <li>• Archaeological interpretive theme in picnic table layout and floor detailing (circle of circles)</li> <li>• Note: No potable water or trash/recycling containers; if water required for events, portable bottled water dispensers to be supplied</li> </ul>
<b>Trails (see Figure 2-1)</b> <b>Total Area: 1.9 acres</b>		
Gateway Trail (from Staging Area to Outdoor Learning Place) See Appendix A, Figure S-1	Length: 500 feet Width: 12 feet Area: 0.5 acres	<u>Initial Improvements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADA-complaint / bicycle and pedestrian use</li> <li>• Vehicle load: Co-use as vehicular service access route as appropriate</li> <li>• Surface material: compacted Class 3 aggregate base with enzyme emulsion</li> </ul>
Equestrian trail	Length: 1,100 feet Width: 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of existing SCVWD service road</li> </ul>
Valley Loop Trail See Appendix A, Figure S-2	Length: 3,180 feet Width: 10 feet with 5' equestrian shoulder Fill: approximately 3,650 cu. yds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADA-complaint / multiple use</li> <li>• Vehicle load: Co-use as vehicular service access route as appropriate</li> <li>• Surface material: compacted Class 3 aggregate base with enzyme emulsion</li> </ul>

**TABLE 4.2-1: Facility Program (see Figures 1, 2, and 3)**

Feature / Action	Spatial Characteristics	Related Features / Characteristics / Actions
	Area: 2.3 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bridges</li> <li>Potential trail closure during wet season</li> </ul>
Foothills Loop Trail See Appendix A, Figure S-3	Width: 6 feet Length: 3.4 miles Width: 6-foot tread; cut and fill varies Maximum desired slope: 10% Area: 6.5 acres	<u>Initial Improvements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple use (not ADA accessible)</li> <li>Natural surfaced</li> <li>Five bridges ranging in length from 12 feet to 45 feet</li> </ul>
Picnic tables	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At selected locations along trail system</li> <li>Note: No potable water or trash/recycling containers</li> </ul>
<b>Signs (See Figure 2-4)</b>		
Information Kiosk	Within Parking / Staging Area (see above)	<u>Initial Improvements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve map</li> <li>Use and management rules</li> <li>Trail condition information (surface, grade, length, special conditions)</li> <li>Cultural resource interpretation panel</li> <li>Warning messages (rattlesnakes, etc.)</li> <li>Announcements</li> </ul>
Use and Management Signs: Posts and signs	Area: 80 sq. ft.	<u>Initial Improvements (as needed)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Messages include:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated users</li> <li>Wayfinding</li> <li>Preserve boundary</li> <li>Closed area</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Interpretive Signs	Number: up to 16 Area: 80 sq. ft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Posts and display</li> </ul>
Interpretive Posts: QR Code (Alternate)	Number: up to 16 Area: 16 sq. ft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single post only</li> </ul>
Caretaker Area / Trailer / Access Route	Area: 1,000 sq. ft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access route: natural surface</li> <li>Self-contained potable water and sanitary</li> </ul>

**TABLE 4.2-2: Resource Management Program (see Figure 5)**

Potential Feature / Action	Size / Location	Related Features / Characteristics / Actions
Grazing (1)	Location: Preserve-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue existing program and use of portable corral</li> </ul>
Bay checkerspot butterfly Critical Habitat		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fence boundary when parallel to trails</li> <li>Resource protection signs where needed</li> <li>Permit required for access</li> </ul>
Riparian buffer	Location: Along drainages in valley floor areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of t-stake cattle fencing 35 feet from top of bank along drainages.</li> </ul>
Seasonal wetland rehabilitation	Location: valley south of Preserve entrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of artificial drainage channels as funding allows</li> <li>Potential low berms (less than 1-foot height)</li> </ul>
Vegetation management	Location: Preserve-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grazing</li> <li>Annual mowing around trails in valley floor areas</li> <li>Invasive weed removal</li> </ul>
Springs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fence</li> <li>Resource protection signs where needed</li> </ul>

(1) per report: *Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Grazing Management Recommendations*

**4.2.1 Staging (see Figure 2)**

Initial staging area development will allow use of the Foothills Loop Trail and the Outdoor Learning Place.

**4.2.2 Undesignated Use Area (see Figure 2)**

Specific use of this 1.6-acre area as depicted on Figure 2 is unassigned at this time. The area is not constrained by natural or cultural resources and is located near both utility and non-potable water services. Based on the nature of future use proposals, additional environmental documentation may be required. Potential interests and funding will dictate use. There are a variety of program options for the area that include, but are not limited to: temporary overflow parking; developed Preserve staging for equestrians allowing the parking area to be expanded; intensive demonstration agriculture (see also Section 4.2.9); an outdoor education / nature study facility; or other uses or facilities consistent with the Use and Management Plan and the Authority Mission.

#### **4.2.3 Outdoor Learning Place (see Figure 3)**

The Outdoor Learning Place will be a multi-function event space serving as an outdoor classroom and central meeting location for educational and interpretive programs.

#### **4.2.4 Trails and Trail Users**

Figures S-1 through S-3 illustrate the three trail types to be constructed at the Preserve. These include:

- **Gateway Trails:** two trails would lead visitors from the Staging Area into the Preserve. These are:
  - An ADA-accessible trail extending from the parking area to the Outdoor Learning Place. The trail would be designated for use by bicycles and pedestrians.
  - An equestrian access route along the existing SCVWD maintenance access route leading to the Outdoor Learning Place and beyond to where it will join the Foothills Loop Trail.
- **Valley Loop Trail:** an ADA-accessible loop trail from the Outdoor Learning Place leading through the valley area. General equestrian use would be excluded.
- **Foothills Loop Trail:** a loop trail from the Outdoor Learning Place open to all users. The trail route will use a portion of the existing SCVWD maintenance access route. Because of resource constraints, the majority of this trail will not be ADA-accessible.

The Foothills Loop Trail and Valley Loop Trail each involve bridges. The approach of these trails and bridges will be aligned perpendicular to drainage channels.

Other trail users associated with special events permitted by the Authority, such as horse-drawn wagon rides, may also use the Gateway and Valley Loop Trails.

#### **4.2.5 Maintenance Access**

The existing SCVWD maintenance access route between the staging area to the northwest boundary of the Preserve will be the primary route for Preserve maintenance access. The Gateway and Valley Loop trails will also accommodate light vehicle maintenance access.

An existing maintenance access route will be retained up the valley south of the

Preserve entrance.

#### **4.2.6 Fencing**

As illustrated in Attachment C, all fencing will be wildlife friendly and will conform to that prescribed in the *Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Grazing Management Recommendations* report (McGraw, 2012).

#### **4.2.7 Signs (See Figure 4)**

There are five general types of signs to be installed at the Preserve. These are:

- **Information Kiosk:** located at the Staging Area where all will see it entering the Preserve, information to be displayed includes but is not limited to:
  - General Authority rules and regulations
  - A trail map with Universal Trail Access information including: trail length; maximum and average cross slopes; maximum and average grades; surface type and firmness; minimum clear width; and average tread width.
  - Interpretive information about the use of the Preserve by the Ohlone.
  - Other information messages regarding activities at the Preserve or warnings (rattlesnakes; poison oak, etc.)
- **Wayfinding / Use and Management:** sign bollards located at all trail intersections.
- **Interpretive Displays:** located at the Outdoor Learning Place with themed panels relating to the Preserve's natural and cultural resources.
- **Resource Protection:** located along fencelines around the Bay checkerspot butterfly Critical Habitat and on posts in selected locations adjacent to trails reading "Resource Protection Area – Area Closed to Public"
- **Preserve Boundary:** located along property fencelines reading "Preserve Boundary" or "Private Property – No Trespassing".

#### **4.2.8 Interpretation and Education**

There is a wide variety of potential themes for interpretation that relate to the Preserve. Principal among the interpretive potential of the Preserve is its cultural history as it relates to Ohlone Indian populations of the region and their traditions. Based on the Preserve's natural resources and uses, interpretation would also focus on such major themes as:

- Balancing cattle grazing with vegetation and habitat management through

adaptive management.

- Fisher Creek and the role of the Preserve in a cross-valley wildlife corridor.
- The Preserve as one unit in the valley landscape as seen from a raptor's perspective.
- The endangered species (plants and animals) of the Preserve and the Valley Habitat Plan.
- Changes in the agricultural land use of the Coyote Valley over time.
- The interactions between land use, agriculture, and water supply management over time.

Because of the sensitivity of cultural resource areas on the Preserve:

- Interpretation programs addressing the Ohlone should be coordinated with the appropriate tribal representatives.
- Public access will be limited to trails and controlled through fencing and/or signage. Access to other areas will be restricted to guided tours or on a permit-only basis.

The following methods for interpretation that would be implemented at the Preserve include:

- Active Interpretation: involving person-to-person interpretation such as between a teacher and a school group, or docent-led tours.
- Passive: interpretive panels and displays that are viewed and are available to all Preserve visitors. These would be located at the Preserve kiosk, shade structure at the Outdoor Learning Place, and along trails.
- Site and facility design: where the shade structure flooring design and layout of picnic tables could reflect Ohlone cultural patterns.
- Augmented reality: interactive technology using Quick Response (QR) codes on interpretive posts that link to web-based storytelling.
- Educational partnerships: with other organizations, such as the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and its staff, docent programs at Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park, and the Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center of Morgan Hill.

#### **4.2.9 Agriculture**

**Grazing:** Existing seasonal grazing on the Preserve will continue for land management purposes and as a use compatible with recreational trails and resource management.

**Agricultural Demonstration Plantings:** Active commercial crop agriculture is not feasible in the Preserve because such a use would conflict with the protection of cultural resources and also with year-round, open public access. However, several opportunities for agricultural demonstration and education elements exist. These include, but are not limited to:

Demonstration Hedgerows: To screen the parking areas from nearby residents and to demonstrate use of native plants that would benefit adjacent agriculture, native plant hedgerows would be planted. There are two areas proposed for a screening hedgerow:

- A linear area approximately 10' x 400' in size just north of the entrance between the parking area and the SCVWD pipeline that would also serve as a water quality swale for the staging area.
- An area approximately 10'-20' x 200' just south of the entrance, also alongside the SCVWD pipeline property.

As demonstration hedgerows, these plantings would show the important interactions between nature and agriculture, such as providing habitat (of many kinds), windbreaks, water filtration, and visual screens. These hedgerows would also benefit the current and potential future crops in the farms next to the Preserve by attracting pollinators and other beneficial insects. Potential hedgerow plants are listed in Table 4.2-3.

Other Potential Agricultural Uses / Future Use Area: Based on opportunities for community engagement, potential partner interests, and funding, there are several program options for agricultural use. These include:

- Permanent Cover-crop Meadow: Composed of various low-growing native plants and grasses that could be mowed or grazed for maintenance. This would have habitat value and could be occasionally used for overflow parking or other temporary uses when the ground is dry. This plant mix would be a demonstration of meadow/herbaceous plants native to the County. The water quality swale would be integrated into the design.
- Winter Grain: Production of no-till, no irrigation winter-grown feed grain with a regime that would leave the field open for overflow parking or other uses from

June to October.

- Hedgerow Demonstration Area: Showing several different kinds of native hedgerow plantings (see Table 4.2-3) beneficial to agriculture and demonstrating plant considerations such as: varying height and spread requirements; planting densities; windbreak functions; habitat benefit; establishment costs; maintenance requirements; and watering regimes. These hedgerows could also have several layers of signage: plant signage and general interpretive signage.
- Orchard: A demonstration orchard planted with tree selection (e.g., black walnut), spacing and permanent ground cover that could also allow for the accommodation of overflow event parking.

**Cultural Agriculture:** Throughout the Preserve there are many native plants that are traditionally used by Native Americans. Once a habitation site, the Preserve and its plants were essentially agricultural gardens for harvesting plants to make baskets and tools, support ceremonies, and provide a food supply. Where the Preserve programs involve revegetation (reclaiming abandoned ranch roads for example) native plants that are important to the Ohlone culture would be used.

**TABLE 4.2-3: Potential Hedgerow Demonstration Plants (1)**

Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Trees</b>	
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	California Sycamore
<i>Populus fremontii</i>	Cottonwood
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak
<i>Quercus chrysolepis</i>	Canyon Live Oak
<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	Blue Oak
<i>Quercus garryana</i>	Oregon White Oak
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak
<i>Juglans californica</i>	Black Walnut
<b>Shrubs, Vines, and Groundcovers</b>	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California Sagebrush
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	Mugwort
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote Brush
<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>	Blue Blossom
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western Redbud
<i>Clematis lasiantha</i>	Pipestem Clematis
<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	Blue Wild Rye
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California Buckwheat
<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	Woolly Sunflower
<i>Festuca californica</i>	California Fescue
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Creeping Red Fescue

**TABLE 4.2-3: Potential Hedgerow Demonstration Plants (1)**

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Frangula californica</i>	Coffeeberry
<i>Grindelia camporum</i>	Gumplant
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
<i>Hoita macrostachya</i>	California Hemp
<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	California Honeysuckle
<i>Lupinus albifrons</i>	Silver Bush Lupine
<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>	Yellow Bush Lupine
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Sticky Monkey Flower
<i>Mimulus cardinalis</i>	Scarlet Monkey Flower
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deer Grass
<i>Nassella pulchra</i>	Purple Needle Grass
<i>Poa secunda</i>	Bluegrass
<i>Potentilla glandulosa</i>	Sticky Cinquefoil
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	Hollyleaf Cherry
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Pink Winter Currant
<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	Wild Rose
<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	California Blackberry
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Elderberry
<i>Solidago californica</i>	Goldenrod
<i>Vitis californica</i>	Wild Grape

(1) All plants are native to Santa Clara County

- Source: California Native Plant List Exchange web site at: <http://www.cnplx.info/>

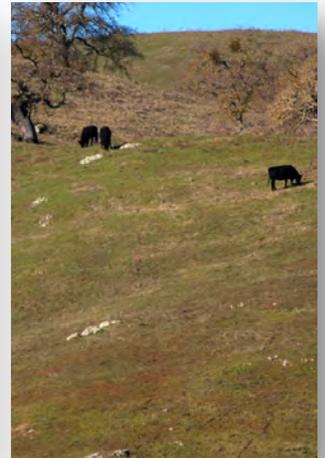


5.0  
MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM



# 5.0

## MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



The Preserve is a living landscape. Adaptive management principles based on observation and, if necessary, revised management prescriptions will be used to meet both resource management and public access program objectives.

### **5.1 Public Access**

Public access will be restricted to trails and designated use areas. These use areas currently represent approximately 9% of the Preserve's 348 acres assuming an immediate use zone of 50 feet around all trails. Any access to areas away from trails will be for scientific research purposes, guided interpretive or Native American programs. Such activities would be managed through a permit system

Initial staging area development will allow use of the Foothills Loop Trail and the Outdoor Learning Place. Future development of the Valley Loop Trail and/or the potential trail connections to Calero County Park could trigger higher demand for staging. Management activities include:

- Develop a 26-car parking area and 3 equestrian parking spaces.
- Manage equestrian parking on a reservation basis, if necessary.
- Install "no parking signs" along Palm Avenue. The extent of these signs would

be determined in consultation with Santa Clara County and would extend a minimum distance of 1/4 mile, or 1/2 mile to Palm Court, or 3/4 mile to Hale Avenue.

- Install a map board near the entrance about other nearby parks and open space areas with staging areas to inform the visitor if the parking lot is at capacity.
- Monitor and document parking use, particularly on weekends and holidays.

#### **5.1.1 Short Term - Management Options**

In the short term, if documented parking demand for access exceeds the 26-car parking area on a regular basis, the following management options exist:

- Provide staff (or volunteers) at the entrance to turn vehicles away and direct traffic to other nearby public use areas.
- Provide staff (or volunteers) at the entrance and use the designated Future Use Area south of the Preserve entrance as a temporary overflow parking area. If used only for vehicular parking, this area would accommodate up to an additional 60 to 90 vehicles.
- Develop minimal improvements (boundary rails, signs, etc.) to accommodate overflow parking of the Future Use Area.
- Monitor and document parking use, particularly on weekends and holidays.

#### **5.1.2 Long Term - Management Options**

In the long term, there are two trail enhancements that could significantly stimulate use of the staging area: the Valley Loop Trail on the Preserve; or a trail connection to Calero County Park along the SCVWD right-of-way. If documented parking demand for access exceeds the 26-car parking area on a regular basis, the following management options exist:

- Expand the 26-car parking area to accommodate up to 60 cars as appropriate. Simultaneously, develop the Future Use Area for equestrian parking to accommodate a maximum of 15 vehicles and trailers (size to be determined).
- Manage equestrian parking on a reservation basis, if necessary.
- Based on documented use, consider retaining a portion of the Future Use Area for overflow parking, which would reduce the number of spaces for equestrian parking.

- Consider limiting equestrian parking to select days and using the Future Use Area only for vehicular parking. This would provide parking for a maximum of approximately 120 to 150 cars.
- If available parking is fully used, provide staff (or volunteers) at the entrance on weekends or anticipated high use days (on an intermittent basis throughout the day) to turn vehicles away and direct traffic to other nearby public use areas.
- Monitor and document parking use.

## **5.2 *Natural Resources***

Management of the Preserve's natural resources is primarily focused on the preservation and stewardship of the sensitive natural habitats on the property. Natural resource management actions would be primarily passive, but would require some fencing of sensitive areas, management of invasive species, and minor grading to enhance wetland and riparian areas in the Preserve in the south valley area. No grading activities associated with initial management actions that would trigger wetland and waters permits would be undertaken.

Grazing will be the principal method to control non-native annual grass cover within four main upland communities: California annual grassland, oak savanna, serpentine grassland, and serpentine scrub. Grazing within the oak woodlands is anticipated to be incidental and have limited effects on this community. Cattle grazing will be based on prescriptions outlined in the *Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Grazing Management Recommendations* report (McGraw, 2012).

Fencing would be used to deter human interference and manage grazing in the following areas:

- Bay checkerspot butterfly Critical Habitat located in the northeast and southeast corners of the Preserve (see Figure 5);
- Riparian and water quality buffers of 35 feet on either side of intermittent and ephemeral drainages on the Preserve (see Figure 5);
- Enhanced wet meadow area and water quality swale adjacent to the Future Use Area (see Figure 2).

Access to natural springs will be controlled, but these springs would all be fenced within the protected Bay checkerspot butterfly Critical Habitat found in the northeastern corner of the Preserve. Fencing associated with the grazing program is outlined in the *Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Grazing Management Recommendations* report (McGraw, 2012).

### **5.2.1 Invasive Species**

As funding and staff or volunteer time can be allocated, management of invasive plants would include the identification and mapping of target species rated as high or moderate by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC 2006). Authority staff would coordinate with and instruct, as appropriate, local botanists and citizen scientists to learn to identify invasive plants and to program possible volunteer days for survey work.

Management actions would include removal of identified invasive plants and revegetation with native species, as appropriate to each habitat where removal occurs. Goats or other livestock might also be used, where appropriate, to control invasive plant species, including forbs and shrubs. Separate management prescriptions would be developed for such invasive species control projects. Should controlled burns be considered in the future, these would be coordinated with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

### **5.2.2 South Valley Meadow**

A wet meadow that shows evidence of remnant wetland vegetation and hydrology is located along a natural channel at the southeastern edge of the property. The wet meadow was historically fed through existing runoff and drainage from the adjoining slopes that consequently fed the natural drainage. Recent actions, prior to the Authority acquisition of the Preserve, have created poorly graded drainage ditches meant to divert water from the meadow. These poorly functioning ditches would be restored to original grade and eliminated, restoring the natural hydrology of the area. The wet meadow area would be allowed to passively re-establish. A water quality swale would be constructed between the wet meadow area and the Future Use Area to provide a buffer between the two areas and protect the water quality functions and values of the wetland. No grading would occur within the wet meadow zone.

### **5.3 Cultural Resource Protection**

The Preserve's cultural resources present opportunities for interpretation about Ohlone culture and potential tribal use by Native Americans. However, at the same time, because of the sensitivity of these resources, they require protection. The following will guide any use and development of the Preserve:

- In selected areas, active interpretation of archaeological sites will be restricted to guided walks.
- For any agricultural uses within archaeological site boundaries:
  - No irrigation will be used.
  - Disking of any areas should be preceded with archaeological testing and data recovery.
- Habitat enhancements within archaeological sites will be restricted to natural succession (no planting or irrigation unless approval is secured from Tribal representatives).
- For within designated archaeological zones:
  - All public access facilities will be constructed such that no downward ground disturbance is involved unless archaeological testing and data recovery are first conducted.
  - The shade structure will be constructed on imported fill and require spread footings for structural support such that no downward ground disturbance is involved unless archaeological testing and data recovery are first conducted.
  - T-stake fencing is permissible.

### **5.4 Staffing**

The Preserve and its resources will be operated and managed by the Authority staff, supported by volunteers and potential contract Partners, as a day use only facility with the exception of occasional evening events led by Authority staff or Docents (such as stargazing). The Preserve will be gated and closed each evening. No public overnight parking will be allowed.

Based on demonstrated demand, documented after-hours nuisance occurrences, and

available funding, two potential additional staffing actions to enhance traditional management are:

- Installation of a visitor contact station staffed on popular use days (prime season weekends and holidays) to manage the staging area and direct traffic, if necessary, to other public use areas once the Staging Area is at capacity.
- Accommodation for an on-site caretaker. Any associated facilities would be mobile and self-contained (trailer or RV). It is likely such presence would be required only on a seasonal basis.

## **5.5 Construction Management**

Environmental measures are methods, measures, or practices that avoid, reduce, or minimize a project's adverse effects on various environmental resources. They can be applied before, during, or after construction of the project to reduce or eliminate potential environmental effects. The following environmental measures will be implemented for any construction or ground-disturbing management activities at the Preserve. The Authority will ensure that these measures are included in bid specifications for construction activities that occur as part of the program or priority projects, as appropriate.

### **5.5.1 Noise**

For any construction-related activities:

- The normal working day for any construction activities that occur will be between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Construction will not be allowed on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.
- Construction equipment will have appropriate mufflers, intake silencers, and noise control features and will be properly maintained and equipped to meet state standards.
- Vehicles and other gas- or diesel-powered equipment will be prohibited from unnecessary warming up, idling, and engine revving.

If the Authority receives complaints concerning noise from construction operations, the Authority shall retain a qualified acoustical consultant to determine if construction operations are resulting in noise that exceeds County noise standards. If it is determined that noise standards are being exceeded, construction operations shall be modified such that noise does not exceed the applicable standards. Potential modifications to construction operations include but are not limited to:

- Using smaller equipment that creates less noise,
- Reducing the number of pieces of equipment that are used at the same time in one area, and / or,
- Providing temporary local sound barriers around noise generating equipment.

### **5.5.2 Water Quality Protection**

Subject to requirements of Section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process, all construction projects that disturb more than one acre of land are required to prepare and implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP). However, the San Francisco Region of the California State Water Quality Control Board has lowered the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) threshold in Santa Clara County, under Order No. 01-119, to apply to all construction projects that disturb more than 5,000 square feet of land. The construction footprint proposed under the Plan is large enough that a SWPPP is required. No grading will be permitted on any project site until a grading plan and SWPPP have been reviewed by the County, in accordance with the Santa Clara County Grading Ordinance (C12-400–C12-599).

To minimize the mobilization of sediment to Fisher Creek and other water bodies, the following erosion- and sediment-control measures will be included in the SWPPP to be included in the construction specifications, based on standard dust-reduction measures.

- Cover or apply nontoxic soil stabilizers to inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more) that could contribute sediment to waterways.
- Enclose and cover exposed stockpiles of dirt or other loose, granular construction materials that could contribute sediment to waterways.
- Contain soil and filter runoff from disturbed areas by berms, vegetated filters, silt fencing, straw wattles, plastic sheeting, catch basins, or other means necessary to prevent the escape of sediment from the disturbed area.
- Prohibit the placement of earth or organic material where it may be directly carried into a stream, swale, ditch, marsh, pond, or body of standing water.
- Prohibit the following types of materials from being rinsed or washed into streets, shoulder areas, or ditches: concrete, solvents and adhesives, fuels, dirt, gasoline, asphalt, and concrete saw slurry.

- Conduct dewatering activities according to the provisions of the SWPPP. Prohibit placement of dewatered materials in local water bodies or in storm drains leading to such bodies without implementation of proper construction water quality control measures.

The Authority and/or its contractors will implement a monitoring program to verify effectiveness of the best management practices implemented as part of the SWPPP. The monitoring program will begin at the outset of construction activities and terminate upon completion of the project.

As part of obtaining coverage under the NPDES General Construction Permit, the Authority and/or its contractor(s) will also develop and implement a spill prevention and control plan to minimize the potential for, and effects from, spills of hazardous, toxic, or petroleum substances during construction of the project. The plan will be completed before any construction activities begin. The plan will require that hazardous and potentially hazardous substances stored on-site be kept in securely closed containers located away from drainage courses, storm drains, and areas where stormwater is allowed to infiltrate. It will also stipulate procedures, such as the use of spill containment pans, to minimize hazard during on-site fueling and servicing of construction equipment. If a spill were reportable, the contractor's superintendent will notify the Santa Clara County Environmental Health Department and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

If during construction, an appreciable spill has occurred and results determine that project activities have adversely affected groundwater quality, a detailed analysis will be performed by a Registered Environmental Assessor to identify the likely cause of contamination. This analysis will conform to American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards, and will include recommendations for reducing or eliminating the source or mechanisms of contamination. Based on this analysis, the Authority and/or its contractors will select and implement measures to control contamination, with a performance standard that groundwater quality must be returned to baseline conditions. These measures will be subject to approval by the Authority.

Construction of projects administered by the Authority will be monitored by Authority personnel to ensure that contractors are adhering to all provisions for the protection of water quality. In addition, the Authority will shut down construction sites in the event of noncompliance.

### **5.5.3 Dust-Control Measures**

The Authority will require all construction contractors to implement the basic construction mitigation measures recommended by Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to reduce fugitive dust emissions. Emission reduction measures will include, at a minimum, the following measures. Additional measures may be identified by BAAQMD or the contractor as appropriate.

- All exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) will be watered two times per day.
- All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off site will be covered.
- All visible mud or dirt track-out onto adjacent public roads will be removed using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.
- All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads will be limited to 15 mph.
- All roadways, driveways, and sidewalks to be paved will be completed as soon as possible.
- Building pads will be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.
- A publicly visible sign will be posted with the telephone number and person to contact at the lead agency regarding dust complaints. This person will respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. BAAQMD's phone number will also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

### **5.5.4 Construction-related Exhaust Emissions**

The Authority will require all construction contractors to implement the basic construction mitigation measures recommended by BAAQMD to reduce equipment exhaust emissions. Additional measures may be identified by BAAQMD or the contractor as appropriate.

- Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of California Code of Regulations [CCR]). Clear signage shall be provided for construction

workers at all access points.

- All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified visible emissions evaluator.

In addition, the Authority will require all construction contractors to implement the BMPs recommended by the BAAQMD to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Emission reduction measures will include, at a minimum, the following three measures.

- Use alternative-fueled (e.g., biodiesel, electric) construction vehicles / equipment for at least 15% of the fleet.
- Use at least 10% local building materials (from within 100 miles of the project site).
- Recycle at least 50% of construction-generated waste.

In addition, to assure the protection of the resources for any ground-disturbing activities the Authority will ensure that constructions specifications include the following:

- Any work on the Preserve will be stopped if prehistoric and/or historic archaeological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities. The Authority will ensure the construction specifications include a stop work order if prehistoric or historic-period cultural materials are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities. All work within 100 feet of the find will be stopped until a qualified archaeologist and Native American representative can assess the significance of the find. Prehistoric materials might include obsidian and chert flaked-stone tools (e.g., projectile points, knives, scrapers) or tool making debris; culturally darkened soil (“midden”) containing heat-affected rocks and artifacts; stone milling equipment (e.g., mortars, pestles, handstones, or milling slabs); and battered-stone tools, such as hammerstones and pitted stones. Historic-period materials might include stone, concrete, or adobe footings and walls; filled wells or privies; and deposits of metal, glass, and/or ceramic refuse. If the prehistoric cultural material is determined to be potentially significant, the archaeologist, in consultation with the Native American representative, will develop a treatment plan that could include site avoidance, capping, or data recovery.

- If human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities work will be stopped. The Authority will ensure the construction specifications include a stop work order if human remains are discovered during ground-disturbing activities. There will be no further excavation or disturbance of the site within a 50-foot radius of the location of such discovery, or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains. The Santa Clara County Coroner will be notified and will make a determination as to whether the remains are Native American. If the Coroner determines that the remains are not subject to his authority, he will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which will attempt to identify descendants of the deceased Native American. If no satisfactory agreement can be reached as to the disposition of the remains pursuant to this state law, then the land owner will re-inter the human remains and items associated with Native American burials on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.

### ***5.6 Permits and Approvals***

The agencies from which permits may be required to implement certain aspects of the Use and Management Plan are listed in Table 5.6-1.

Initial public access improvements are designed to not involve any jurisdictional wetlands, navigable waters, or other waters of the United States nor alter any streams.

**TABLE 5.6-1: Permitting and Review Agencies**

<b>Responsible Agencies</b>	<b>Permit Authority</b>
<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</b>	Regulatory authority over all jurisdictional wetlands, navigable waters, and other Waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.
<b>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</b>	Dual regulatory authority of Section 404 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
<b>San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board</b>	Authority to regulate projects that could affect water quality through Section 401(A)(1) of the Clean Water Act: Water Quality Certification and a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for storm water discharge.
<b>California Department of Fish &amp; Wildlife</b>	If stream alternations are anticipated, a 1601 permit must be secured from the Department. Address California Endangered Species Act requirements and protection measures for other special-status species.

Responsible Agencies	Permit Authority
<b>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</b>	Consultation is required as part of the Section 404 permitting process to include a biological opinion and incidental take permits, if required, for species listed as Threatened and Endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.
<b>Santa Clara Valley Water District</b>	Encroachment permit.

**5.6.1 Santa Clara Valley Water District Lands**

Should there be any future facility improvements and management activities on the Preserve that may directly or indirectly affect use of the pipeline property owned by the SCVWD, the Authority will work with the SCVWD pursuant to the Right-of-Way Agreement conditions to coordinate such improvements and management activities.

**5.6.2 Endangered Species Protection**

Any use or management activity at the Preserve that would require endangered species permitting is proposed to be conducted under the auspices of the Valley Habitat Plan and acquired through the the Habitat Agency.



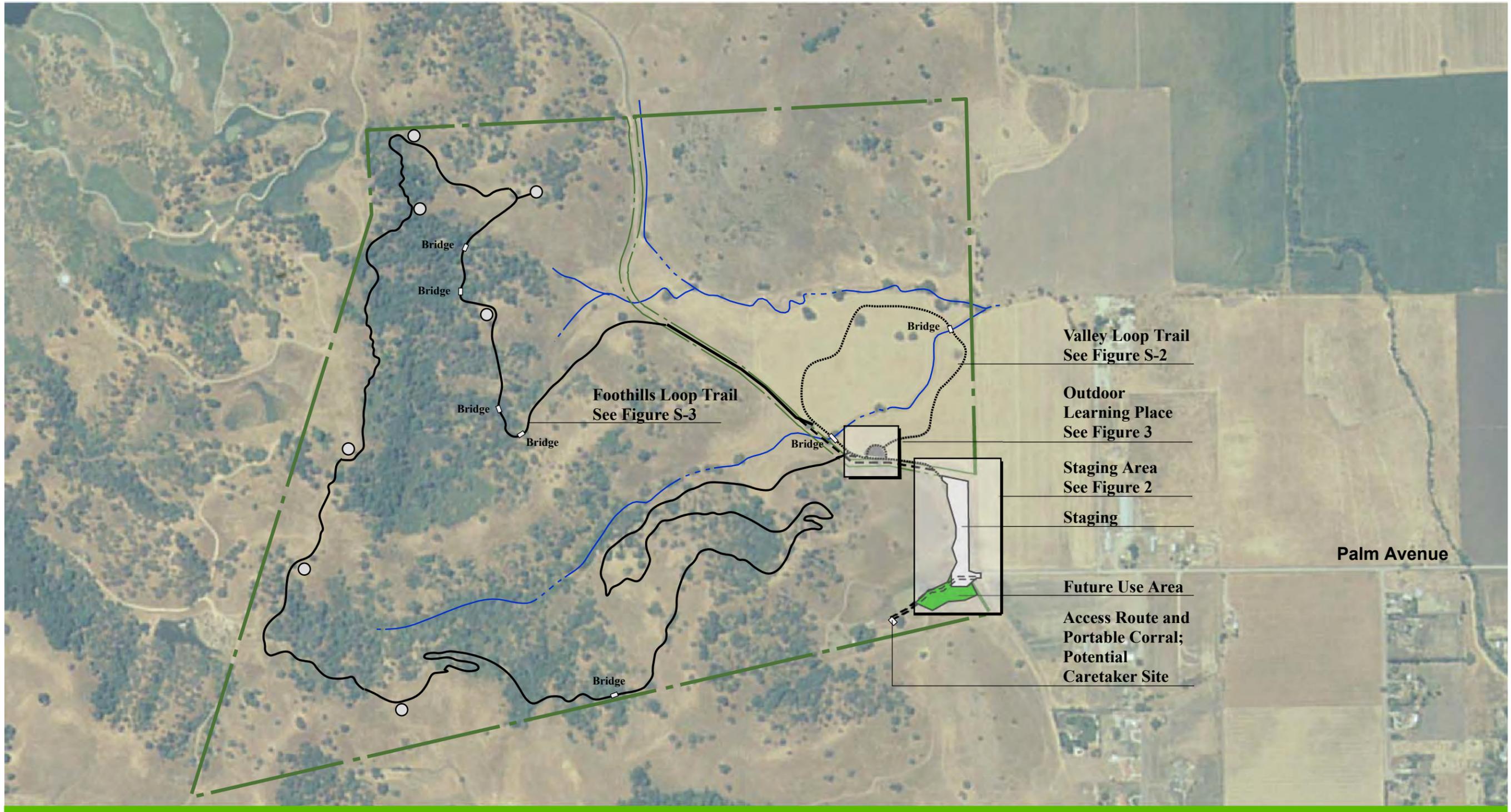
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**Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**  
 Use & Management Plan and Public Access Improvements Project

**Legend (see text for explanation)**

Preserve Boundary	ADA / Bicycle Trail	Vehicular Access Route
Multiple-Use Trail	Equestrian Trail	Vista Point / Picnic Table

September 26, 2013



**Figure 1**  
**PUBLIC ACCESS FEATURES**

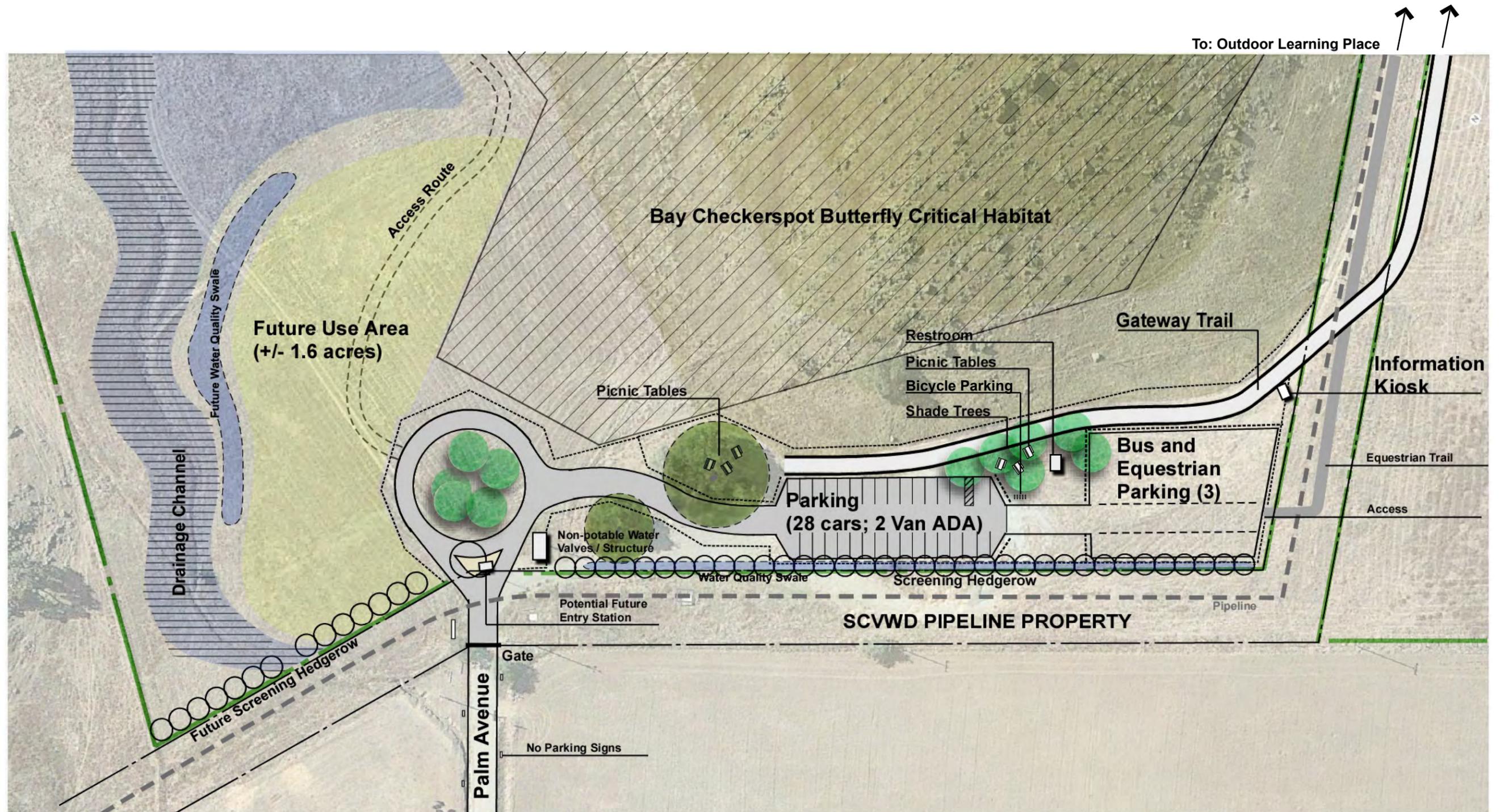
Scale  
 0' 500' 1000'

North

This drawing is conceptual and for planning and permit processing purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.

Photo Base: Google Earth, 11/1/11





**Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**  
 Use & Management Plan and Public Access Improvements Project

Legend (see text for explanation)  
 - - - - - Preserve Boundary

September 26, 2013



Figure 2

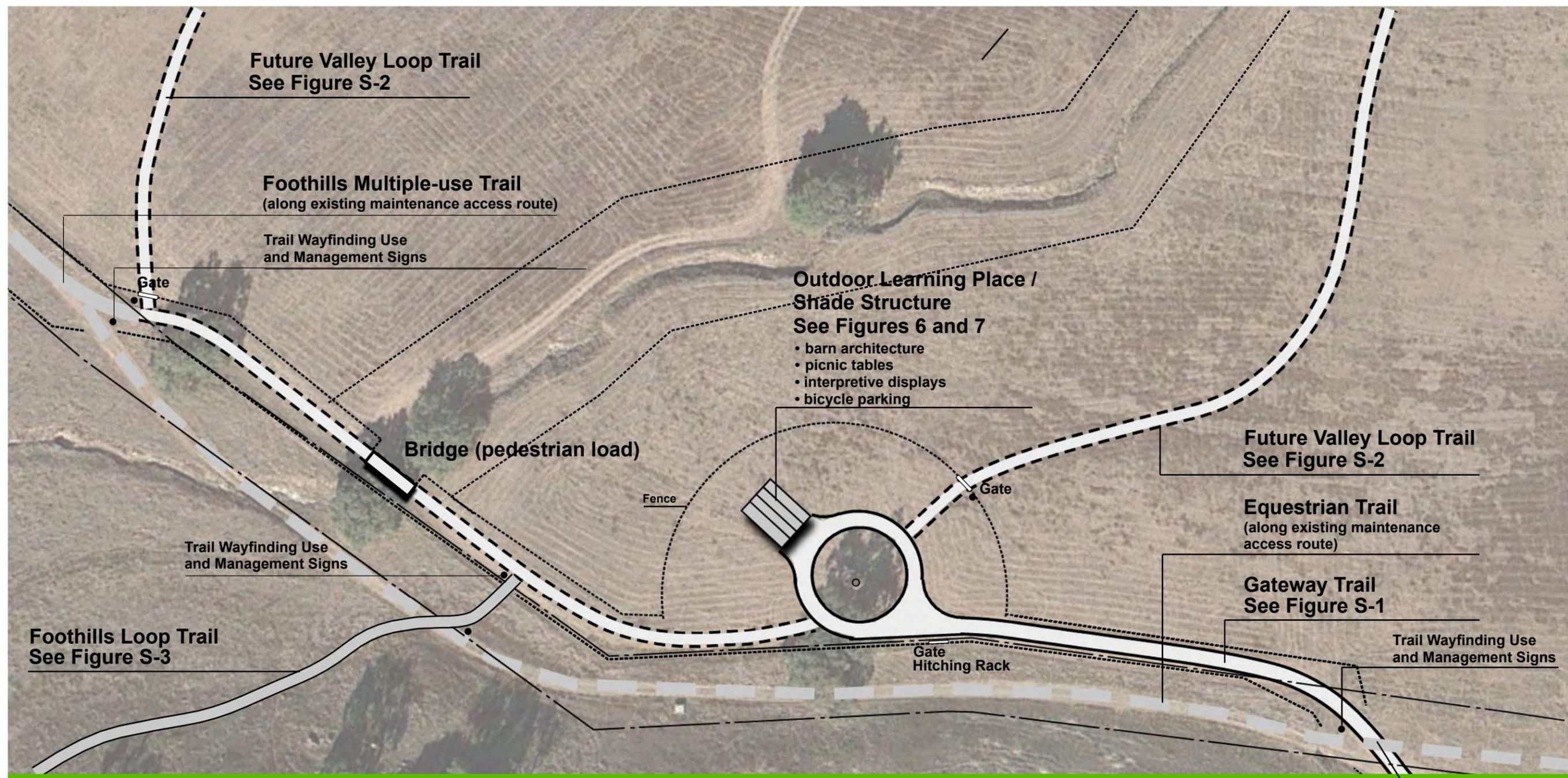
**PRESERVE STAGING AREA / INITIAL IMPROVEMENTS**  
**Conceptual Sketch Plan**



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Photo Base: Google Earth, 10/31/11





**Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**  
 Use & Management Plan and Public Access Improvements Project

Legend (see text for explanation)  
 ——— Preserve Boundary

To: Staging Area  
 September 26, 2013

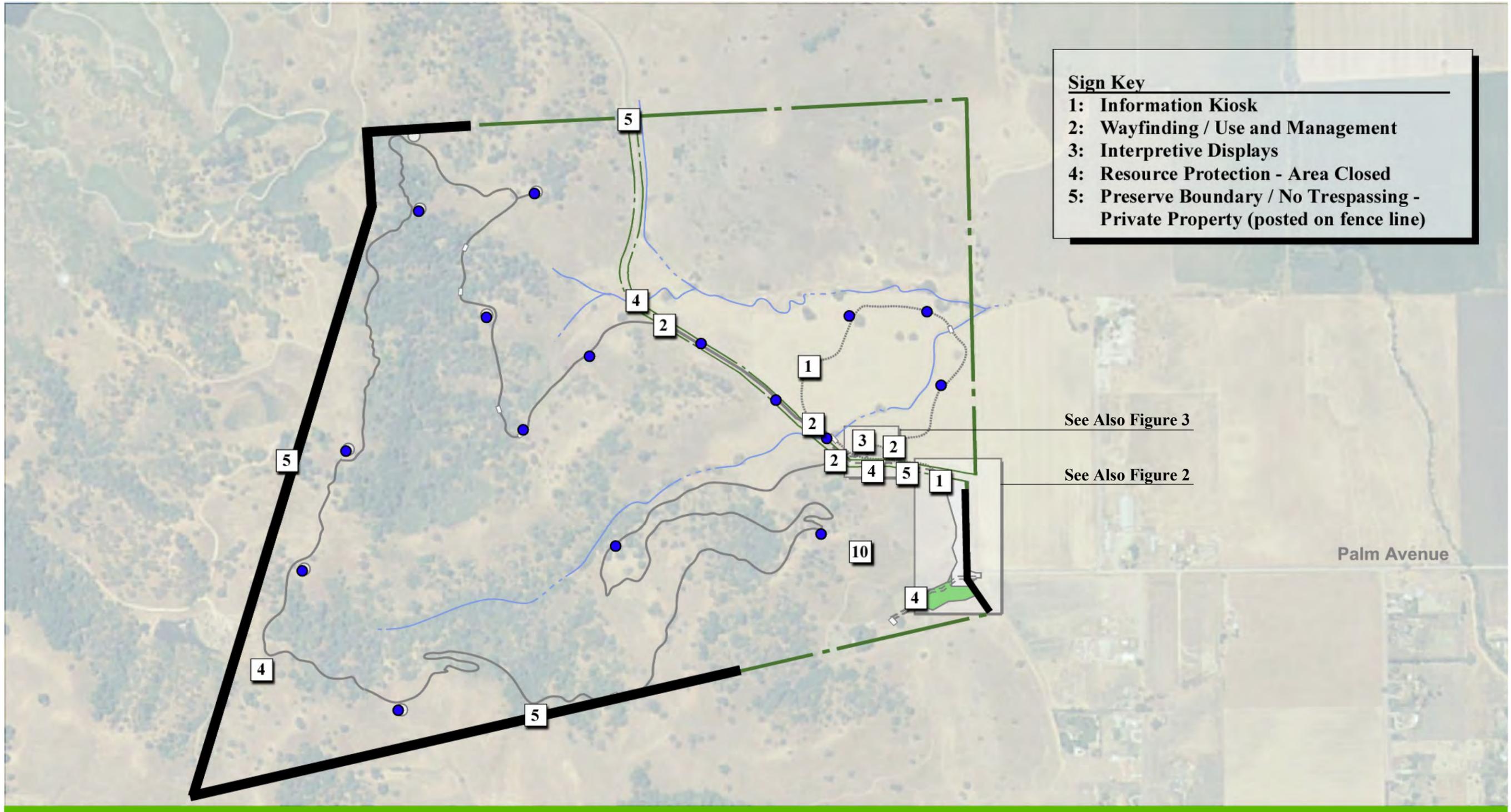


Figure 3  
**OUTDOOR LEARNING PLACE**  
**Conceptual Sketch Plan**

This drawing is conceptual and for planning and permit processing purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.

Photo Base: Google Earth, 10/31/11





**Sign Key**

- 1: Information Kiosk
- 2: Wayfinding / Use and Management
- 3: Interpretive Displays
- 4: Resource Protection - Area Closed
- 5: Preserve Boundary / No Trespassing - Private Property (posted on fence line)

**Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**  
 Use & Management Plan and Public Access Improvements Project

**Legend (see text for explanation)**

- Preserve Boundary
- Interpretive Sign / Interpretive Post
- Sign (see Key)

September 26, 2013

Scale  
 0' 500' 1000'

North

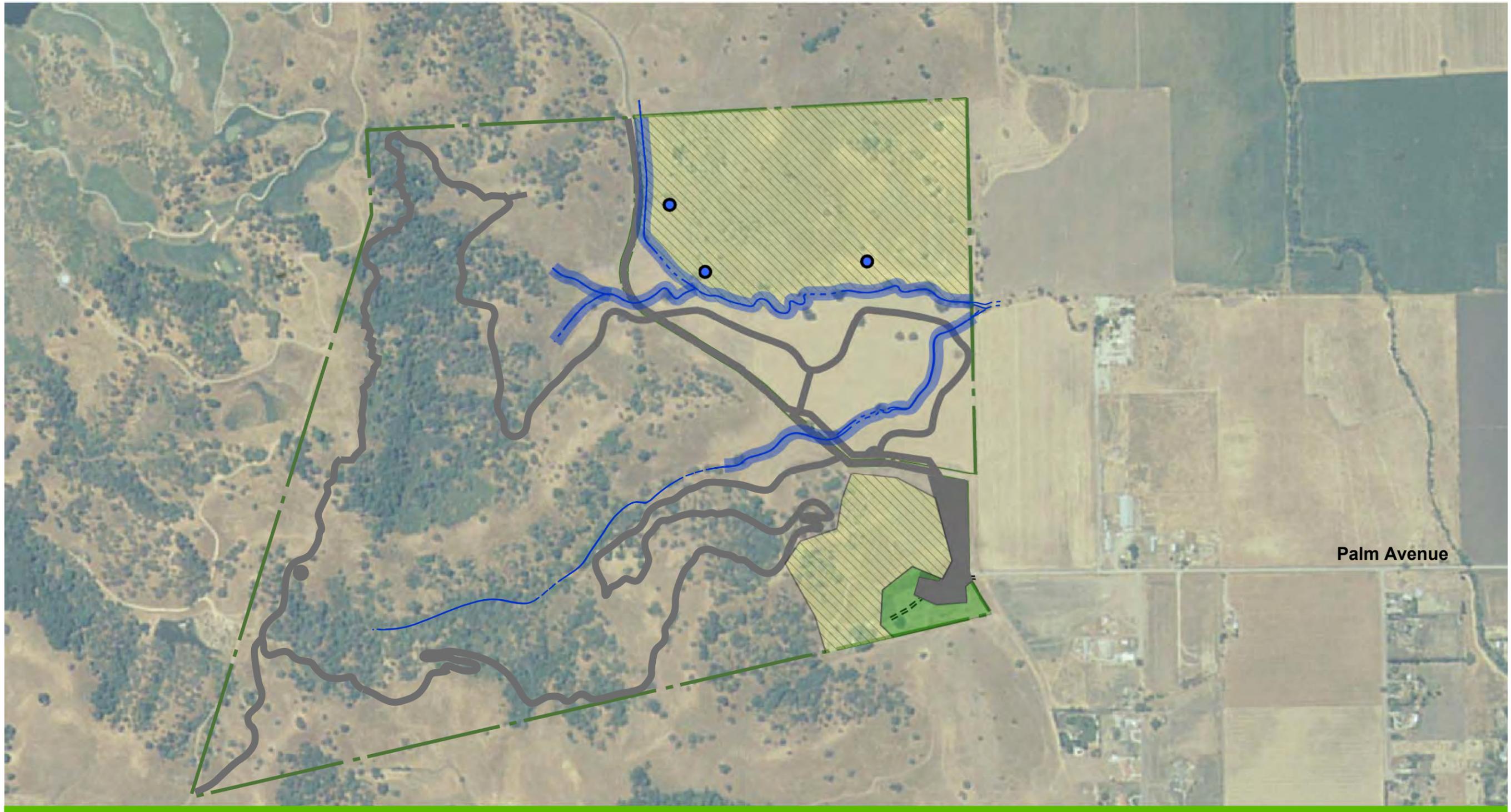


**Figure 4**  
**USE AND MANAGEMENT SIGNS**

This drawing is conceptual and for planning and permit processing purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.

Photo Base: Google Earth, 11/1/11





**Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**  
 Use & Management Plan and Public Access Improvements Project

**Legend (see text for explanation)**

-  Preserve Boundary
-  Fenced Riparian Buffer
-  Public Access / Maintenance Routes
-  Bay Checkerspot Butterfly Critical Habitat
-  Restore Natural Drainage Patterns
-  Spring



September 26, 2013



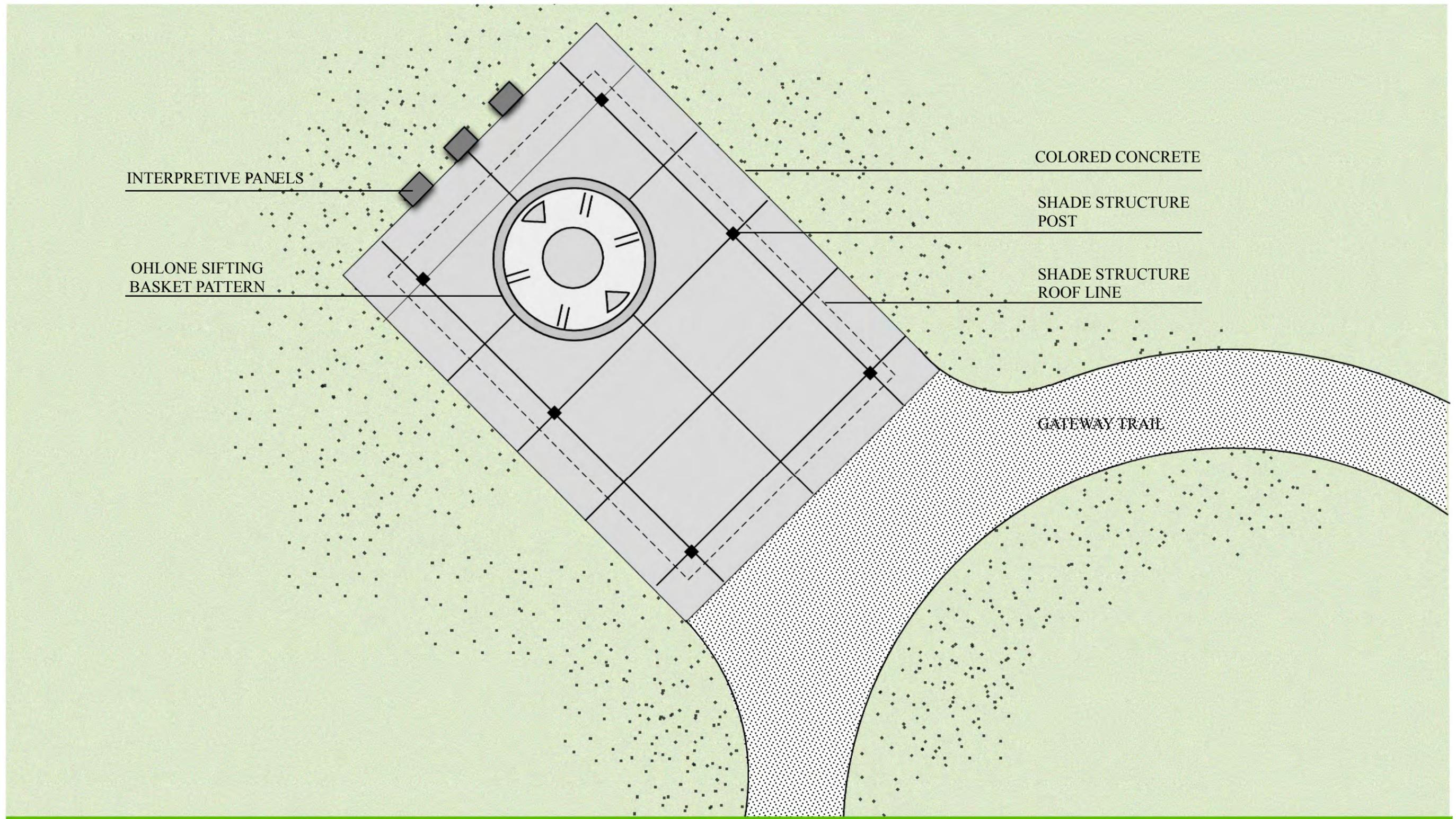
Figure 5

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ZONES**

This drawing is conceptual and for planning and permit processing purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.

Photo Base: Google Earth, 11/1/11





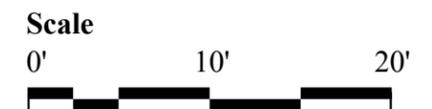
**Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**  
 Use & Management Plan and Public Access Improvements Project

September 26, 2013

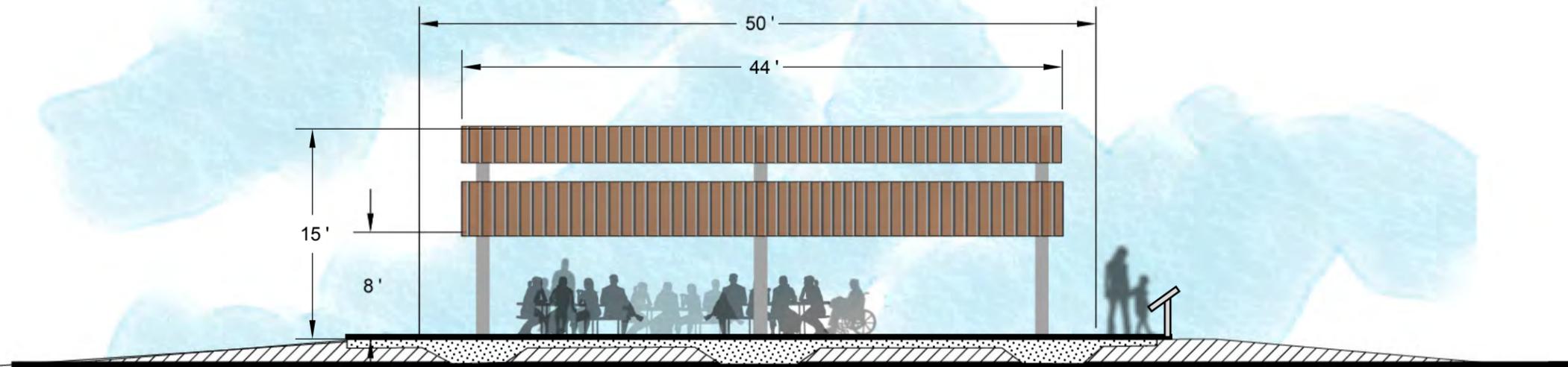
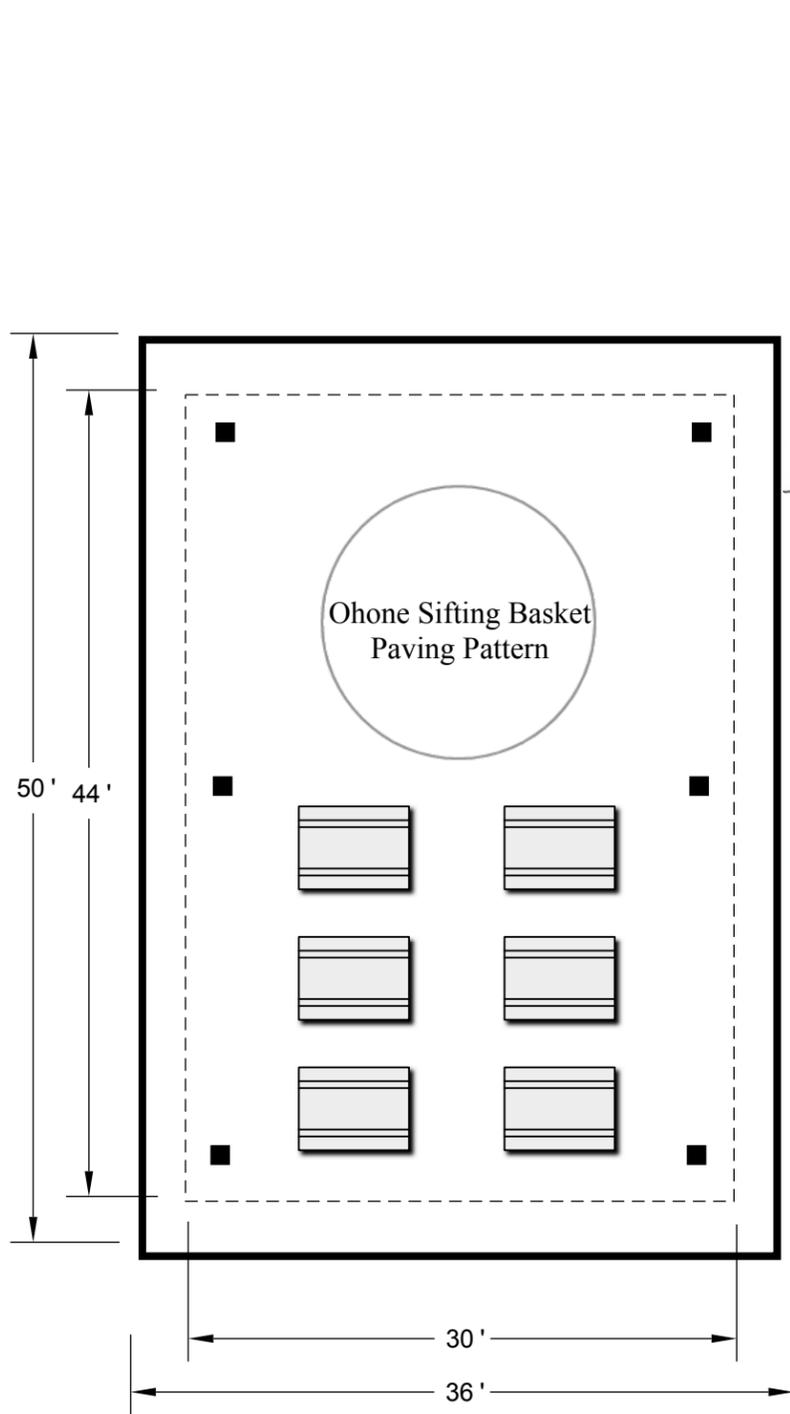


**Figure 6**

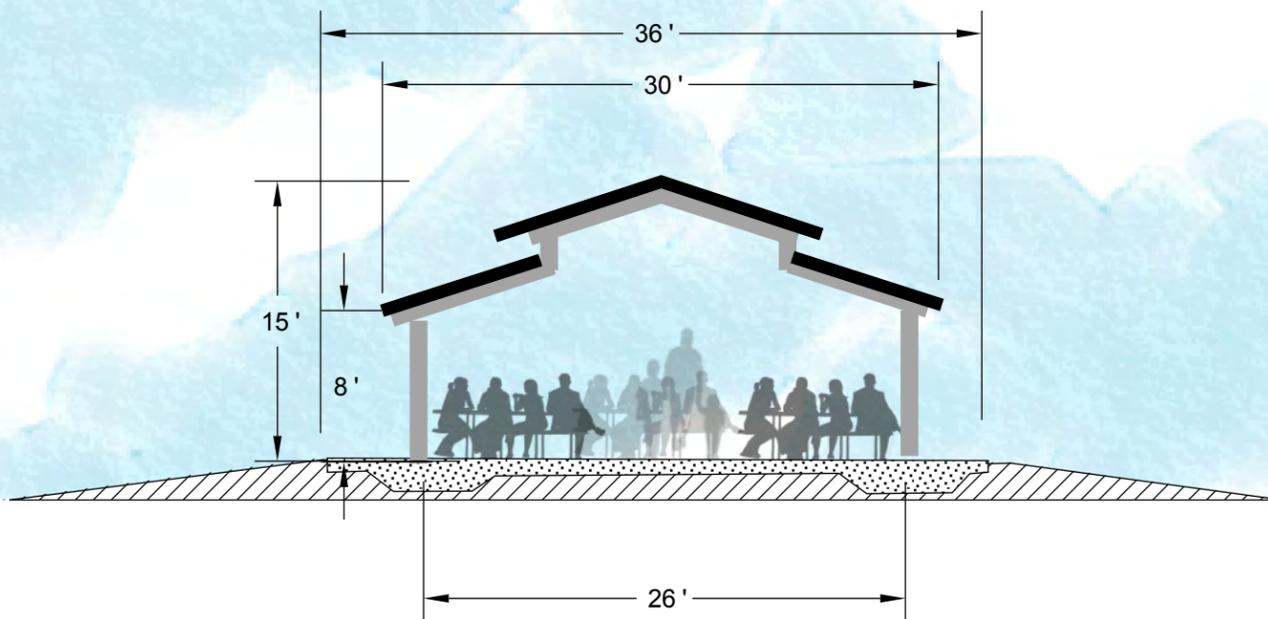
**MULTI-USE SHADE STRUCTURE • CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN**



This drawing is conceptual and for planning and permit processing purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.



Structure: "Chelsea Clerestory Gable Roof" by Poligon  
 Color: copper and natural to blend into landscape  
 Roof material: metal  
 Framing material: standard steel



# Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

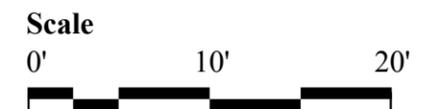
Use & Management Plan and Public Access Improvements Project

September 26, 2013



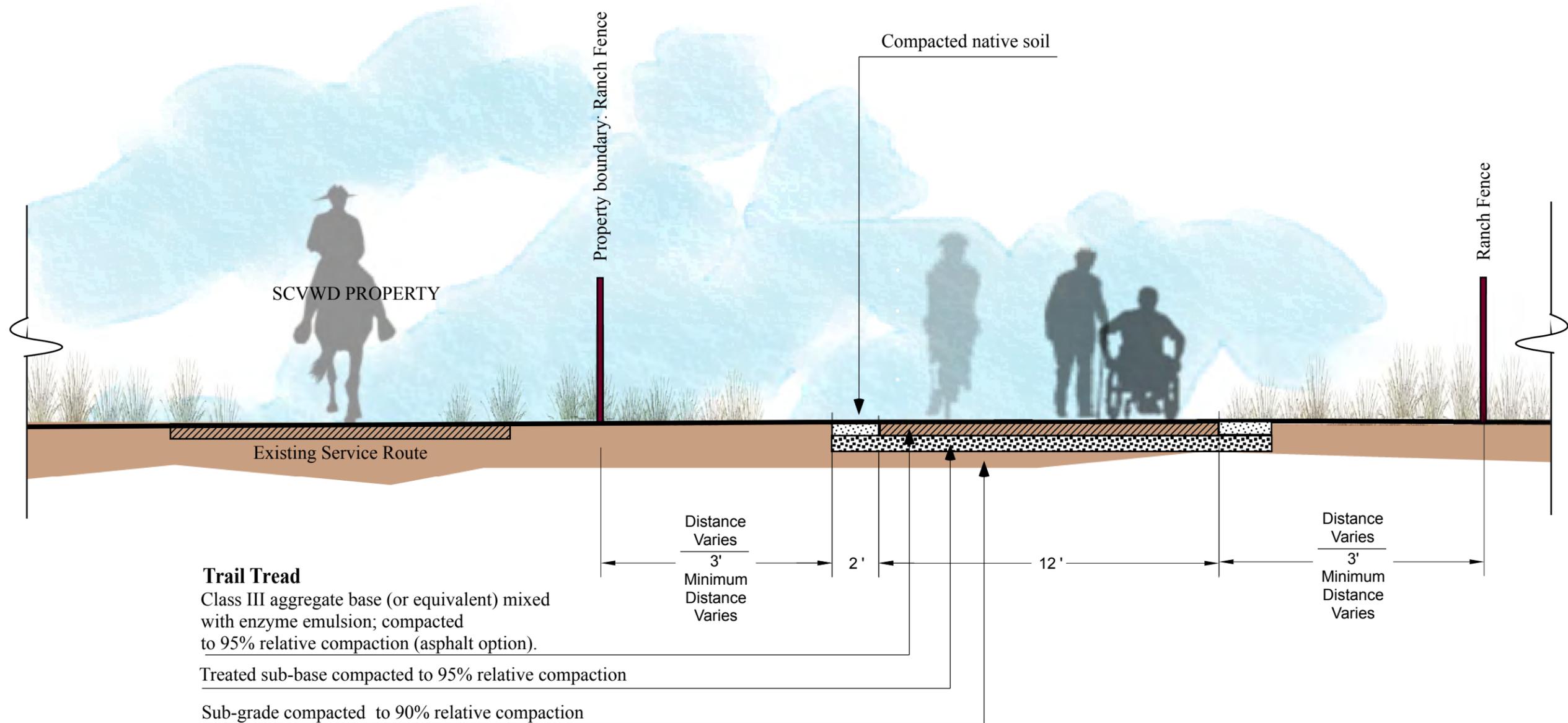
Figure 7

## MULTI-USE SHADE STRUCTURE



This drawing is conceptual and for planning and permit processing purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.





# Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

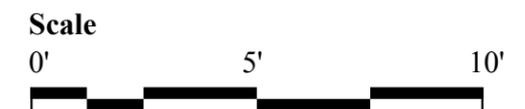
Use & Management Plan and Public Access Improvements Project

September 26, 2013



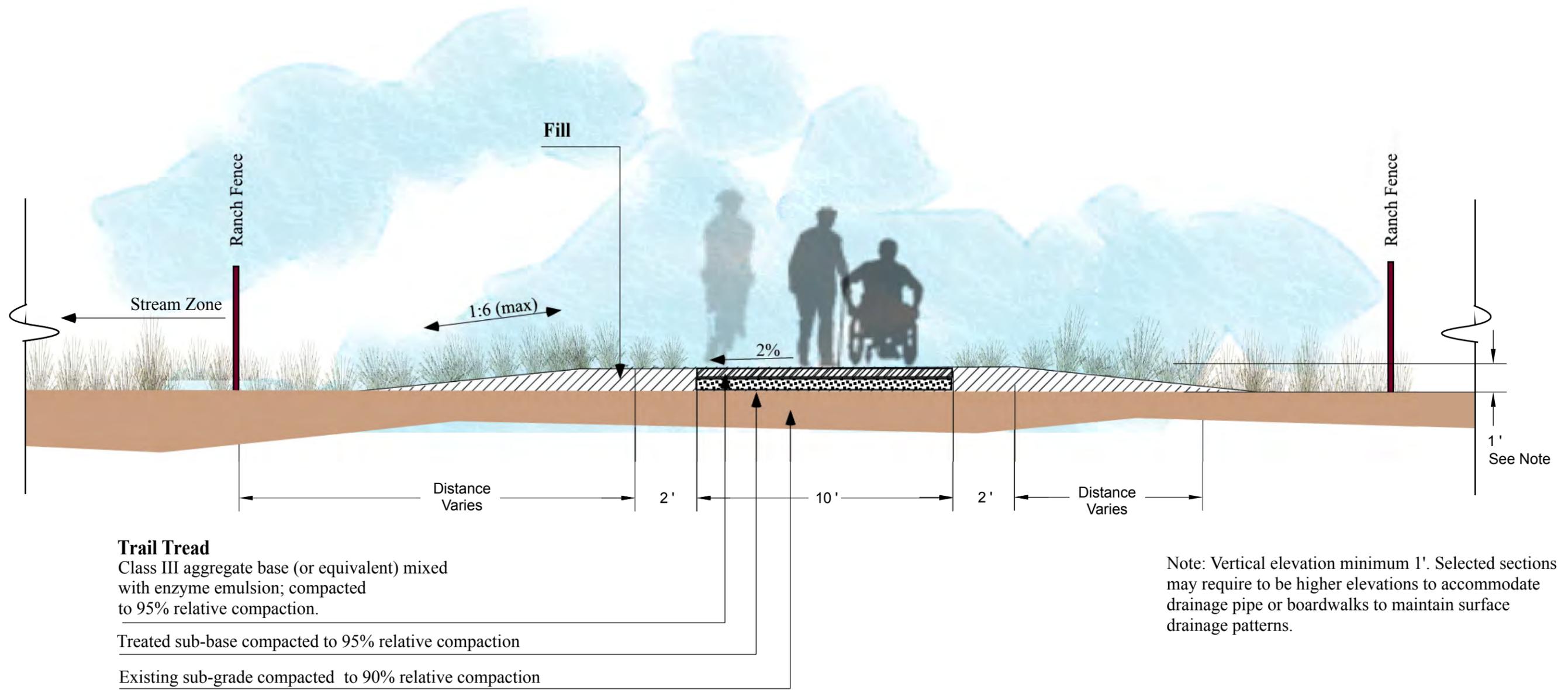
Figure S-1

## GATEWAY TRAIL



This drawing is conceptual and for planning and permit processing purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.





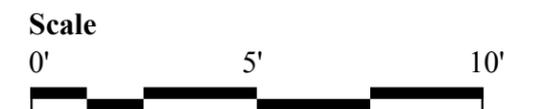
# Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

Use & Management Plan and Public Access Improvements Project

September 26, 2013

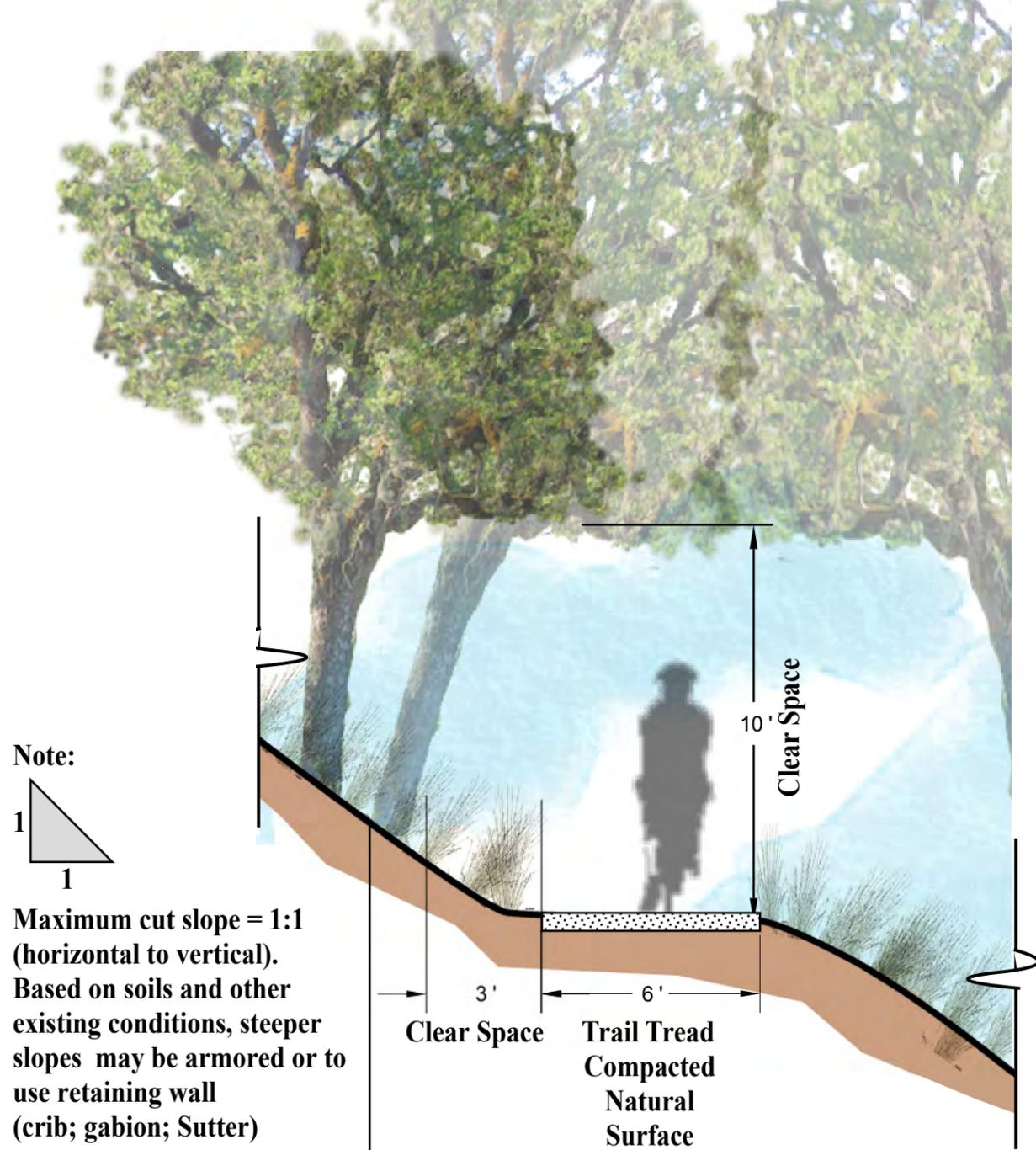


**Figure S-2**  
**VALLEY LOOP TRAIL**



This drawing is conceptual and for planning and permit processing purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.





Landscape Designation	Typ. Maximum Trail Grade	Average Terrain Slope	Optimum Trail Tread Width
Valley Floor Areas	8.33%	0-15%	12'-0"
		16-30%	12'-0"
		>30%	N/A
Foothill Areas	10%	0-15%	12'-0"
		16-30%	10'-0"
		>30%	8'-0"
Mountain Areas	12.5%	0-15%	6'-0"***
		16-30%	6'-0"***
		>30%	4'-0" to 6'-0"

# Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

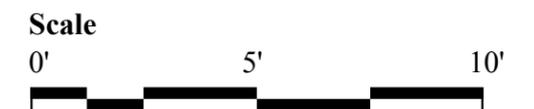
Use & Management Plan and Public Access Improvements Project

September 26, 2013



Figure S-3

## FOOTHILLS LOOP TRAIL

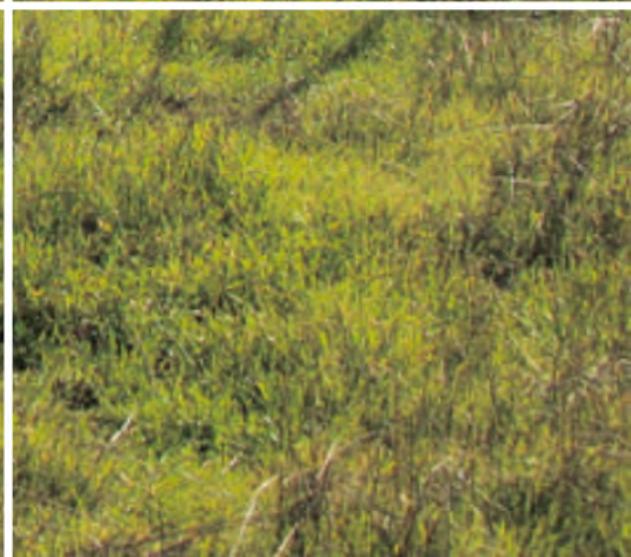
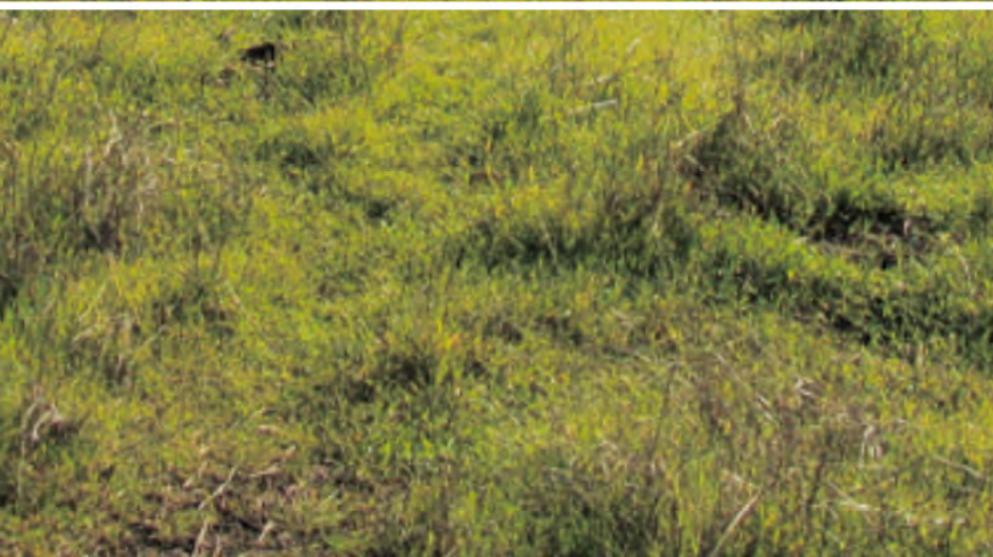
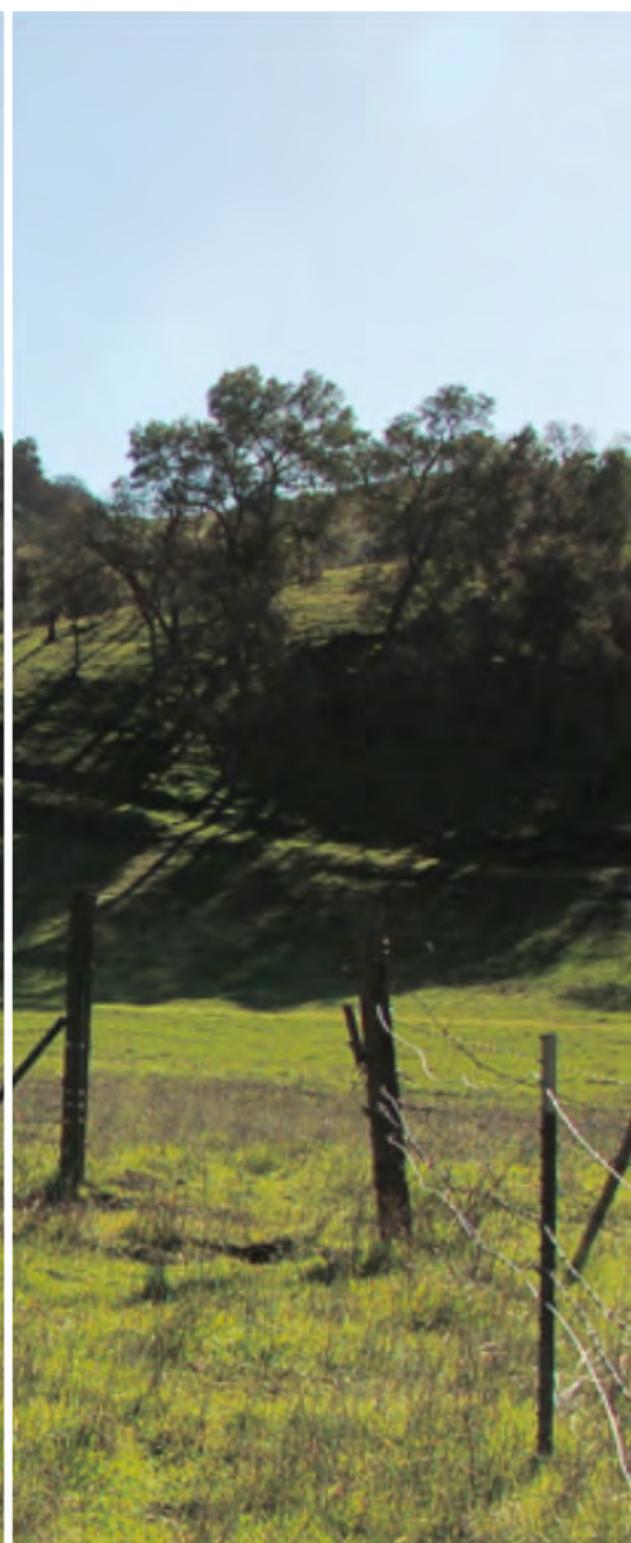


This drawing is conceptual and for planning and permit processing purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.





ATTACHMENTS



Attachment

A

SURROUNDING LAND  
OWNERSHIP



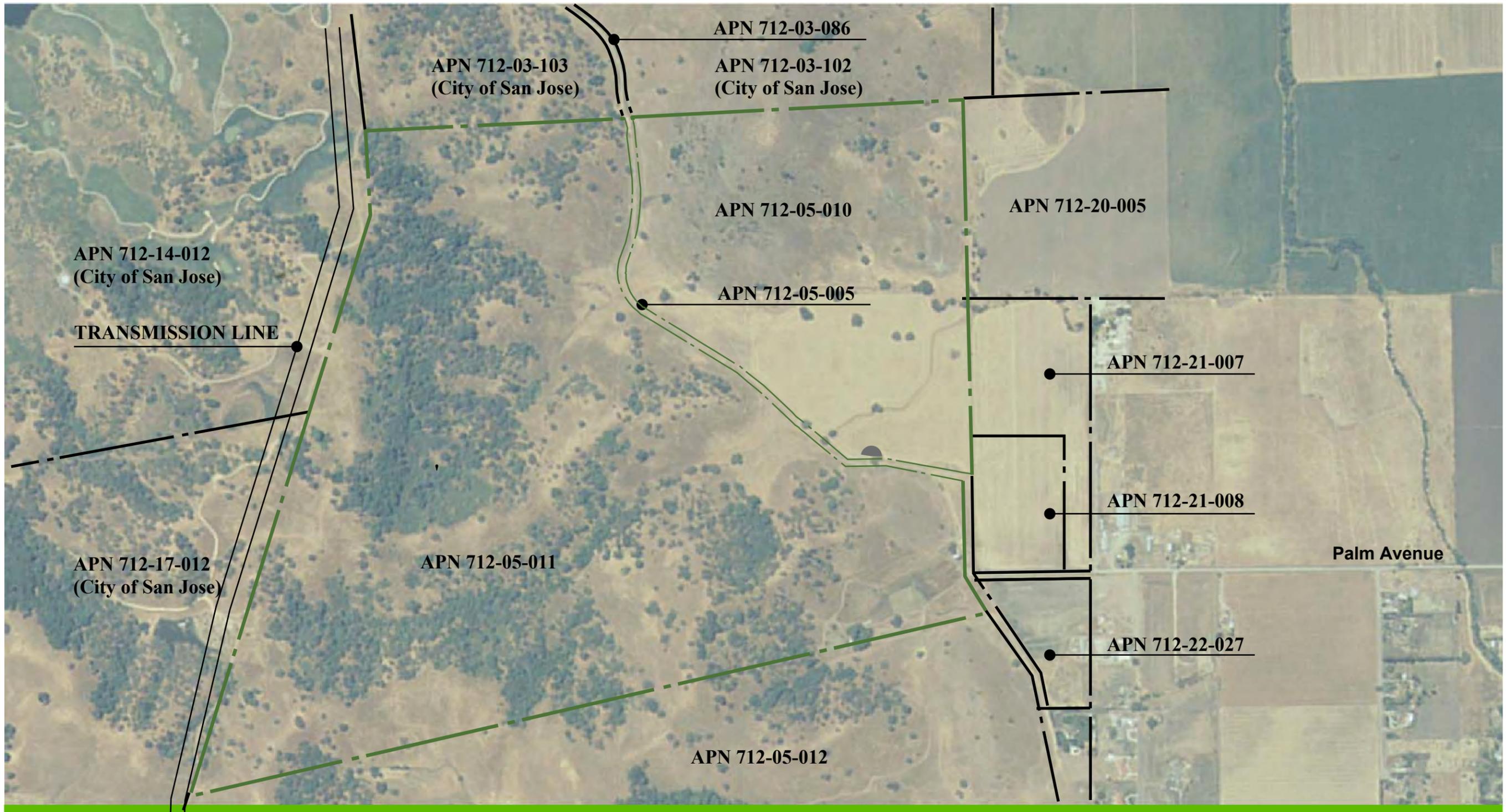
Figure A-1 depicts the Preserve and surrounding properties. Table A-1 is keyed to Figure A-1 and lists by Assessor Parcel:

- Current Owner as of September 2013
- Size of property
- Jurisdiction in either Santa Clara County or the City of San José
- General Plan designation
- Zoning designation
- Current general land use

Additional planning and development criteria that may represent a constraint on development at the Preserve and surrounding lands are also listed. These criteria and their applicability to the Preserve include:

- Williamson Act contract status: The Preserve is not encumbered.
- Designated Habitat Conservation Plan Development Areas: The Preserve and all surrounding lands are within the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (the Valley Habitat Plan) area (see Section 2.6 for more information).

- Designated Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area: Development on the Preserve would be required to meet certain aspects of the building code, such as use of non-flammable roofing materials, and provide a 30 to 100-foot defensive zone around all structures where flammable vegetation is reduced to keep direct flames and heat away from the side of the building.
- State of California Geological Hazard Designation: applicable to the hillside areas of the Preserve where previous occurrence of landslide movement, or local topographic, geological, geotechnical and subsurface water conditions indicate a potential for permanent ground displacements such that mitigation as defined in Public Resources Code Section 2693(c) would be required.
- Santa Clara County Geological Hazard Designation: applicable to the hillside areas of the Preserve. When construction is proposed on property located within a geologic hazard zone, a site-specific geologic investigation must be performed.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency Map Designations: The Preserve is a Zone D designation that is used for areas where there are possible but undetermined flood hazards, as no analysis of flood hazards has been conducted.
- Presence of oak woodlands: Through the Oak Woodland Conservation Act of 2001 Santa Clara County has developed an Oak Woodlands Management Plan that encourages conservation for oaks through consideration during development review.



**Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**  
 Use & Management Plan and Public Access Improvements Project

Legend (see text for explanation)  
 Preserve Boundary

September 26, 2013

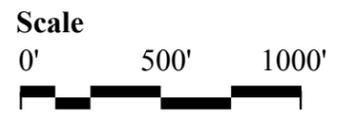


Figure A-1  
**OWNERSHIP**

This drawing is conceptual and for planning and permit processing purposes only. Program information, scale, location of areas, and other information shown are subject to field evaluation and modification.

Photo Base: Google Earth, 11/1/11



**Table A-1: Ownership**

Map Key	Description	Opportunity	Planning / Development Constraint
APN: 712-05-010 Santa Clara County	Owner: Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Area: 89.9 acres General Plan Designation: Ranchlands USA: None Zoning: AR-d1 Use: Public open space		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HCP Rural Development Areas</li> <li>• Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area: IN</li> <li>• Geohazard: County landslide hazard zone</li> <li>• Geohazard: State seismic hazard zone (earthquake induced landslides)</li> <li>• FEMA Flood Zone: D (99.1%)</li> <li>• Oak woodlands present (per California State Law, area may require additional review)</li> </ul>
APN: 712-05-011 Santa Clara County	Owner: Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Area: 258.2 acres General Plan Designation: Ranchlands USA: None Zoning: AR-d1 Use: Public open space		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HCP Rural Development Areas</li> <li>• Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area: IN</li> <li>• Geohazard: County landslide hazard zone</li> <li>• Geohazard: State seismic hazard zone (earthquake induced landslides)</li> <li>• FEMA Flood Zone: D (99.7%)</li> <li>• Oak woodlands present (per California State Law, area may require additional review)</li> </ul>
APN: 712-05-005 Santa Clara County	Owner: Santa Clara Valley Water District Area: 4.9 acres General Plan Designation: Ranchlands USA: None Zoning: AR-d1 Use: Water pipeline facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail extension to Calero Reservoir</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HCP Rural Development Areas</li> <li>• Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area: IN</li> <li>• FEMA Flood Zone: D (99.6%)</li> <li>• Oak woodlands present (per California State Law, area may require additional review)</li> </ul>
APN: 712-03-086 City of San José	Owner: Santa Clara Valley Water District Area: 7 acres General Plan Designation: Hillside USA: None Zoning: Incorporated Use: Water pipeline facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail extension to Calero Reservoir</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HCP Rural Development Areas</li> <li>• Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area: IN</li> <li>• FEMA Flood Zone: D (99.6%)</li> <li>• Oak woodlands present (per California State Law, area may require additional review)</li> </ul>
APN: 712-22-027 Santa Clara County	Owner: Flippo Eric C (TE) & Lisa J (TE) Area: 832 acres General Plan Designation: Ranchlands USA: None Zoning: AR-d1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property under Williamson Act</li> <li>• HCP Rural Development Areas</li> <li>• Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area: IN</li> <li>• Geohazard: County liquefaction hazard zone</li> <li>• Geohazard: State seismic hazard</li> </ul>

**Table A-1: Ownership**

Map Key	Description	Opportunity	Planning / Development Constraint
	Use: Agriculture		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FEMA Flood Zone: D (100%)</li> </ul>
APN 712-21-008 Santa Clara County	Owner: Chang Yn Chieh/Shu Shing L & E (TE) Area: 9.6 acres General Plan Designation: Agriculture Large Scale ( USA: None Zoning: A-40Ac Use: Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property for sale</li> <li>Potential for expanded parking / event area, agricultural use (once planted in orchards)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HCP Rural Development Areas</li> <li>FEMA Flood Zone: D (100%)</li> <li>Cost of acquisition</li> </ul>
APN 712-21-007 Santa Clara County	Owner: WP Investments LLC Area: 20acres General Plan Designation: Agriculture Large Scale (100%) USA: None Zoning: A-40Ac (100%) Use: Agriculture		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HCP Rural Development Areas</li> <li>FEMA Flood Zone: D (100%)</li> </ul>
APN 712-20-005 Santa Clara County	Owner: Shapell Hold Properties 1 LLC c/o Shapell Land Co. Area: 64.9 acres General Plan: Agriculture Large Scale (100%) USA: None Zoning: A-40Ac (100%) Use: Agriculture		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HCP Rural Development Areas</li> <li>Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area: IN</li> <li>Geohazard: County liquefaction hazard zone</li> <li>Geohazard: State seismic hazard zone (liquefaction)</li> <li>FEMA Flood Zone: D (82.9%), AE (4.8%), AE (4.3%), AO (3.8%), AE (3.8%)</li> </ul>
APN: 712-03- 102 City of San José	Owner: Silver Creek Valley Cal LTD PSHP/Brandenburg Properties Area: 111.1 acres General Plan: Hillsides (99%) USA: None Zoning: INCORPORATED Use: Agriculture / grazing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HCP Rural Development Areas</li> <li>Geohazard: County landslide hazard zone</li> <li>Geohazard: State seismic hazard zone (earthquake induced landslides)</li> <li>FEMA Flood Zone: D (100%)</li> <li>Oak woodlands present (per California State Law, area may require additional review)</li> </ul>
APN 712-14-012 City of San José	Owner: North First Street Properties LP c/o Eric Brandenburg Area: 343.7 acres General Plan: Hillsides (100%) USA: None		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HCP Rural Development Areas</li> <li>Geohazard: County landslide hazard zone</li> <li>Geohazard: County liquefaction hazard zone</li> <li>Geohazard: State seismic hazard zone (liquefaction)</li> </ul>

**Table A-1: Ownership**

Map Key	Description	Opportunity	Planning / Development Constraint
	Zoning: INCORPORATED Use: Golf course; Rural residential; Transmission line		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geohazard: State seismic hazard zone (earthquake induced landslides)</li> <li>• FEMA Flood Zone: D (97.4%), D (2.6%)</li> <li>• Oak woodlands present (per California State Law, area may require additional review)</li> </ul>
APN 712-17-012 City of San José	Owner: Gahrahmat Family II LP Area: 244 acres General Plan: Hillside (100%) USA: None Zoning: INCORPORATED Use: Agriculture / Grazing/ Rural residential; Transmission line		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HCP Rural Development Areas</li> <li>• Geohazard: County landslide hazard zone</li> <li>• Geohazard: State seismic hazard zone (earthquake induced landslides)</li> <li>• FEMA Flood Zone: D (96.1%), D (3.9%)</li> <li>• Oak woodlands present (per California State Law, area may require additional review)</li> </ul>
APN 712-05-012 Santa Clara County	Owner: Tilton Ranch Incorporated Area: 832 acres General Plan: Ranchlands (100%) USA: None Zoning: AR-d1 (100%) Use: Agriculture / Grazing/ Rural residential		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property under Williamson Act</li> <li>• HCP Rural Development Areas</li> <li>• Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area: IN</li> <li>• Geohazard: County landslide hazard zone</li> <li>• Geohazard: State seismic hazard zone (earthquake induced landslides)</li> <li>• FEMA Flood Zone: D (100%)</li> <li>• Oak woodlands present (per California State Law, area may require additional review)</li> </ul>

Source: Santa Clara County Planning Department Online Property Profile; 2M Associates

### Agriculture and Agricultural Resources

- C-RC 37: Agriculture should be encouraged and agricultural lands retained for their vital contributions to the overall economy, quality of life, and for their functional importance to Santa Clara County, in particular:
  - a. local food production capability;
  - b. productive use land not intended for urban development; and
  - c. protection of public health and safety.
- C-RC 40: Long term land use stability and dependability to preserve agriculture shall be maintained and enhanced by the following general means:
  - a. limiting the loss of valuable farmland from unnecessary and/or premature urban expansion and development;
  - b. regulating non-agricultural uses in agricultural areas, and their intensity and impacts on adjacent lands;
  - c. maintaining agriculturally-viable parcel sizes; and
  - d. minimizing conflicts between adjacent agricultural and non-agricultural land uses, through such means as right-to-farm legislation and mediation of nuisance claims.
- C-RC 42: Interjurisdictional coordination and cooperation necessary to achieve agricultural preservation goals and strategies should be encouraged. These goals should include:
  - a. preservation of remaining areas of large and medium scale agriculture in South County;
  - b. encouragement of retention of agricultural lands in San Benito County adjoining South County agricultural areas; and
  - c. discouragement of Urban Service Area (USA) expansions into agricultural areas when LAFCO determines that a city's USA contains more land than is needed to accommodate five years of projected growth and development.

### **South County Joint Area Plan**

As part of the Santa Clara County General Plan, the South County Joint Area Plan provides guidance to South County jurisdictions in the following issue areas: Open Space and Recreation, and Agriculture. The Joint Area Plan contains the following

policies that are relevant to the proposed project.

Agriculture

- SC 14.0: Agriculture should be continued and supported since it contributes to the local economy and helps to delineate urban boundaries. Among other benefits, it is the most productive use for land which is not immediately planned for urban development. More effective methods of support and preservation should be developed. The County and the Cities should reaffirm their commitment to long - term maintenance of agricultural land uses and to agriculture as an economic enterprise in South County.
- SC 14.2: Agricultural lands should be protected from encroachment by incompatible land uses and the economic viability of agriculture should be maintained using a variety of methods, such as: contiguous urban development, the designation as agricultural lands those lands which are outside of urban areas, minimum lot size designations in agricultural areas, the limitation of land uses in agriculturally designated areas to agriculture and uses necessary for the support of agriculture, and the encouragement of direct marketing methods.
- SC 14.3: The County and the Cities should establish areas for the permanent preservation of agricultural lands and programs to accomplish that objective, such as exclusive agricultural zoning, transfer of development rights (TDR) programs, and right-to-farm legislation.
- SC 14.4: Some prime agricultural lands in South County (particularly within the prime agricultural areas east and south of Gilroy) should be preserved for agricultural use through appropriate agricultural land preservation tools, such as exclusive agricultural zoning, TDR programs, and right-to-farm legislation.
- SC 14.5: The County should continue the A-20 and A-40 minimum lot size designations in the agricultural area.
- SC 14.6: The expansion of the “uses compatible with agriculture” category in County zoning ordinances and Williamson Act policies should be approved only when such additional uses will clearly contribute to the long-term viability of agriculture.
- SC 14.7: The County and the Cities should plan for further urban growth to

occur in areas which will avoid encroachment into those agricultural lands with the greatest long-term potential to remain economically viable.

- SC 14.8: The conversion of agricultural land which has been designated for urban growth should occur in an orderly manner to retain the stability and viability of remaining agricultural lands as long as possible.
- SC 14.9: The cities should use their policies for urban service area extensions and utility extensions to guide urban growth away from long-term agricultural areas.
- SC 14.10: The policies of LAFCO should guide urban development away from those agricultural areas with the greatest potential for long-term economic viability.
- SC 14.11: In order to separate agricultural from urban activities, and to minimize land use conflicts, buffers should be established between viable agricultural areas and urban expansion areas. Activities in these buffer zones should be limited to uses which are compatible with both agricultural and urban activities. Specific uses should be defined through an open intergovernmental process.
- SC 14.12: The range of activities permitted in agricultural areas of South County should be determined through an intergovernmental process. Allowed uses should reflect the range of activities which are necessary to promote the continued economic viability of agriculture in South County.

Attachment

B

*B I O L O G I C A L R E S O U R C E S*



Figure B-1 provides a graphic overview of the location and distribution of biological resources on the Preserve. The Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve is located on the west side of Coyote Valley just east of the Calero Reservoir and contains a mixture of oak woodland and grassland communities. The Preserve is located at the base of the foothills of the forested, east-facing slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains and to the west of Santa Clara Valley and the drier grasslands, chaparral, and oak savanna of the Diablo Range. The Valley has a Mediterranean climate, characterized by extended periods of precipitation during winter months and virtually none from spring through autumn. The Valley has a wide variety of vegetation types, plant communities, and species, which may be attributed to the varying environmental conditions present in the Valley. As a result of varying environmental conditions, stands of chaparral and grasslands tend to be dominant in higher and drier areas, whereas in shady or wetter areas, woodlands and forests occur. In the Coyote Valley, on the west-facing slopes of the Diablo Range, oak woodlands are common in drainages and on north-facing slopes.

**Land Cover Descriptions**

Land cover in the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve includes annual grassland, oak savanna, oak woodland, serpentine grassland, serpentine scrub and developed lands.

**Table B-1: Habitats in Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**



Habitat Type	Acreage in Preserve *	Percentage of Preserve
Annual grassland	112.5	31.9%
Oak savanna	103.6	29.4%
Oak woodland	75.1	21.3%
Serpentine grassland	47.2	13.4%
Serpentine scrub	12.2	3.5%
Developed**	1.7	0.5%
Total	352.4	100%
* Acreage values from 2012 Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Grazing Management Recommendations (Appendix D)		
** These landcover types are all extensively altered by human management and are therefore discussed together below.		

### **Annual Grassland**

Annual grassland is one of the most common biological communities, covering approximately one-third of the preserve. Annual grassland is a component of all the biological communities, and is the dominant community in most of the more level areas (low-lying valleys and ridges) throughout the preserve. This community is dominated by annual grasses such as wild oats (*Avena barbata*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), and foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*). In addition to these grass species there is a low diversity of native forbs such as sky lupine (*Lupinus nanus*), California buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*), and California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*). Barbour and Witham (2004) point out that the conservation value of annual grasslands is generally underestimated. While dominated by nonnative grasses, these grasslands also provide habitat to many native forbs.

Annual grasslands provide foraging habitat and cover for many common wildlife species. Grasslands are beneficial to wildlife because the low stature of the grasses and herbs provides open or bare areas in which small mammals and other wildlife can burrow and forage. Moreover, carefully managed grazing and/or mowing can result in an increase in native grasses and other vegetation with a concomitant decrease in nonnative invasive weedy species. Native vegetation provides much higher quality habitat for wildlife than does non-native vegetation. Wildlife species common in grasslands include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), black-tailed hare (*Lepus californicus*), brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*), and mule deer (*Odocoileus*

*hemionus*). Grassland with low vegetation cover and density that support ground squirrels also likely supports the Western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*) and aestivation sites for California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) and California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*).

### **Serpentine Grassland**

Two areas, totaling approximately 47 acres (13.4%), of the preserve have been mapped as serpentine grassland based on the plant community and soils present. These areas are found on the hills located in the northeast and southeast areas of the preserve. The thin serpentine soils present tend to prevent non-native grasses from establishing due to the lower productivity, and as a result these areas have a larger abundance of native forbs and grasses. Species associated with this community include purple needle grass (*Nassella pulchra*), most beautiful jewelflower (*Streptanthus glandulosa ssp. glandulosa*), and smooth lessingia (*Lessingia macradenia var. glabrata*). Within these grasslands are areas of serpentine rock outcrops that have the potential to support special status plant species such as Santa Clara Valley dudleya (*Dudleya setchellii*) and Metcalf Canyon jewel-flower (*Streptanthus albidus ssp. albidus*). In addition these rock outcrops support large patches of dwarf plantain (*Plantago erecta*), the primary host plant for the Bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*).

### **Serpentine Scrub**

Located on the hillside on the northern end of the Preserve and surrounded by serpentine grassland is an area of serpentine scrub covering an estimated 12 acres. The dominant plant species associated with this community is California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*). This scrub community with its fairly open canopy and low, dense cover, offers a complex mix of niches for many different plant and animal species.

### **Oak Savanna**

Oak savanna is the second most common biological community, covering approximately one-third of the Preserve and found predominantly on south facing slopes and ridgetops. This community is a transitional zone between the annual grasslands and oaks woodlands, characterized by an open canopy dominated by blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) with a mixture of other oak species such as black oak (*Q. kelloggii*), valley oak (*Q. lobata*), and coast live oak (*Q. agrifolia*). Annual grasses cover the majority of the understory with a small percentage of other shrubs such as

poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*).

### **Oak Woodland**

The oak woodland areas are primarily found on the north and eastern facing slopes and are characterized by an almost continuous canopy of oak and other hardwood species. Within the understory annual grasses are less dominant and are replaced by leaf litter and shade tolerant shrub species such as gooseberry (*Ribes californicum*).

### **Developed**

This small area (1.7 acres) located near the entrance to the Preserve has had frequent regular disturbance and is dominated by non-native plant species.

### **Special-Status Plants**

Twenty-nine special-status plant species were identified as having the potential to occur in the region (Table B-2). The following three species are known to occur in the Preserve.

- Santa Clara Valley dudleya (*Dudleya setchellii*),
- Smooth lessingia (*Lessingia micradenia* var. *glabrata*), and
- Most beautiful jewel-flower (*Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *peramoenus*).

Nine additional species have a moderate to high potential to occur in the Preserve due to the presence of suitable habitat and/or documented occurrences within one mile of the Preserve (and in some cases occurrences nearly adjacent). These nine species are the following:

- Big-scale balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza macrolepis*),
- Tiburon Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis* ssp. *neglecta*),
- Pink creamsacs (*Castilleja rubicundula* ssp. *rubicundula*),
- Coyote ceanothus (*Ceanothus ferrisae*),
- Mt. Hamilton thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *campylon*),
- Fragrant fritillary (*Fritillaria liliacea*),
- Loma Prieta hoita (*Hoita strobilina*)
- Hall's bush mallow (*Malacothamnus hallii*), and
- Metcalf Canyon jewel-flower (*Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *albidus*).

The following provides a detailed discussion of twelve sensitive plant species that are known to occur, or that have a moderate to high potential to occur within the Preserve.

**Big-scale balsamroot**

Big-scale balsamroot has no federal or state status, but CNPS includes it on List 1B (CNPS 2013). It is a perennial herb that is confined to western North America. Its blooming period lasts from March to June. It is known historically from the San Martin area.

**Tiburon Indian Paintbrush**

Tiburon Indian Paintbrush is federally listed as endangered, and state listed as threatened. California Native Plant Society (CNPS) includes it on List 1B (CNPS 2013). It is a perennial, hemiparasitic herb that occurs in serpentine grassland. Its blooming period lasts from April to June. It is known from 8 occurrences in Marin and Santa Clara counties (CNDDDB 2013). One of the two documented Santa Clara County occurrences is located on a ridge between Andersen Lake and US 101, near the southern end of the study area. This occurrence was last reported in 2002, at which time it consisted of five plants.

**Pink Creamsacs**

Pink creamsacs has no federal or state status, but CNPS includes it on List 1B (CNPS 2013). This species is an annual herb and is strictly endemic to serpentine habitat and may occur within the Preserve based on the proximity to a historically known occurrence from private land less than 1.5 miles to the south.

**Coyote Ceanothus**

Coyote ceanothus is federally listed as endangered. It has no state status, but CNPS includes it on List 1B (CNPS 2013). It is a perennial shrub that occurs in serpentine chaparral and grassland. Its blooming period runs from January through May. Coyote ceanothus is endemic to Santa Clara County, and is known from fewer than five occurrences in the Mt. Hamilton range (CNPS 2013).

**Mt. Hamilton Thistle**

Mt. Hamilton thistle has no federal or state status, but CNPS includes it on List 1B (CNPS 2013). It is a perennial herb that occurs in seasonal and perennial drainages on serpentine (CNDDDB 2006). Its primary blooming period lasts from April through October, although it can bloom as early as February. Mt. Hamilton thistle is known

from Alameda, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus Counties (CNPS 2013). More than ten occurrences of Mt Hamilton thistle, comprising thousands of individuals, are located in the hills east of Coyote Creek, along unnamed tributaries to Coyote Creek, along Silver Creek, in Hellyer Canyon and Metcalfe Canyon, and at the north end of Burnett Ave.

**Santa Clara Valley Dudleya**

Santa Clara Valley dudleya is federally listed as endangered. It has no state status, but CNPS includes it on List 1B (CNPS 2013). It is a perennial herb that occurs on rocky outcrops and on rocks in serpentine grassland and woodland (CNDDDB 2013). Its blooming period lasts from April through June. Santa Clara Valley dudleya is endemic to Santa Clara County (CNDDDB 2013, CNPS 2013). Rock outcrops within the serpentine grassland on the Preserve are known to support this species.

**Fragrant Fritillary**

Fragrant fritillary has no federal or state status, but CNPS includes it on List 1B (CNPS 2013). It is a perennial bulbiferous herb that occurs in grassland, predominantly on serpentine and clay soils (CNDDDB 2013, CNPS 2013). It blooms from February through April. Fragrant fritillary's distribution ranges through most of the San Francisco Bay Area, from Sonoma County in the north to Monterey County in the south (CNDDDB 2013, CNPS 2013).

**Loma Prieta Hoita**

Loma Prieta hoita has no federal or state status, but CNPS includes it on List 1B (CNPS 2013). It is a perennial herb that is confined to California. Its blooming period lasts from May to July. It was documented in 2003 less than three miles away along a utility transmission corridor access road near the end of Malech Road on the opposite side of Coyote Valley.

**Smooth Lessingia**

Smooth lessingia has no federal or state status, but CNPS includes it on List 1B (CNPS 2013). It is an annual herb that occurs in serpentine chaparral and woodland, and is frequently found on roadsides (CNDDDB 2013). It blooms from July through November. Smooth lessingia is only known from Santa Clara County (CNDDDB 2013, CNPS 2013). Occurrences are known from Metcalf Road, Anderson Lake Dam, and Coyote Creek Golf Drive, comprising several hundred individuals in total.

**Hall's Bush Mallow**

Hall's bush mallow has no federal or state status, but CNPS includes it on List 1B (CNPS 2013). It is a perennial shrub that occurs in chaparral, particularly in serpentine areas, and is known from Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Merced, Stanislaus, Mendocino, San Mateo, and possibly Alameda Counties (CNDDDB 2013). Its blooming period runs from May through September. Occurrences are documented adjacent to Anderson Lake Dam, and in the Silver Creek Hills, between Silver Creek and US 101.

**Metcalf Canyon Jewel-Flower**

Metcalf Canyon jewel-flower is federally listed as endangered. It has no state status, but CNPS includes it on List 1B (CNPS 2013). It is an annual herb that occurs in open areas in serpentine grassland (CNDDDB 2013). Its blooming period runs from April through July. Metcalf Canyon jewel-flower is endemic to Santa Clara County (CNDDDB 2013, CNPS 2013). Over 1,000 plants have been reported growing on the ridge between Anderson Lake and US 101. Occurrences are also documented near Metcalf Canyon Road, and south of Metcalf Canyon Road near the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) substation.

**Most Beautiful Jewel-flower**

Most beautiful jewel-flower has no federal or state status, but CNPS includes it on List 1B (CNPS 2013). It is an annual herb that occurs on serpentine outcrops in grassland, chaparral, and woodland (CNDDDB 2013). Its primary blooming period runs from April to June but it can bloom as early as March. Most beautiful jewel-flower is known from the Eastern San Francisco Bay Area, with occurrences in Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus Counties. In addition, several occurrences are known from Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, disjunct from the rest of the species' range (CNPS 2013; CNDDDB 2013). Over 10,000 plants were reported in 1969 growing in three subpopulations on the ridge between Metcalf Canyon and Coyote Creek.

**B-2: Special-Status Plants Known to Occur or that May Occur in the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**

Common and Scientific Name	Legal Status <sup>a</sup>	Geographic Distribution	Habitat Requirements	Habitat present?	Likelihood to Occur within Project Area <sup>b</sup>
	Federal/State/CNPS				
bent-flowered fiddleneck <i>Amsinckia lunaris</i>	--/1B	Inner North Coast Ranges, San Francisco Bay Area, west-central Great Valley	Coastal bluff scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, cismontane woodlands, from 10–1,645 feet (3–500 m)	Yes	Low – not known from area, site may not provide favorable conditions
Anderson's manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos andersonii</i>	SC/--/1B	Western San Francisco Bay region, Santa Cruz mountains. Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Counties	Chaparral and edges of broad-leaved upland forest, chaparral, north coast coniferous forest, below 2,300 feet	Yes	Low – not known from area, site may not provide favorable conditions
Big-scale balsamroot <i>Balsamorhiza macrolepis</i>	--/1B	San Francisco Bay region, Sierra Nevada foothills, Coast Ranges, eastern Cascade Ranges, Sacramento Valley	Rocky annual grassland and fields, foothill woodland hillsides, sometimes serpentine, below 4,600 feet	Yes	Moderate – appropriate habitat conditions may exist on site, though the most recent occurrence was
Round-leaved filaree <i>California macrophylla</i>	1B	Alameda, Butte, Contra Costa, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kings, Kern, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Benito, Santa Clara, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tehama, Tulare, Ventura and Yolo Counties	Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland	Yes	Low – open clay soils were not observed on site.
Tiburon Indian paintbrush <i>Castilleja affinis</i> ssp. <i>neglecta</i>	E/T/1B	Southern inner north Coast Ranges, northwestern San Francisco Bay region, Marin, Napa and Santa Clara Counties	Serpentine grasslands	Yes	Moderate - Known from Coyote Ridge.
Pink creamsacs <i>Castilleja rubicundula</i> ssp. <i>rubicundula</i>	1B	Butte, Contra Costa, Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Napa, Santa Clara and Shasta County.	Serpentine grassland, chaparral openings, woodlands, and seeps	Yes	Moderate - Known historically from private land less than 1.5 miles to the south.
Coyote ceanothus <i>Ceanothus ferrisiae</i>	E/--/1B	Northeastern San Francisco Bay, Mount Hamilton Range, Santa Clara County	Chaparral, coastal scrub, annual grassland, on serpentine soils	Yes	Moderate - Known from Coyote Ridge and north of Morgan Hill.

**B-2: Special-Status Plants Known to Occur or that May Occur in the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**

Common and Scientific Name	Legal Status <sup>a</sup>	Geographic Distribution	Habitat Requirements	Habitat present?	Likelihood to Occur within Project Area <sup>b</sup>
	Federal/State/CNPS				
Congdon's tarplant <i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>congdonii</i>	SC/-/1B	East San Francisco Bay Area, Salinas Valley, Los Osos Valley	Annual grassland, on lower slopes, flats, and swales, sometimes on alkaline or saline soils, below 700 feet. Blooms June–Nov.	Yes	Low - not known from area, site may not provide favorable conditions
Monterey spineflower <i>Chorizanthe pungens</i> var. <i>pungens</i>	T/-/1B	Northern and central coast; San Francisco Bay; Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo* Counties	Maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, sandy soils	No	Low - not known from area, lacks coastally influenced conditions.
robust spineflower <i>Chorizanthe robusta</i> var. <i>robusta</i>	E/-/1B	Central coastal California, Alameda*, Monterey, San Francisco*, San Mateo*, Santa Clara*, and Santa Cruz Counties	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes openings in cismontane woodland, on sandy soil	No	Low - not known from area, lacks coastally influenced conditions.
Mt. Hamilton thistle <i>Cirsium fontinale</i> var. <i>campylon</i>	1B	Mt. Hamilton Range, eastern San Francisco Bay area, Alameda, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus Counties	Freshwater seeps and streams on serpentine outcrops, chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, 400–2,500 feet	Yes	Moderate - Known from Santa Teresa hills, Calero Creek County Park, and Coyote Ridge.
San Francisco collinsia <i>Collinsia multicolor</i>	-/-/1B	Northern and central central coast, northern outer south Coast Ranges. Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties	Closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal scrub, sometimes serpentine	No	Low - not known from area, site may not provide favorable conditions
Santa Clara Valley dudleya <i>Dudleya setchellii</i>	E/-/1B	Santa Clara County	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, serpentinite, rocky	Yes	Present - Documented within serpentine grassland on site.
Fragrant fritillary <i>Fritillaria liliacea</i>	SC/-/1B	Coast Ranges from Marin County to San Benito County	Adobe soils of interior foothills, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, annual grassland, often on serpentinite, below 1,350 feet	Yes	Moderate - Known from Calero County Park and Coyote Ridge.
Loma Prieta hoita <i>Hoita strobilina</i>	SC/-/1B	Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, riparian woodland (usually serpentinite), 100–2,000 feet	Yes	Moderate – appropriate habitat conditions may exist on site.

**B-2: Special-Status Plants Known to Occur or that May Occur in the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**

Common and Scientific Name	Legal Status <sup>a</sup>	Geographic Distribution	Habitat Requirements	Habitat present?	Likelihood to Occur within Project Area <sup>b</sup>
	Federal/State/CNPS				
Contra Costa goldfields <i>Lasthenia conjugens</i>	E/-/1B	Scattered occurrences in Coast Range valleys and southwest edge of Sacramento Valley, Alameda, Contra Costa, Mendocino, Napa, Santa Barbara*, Santa Clara*, and Solano Counties. Historically distributed through the north coast, southern Sacramento Valley, San Francisco Bay region and the south coast.	Alkaline or saline vernal pools and swales, below 700 feet	No	Low - not known from area, outside of known range.
Legenere <i>Legenere limosa</i>	SC/-/1B	Primarily located in the lower Sacramento Valley, also from north Coast Ranges, northern San Joaquin Valley and the Santa Cruz mountains.	Deep, seasonally wet habitats such as vernal pools, ditches, marsh edges, and river banks, below 500 feet. Blooms April-June.	No	Low – site does not support appropriate habitat.
Mt. Hamilton coreopsis <i>Leptosyne hamiltonii</i>	-/-/1B	Alameda, Santa Clara and Stanislaus County.	Cismontane woodland	No	Low – outside of known range
Smooth lessingia <i>Lessingia micradenia</i> var. <i>glabrata</i>	SC/-/1B	Santa Clara County	Chaparral on serpentinite, often on roadsides, 400–1,380 feet	Yes	Present - Documented within serpentine grassland on site.
Mt. Hamilton lomatium <i>Lomatium observatorium</i>	-/-/1B	Endemic to Mount Hamilton	Oak woodland, between 1219–1330 m; blooms March-May	No	Low – outside of known range
showy golden madia <i>Madia radiata</i>	-/-/1B	Contra Costa, Fresno, Kings, Kern, Monterey, Santa Barbara, San Benito, Santa Clara, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo and Stanislaus County.	Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland	Yes	Low – outside of known range
Indian Valley bush-mallow <i>Malacothamnus aboriginum</i>	-/-/1B	Fresno, Kings, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland	No	Low – outside of known range
Arcuate bush mallow <i>Malacothamnus arcuatus</i>	-/-/1B	Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Counties	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland	Yes	Low – outside of known range

**B-2: Special-Status Plants Known to Occur or that May Occur in the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**

Common and Scientific Name	Legal Status <sup>a</sup>	Geographic Distribution	Habitat Requirements	Habitat present?	Likelihood to Occur within Project Area <sup>b</sup>
	Federal/State/CNPS				
Hall's bush mallow <i>Malacothamnus hallii</i>	-/-/1B	Alameda, Contra Costa, Merced, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus Counties	Chaparral between 30–2,500 feet	Yes	High - Known immediately north of site from Calero and Santa Teresa County Parks, also north of Morgan Hill and Rancho Canada del Oro.
Woodland woollythreads <i>Monolopia gracilens</i>	-/-/1B	Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo and San Mateo Counties	Broadleafed upland forest, Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest, Valley and foothill grassland	Yes	Low – not known from area, site may not provide favorable conditions
Metcalf Canyon jewel-flower <i>Streptanthus albidus</i> ssp. <i>albidus</i>	E/-/1B	Santa Clara County	Valley and foothill grassland, on serpentinite	Yes	Moderate - Documented occurrences north of Morgan Hill and Coyote Ridge.
Most beautiful jewel-flower <i>Streptanthus albidus</i> ssp. <i>peramoenus</i>	-/-/1B	Eastern San Francisco Bay area, Central south coastal outer ranges. Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara Counties	Chaparral, annual grassland, on ridges and slopes on serpentinite outcrops, 450–3,200 feet	Yes	Present - Documented within serpentinite grassland on site.
Mt. Hamilton jewel-flower <i>Streptanthus callistus</i>	-/-/1B	Santa Clara County	Chaparral, cismontane woodland	No	Low – outside of known range
Santa Cruz clover <i>Trifolium buckwestiorum</i>	-/-/1B	Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma Counties	Broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, coastal prairie / margins	No	Low – outside of known range

**B-2: Special-Status Plants Known to Occur or that May Occur in the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**

Common and Scientific Name	Legal Status <sup>a</sup>	Geographic Distribution	Habitat Requirements	Habitat present?	Likelihood to Occur within Project Area <sup>b</sup>
	Federal/State/CNPS				

Notes:

<sup>a</sup> **Status explanations:**

**Federal**

- E = listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- T = listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- PE = proposed for federal listing as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- PT = proposed for federal listing as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- C = species for which USFWS has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposed rule to list.
- SC = species of concern; species for which existing information indicates it may warrant listing but for which substantial biological information to support a proposed rule is lacking.
- = no listing.

**State**

- E = listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.
- T = listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.
- R = listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act. This category is no longer used for newly listed plants, but some plants previously listed as rare retain this designation.
- CE = candidate species for listing as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act
- SSC= species of special concern in California.
- = no listing.

**California Native Plant Society**

- 1A = List 1A species: presumed extinct in California.
- 1B = List 1B species: rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.
- 2 = List 2 species: rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere.
- 3 = List 3 species: plants about which more information is needed to determine their status.
- 4 = List 4 species: plants of limited distribution.
- = no listing.
- \* = known populations believed extirpated from that County
- ? = population location within County uncertain

<sup>b</sup> **Definitions of levels of Occurrence likelihood:**

- High: Known occurrence of plant in region from Natural Diversity Data Base, or other documents in the vicinity of the project; or presence of suitable habitat conditions and suitable microhabitat conditions.
- Moderate: Known occurrence of plant in region from Natural Diversity Data Base, or other documents in the vicinity of the project; or presence of suitable habitat conditions but suitable microhabitat conditions are not present.
- Low: Plant not known to occur in the region from the Natural Diversity Data Base, or other documents in the vicinity of the project; or habitat conditions of poor quality.

## Special-Status Wildlife

Twenty-three special-status wildlife species were identified as having the potential to occur in the region (Table B-1). Of the twenty-three the following thirteen species are discussed briefly below either by themselves or within a representative species group because they have a moderate or high likelihood of occurring on site.

### Opler's longhorn moth

Opler's longhorn moth occurs in serpentine grassland where its larval food plant, California cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*), is known to grow. Longhorn moths are small, day-flying moths that belong to the family Incurvariidae. These moths are in the genus *Adela*, and are sometimes referred to as fairy moths. These moths have faced the same pressures faced by Bay checkerspot butterfly and have benefited from the actions taken to preserve that species. Field observations show that the dispersal scale for this moth is small, on the order of hundreds of meters, thus limiting its ability to easily colonize new areas. They were observed within the Preserve in 1992 and have also historically been found in Morgan Hill, Coyote Ridge, and Santa Teresa hills.

### Bay Checkerspot Butterfly

The Bay checkerspot butterfly is federally listed as threatened. Bay checkerspot butterflies occur on shallow, serpentine, or similar soils, which support their larval food plants and nectar sources for adults. The primary larval host plant is the California (dwarf) plantain (*Plantago erecta*). Larvae feed on the leaves of the plantain, as well as owl's clover (*Castilleja densiflorus* and *C. exserta*). Bay checkerspot butterfly populations have declined due to habitat loss caused by non-native plant species replacing native food sources and by urban and suburban development (USFWS 1998). The distribution of the bay checkerspot butterfly varies spatially and temporally (i.e., sites that are unoccupied one year may be occupied the next) and the number of total individuals and populations fluctuates greatly year-to-year (USFWS 1998).

The areas of suitable habitat that support persistent populations are located along Coyote Ridge, to the east of the Preserve on the east side of US 101. Smaller "satellite" populations are located north of the Preserve in the Santa

Teresa Hills, Tulare Hill, and at the Preserve. Individuals are expected to move between populations because all of the Santa Clara County populations are within flight distance of each other (USFWS 1998).

Critical habitat designated by USFWS for the Bay checkerspot butterfly includes 24,190 acres in Santa Clara County, with the highest priority areas being the core areas along Coyote Ridge (USFWS 2001). The Preserve falls within critical habitat units 9a and 9b for the species with the last observation in 1997.

#### **Hom's microblind harvestman**

This species is known only from serpentine rocks in grassland habitats. This species can be found clinging to the undersides of serpentine rocks near permanent springs. The species is known from Santa Teresa Park.

#### **California Tiger Salamander**

California tiger salamander is federally listed as threatened and is a state species of special concern. California tiger salamander is terrestrial and spends most of its time underground in small mammal burrows, emerging only for brief periods in the winter to breed. Breeding is known to occur in temporary pools and may also occur in more permanent bodies of water that do not contain bullfrogs or other non-native predators. Suitable breeding habitat and known occurrences for tiger salamander are present within one mile of the Preserve, though onsite conditions only support upland aestivation habitat for the species.

#### **California Red-Legged Frog**

The California red-legged frog is federally listed as threatened and is a state species of special concern. Red-legged frog habitat is characterized by permanent and ephemeral streams or ponds with emergent and submergent vegetation and riparian vegetation along the banks. Adults prefer dense, shrubby, or emergent vegetation closely associated with deep (depths greater than 2 feet) still or slow-moving water. The largest densities of California red-legged frogs are associated with deep-water pools with dense stands of overhanging willows and an intermixed fringe of cattails. California red-legged frogs have been found up to 30 meters (98 feet) from water in adjacent dense riparian vegetation for up to 77 days (Rathbun et al. 1993). Where water

sources dry during the summer months, California red-legged frog may use upland areas that contain small mammal burrows and moist leaf litter for aestivation or refuge (Jennings and Hayes 1994).

Red-legged frog populations in Santa Clara County are primarily found in streams or stock ponds in the foothill and mountain ranges and are considered extirpated from most of the streams in urban portions of Coyote Valley. In the vicinity of the Preserve they are known from Calero and Coyote Creek county parks. There are no records of the species within the Preserve, though the area may be used for upland or dispersal habitat.

### **Golden Eagle**

Golden eagles are a CDFW fully protected species and are federally protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Within California, the golden eagle is a year-round resident generally inhabiting mountainous and hilly terrain throughout the open areas of the state. Golden eagle have been observed soaring over the Preserve, though are not likely nesting within the Preserve. Recently this species has been documented nesting near Anderson Reservoir.

### **Burrowing Owl**

Burrowing owl is a CDFW species of concern. Burrowing owl habitat is annual and perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low growing vegetation. Suitable habitat may also include trees and shrubs if the canopy cover is less than 30% of the ground surface (Haug et al. 1993). Burrowing owls use burrows constructed by other animals such as California ground squirrels and may also use man-made structures such as culverts, debris piles, and holes beneath pavement. Burrowing owl is fairly tolerant of human presence and is the only owl species known to nest underground.

The Preserve provides suitable foraging and potential nesting habitat for the species, the closest documented occurrences come from Tulare Hill, Coyote Ridge and southern Coyote Valley.

### **Nesting Raptors**

Raptors that could potentially occur in the Preserve area include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), and great horned

owl (*Bubo virginianus*). These nest in riparian and other woodland areas, including non-native woodlands. The breeding season for these species generally extends from February 1 to August 15. A variety of tree-nesting raptors may nest in oak woodland habitat within the Preserve, while ground-nesting raptors such as northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) may nest in grassland habitat. No active raptor nests were identified, though foraging white-tailed kite and northern harrier were identified during field visits. The potential for raptors to nest within the Preserve in the future is high.

### **Other Migratory Bird Species**

Oak woodlands provide suitable breeding and foraging habitat for a variety of migratory bird species. Due to the heterogeneity in vegetative structure, the adjacency to ecotone habitat, this habitat can be very productive for nesting songbirds. Both special status and other migratory bird species could occur within the Preserve. Those that do not have any state or federal listing status are all protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

### **Bat Species**

The Preserve offers potential foraging and roosting habitat for special-status bat species including hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*), and yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*). Roosts are used during the daytime to seek refuge; at night between foraging excursions to rest, digest prey, seek refuge from predators or poor weather conditions, or for social purposes; and in winter for hibernation. Adult females and their young use some particularly secure roosts as maternity roosts. The number of bats occupying a given roost can vary from a solitary individual to a large colony, depending on the species. Roosting sites are very sensitive to human disturbance, especially when bats are hibernating or rearing young.

At dusk, bats leave their roosts to forage for insects in nearby ponds or riparian habitats. Bats generally prey on insect species that are locally abundant near water bodies. Ecotone areas (areas of transition between habitats) are also used as foraging areas. The reservoirs around the Preserve including Calero and Chesbro have a high foraging potential for bat species. The open water provides an abundance of prey, and the location is well within the distance for any bats roosting within the Preserve.

### **San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat**

San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*) is a CDFW species of special concern. This subspecies is known to occur in the hardwood forests and chaparral throughout the Bay Area, including Santa Cruz Mountains. Dusky-footed woodrat (*N. fuscipes*) is a common species throughout much of California, occurring in the Coast Ranges, the Sierra Nevada foothills, and the northeastern interior portion of the state. The species occupies forest habitats with moderate canopy cover and moderate to dense understory vegetation, as well as chaparral habitats (Zeiner et al. 1990). Dusky-footed woodrats feed on a wide variety of plants, ranging from fungi to oaks. They build large, distinctive stick houses that can measure up to 8 feet in diameter.

The San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat is widely distributed in Santa Clara County and has potential to occur within the Preserve given the appropriate habitat for the species.

### **American Badger**

The American badger is a state species of special concern. These non-migratory solitary mammals have large home ranges and can be found in a variety of open, arid habitats, but are most commonly associated with grasslands, savannas, and mountain meadows. This species has been observed on Tulare Hill approximately three miles from the Preserve. The Tulare Hill area has been identified as a viable corridor for the passage of American badgers from the Mt. Hamilton Range to the Santa Cruz Mountains.

**Table B-3: Special-Status Wildlife Known to Occur or that May Occur in the in the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve**

Common and Scientific Name	Status <sup>a</sup>		Habitats	Potential for Occurrence in Project Area
	Federal/State	California Distribution		
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>				
Opler's longhorn moth <i>Adela oplerella</i>	-/-	Vicinity of San Francisco Bay	Serpentine soils, grasslands	Moderate—Known from site in 1992; also in Morgan Hill, Coyote Ridge, and Santa Teresa hills.
Bay checkerspot butterfly <i>Euphydryas editha bayensis</i>	T/-	Vicinity of San Francisco Bay	Native grasslands on outcrops of serpentine soil; California plantain and owls clover are host plants	Moderate—Historically known from the site, which is part of Critical Habitat. Also in Calero County Park, Tulare Hill, and Coyote Ridge.
Hom's microblind harvestman <i>Microcina homi</i>	-/-		Serpentine grassland and rocks	Moderate—Known from Santa Teresa County Park, north of Morgan Hill, and Coyote Ridge
Jung's microblind harvestman <i>Microcina juni</i>	-/-		Serpentine rocks	Low—appropriate habitat in the Preserve however no records have been reported within 5 miles.
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>				
California tiger salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	T/T	Central Valley, including Sierra Nevada foothills, up to approximately 1,000 feet, and coastal region from Butte County south to Santa Barbara County	Small ponds, lakes, or vernal pools in grasslands and oak woodlands for larvae; rodent burrows, rock crevices, or fallen logs for cover for adults and for summer dormancy	High—Numerous occurrences nearby, including three ponds within 1 mile.

Table B-3: Special-Status Wildlife Known to Occur or that May Occur in the in the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

Common and Scientific Name	Status <sup>a</sup>		California Distribution	Habitats	Potential for Occurrence in Project Area
	Federal/State				
California red-legged frog <i>Rana aurora draytoni</i>	T/SSC		Found along the coast and coastal mountain ranges of California from Humboldt County to San Diego County; Sierra Nevada (mid-elevations [above 1,000 feet] from Butte County to Fresno County)	Permanent and semipermanent aquatic habitats, such as creeks and coldwater ponds, with emergent and submergent vegetation and riparian species along the edges; may estivate in rodent burrows or cracks during dry periods	Moderate— Known from Calero and Coyote Creek county parks, and private land approximately 3 mi south of the Preserve.
Foothill yellow-legged frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	–/SSC		Occurs in the Klamath, Cascade, north Coast, south Coast, Transverse, and Sierra Nevada Ranges up to approximately 6,000 feet	Creeks or rivers in woodland, forest, mixed chaparral, and wet meadow habitats with rock and gravel substrate and low overhanging vegetation along the edge. Usually found near riffles with rocks and sunny banks nearby.	Low—Inappropriate habitat in the vicinity of the Preserve.
<b>REPTILES</b>					
California horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	–/SSC		Sacramento Valley, including foothills, south to southern California; Coast Ranges south of Sonoma County; below 4,000 feet in northern California	Grasslands, brushlands, woodlands, and open coniferous forest with sandy or loose soil; requires abundant ant colonies for foraging	Low—a small amount of isolated appropriate habitat occurs within the Preservein. No CNDDDB records within 5 miles.
Western pond turtle <i>Emys marmorata</i>	–/SSC		Occurs from the Oregon border of Del Norte and Siskiyou Counties south along the coast to San Francisco Bay, inland through the Sacramento Valley, and on the western slope of Sierra Nevada	Occupies ponds, marshes, rivers, streams, and irrigation canals with muddy or rocky bottoms and with watercress, cattails, water lilies, or other aquatic vegetation in woodlands, grasslands, and open forests	Low—Inappropriate habitat in the vicinity of the Preserve.

Table B-3: Special-Status Wildlife Known to Occur or that May Occur in the in the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

Common and Scientific Name	Status <sup>a</sup>		California Distribution	Habitats	Potential for Occurrence in Project Area
	Federal/State				
<b>BIRDS</b>					
Tricolored Blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	-/SSC		Largely endemic to California; permanent residents in the Central Valley from Butte County to Kern County; at scattered coastal locations from Marin County south to San Diego County; breeds at scattered locations in Lake, Sonoma, and Solano Counties; rare nester in Siskiyou, Modoc, and Lassen Counties	Nests in dense colonies in emergent marsh vegetation, such as tules and cattails, or upland sites with blackberries, nettles, thistles, and grainfields; nesting habitat must be large enough to support 50 pairs; probably requires water at or near the nesting colony; requires large foraging areas, including marshes, pastures, agricultural wetlands, dairies, and feedlots, where insect prey is abundant	Low—suitable habitat not present in the Preserve.
Golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	PR/SSC, FP		Foothills and mountains throughout California. Uncommon nonbreeding visitor to lowlands such as the Central Valley	Nest on cliffs and escarpments or in tall trees overlooking open country. Forages in annual grasslands, chaparral, and oak woodlands with plentiful medium and large-sized mammals	High—Appropriate foraging habitat in the Preserve. Observed on site during the non-breeding period. No CNDDDB records within 2 miles.
Burrowing Owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	-/SSC		Lowlands throughout California, including the Central Valley, northeastern plateau, southeastern deserts, and coastal areas; rare along south coast	Rodent burrows in sparse grass-land, desert, and agricultural habitats	Moderate—Appropriate overwintering habitat available. Known from Tulare Hill, Coyote Ridge, and south Coyote Valley during the non-breeding period.

Table B-3: Special-Status Wildlife Known to Occur or that May Occur in the in the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

Common and Scientific Name	Status <sup>a</sup>		California Distribution	Habitats	Potential for Occurrence in Project Area
	Federal/State				
Black swift <i>Cypseloides niger</i>	-/SSC		Breeds very locally in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range, the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto mountains, and in coastal bluffs from San Mateo county south to near San Luis Obispo county	Nests in moist crevice or cave on sea cliffs above the surf, or on cliffs behind, or adjacent to, waterfalls in deep canyons	Low—Inappropriate habitat in the vicinity of the Preserve.
White-tailed Kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	-/FP		Lowland areas west of Sierra Nevada from head of Sacramento Valley south, including coastal valleys and foothills to western San Diego County at the Mexico border	Low foothills or valley areas with valley or live oaks, riparian areas, and marshes near open grasslands for foraging	High—Appropriate foraging habitat. Species observed during field visit.
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	E/E		From central/northern California through the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys and Sierra Nevada foothills	Riparian habitats along open water or dry parts of intermittent streams	Low—Appropriate nesting habitat does not exist.
<b>MAMMALS</b>					
Pallid bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	-/SSC		Widespread throughout California	Roosts in fissures in caves, tunnels, mines, hollow trees, and locations with stable	Low—lack of appropriate roosting habitat, though the species may be found foraging. No occurrence records in the vicinity of the Preserve.
Santa Cruz kangaroo rat <i>Dipodomys venustus venustus</i>	-/-		Central Coast of California	Well-drained, deep soils often on slopes with chaparral or mixed chaparral and sometimes abandoned farm fields	Low – lacks appropriate habitat

Table B-3: Special-Status Wildlife Known to Occur or that May Occur in the in the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

Common and Scientific Name	Status <sup>a</sup>		California Distribution	Habitats	Potential for Occurrence in Project Area
	Federal/State				
Hoary bat <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	-/-		Widespread throughout California	Roosts in trees, typically within forests	Moderate—Appropriate foraging and roosting habitat. No occurrence records in the vicinity of the Preserve.
Long-eared myotis <i>Myotis evotis</i>	-/-		Occurs throughout California except the southeastern deserts and the Central Valley	Occurs primarily in high elevation coniferous forests, but also found in mixed hardwood/conifer, high desert, and humid coastal conifer habitats	Moderate—Appropriate foraging and roosting habitat. No occurrence records in the vicinity of the Preserve.
Yuma myotis <i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	-/-		Common and widespread throughout most of California except the Colorado and Mojave deserts	Found in a wide variety of habitats from sea level to 11,000 ft., but uncommon above 8,000 ft. Optimal habitat is open forests and woodlands near water bodies	Moderate—Appropriate foraging and roosting habitat. No occurrence records in the vicinity of the Preserve.
San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat <i>Neotoma fuscipes annectens</i>	-/SSC		Hardwood forests and chaparral throughout the Bay Area, including Santa Cruz mountains	Riparian, chaparral, redwood, and mixed evergreen forest habitats	Moderate— Known from east of Coyote Ridge
American badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	-/SSC		Throughout California, except the northern corner of the north coast area.	Typically open areas of drier scrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats with friable soils	Moderate—Known occurrences on Tulare Ridge within agricultural areas in Coyote Valley.

Table B-3: Special-Status Wildlife Known to Occur or that May Occur in the in the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve

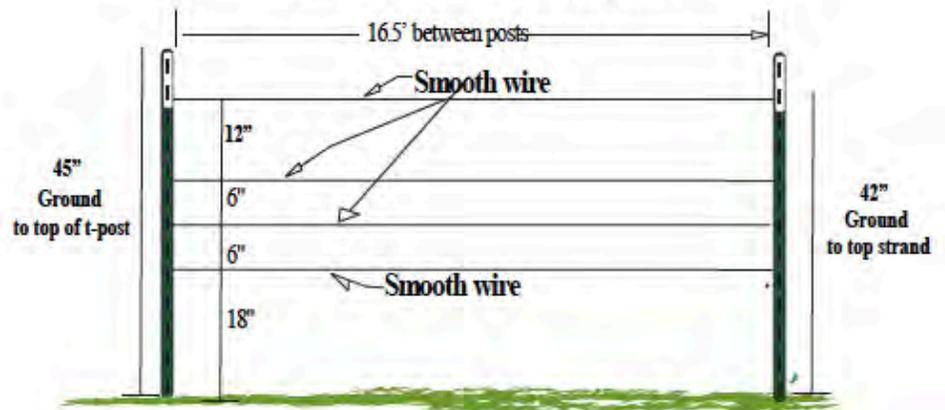
Common and Scientific Name	Status <sup>a</sup>		Habitats	Potential for Occurrence in Project Area
	Federal/State	California Distribution		
San Joaquin kit fox <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	E/T	Principally occurs in the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent open foothills to the west; recent records from 17 counties extending from Kern County north to Contra Costa County	Saltbush scrub, grassland, oak, savanna, and freshwater scrub	Low—Appropriate habitat disconnected from known populations. Habitat fragmentation and human disturbance likely precludes the species from the Preserve. No CNDDDB records in or within 2 miles. Last sighting of the species in the general area was in Morgan Hill in the early 1970s.
<p><u>Status explanations:</u></p> <p><b>Federal</b></p> <p>E = listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.                      T = listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.                      PT = proposed for federal listing as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.                      D = delisted as threatened/endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.                      C = species for which USFWS has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposed rule to list, but issuance of the proposed rule is precluded.                      PD = proposed for delisting as under the federal Endangered Species Act.                      PR = Species protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.                      – = no listing.</p> <p><b>State</b></p> <p>E = listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.                      T = listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.                      FP = fully protected under California Fish and Game Code.                      SSC = species of special concern in California.                      – = no listing.</p> <p><u>Potential Occurrence in the Study Area:</u></p> <p>High: Known occurrences of the species within the study area or California Natural Diversity Database, or other documents, records the occurrence of the species within a 10-mile radius of the study area. Suitable habitat is present within the study area.</p> <p>Moderate: California Natural Diversity Database, or other documents, records the known occurrence of the species within a 10-mile radius of the study area. Poor quality suitable habitat is present within the study area.</p> <p>Low: California Natural Diversity Database, or other documents, does not record the occurrence of the species within a 10-mile radius of the study area. Suitable habitat is present within the study area.</p>				

Attachment

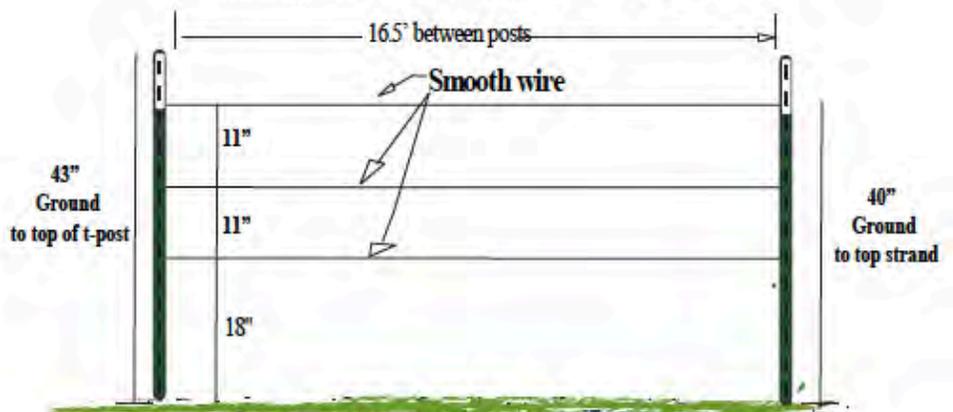
C

FENCING STANDARDS

**Santa Clara County Open Space Authority  
Fencing Standards  
Limited Cattle Grazing  
Road Side - Use 66" (5'5") t-post**

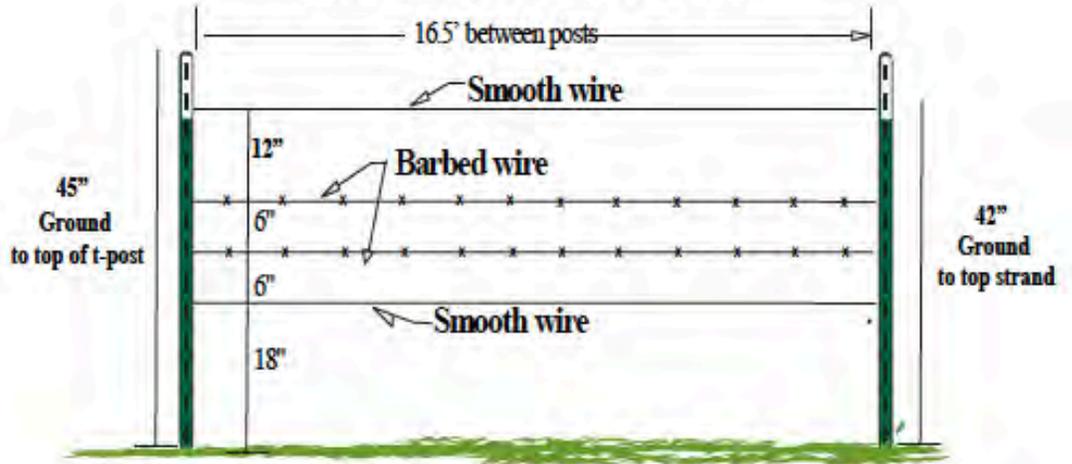


**Interior Fencing - Use 60" (5'0") t-posts**

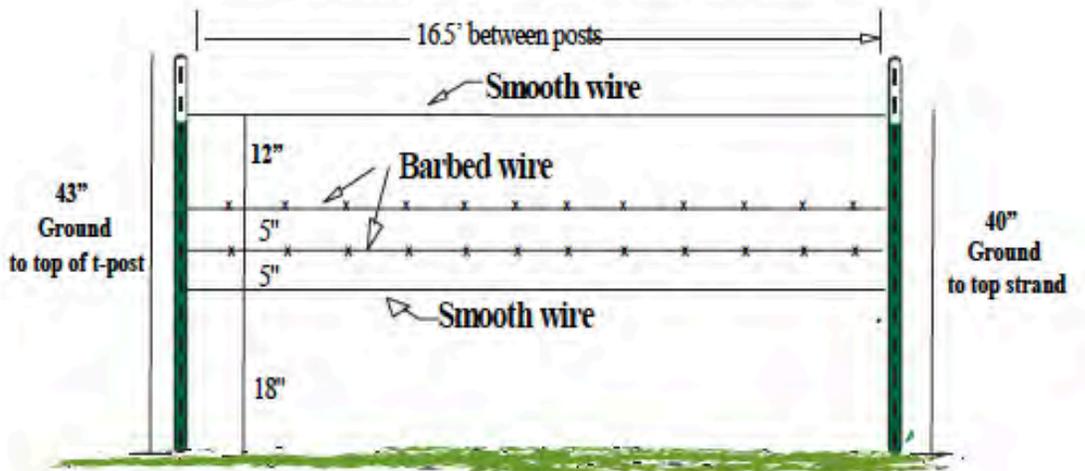


Ordering t-posts:  
All t-post are green  
Roadside t-post length is 66" (5.5')  
Interior t-post length is 60" (5.0')

# Santa Clara County Open Space Authority Fencing Standards Standard Cattle Grazing Road Side - Use 66" (5.5') t-posts



## Interior Fencing - Use 60" (5.0') t-posts



### Ordering t-posts:

All t-posts are green

Roadside t-post length is 66" (5.5')

Interior t-post length is 60" (5.0')