



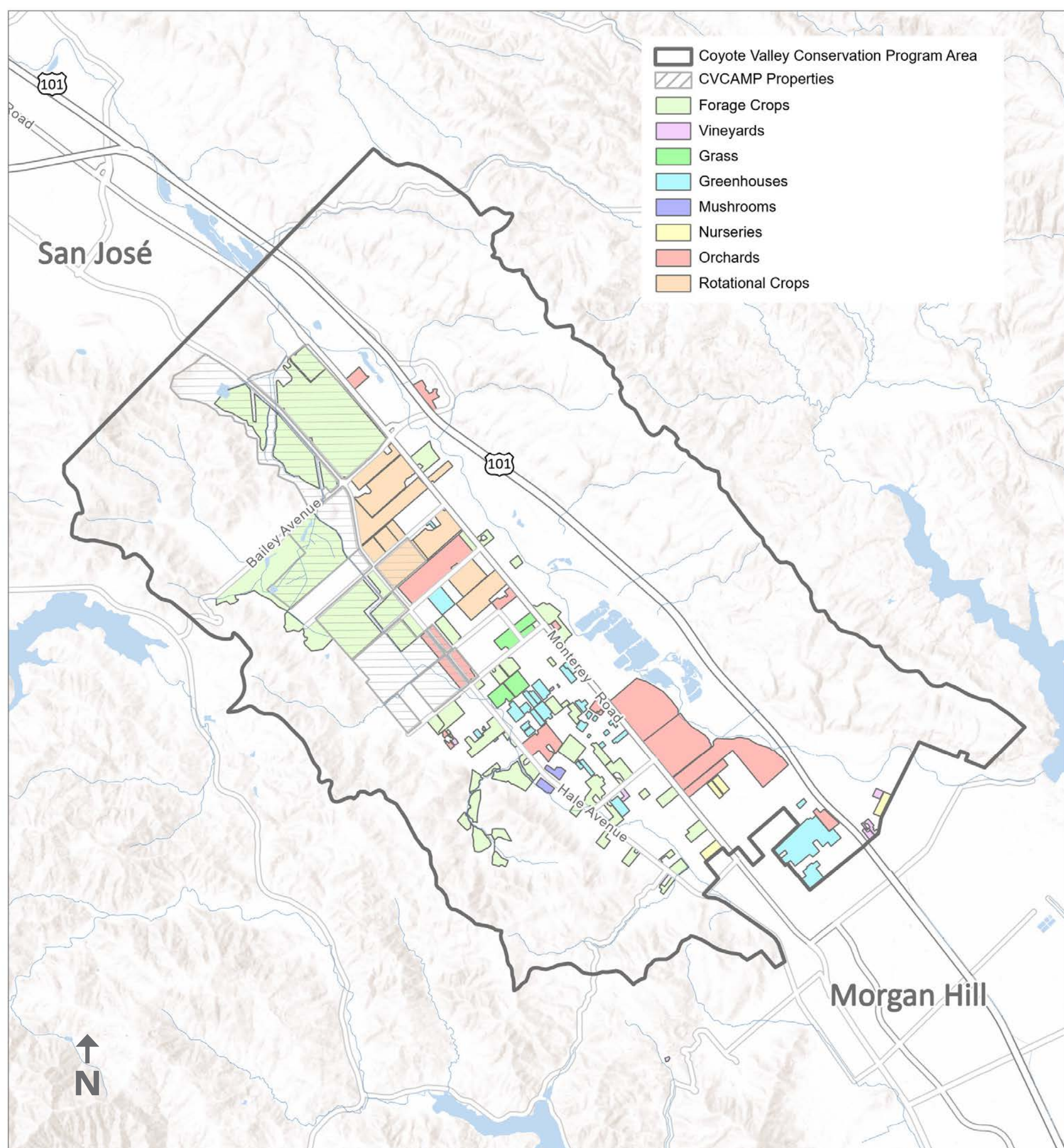
Local Agriculture

Agriculture is the primary land use in Coyote Valley today and contributes to Santa Clara County's \$358-million-dollar agricultural economy. Permanent protection of valley-floor land is creating new opportunities to add agricultural uses that create jobs, support the economy, sequester carbon and offer access to healthy local food.

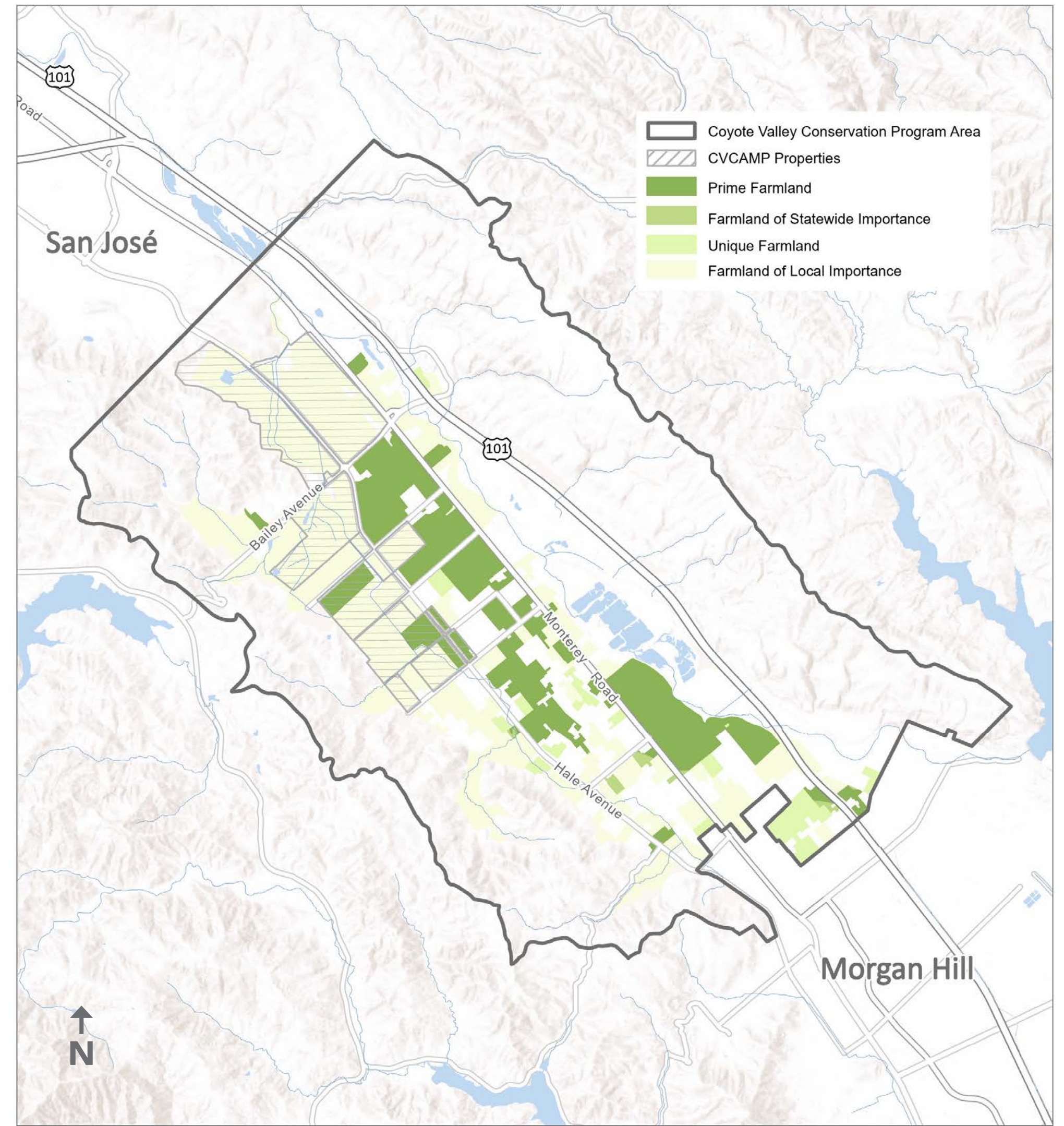
Photo: Spina Farms Pumpkin Patch

Existing Agricultural Crops

There is a wide diversity of agricultural activity found in Coyote Valley. The crop types shown in the map below are based on 2024 data and observations. Although not shown on the map, grazing is a major agricultural use taking place on many public and private lands in Coyote Valley. Infrastructure and other improvements affect the type of crops grown. For example, land which has seen limited investment for agricultural purposes, which may be in part due to speculation for development, can influence crop type.



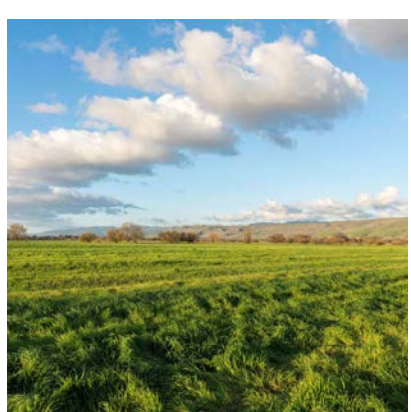
Prime Farmland



"Prime Farmland" is a designation for lands that have the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food or other crops. A total of approximately 1,470 acres of farmland in Coyote Valley are designated as Prime Farmland, according to CA Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program.



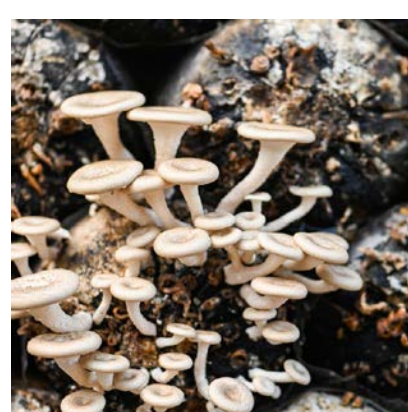
Forage crops



Grass



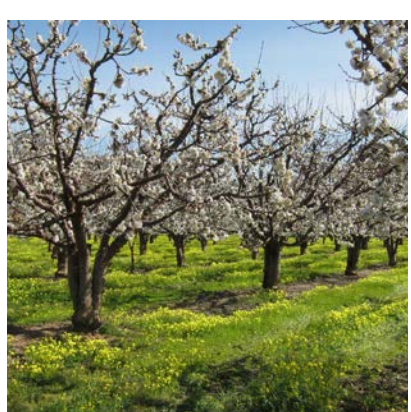
Greenhouses



Mushrooms



Nurseries



Orchards



Rotational crops



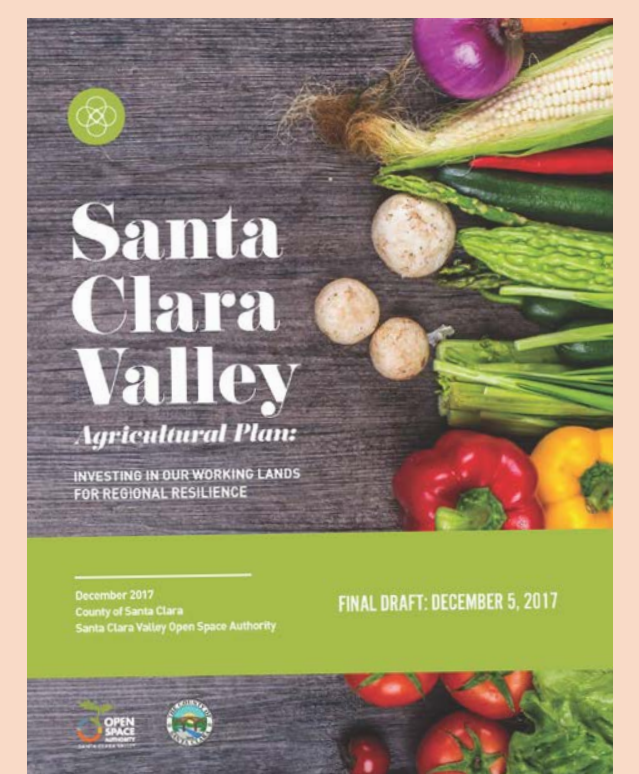
Vineyards

Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan

The 2018 Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan identifies Coyote Valley as one of eight sub-areas within the County's Agricultural Resource Area. Most of Coyote Valley is identified as farmland with relatively high viability. Highly viable farmland resources are defined as:

- Undeveloped prime or important farmland soils greater than 40 acres in size
- Adjacent to existing farming operation that has been active in the last four years
- Overlaying a groundwater basin

Challenges for agriculture in Coyote Valley identified by the plan are interface with commuter traffic and future development or annexation.



Key Findings



Development speculation has led to underinvestment in agricultural infrastructure and preponderance of short-term crops, like hayfields. Permanent protection of Coyote Valley's agricultural lands allows farmers to more securely invest resources and increase the diversity of crops grown in the area.



Building awareness and appreciation for Coyote Valley-grown goods can increase their value. There is a strong market for locally-grown goods. Expanded agritourism, branding and marketing could strengthen the economic viability of farming in the region.



Regulatory and policy support is needed to ensure access to the resources needed for farming, including affordable access to water and affordable housing for farmers and farm employees.

Photo credits: Nick Perry, Annamaria Pilon, Tyler Flippo, Sibella Kraus