RESOLUTION 20-47

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY (1) CALLING AND GIVING NOTICE OF AN ELECTION WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUBMITTING A PROPOSITION TO THE VOTERS TO RENEW AND EXTEND A SPECIAL PARCEL TAX TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE NATURAL OPEN SPACE AREAS; AND (2) REQUESTING CONSOLIDATION OF THIS ELECTION WITH THE STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020

WHEREAS, at its duly noticed July 23, 2020, meeting, the Governing Board (Board) considered and adopted a resolution (Resolution 20-46) placing The Open Space, Wildlife Habitat, Clean Water, and Increased Public Access Measure on the November 3, 2020, ballot to request voter approval of a renewal and extension of an existing special parcel tax within the jurisdiction of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority); and,

WHEREAS, the proposed tax measure, if approved by the voters, would continue to fund the following specific purposes: (1) protecting open space, redwood forests, wildlife habitat, scenic hillside and agricultural land; (2) protecting land around creeks, rivers and streams to prevent pollution and improve local water quality and supply; (3) opening, improving and maintaining parks, open space, and trails; and (4) providing urban open space, parks, and environmental education programs through a competitive Urban Grants Program.

WHEREAS, after holding a noticed public hearing on the proposed tax measure, the Board concluded that a secure, stable, and long-term funding source is necessary to protect and preserve the Authority’s open space, trails, and parks; and,

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code Section 35172, Government Code Sections 50077 and 53724, and Elections Code Sections 9342 authorize the Board to submit to the voters the proposed measure to levy a special parcel tax on real property to generate funds for open space acquisition, preservation, and maintenance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

1. Board Approval of Proposed Measure. The Board is authorized to, and has approved, Resolution 20-46, The Open Space, Wildlife Habitat, Clean Water, and Increased Public Access Measure (Measure), to propose to the voters within the Authority’s jurisdiction a measure to renew and extend the existing special parcel tax of $24 per parcel per year, which is presently set to expire in 2029, until ended by the voters, with all revenues to be used exclusively for the specific purposes set forth in the Measure. The full text of the Measure, which consists of (1) Resolution No. 20-46 and (2) the accompanying Expenditure Plan attached and incorporated therein as Attachment A, is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

2. Order of General Election. A general election is hereby called and ordered to be held within the jurisdiction of the Authority on November 3, 2020, for the purpose of submitting the Measure in the form set forth in Section 3.
3. **Form of Ballot Question.** The Measure shall appear and be printed in the ballots to be used at the election in the following form:

| “To continue protecting and preserving natural open spaces without increasing tax rates by: • managing land and water to reduce wildfires and floods; • protecting land around creeks to prevent pollution and improve water quality; • creating urban parks; • preserving wildlife habitats; and, • preserving family farms, and healthy food sources; shall the measure to renew Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority’s existing $24 annual parcel tax with no increase, generating approximately $8,000,000 annually, until ended by voters, with oversight/audits, be adopted?” | YES |
| | NO |

4. **Full Text of Resolution.** The full text of the resolution placing the proposed special parcel tax on the ballot shall be printed in the voter pamphlet. A copy of the full text of the resolution, which consists of (1) Resolution No. 20-46 and (2) the accompanying Expenditure Plan attached and incorporated therein as Attachment A, is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

5. **Consolidation and Conduct of Election.** The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, is hereby requested to order the consolidation of the Authority general election with the regularly scheduled Statewide General Election held on November 3, 2020, pursuant to Elections Code Sections 10400 et seq. The consolidated election shall be held and conducted, election officers appointed, voting precincts designated, ballots printed, polls opened and closed, ballots counted and returned, returns canvassed, results declared, certificates of election issued, and all other proceedings incidental to and connected with the election shall be regulated and done by the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters in accordance with applicable provisions of law.

6. **Notice of Election.** The polls shall open at seven o’clock a.m. the day of the election and shall remain open continuously from that time until eight o’clock p.m. of the same day when the polls shall close, except as provided in Elections Code Section 14401.

7. **Deadline for Submittal of Ballot Arguments.** 5:00 p.m. on August 11, 2020, is the deadline established by the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters for submission of arguments in favor of and arguments against the Measure. If more than one argument in favor of or against this Measure is received, the priorities set forth in Elections Code Section 9166 shall control.

8. **Procedure for Rebuttal Arguments.** The provisions of Elections Code Section 9317 shall control the submission of rebuttal arguments. 5:00 p.m. on August 18, 2020, is the deadline established by the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters for submission of rebuttal arguments.

9. **Impartial Analysis.** The Clerk of the Board is designated to serve as the Authority's Elections Official and is directed to transmit a copy of this Measure to the County Counsel for Santa Clara County to prepare an impartial analysis of the Measure in accordance with the deadlines established by the Registrar of Voters.

10. **Two-thirds Majority Vote Required.** If the Measure receives approval by a two-thirds vote of the voters voting at the election, the Measure is approved, and the special parcel tax proposed in Resolution 20-46 shall be imposed and levied as set forth therein.
11. **Reimbursement of County's Costs.** The Authority recognizes that the County of Santa Clara will incur additional costs associated with this election consolidation and agrees to reimburse the County for any such costs. The Authority General Manager is hereby authorized to enter into any necessary agreements with the County to implement this consolidation and to expend funds to pay for reimbursement costs associated with this election.

12. **Further Notice of Election.** Notice of the time and place of holding the election is given, and the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to give further notice or additional notice of the election, in the time, form, and manner required by law.

13. **Conduct of Election.** For all particulars not recited in this resolution, the provisions of the Elections Code for the conduct of the Statewide General Election on November 3, 2020 shall apply to this election.

14. **Further Actions Necessary.** The officers and employees of the Authority are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions and do all things which they, or any of them, may deem necessary or desirable to accomplish the purposes of this Resolution and not inconsistent with the provisions hereof.

15. **Filing with County.** The Clerk of the Board is directed to file with the Board of Supervisors and the County Clerk of Santa Clara County a certified copy of this resolution at least 88 days before the date of the election.

16. **Resolution of Results.** Following canvass of the returns and certification of the results of the election by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, the Board shall adopt a resolution of the results of the election giving the total votes cast for and against the proposed Measure.

17. **CEQA Findings.** The Board finds that adoption of this resolution does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (see CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2)-(3) and 15378(b)(4)), and therefore review under CEQA is not required.

18. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 23rd day of July 2020, by the following vote:

**AYES:** A. Kennett, M. Flaughier, S. Hall, D. Moore, S. Franco-Clausen, M. Potter, K. Gill

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTENTION:** None

Alex Kennett, Chairperson
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

William P. Parkin, Legal Counsel

**ATTEST:**

Kellie Guerra, Clerk of the Board
Exhibit 1

[Full text of the measure, which consists of (1) the Substantive Resolution [Resolution No. 20-46] and (2) the Expenditure Plan and attached and incorporated therein as Attachment A]
RESOLUTION 20-46

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY PROPOSING THE ADOPTION BY THE VOTERS OF THE OPEN SPACE, WILDLIFE HABITAT, CLEAN WATER, AND INCREASED PUBLIC ACCESS MEASURE, WHICH WOULD RENEW AND EXTEND AN EXISTING ANNUAL SPECIAL PARCEL TAX UNTIL ENDED BY THE VOTERS, TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020, ELECTION

WHEREAS, the Legislature established the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority) to preserve key portions of the natural environment in Santa Clara County in order to balance continuing urban growth; and,

WHEREAS, since its creation, the Authority has protected over 26,000 acres of open space, natural areas, creeks and streams, and wildlife habitat to preserve the natural beauty and health of Santa Clara County; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority's work protecting threatened land is a key element in maintaining our region's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Authority's jurisdiction includes the cities of Milpitas, Santa Clara, San Jose, Campbell, and Morgan Hill and most unincorporated areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, despite its achievements, the Authority faces significant challenges in continuing to protect and preserve natural areas within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, our region has continued to grow, thereby creating additional pressures on our natural areas, wildlife habitat, creeks and streams; and

WHEREAS, by acting to protect open space, we preserve clean water, clean air, public health, and public safety for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Authority requires a more stable, dedicated, and ongoing funding stream to address these growing pressures on open space lands and to continue to protect the natural areas within the Authority's jurisdiction from land use conversion, pollution, and other threats; and,

WHEREAS, State law (Public Resources Code Section 35172; Government Code Sections 50077 and 53724; Elections Code Section 9342) authorizes the Authority to impose, subject to voter approval, a special tax.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. Submission of Measure to Voters. The Authority Governing Board (Board) hereby approves and proposes to submit for adoption by the voters at the November 3, 2020 election, The Open Space, Wildlife Habitat, Clean Water, and Increased Public Access Measure as set forth herein (Measure).


2. **Specific Purposes of the Tax Proposed by the Measure.** The Measure, if approved by the voters, would renew and extend, until ended by the voters, a special parcel tax (Tax) of $24 per parcel per year for the specific purposes of: (1) protecting open space, redwood forests, wildlife habitat, scenic hillsides and agricultural land; (2) protecting land around creeks, rivers and streams to prevent pollution and improve local water quality and supply; (3) opening, improving and maintaining parks, open space, and trails; and (4) providing urban open space, parks, and environmental education programs through a competitive Urban Grants Program, as more fully described in the Expenditure Plan attached hereto as Attachment A and incorporated herein by this reference.

3. **Voter Approval Required.** The Tax is proposed pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 35172, Government Code Sections 50077 and 53724, and Elections Code Section 9342. The Tax shall not be imposed or levied unless it is approved by a two-thirds vote of the voters voting on it.

4. **Amount and Duration of Tax.** The Tax shall be a flat parcel tax, levied at a rate of $24 per parcel, and shall apply uniformly to all parcels of real property within the Authority's jurisdiction, except as provided in Section 6, below. The Tax shall be levied annually until ended by the voters.

5. **Special Account.** All revenue generated by the Tax shall be deposited into a special account created for the purposes of holding these revenues. These revenues shall be used only for the specific purposes set forth in Section 2 of this Resolution, as more fully described in the Expenditure Plan.

6. **Collection of Tax.** Although it is not an ad valorem tax, the Tax shall be billed by the County of Santa Clara on the secured roll tax bills for ad valorem property taxes and shall be due to the Authority. The Tax, including any penalties or interest for failure to timely pay the Tax, shall be imposed and collected in the same manner in which the County collects secured roll ad valorem property taxes. The reasonable costs incurred by the County officers collecting and administering this Tax shall be deducted from the collected Tax. All property that is otherwise exempt from ad valorem property taxes in any year shall also be exempt from the Tax in such year. The Tax shall not be levied on any property that is legally exempt from paying it. The Authority shall adopt procedures that set forth any clarifications and exemptions as required by law for claimants seeking an exemption or refund of the Tax.

7. **Severability.** If any portion of this Resolution or any portion of any parcel tax levied under it is for any reason held to be invalid, that shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Resolution or the remainder of any parcel tax levied under it. The voters within the Authority's geographic jurisdiction hereby declare that they would have adopted the remainder of this Resolution regardless of the invalidity of any portion of the Resolution or any tax levied thereunder.

8. **Annual Report.** On or before January 1 of each fiscal year, the Authority's chief fiscal officer shall file an annual report with the Board that explains (1) the amount of funds collected and expended under this Measure and (2) the status of the projects authorized to be funded by this revenue. (Government Code Sections 50075.1(d), 50075.3.)
9. **Independent Oversight Committee.** The Authority's existing Independent Oversight Committee shall review the expenditures of all parcel tax revenues collected under this Measure, consistent with Part C(i) of the Expenditure Plan.

10. **Administration.** The Board may, by resolution, adopt guidelines for administrative matters related to the interpretation and enforcement of this Resolution. Such guidelines may not increase the amount, or extend the duration, of this Tax.

11. **CEQA Findings.** The Board finds that adoption of this Resolution does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (see CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2)(3) and 15378(b)(4)), and therefore review under CEQA is not required. The approval of this Resolution does not commit the Authority to funding or approving any specific project or activity listed in the Expenditure Plan. Prior to approving any specific project or activity pursuant to the Expenditure Plan, any necessary environmental review required by CEQA shall be completed.

12. **Effective Date.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its confirmation and enactment by two-thirds of the voters voting in the Authority's geographic jurisdiction in the election to be held November 3, 2020 so that the tax may be collected as set forth in Section 4 of this Resolution.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 23rd day of July 2020 by the following vote:

**AYES:** A. Kennett, M. Flaugher, S. Hall, D. Moore, S. Franco-Clausen, M. Potter, K. Gill

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

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Alex Kennett, Chairperson
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

William P. Parkin, Legal Counsel

**ATTEST:**

Kellie Guerra, Clerk of the Board

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Attachment A

[Expenditure Plan]
The Open Space, Wildlife Habitat, Clean Water
and Increased Public Access Measure Expenditure Plan

A. Summary

Since its creation in 1993, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority) has protected over 26,000 acres of open space and natural areas, preserving the natural beauty and health of our area, and protecting our region’s water resources, air quality, wildlife, and scenic views for residents today and future generations. Governed by a publicly elected board of directors, the Authority has used funds wisely, bringing in state, federal, and private grant money, and providing annual financial audits in a transparent public process.

However, the Authority currently faces significant challenges. As our region continues to grow, protecting hillsides and open spaces are increasingly important to our community. If extended by voters, the Open Space, Wildlife Habitat, Clean Water, and Increased Public Access Measure (Measure) would allow the Authority to continue to protect and preserve natural open space areas for future generations by: (1) protecting open space, redwood forests, wildlife habitat, scenic hillsides, and agricultural land; (2) protecting land around creeks, rivers, and streams to prevent pollution and improve local water quality and supply; (3) opening, improving and maintaining parks, open space, and trails; and (4) providing urban open space, parks, and environmental education through a competitive Urban Grant Program.

The Authority will ensure that the revenue generated is spent in an efficient and effective manner, consistent with serving the public interest and in accordance with existing law. The Authority shall use the funding only for the purposes set forth in this Expenditure Plan (Plan) and it shall give priority to programs in this Plan.

The potential projects listed in the Plan were informed by the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint, a vision plan for the future of the region’s open space developed by the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. If approved, the proceeds from the parcel tax would be allocated to fund projects distributed throughout the Authority's jurisdiction including, but not limited to, those listed below.

The Authority may annually review and propose amendments to the Plan to provide for the use of additional federal, state, and local funds, to account for unexpected revenues, or to take into consideration unforeseen circumstances, provided, however, that all funds collected pursuant to the Measure shall be used solely for the purposes of this Plan as presented to the voters.
B. Program Descriptions

1. Protect Open Space, Redwood Forests, Wildlife Habitat, Scenic Hillsides, and Agricultural Land

The purpose of this program is to permanently protect new open space and agricultural lands essential to completing connections in the region’s park, open space, and habitat systems as identified in the Authority's Santa Clara Valley Greenprint, the County Parks Acquisition Plan, Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan, Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan, Santa Clara County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy, and other adopted plans.

a. Ensure permanent protection of essential open space, water resources, and wildlife habitat. Areas for open space protection can include but are not limited to Baylands, East San Jose Foothills, Upper Alameda Creek Watershed, Coyote Ridge, Coyote Valley, Upper Coyote Creek Watershed, Southern Santa Cruz Mountains, Sargent Hills, Upper Pajaro River Watershed, Pacheco Creek Watershed. Protect, restore, and enhance critical habitat to implement the Valley Habitat Plan such as serpentine grasslands, wetlands, redwood forests, and riparian areas along creeks, rivers, and streams.

b. Leverage public and private funding and coordinate protection efforts to complete critical open space preservation.

c. Conserve the region’s last remaining farmland and rangelands in and around areas such as the Coyote Valley, Morgan Hill, San Martin, Gilroy, and Pajaro River to protect local food sources and address food security, reduce impacts of climate change, and maintain environmental benefits provided by agricultural lands including water supply, groundwater recharge, flood risk reduction, habitat protection, and climate resilience.

   i. Conserve high priority farmland and rangelands through voluntary agreements with willing landowners.

   ii. Provide grants to resource conservation districts (RCDs) and other agricultural organizations to work with farmers and ranchers to promote natural resource stewardship.
2. **Protect Land around Creeks, Rivers, and Streams to Prevent Pollution and Improve Local Water Quality and Supply**

The purpose of this program is to protect and restore natural areas that buffer our rivers, creeks, and streams, including the Guadalupe River, Coyote Creek, Fisher Creek, Penitencia Creek, Upper Alameda Creek, Uvas Creek, Llagas Creek, Pacheco Creek, Pescadero Creek, and the Pajaro River to protect water supply, water quality, and enhance resilience to climate change.

a. Protect clean, safe drinking water supplies by restoring and enhancing natural areas around local creeks, rivers, and streams from their headwaters in the hills to the Bay.

b. Preserve key open space areas to enhance local water supply and recharge groundwater.

c. Protect water resources, floodplains, wetlands, and riparian corridors.

3. **Open, Improve and Maintain Parks, Open Space, and Trails**

The purpose of this program is to maintain existing open space preserves; safeguard the health of natural areas and wildlife habitat; reduce the risk of wildfires; provide more hiking and walking trails; and increase opportunities for environmental education experiences.

a. Open and expand preserves on existing lands, including more trails for walking, hiking, and biking and more access points for residents. Develop science-based environmental education programs and facilities, trails, and other public access facilities in appropriate locations including East San Jose/Penitencia Creek/Milpitas Foothills, Coyote Ridge, Coyote Valley, Morgan Hill/El Toro Peak, Almaden Valley/Santa Teresa Hills.

b. Construct new trails and close gaps in regional hiking and bicycle trails (such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail, San Francisco Bay Trail, Coyote Creek Trail, Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, and Guadalupe River Trail).

c. Reduce the risk of wildfire near communities, protect air and water quality, and control invasive, non-native weeds through vegetation management in coordination with fire districts, cities, and the County.

d. Provide safe, well-maintained open space preserves and recreational trails, with connections to the Bay Area Ridge Trail, San Francisco Bay Trail, Guadalupe River Trail, and Coyote Creek Trail.
e. Work with qualified organizations and entities, including, but not limited to, the California Conservation Corps, the San Jose Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps, and others to maintain facilities in open space preserves including, but not limited to, cultural and historic structures, bridges, roads, and other infrastructure.

f. Prevent pollution and vandalism of open space, water resources, and wildlife habitat.

4. Urban Open Space, Parks, and Environmental Education Program

The purpose of this Grant Program is to assist municipalities, schools, and applicable nonprofit organizations with projects within the cities of Milpitas, Santa Clara, San Jose, Campbell, Morgan Hill, and urban County areas to create healthy and safe open space and park areas for their communities by creating or improving parks, preserving open space, and maintaining or creating trails; enhancing and restoring habitat, natural resources, and water resources; and enhancing access to healthy food through urban farms and gardens.

No more than 25 percent of the revenues generated by this funding measure will be made available for this grant program. The Urban Grant Program would provide grants to cities, the County, schools, and nonprofit organizations on a competitive basis according to the Urban Open Space Project Criteria listed below. Funds shall be available through an annual grant allocation process designed by the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, in coordination with cities, the County, schools, and non-profit organizations within the boundaries of the Authority. Grant allocations shall reward a diversity of projects, with the goal of achieving a reasonable geographic distribution across the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority’s jurisdiction. The grant allocation process and the individual projects shall be subject to approval by the Authority’s Governing Board of Directors (“Board”).

**Urban Open Space Project Criteria:**

a. Protect and enhance open space and wildlife habitat, creeks and streams, and develop land for nature-based parks, open space preserves, trails, and greenbelts in urban areas.

b. Create, develop, and implement pedestrian and bicycle trail connections to connect urban communities to local and regional parks, open space preserves, creeks and flood control channels, to improve public health (e.g., San Francisco Bay Trail, Bay Area Ridge Trail, Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, Silver Creek, Thompson Creek, Penitencia Creek, Three Creeks Trail, Five Wounds Trail).

c. Implement urban tree planting and tree protection/maintenance.
d. Create and expand urban farms and community gardens to support public health and local agriculture.

e. Expand nature and science-based environmental education programs and youth engagement projects.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS THAT COULD POTENTIALLY BE FUNDED BY THE MEASURE INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

1. Alviso Adobe and Higuera Adobe Parks: Establish Alviso Adobe as a historical museum, and refurbish the historic Caretaker’s Cottage in Higuera Adobe Park in collaboration with the City of Milpitas

2. Calera Creek Connection: Partner with City of Milpitas to connect the Bay Area Ridge Trail to the Higuera Adobe via a proposed Calera Creek Trail

3. San Francisco Bay Trail: Increase public access by closing gaps in Bay Trail walking and biking trail connections

4. Bay Area Ridge Trail: Increase public access by closing gaps in the Bay Area Ridge Trail

5. San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail: Provide Water Trail public access amenities at Alviso Marina

6. Ulistac Natural Area: Increase educational programming and restore natural habitat

7. Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve: Expand trail system and connections to regional trails, restore ponds and wildlife habitats for endangered species

8. BART/Penitencia Creek Trail Connection: Complete trail linking Berryessa BART station via Penitencia Creek to Alum Rock Park and Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve

9. Guadalupe River Nature Center and Environmental Programming: Partner with nonprofits to establish outdoor environmental education learning center and expand interpretive programming for youth and families

10. Five Wounds Trail: Acquire right of way to develop new trails connecting Coyote Creek Trail to Berryessa BART station in coordination with City of San Jose, County Parks, and Valley Transportation Authority

11. Coyote Creek Trail: Expand walking and biking trail connections and restore natural habitats, including connections to Coyote Valley
12. Silver Creek Trail: Increase walking and biking opportunities by creating connections to regional trails, parks, and transit
13. Three Creeks Trail: Complete eastern trail alignment
14. San Tomas Aquino/Saratoga Creek Trail: Construct walking and biking trails through cities of Campbell and Santa Clara
15. Thompson Creek Trail Improvements: Complete walking and biking trail improvements
16. Guadalupe River Trail: Expand walking and biking trail connections and trail amenities
17. Martial Cottle Park: Partner with County Parks to enhance trail connections to Blossom Hill Light Rail Station and implement recreation, farm demonstration, and wetland restoration projects
18. Santa Teresa Foothills: Partner with City of San Jose, County, and Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association to protect land and develop regional ridgeline trail connection to local and regional parks and open space
19. Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve: Open new public trailhead and parking area with connections to Bay Area Ridge Trail, regional trails, and protect and restore additional open space and habitat for endangered species
20. Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve: Build trail accessible to seniors and people with disabilities, expand protected areas and trail system, and restore and enhance wetland and endangered species habitat
21. North Coyote Valley Conservation Area: Expand protected areas and create a regionally significant preserve system that includes wildlife movement corridors, enhanced floodplains, restored wetlands and habitats, public trails and nature-based recreational amenities, environmental education programs, and agritourism.
22. Youth Agricultural Education and Demonstration Farm: Partner with cities, schools, nonprofits, and agricultural organizations to establish an agricultural education and demonstration farm in the Coyote Valley Greenbelt
23. Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve: Restore wildlife habitat, expand educational opportunities, and construct new public access amenities and trail connection to Blair Ranch
24. El Toro Peak: Partner with City of Morgan Hill to establish an open space preserve with staging area and trails, and restore natural habitat
25. Southern Santa Cruz Mountains: Establish regional trail connections between Uvas Reservoir, Uvas County Park, and Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve, develop new staging area, protect wildlife corridor, and manage wildland-urban interface for fire safety

26. Palassou Ridge: Establish open space preserve, restore historic stone house as a visitor amenity, develop multi-use trails connecting to Henry Coe State Park, implement wildfire prevention, and habitat restoration projects

27. Diablo Foothills: Enhance public access with new staging area and trails, restore grasslands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat

28. Sargent Hills: Protect wildlife corridor, create staging area, public access and regional trail connections to the Bay Area Ridge Trail

29. South County Agriculture: Conserve working farms and ranches near Morgan Hill, San Martin, and Pajaro River for greenbelts and agricultural viability and to enhance flood control, water quality, wildlife habitat, and connectivity

30. Youth Conservation Internship Program: Establish new internship program for youth from underserved communities to develop conservation and career skills

31. Backcountry Camping: Build new backcountry camping sites, increase access for underserved youth by partnering with community-based nonprofits

32. Work with Cities, County, parks, and transportation agencies on the feasibility of equitable and sustainable transportation alternatives to connect people to parks, open space, and trails

C. Administrative Provisions and Fiscal Safeguards

1. Citizen Oversight and Independent Financial Audits

   In order to ensure accountability, transparency, and public oversight of all funds collected and allocated under this Measure and to comply with state law, all of the following shall apply:

   a. On or before January 1 of each fiscal year, the Authority’s chief fiscal officer shall file an annual report with the Board that explains (1) the amount of funds collected and expended under this Measure and (2) the status of the projects authorized to be funded by this revenue in compliance with Government Code Sections 50075.1(d), 50075.3.

   b. The Independent Oversight Committee created in 2015 to review the expenditures of all parcel tax revenues collected under Measure Q shall continue to review the expenditures of all parcel tax revenues collected under this Measure. The resolution the Board adopted on
April 23, 2015 to govern the terms, composition, and specific duties of the Oversight Committee shall continue to govern the Oversight Committee, unless amended, and any such amendments shall be consistent with the “Citizen Oversight and Independent Financial Audits” provisions set forth in this Part C(1). The Oversight Committee will consist of seven at-large members. In making appointments to the Oversight Committee, the Board will seek to reflect the demographic diversity of its jurisdiction.

c. Members of the Oversight Committee shall be appointed by the Board and shall be residents within the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority’s jurisdiction who are neither elected officials of any government, nor employees from any agency or organization that directly benefits financially from the proceeds of the parcel tax.

d. Oversight Committee meetings will be announced in advance and will be open to the public. The Oversight Committee shall meet at least once but no more than four times per year.

The responsibilities of this Committee include:

- Reviewing Plan expenditures on an annual basis to ensure they conform to the Plan.
- Reviewing the annual financial audit and report prepared by an independent financial auditor and submitting its recommendations and oversight report thereon.

e. All actions, including decisions about selecting projects for funding, will be made by the Board in public meetings in compliance with the Brown Act.

f. To the extent allowable by law, all residential and non-residential parcels will be uniformly taxed.

g. The revenue raised by the Measure for the purposes described in this Plan will be administered by the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. All funds shall be placed in a separate account to hold all funds collected pursuant to the Measure.

2. Additional Allocation Criteria and Community Benefits

The Authority shall ensure that the revenue generated by the Measure is spent in an efficient and effective manner, consistent with serving the public interest and in accordance with existing law and this Plan.

a. The Authority shall make all final decisions regarding implementation of the Plan and funding for any specific project. The Board shall give priority to projects within its jurisdiction that meet multiple objectives of the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint, including one or more of the following objectives:
i. Have a significant positive effect on the health of land, water, and wildlife habitat, safety, and quality of life for residents within the Authority's jurisdiction.

ii. Provide for geographic distribution of projects across the Authority's jurisdiction.

iii. Increase impact by leveraging state and federal resources as well as public/private partnerships.

iv. Strengthen connections between communities and open space through regionally-significant trails and transit access.

v. Benefit the economy, sustainability, and climate resiliency of the region by investing in nature-based infrastructure and local workforce development.

vi. Engage youth and young adults in local workforce development and assist them in gaining skills and experience related to protection and stewardship of the natural environment, wildlife, water resources, and agricultural lands.

b. The Board shall conduct one or more public meetings annually to gain public input on selection of project grants to expend revenues generated by the Measure.

c. The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority may accumulate revenue over multiple years so that sufficient funding is available for larger and long-term projects. All interest income shall be used for the purposes identified in this Plan.

d. Revenue generated by this measure and provided to the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority may also be used for such administrative expenses as the Board determines are reasonable and necessary through its annual budget process or other appropriate mechanism.

e. Costs of performing or contracting for project-related work shall be paid from the revenues of the measure and allocated to the appropriate purpose and project.

f. An annual independent financial audit shall be conducted.

g. To the extent permitted by law, up to one-tenth of one percent (0.1 %) of the gross proceeds of the parcel tax shall be made available for the Oversight Committee’s activities.
h. Parcel tax proceeds are intended to augment annual support for the Authority and do not substitute for individual city or County obligations. Monies from this program may not go to a city’s or the County’s "General Fund."

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