

# Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan

**Envision SJ 2040  
Task Force**

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**SANTA CLARA VALLEY HCP/NCCP PARTNERSHIP**



 Jones & Stokes

# What is the Habitat Plan?

- Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to comply with the Federal Endangered Species Act
- Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) to comply with the State NCCP Act
- Mechanism to resolve conflicts between threatened and endangered species and development
- Plan to conserve species and habitats **on large scale over long term** in exchange for permits to “take” threatened or endangered species



# SCV Habitat Plan Origins

- USFWS Sect. 7 Biological Opinion (2001) requires regional HCP
  - Hwy 101 widening (San Jose to Morgan Hill)
  - Bailey Avenue interchange
  - Hwy 85/101 interchange
  - Coyote Valley Research Park
- Local Partners bound by MOU (June 2004)
  - Santa Clara County
  - City of San Jose
  - Santa Clara Valley Water District
  - Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
  - City of Gilroy and City of Morgan Hill (2005)
- NCCP Planning Agreement signed by all October 2005
- Participating Agencies:
  - CA State Parks, CA Dept. Fish & Game (CDFG), US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)



# What the Habitat Plan Will Do

- **Provide permits.** USFWS, CDFG, NMFS issue permits for “take” of listed species to Local Partners.
- **Streamline projects.** Local Partner jurisdictions will extend this take authorization to applicants who meet requirements of Habitat Plan.
- **Improve mitigation.** Provide large-scale habitat and species conservation in areas of high biological value—avoid project-by-project approach.
- **Provide new money.** Attract new sources of state and federal funding for conservation in Santa Clara County.

# General Plan Relationship

- Habitat Plan is consistent with Greenline/Urban Growth Boundary and Natural Resources policies
- Habitat Reserve System can “back stop” existing policy to prevent urban/suburban development into hillside areas
- Habitat Plan will facilitate GP implementation and development activities by providing biology impact coverage

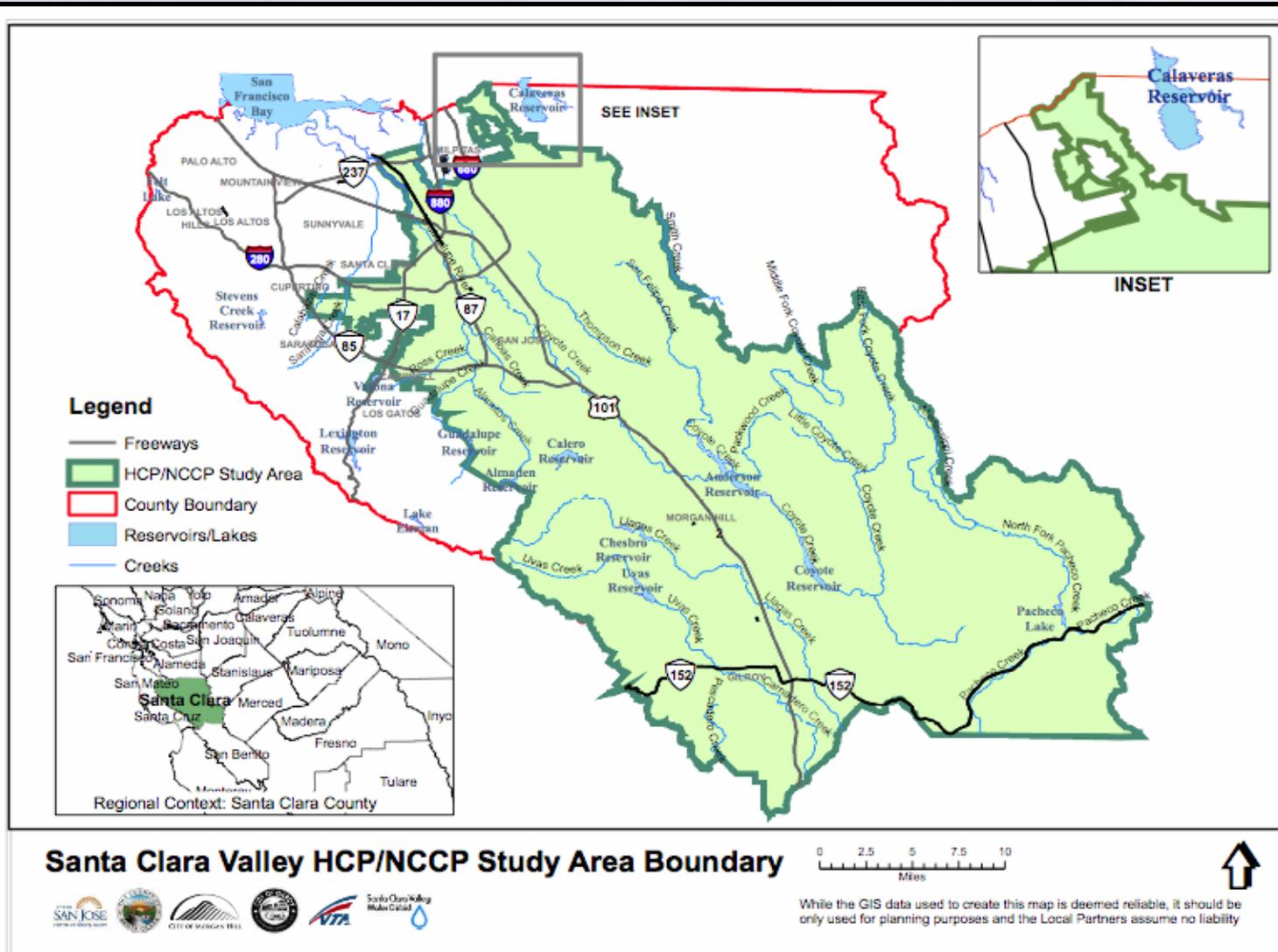
# Benefits to the Environment

- Promote the recovery of endangered species and habitats (some species unique to County)
- Creation of new habitat reserves that will be:
  - Larger in scale
  - More ecologically valuable and effective
  - Easier to manage than current approach
- Provide protection and management of aquatic species
- Preserve major local and regional connections between key habitat areas

# Benefits to San Jose

- Streamline permitting process for developers and City agencies
- Give City control over endangered species permit process
- Help protect watersheds feeding City streams
- Help implement local flood protection and water supply projects.

# Study Area



# Covered Species

30 species total; 15 wildlife species



**Townsend's big-eared bat**

Photo by J. Scott Altmanbach. In copyright.



**Steelhead trout**

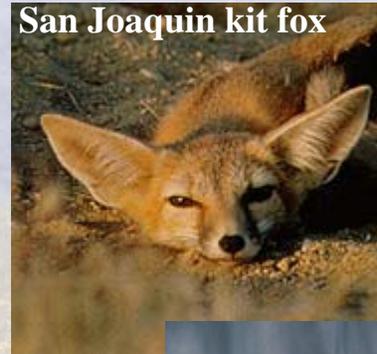
**CA red-legged frog**



**Western pond turtle**



**CA tiger salamander**



**San Joaquin kit fox**



**Tricolored blackbird**



Photo by Richard A. Aronson

**Bay checkerspot butterfly**



**Golden eagle**



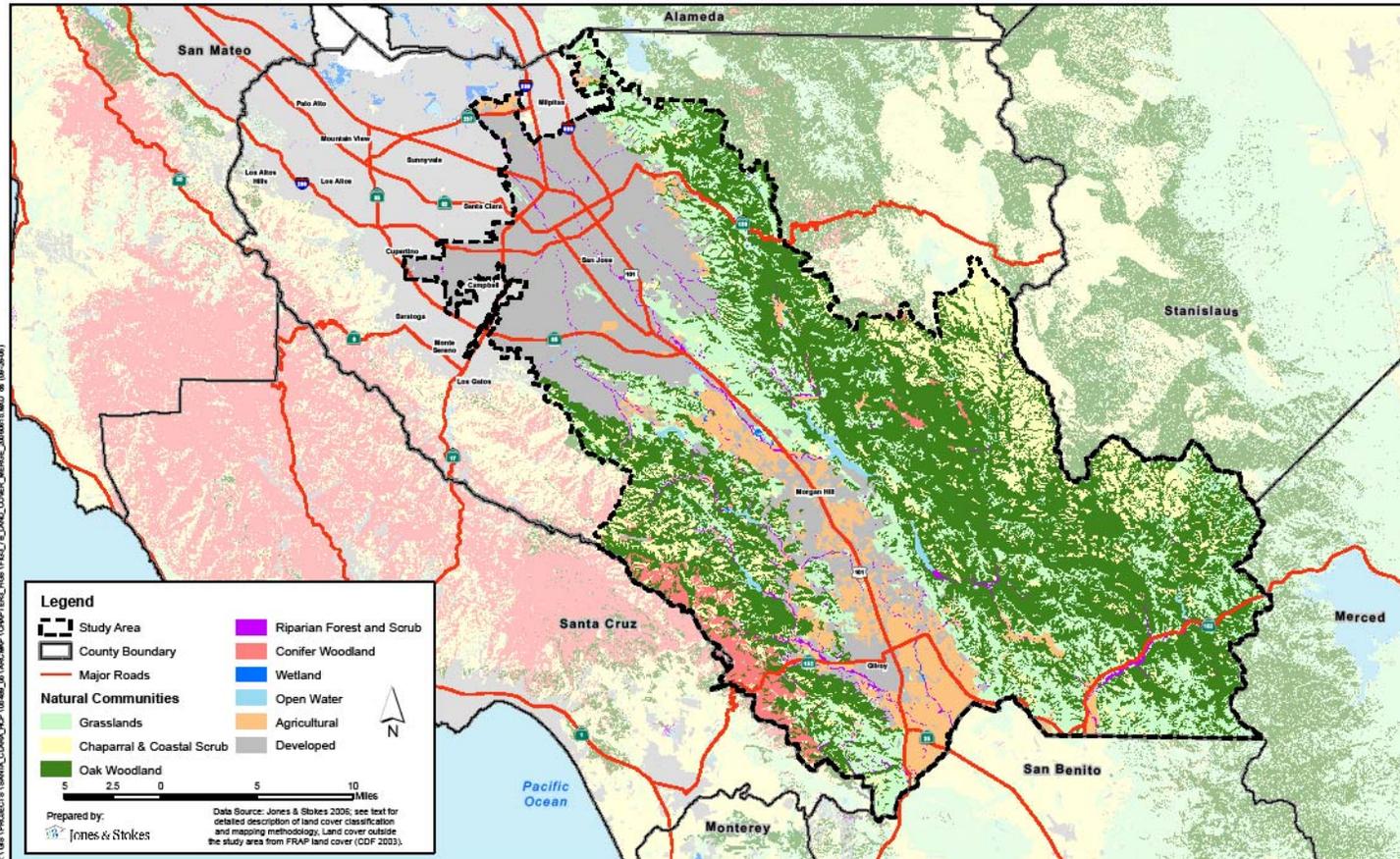
**Western burrowing owl**

# Covered Species

15 plant species



# Santa Clara Valley Natural Communities



Working Draft (04-26-2007)

Figure 3-9  
 Santa Clara Valley HCP/NCCP Natural Communities

# Covered Activities

- Urban development (Cities)
  - Consistent with approved General Plans and urban growth boundaries (e.g., SJ Greenline/UGB)
- Rural development (County)
- New Public Infrastructure
  - Flood protection projects
  - Road widening, bridge replacement
  - Park and trail construction
- Operation & maintenance of facilities (e.g. work related to parks, streams, reservoirs, canals & roads)
- Acquisition, management & monitoring of Reserve

# Draft Stream Conservation Strategy

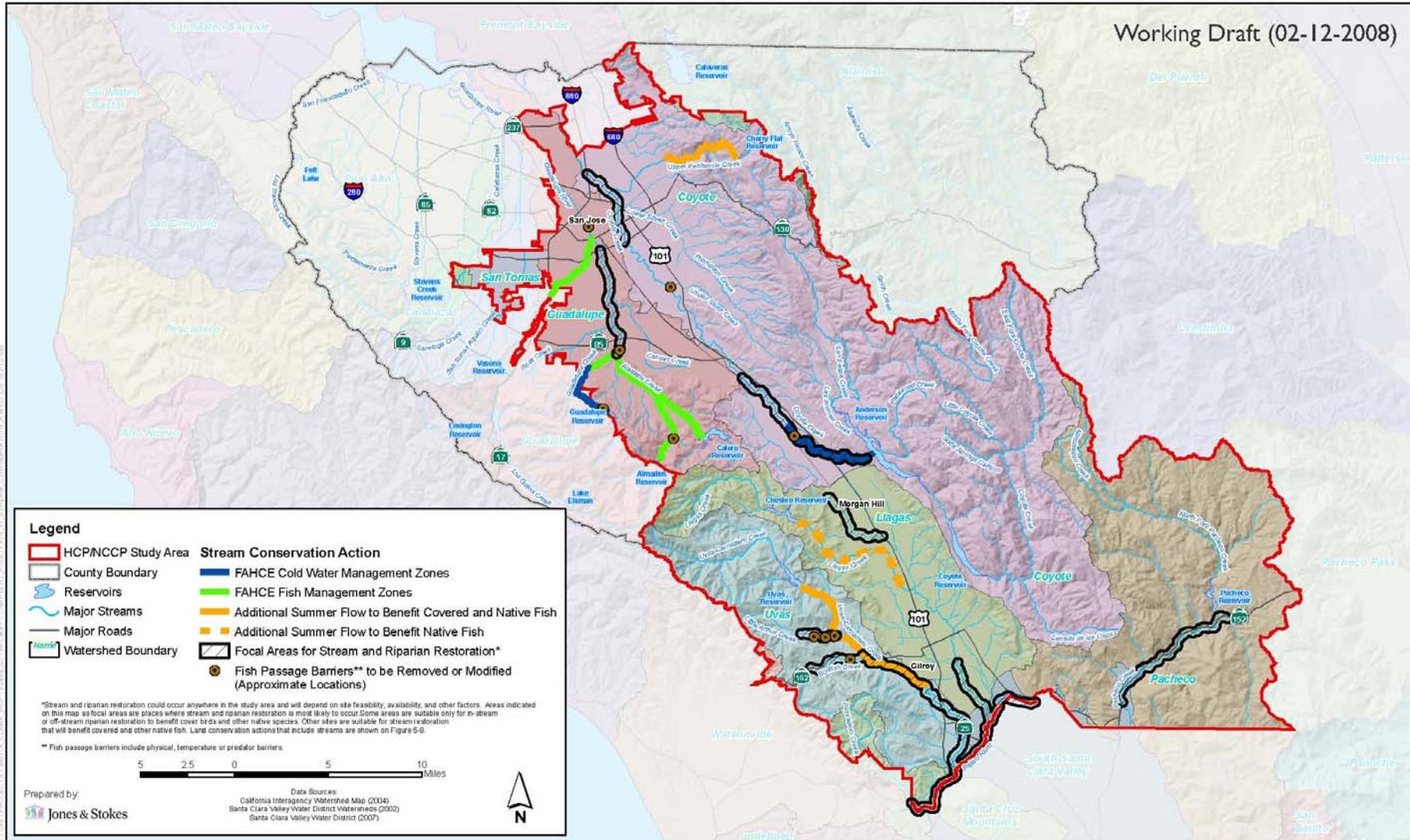
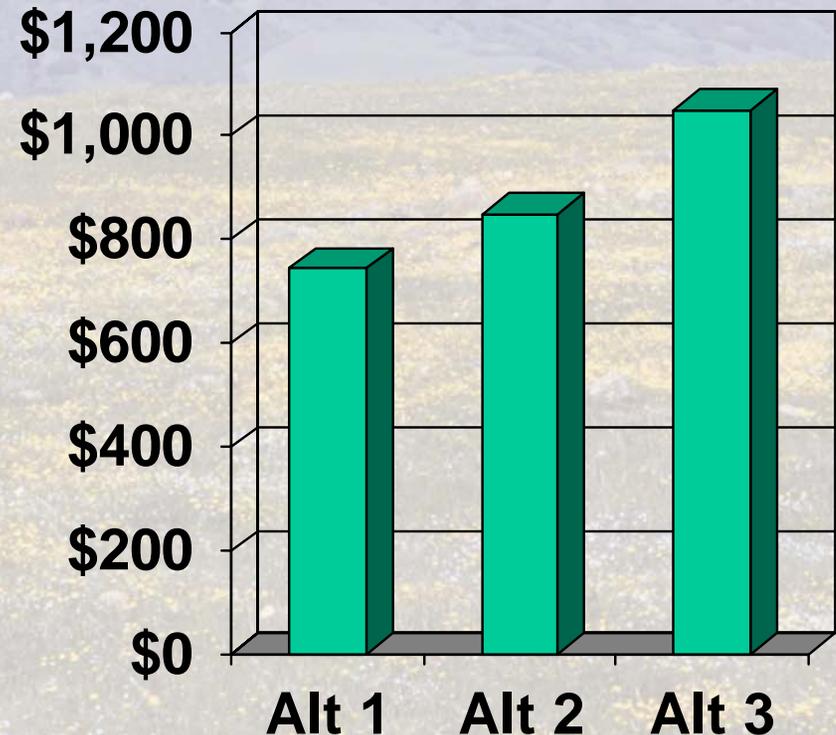


Figure 5-11  
Major Stream Conservation Actions

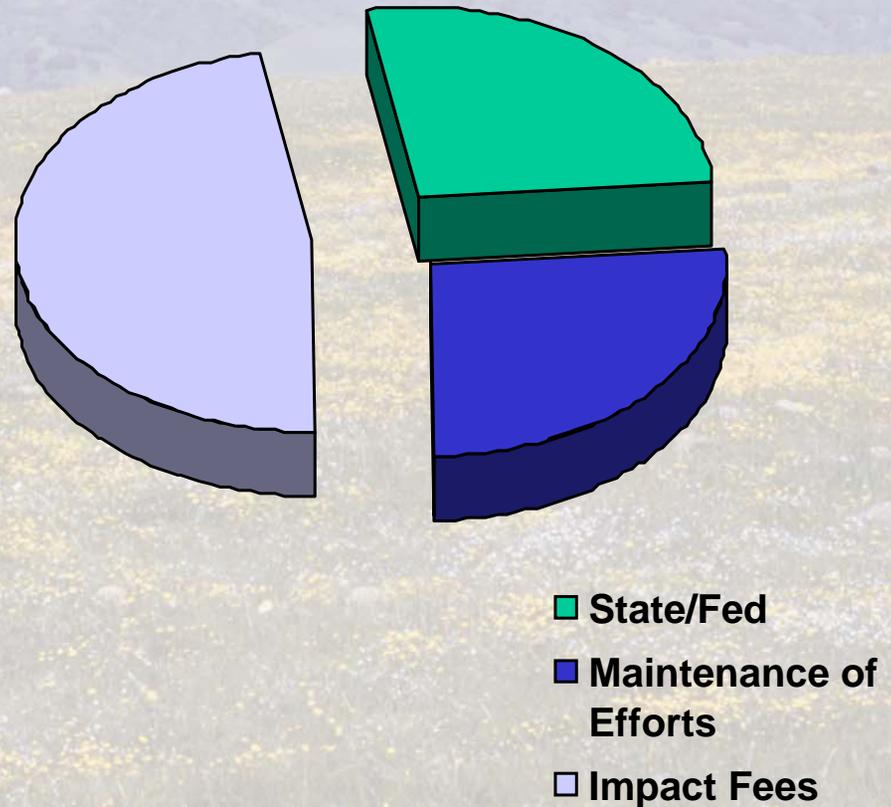
# Program Costs

- Preliminary cost estimates for the three conservation alternatives suggests total program costs ranging from \$700 million to \$1.2 billion.
- Emerging preferred conservation strategy - \$800 - \$900 million
- Land acquisition makes up roughly a third to a half of the total program costs.



# Major Funding Sources

1. State and Federal Grants
2. Impact fees to mitigate impacts from private development and public agency activities
3. Maintenance of ongoing efforts to preserve parks and open space
4. Funding from non-profit organizations?



# Impact Fees

- Charged to public agencies (based on project footprints) and private development (based on parcel size)
- Study Area broken into Fee Zones based on land cover
- Will vary in amount based on the land cover being impacted
- Will include additional fee components for impacts to high-importance habitats (i.e., wetlands)
- Will include prorated fees for temporary impacts

# Next Steps

- City Review Process
  - Transportation and Environment Committee (April 7, 2008)
  - Update City Council (April 22, 2008)
- Public review of Draft Habitat Plan and EIR/EIS (early 2009)
  - 90-day public review period
- Approve Final Habitat Plan and EIR/EIS (late 2009)
- Permits issued in early 2010
- Adopt local ordinances early to mid-2010

# Contact Information

## Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan

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# Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan

Task Force Question:

**What issues related to the HCP should be kept in mind as we develop Envision San Jose 2040?**