

# EAST ALAMEDA COUNTY CONSERVATION STRATEGY: *A BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION*

Community Meeting

June 11, 2009

## Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Project Update
  - Introduction
  - Progress to Date
  - Next Steps
- Perspectives from Participants

## Key Points

*EACCS Goal: provide guidelines for mitigation practices and overall conservation in east Alameda County*

## Key Points

- Biologically based strategy
- Voluntary program
- Would not result in permits but would support the permitting process for local projects
- Will not create new mandates on private land in Alameda County

## Steering Committee

- Alameda County
- Alameda County Congestion Management Agency
- Alameda County Resource Conservation District
- Alameda County Waste Management Authority
- California Department of Fish and Game
- City of Dublin
- City of Livermore
- City of Pleasanton
- East Bay Regional Park District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Zone 7 Water Agency

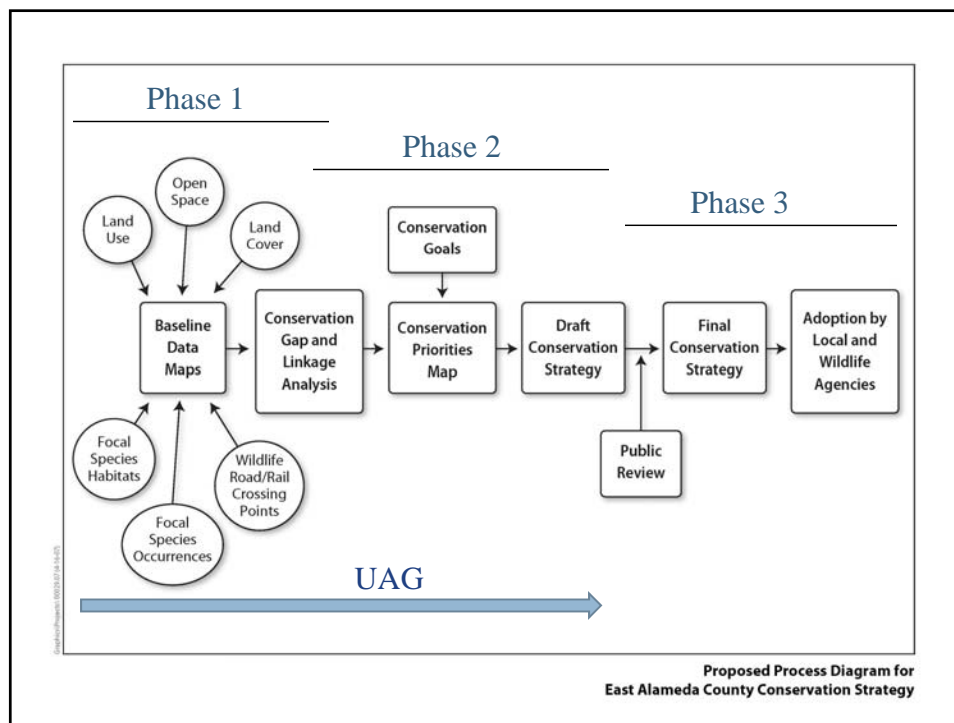
## User's Advisory Group

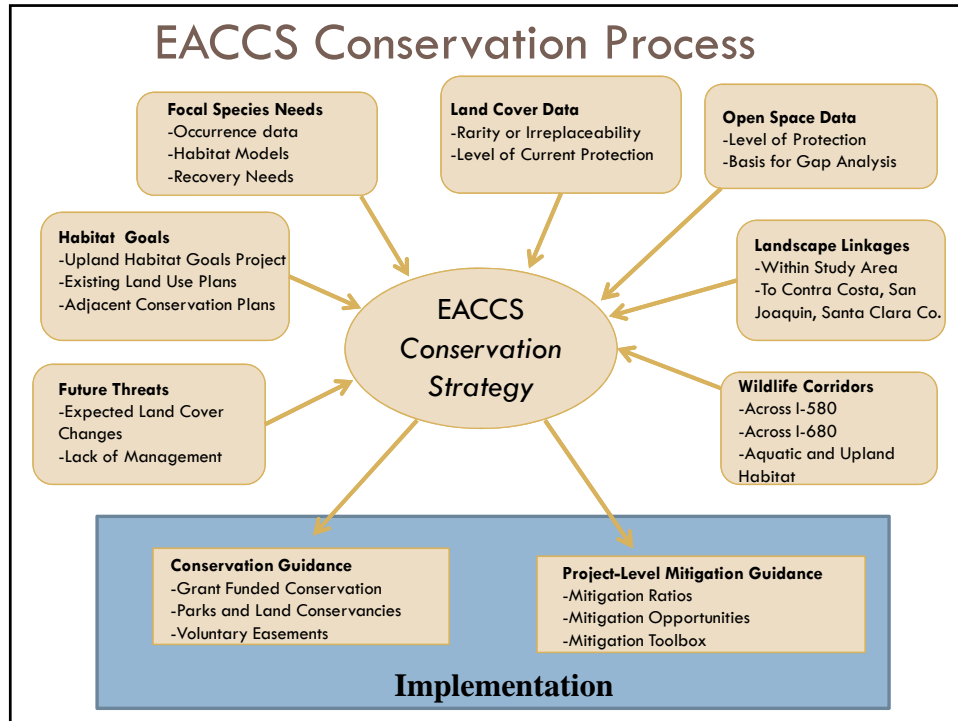
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|------------------------------------|--|
| □ Alameda Creek Alliance           | □ Hacienda Business Park                           |
| □ Alameda LAFCO                    | □ Home Builders Association of Northern California |
| □ Audubon Society – Ohlone Chapter | □ Individual Rural Landowners                      |
| □ California Coastal Conservancy   | □ Lawrence Livermore Laboratories                  |
| □ California Native Plant Society  | □ Livermore Area Recreation and Park District      |
| □ Fletcher Conservation Properties | □ Robert Harris & Associates                       |
| □ Friends of Livermore             | □ Save Mount Diablo                                |
| □ Friends of Springtown Preserve   | □ San Francisco Public Utilities Commission        |
| □ Friends of the Vineyards         | □ Sierra Club                                      |
| □ Greenbelt Alliance               | □ The Nature Conservancy                           |
|                                    | □ Tri-Valley Conservancy                           |

## A Regional Conservation Strategy

EACCS will:

- Document important biological resources in eastern Alameda County
- Set priorities for mitigation and conservation
- Include clear standards for avoidance, minimization, and monitoring
- Set mitigation ratios where appropriate





## A Focal Species...

- Is likely rare and often protected
- Could serve as an indicator for the health of the habitat where it lives
- Could serve as an indicator for the population health of other native species
- Could be used to answer regional conservation questions (i.e., habitat connectivity)
- Extends conservation benefits to other native species and natural communities

## Species Selection Process

- Selection Criteria
  - Range – is the species in the study area?
  - Status – is the species listed or expected to be listed by state or feds?
  - Threats – what are they and can they be mitigated?
  - Data – is the species well understood?
- Other Criteria
  - Are there conservation opportunities?
  - Are there accepted mitigation practices for the species?
  - Is the species included in other conservation plans in the region?

## Focal Species List

- 2 invertebrates
- 2 amphibians
- 1 reptile
- 3 birds
- 2 mammals
- 6 plants

## Invertebrates

- Vernal pool fairy shrimp (FT)
- Longhorn fairy shrimp (FE)
- Callippe silverspot butterfly (FE)



Longhorn fairy shrimp



Vernal pool fairy shrimp

## Amphibians and Reptiles

- Alameda whipsnake (ST, FT)
- California red-legged frog (CSC, FT)
- California tiger salamander (SC, FT)



Alameda whipsnake



California red-legged frog



California tiger salamander

## Birds

- Golden eagle (BGPA, CSC, Fully Protected, MBTA)
- Western burrowing owl (CSC, MBTA)
- Tricolored blackbird (CSC, MBTA)



Tricolored blackbird



Golden eagle



Western burrowing owl

## Mammals

- American badger (CSC)
- San Joaquin kit fox (FE, ST)



American badger



San Joaquin kit fox



## Plants

- San Joaquin spearscale (CNPS 1B.2)
- Big tarplant (CNPS 1B.1)
- Congdon's tarplant (CNPS 1B.1)
- Palmate-bracted bird's beak (SE, FE, CNPS 1B.1)
- Livermore Valley tarplant (CNPS 1B.1)
- Recurved larkspur (CNPS 1B.2)



Big tarplant



Palmate-bracted bird's beak



San Joaquin spearscale

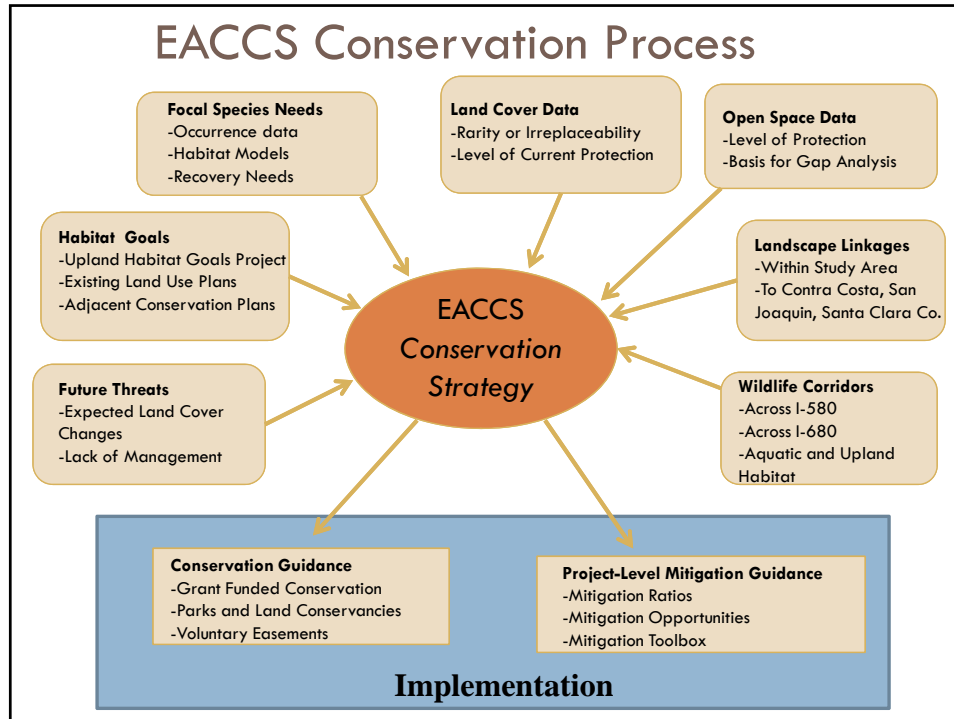


Recurved larkspur



Congdon's tarplant

\*May add a few more plant species.



## Land Cover Map: Methods

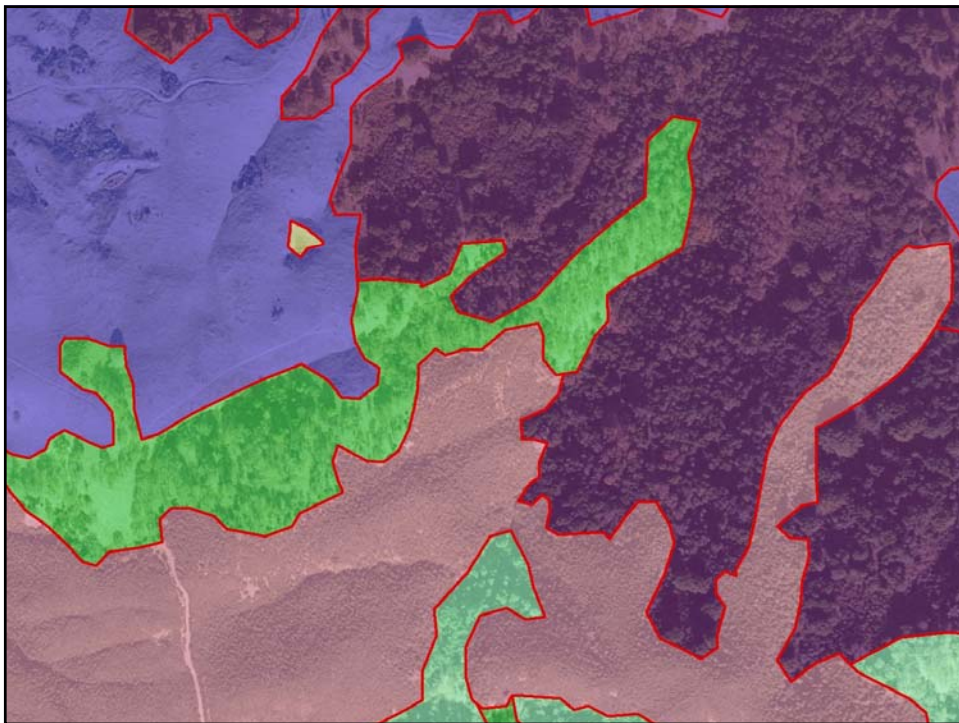
- Developed land cover classification based on standard references (Manual of California Vegetation) and needs of EACCS and focal species
- Mapped ~32 land cover types including:
  - Annual grassland
  - Chaparral and scrub
  - Oak woodland
  - Mixed evergreen forest
  - Coulter pine forest
  - Riparian woodland
  - Ponds & Quarry ponds
  - Wetlands
  - Cultivated agriculture
  - Developed

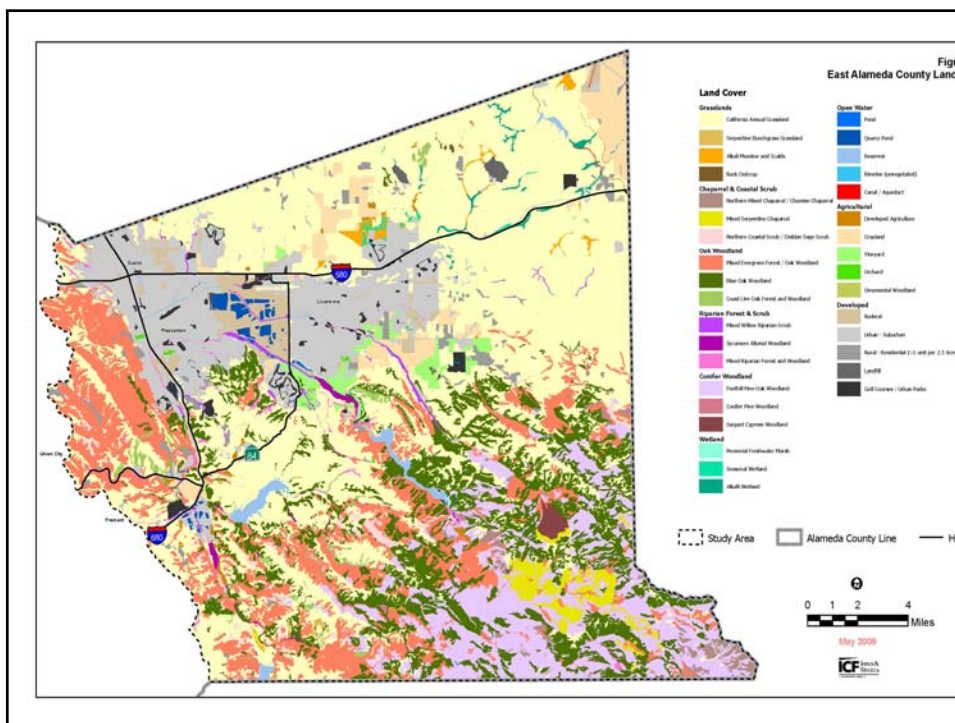
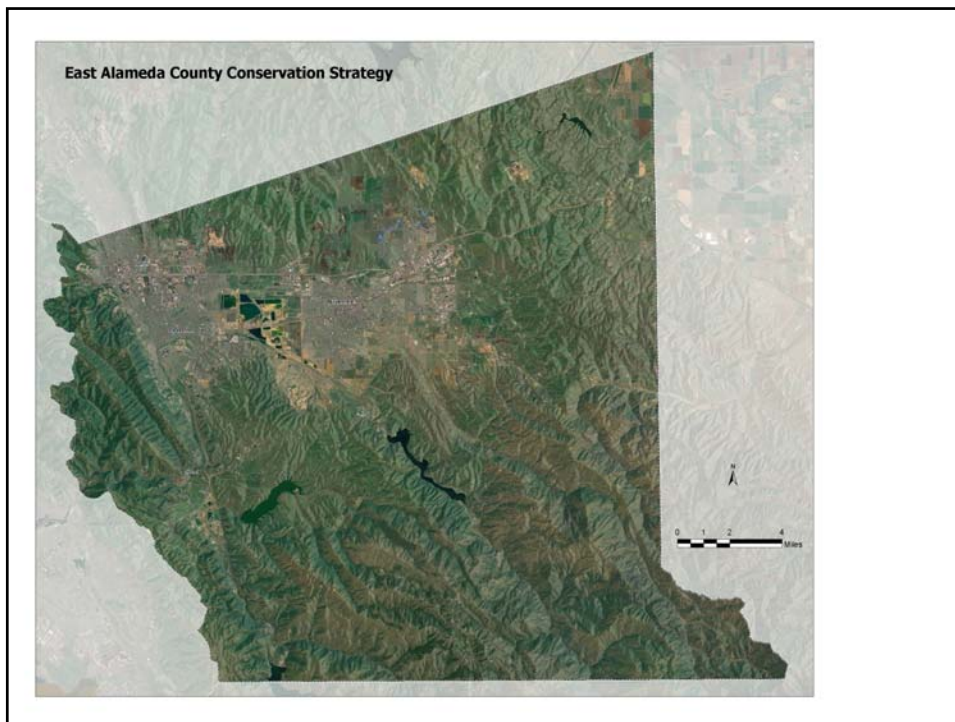
## Land Cover Mapping Process

- “Heads-up digitizing” (on screen)
- Standardized and consistent approach
- Photo signature recognition training
- Photo signature consistency testing
- Standard minimum mapping unit (MMU)
  - 10-acre for most types
  - 0.25-acre for riparian, wetlands, ponds, rock outcrops





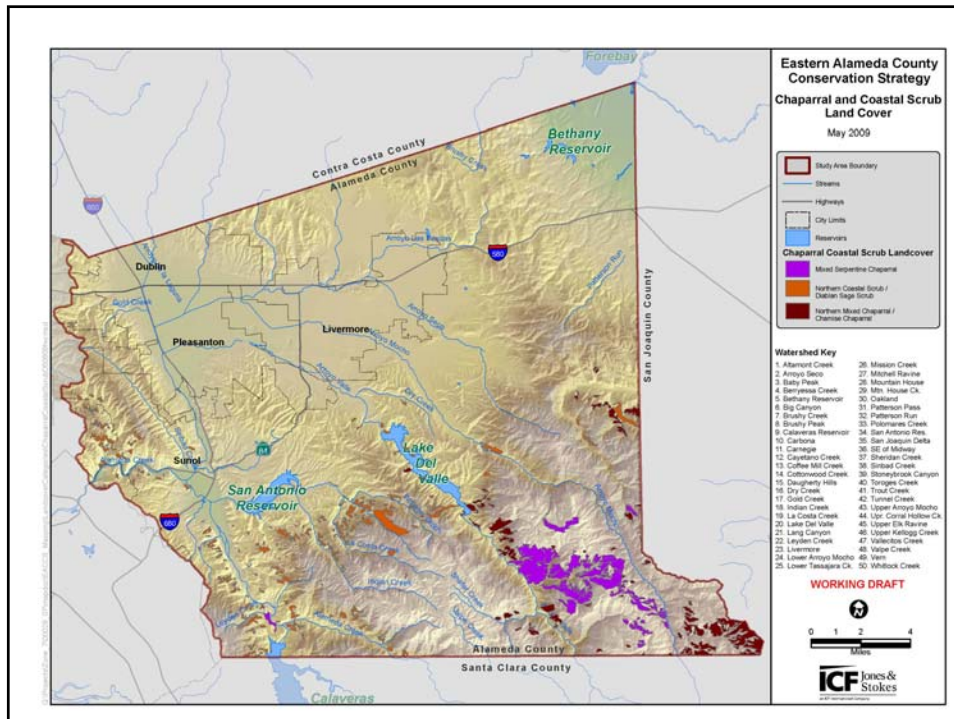


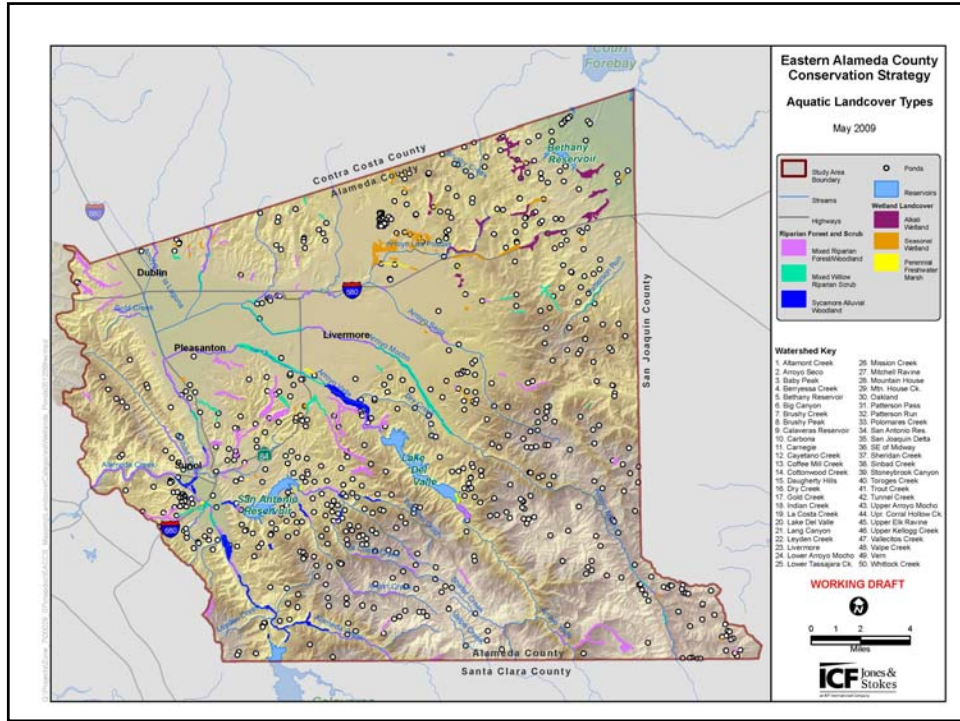




## Key Points

- 5100 individual polygons
- Dominant land cover types include:
  - ▣ Annual grassland – 116,827 ac – 43%
  - ▣ Foothill pine/Oak Woodland – 22,694 ac – 8%
- Least common land cover types:
  - ▣ Coulter pine woodland – 74 ac - .0002%
  - ▣ Perennial freshwater marsh – 62 ac - .0002%

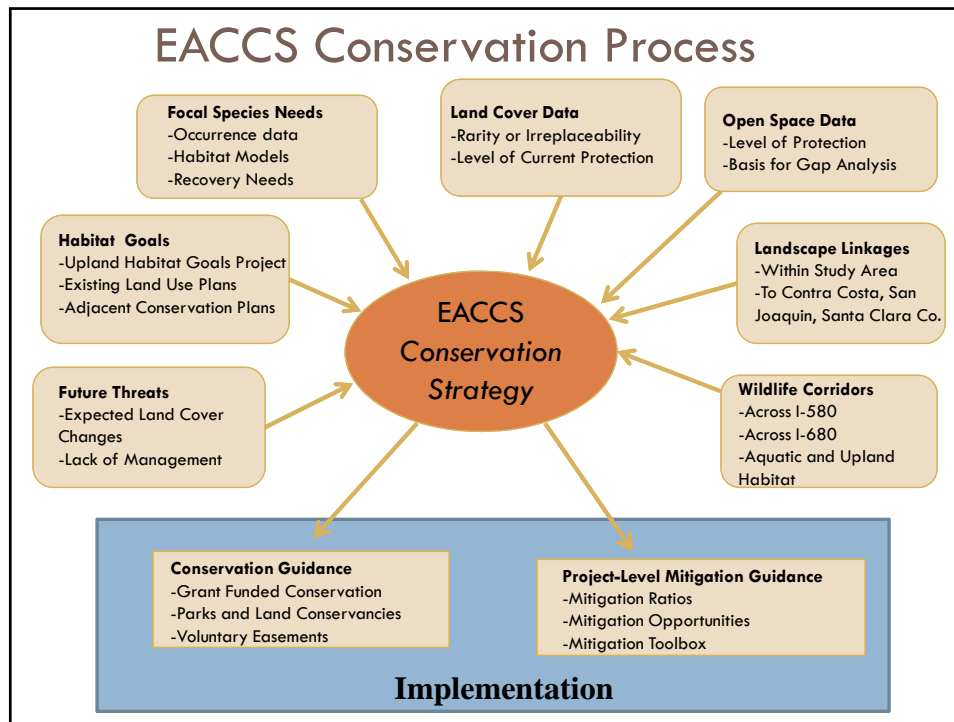




## Land Cover Acreages

Land Cover*	Number of Polygons Digitized	Total Acres in Study Area	Percent of Study Area
Annual Grassland	911	116,827	43%
Blue Oak Woodland	438	26,476	10%
Mixed Serpentine Chaparral	54	3,788	1%
Sycamore Alluvial Woodland	22	597	0.2%

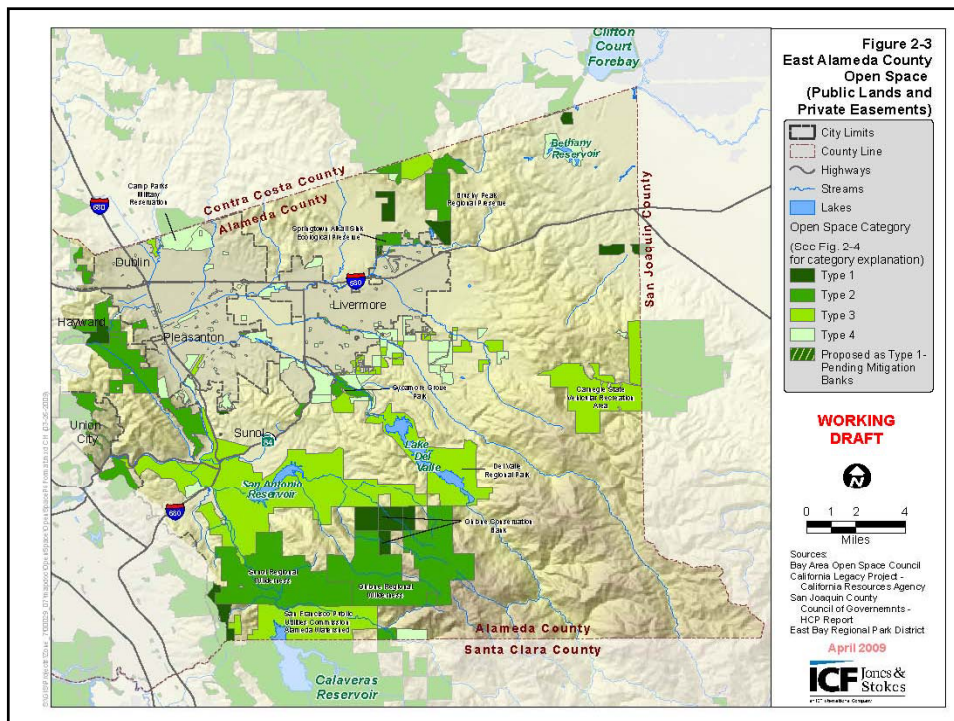
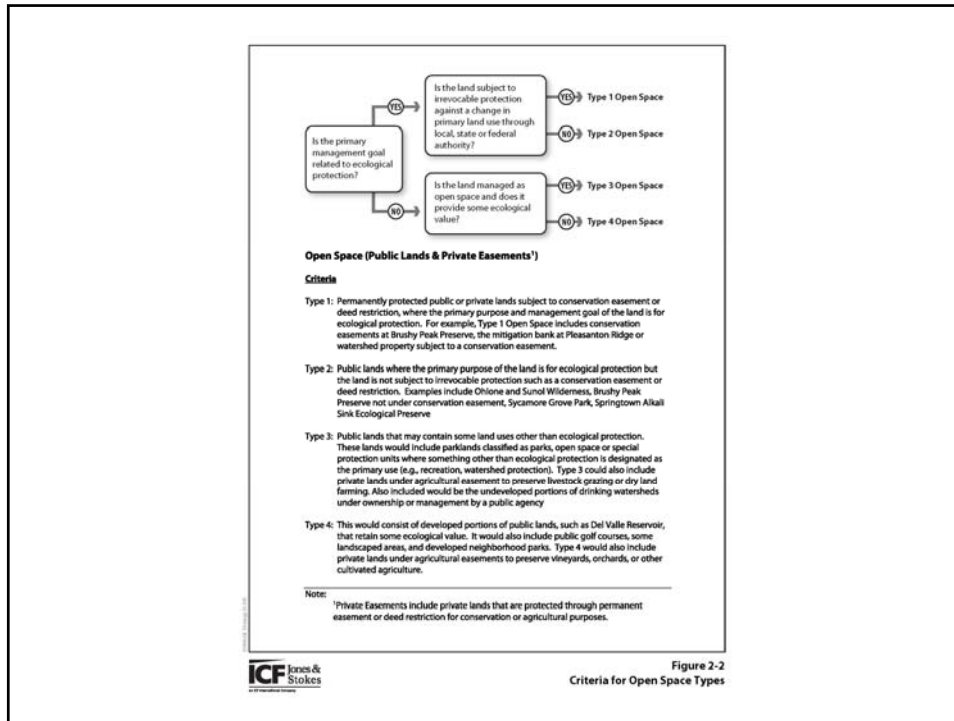
\*All land cover types are shown in Table 2-4.



## Open Space Map

- Map all "open space" areas in study area
- Open Space = all publicly owned parklands or private lands with easements or deed restrictions
- Open space lands can range from EBRPD parkland to private mitigation banks to city parks and golf courses.
- Basically these lands are undeveloped and will remain so for the foreseeable future





## Open Space

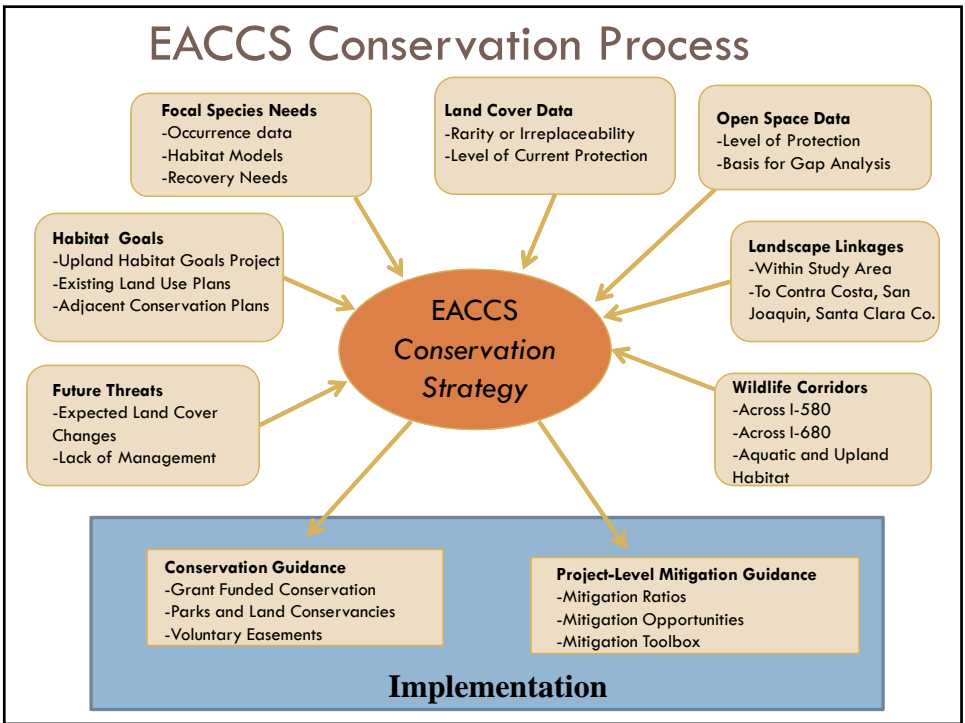
- Total study area = 271,485 acres
- Open Space currently under some level of protection = 91,301\* acres (34% of study area)
  - Type 1 = 4,463\* ac (2%)
  - Type 2 = 46,248 ac (17%)
  - Type 3 = 27,663 ac (10%)
  - Type 4 = 12,927 ac (5%)

\*1,238 acres are currently proposed Type 1

## Current Level of Protection

Land Cover	Total Acres in Study Area	Type 1 (Acres/%)	Type 2 (Acres/%)	Type 3 (Acres/%)	Type 4 (Acres/%)
Annual Grassland	116,827	2,810/2%	9,087/8%	12,950/11%	3,384/3%
Blue Oak Woodland	26,476	273/1%	4,009/15%	3,225/12%	936/4%
Mixed Serpentine Chaparral	3,788	0/0%	48/1%	24/<1%	0/0%
Sycamore Alluvial Woodland	597	0/0%	299/50%	239/40%	26/4%

# Developing the Conservation Strategy



## Next Steps

- Complete Chapter 3 (Conservation Strategy) and Chapter 4 (Implementation) June – August.
- Receive comments on Draft Chapters 1 (Introduction) and 2 (Environmental Setting) through July.
- Receive comments on Chapters 3 and 4 through August/September.
- Next Public meeting ~September/October.

## Upcoming Events

- UAG meetings each month (third Thursday).
  - Discussion of Chapter 2
  - Components of the Conservation Strategy
  - Conservation Goals for east Alameda County
  - Implementation of the EACCS
- Alameda County RCD – Land Owner meeting
- Public meeting ~September/October to coincide with the release of the Public Draft EACCS.

## Perspectives on the EACCS

- Steering Committee
- California Department of Fish and Game
- User's Advisory Group

## Questions?

## Communications Tools

- Weblink: [www.eastalco-conservation.org](http://www.eastalco-conservation.org)
  
- EACCS Coordinator  
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