



San Jose  
70 South First Street  
San Jose, CA 95113  
T. [REDACTED]

January 18, 2019

Chuck Reed  
[REDACTED]  
T. [REDACTED]

Mayor and City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 E. Santa Clara Street, Tower, 18th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

**Re: Council Study Session on Coyote Valley January 22, 2019**

Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers:

Hopkins Carley represents the Lester, Denning, Benson and Foster families who have owned property and farmed in North Coyote Valley for generations. Their properties are and have been designated by the General Plan for decades to be developed for employment uses.

Funds from the bond measure and funds available from other sources should be spent in ways that comply with the General Plan. We recommend the Council give direction to City staff as follows:

**Develop a spending plan that supports efforts to achieve the following:**

**35,000 jobs in North Coyote Valley**  
**Increased City revenues from jobs in North Coyote Valley**  
**Reduction of flooding hazards**  
**More publicly-owned open space and wildlife corridors**

Pressure from environmental advocates to spend public money to frustrate development in North Coyote Valley should be rejected as a gross violation of decades of work by multiple Mayors dozens of Councilmembers and thousands of residents and taxpayers who have engaged in our planning processes, economic development strategies and fiscal sustainability efforts over decades. Environmental advocates do not have to provide services to the residents and taxpayers of San Jose. Nor do they have to balance their interests with the interests of the entire City.

Wiping out the jobs in North Coyote Valley would undermine the entire General Plan and open it up to litigation. We can protect Coyote Valley without destroying its jobs capacity.

Eliminating jobs in North Coyote Valley would be a horrible fiscal decision and a retreat from our Major Strategy 8 Fiscally Strong City and our goals of fiscal sustainability and improving services, reflected in GP2040 Chapter 2, pages 15-21.

Eliminating the potential for 35,000 jobs in Coyote Valley will eliminate the potential for increased City revenue from job growth. Spending \$50 million of public money to cut off job development in North Coyote Valley will cost the City vastly much more than that in future revenues that would flow annually from Industrial Park development. 35,000 employees would generate over \$20 million per year for the City. (\$572 net revenue per employee, Update on Fiscal Analysis of Land Use - City of San Jose <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/47917>)

The future of Coyote Valley and the importance of development of jobs have been robustly debated for decades, in political campaigns, policy discussion, and formal planning processes (Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development 1983, Horizon 2000 General Plan 1984, General Plan 2020 1994), and most recently in the development of GP2040, in which more than 5000 people participated in 55 public meetings. The Envision San Jose GP2040 Task Force and members of the community strongly advocated for land use planning that promotes economic development, is fiscally responsible, is environmentally sustainable, and makes prudent use of existing and planned transit facilities and other infrastructure.

**Economic development and fiscal stability objectives, fueled by the City's current fiscal condition and a desire to advance San José's national stature, led to the selection of a Preferred Land Use Scenario that gives clear priority to job growth and to improving the City's current Jobs to Employed Resident (J/ER) ratio.**  
(GP2040, Appendix 3, page 23)

The sum of all those debates about Coyote Valley has been reflected in the approval of multiple general plans, including GP 2040, as well as in the specific strategies and goals of the adopted plans.

Development of jobs in North Coyote Valley plays a critical role in achieving the long held objective of a fiscally sustainable city. GP2040, as modified in the 4-Year Major Review approved in December 2016, assumes that there will be 35,000 jobs on 1722 acres in North Coyote Valley, which is nearly 10% of the total job growth for the entire city. Taking North Coyote Valley and its 35,000 reverse-commute jobs out of consideration would undermine GP2040 by making it internally inconsistent and unachievable.

GP2040 also has goals to preserve the environment and provide for wildlife movement across Coyote Valley (Goal ER-7 Wildlife Movement) and protect against flooding hazards (Goal EC-5 – Flooding Hazards) Those goals are not necessarily incompatible with our economic development goals and or our fiscal sustainability goals.

**Goal FS-4.2 Maintain, enhance, and develop the employment lands within identified key employment areas (North Coyote Valley, . . . Protect existing employment uses within these areas from potentially incompatible non-employment uses.**(GP2040 Chapter 2, page 19)

**Goal FS-4.1 Preserve and enhance employment land acreage and building floor area capacity for various employment activities because they provide revenue, near-term jobs, contribute to our City's long-term achievement of economic development and job growth goals . . . (GP2040 Chapter 2, page 18- 9)**

And our economic development and fiscal sustainability are not necessarily incompatible with the desire for Hydrological Enhancements and the Wildlife Crossings, described in the Open Space Authority Coyote Valley Landscape Linkage 2017, Figure 6, page 28.

<https://www.openspaceauthority.org/public-information/document-library.html>

San Jose has long demonstrated the ability to have both economic development and environmental protection. We have already protected and preserved many thousands of acres with our environmental policies, the South Coyote Greenbelt, our Urban Growth Boundary and our Habitat Conservation Plan. North Coyote Valley is but a small fraction of our City but it has a huge role to play in our fiscal future and public dollars should not be spent to kill its potential for jobs.

It is completely unnecessary to wipe out job growth in Coyote Valley to protect the environment. There are many areas in the 7000 acres of Coyote Valley, including my clients' properties, that are not in a flood zone or wildlife corridor. The attached map by the OSA makes that clear.

City staff should be challenged to design a spending plan for the \$50 million and any other available money that complies with the economic development and the environmental protection strategies and goals of GP2040. Perhaps it is time to look at the thousands of acres in the Coyote Valley Urban Reserve area to see how it could be used to support all our General Plan goals.

Sincerely,

HOPKINS & CARLEY  
A Law Corporation

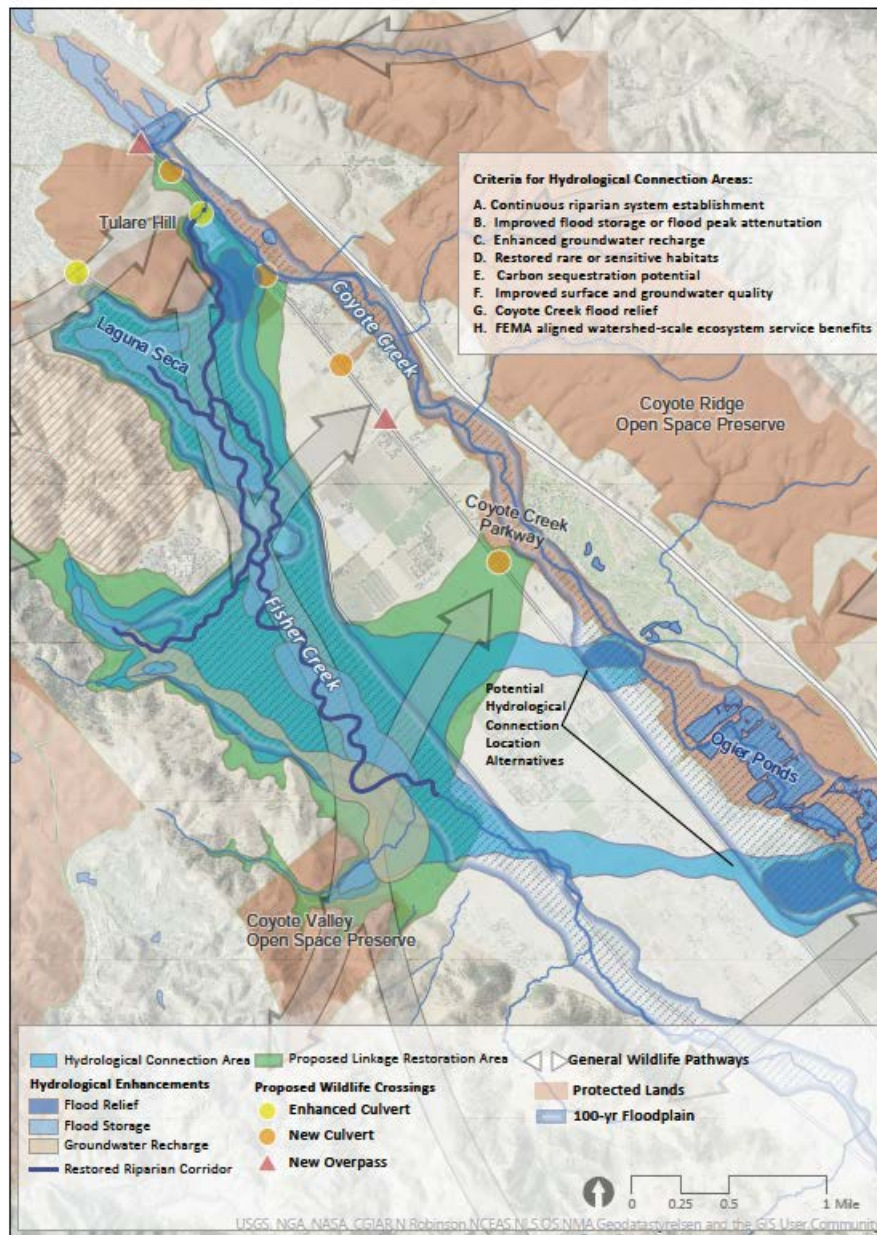


Chuck Reed

CRR/lc

cc: City Manager David Sykes  
City Attorney Richard Doyle  
Director of Economic Development Kim Walesh

**Figure 6. Conceptual opportunities for water resource enhancements in the linkage area.** This figure depicts the conceptual relationship between the landscape linkage and provision of water services, where those areas proposed for habitat restoration can also potentially be managed to reduce flood impacts and increase recharge of groundwater supplies.





David W. Poeschel

San Jose, CA 95120

San Jose City Council and Mayor

200 E. Santa Clara St.

San Jose, CA 95113

Via Email:

Re: January 22, 2019 Coyote Valley Study Session

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Council Members,

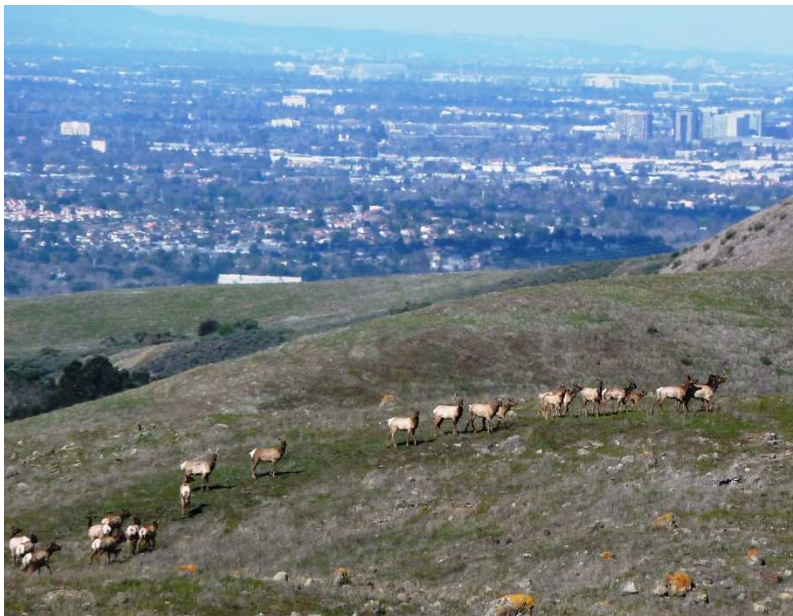
Most of us overlook this second chance little sister of Santa Clara Valley. But that's changing!

With the nexus of ecosystem infrastructure, wildlife habitat, agriculture, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities, Coyote Valley is a tremendous asset to the City today and -- with investment and vision -- it has even greater **potential to be a region of world renown!**



Bay Checkerspot Butterfly

Tule Elk



Sincerely,

David W. Poeschel

David W. Poeschel



# California Legislature

January 16, 2019

Dear Mayor Liccardo and City Council Members:

As the City of San José enters into a Study Session to discuss in greater detail the planning and use of moneys provided by Measure T, the Public Safety and Infrastructure Bond, we wanted to express our appreciation and congratulations to you and all of those who were instrumental in its adoption. We are especially grateful for the inclusion of \$50 million in funding for natural infrastructure, environmental conservation, and floodplain protection, all of which are fundamental to the long-term health, sustainability, and important environmental role Coyote Valley plays in the greater south bay region.

At 7,400 acres, Coyote Valley is one of the last remaining undeveloped valley floors in the Bay Area and the only connection between the Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range. This inclusive wildlife corridor is home to more than 200 species of birds, including many endangered wildlife, and remains a secure source of drinking water and proud heritage of local agriculture.

After decades of being identified as a possible region for future development, we are encouraged by the foresight of the City Council to include money in Measure T to help preserve and protect the Coyote Valley for current and future generations. What it offers is irreplaceable: wetlands, an essential wildlife habitat and migratory area, active farmlands, and open space for all to enjoy. This investment of money through Measure T in the Coyote Valley will help to protect what natural infrastructure we still have remaining.

Equally as important is the role Coyote Valley plays in reducing the risk of natural disasters by capturing and storing floodwaters. This is a lesson we were reminded of in recent years with the flooding along Coyote Creek in the Rock Creek neighborhood in February 2017. Although flooding occurred, we have all learned that the flooding could have been worse had it not been for the natural flood plain offered by the valley. By expanding efforts to further preserve and invest in the long-term environmental sustainability of the Coyote valley we can help to lessen and prevent the impact of similar events in the future.

Because of this work; the work of community-based organizations, environmental advocates and regional sustainability efforts, both at the local and state level, community appreciation and support for this irreplaceable resource has never been greater. As a result, the investment of Measure T funding in the Coyote Valley will help to protect what natural infrastructure we still have remaining.

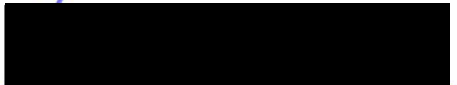
We applaud the City of San José for making the bold decision to help expand the preservation of Coyote Valley, protect it from further development and use opportunities like those offered through Measure T to permanently preserve this remarkable place for people, wildlife, and our environment.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ash Kalra  
Assembly District 27

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Stone  
Assembly District 29

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Beall  
Senate District 15

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kansen Chu  
Assembly District 25

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Rivas  
Assembly District 30

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Monning  
Senate District 17



January 17, 2019

San José City Council  
200 E. Santa Clara Street  
San José, CA 95113

RE: Coyote Valley Study Session January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

Dear San José Mayor and City Councilmembers,

Permanent protection of the Coyote Valley is a top priority for focused conservation efforts, not only for its remarkable combination of biodiversity, farmland, and water resources in such close proximity to urban San José, but because protection of this landscape is the key to maintaining long-term ecological connectivity between one million acres of core habitat and natural areas in the Santa Cruz and Diablo Range Mountains that surround the Santa Clara Valley. This connectivity is vital to sustain the biodiversity of our region. The Coyote Valley presents a unique opportunity to design with nature in a way that benefits our natural and built environments through increased ecological resilience, and provides an unparalleled host of benefits to San José residents and the region:

- Coyote Valley's **wildlife connectivity** is essential to sustaining the biodiversity of our region and protecting over \$3,500,000,000 in conservation investments
- Preserving the existing **flood protection benefits** provided by Coyote Valley's open space floodplains, which act as a sponge to capture and store floodwaters. In some storm events, floodplain restoration can enhance flood benefits by reducing and delaying peak flows, providing increased response time in a flood event. Conservation of natural floodplains provides resilience and an additional buffer for built flood infrastructure
- Protecting and amplifying a source of aquifer recharge serving San José, increasing the City's **clean water supply**
- San José has a unique opportunity to build greater **climate resilience** by protecting and enhancing the natural infrastructure in Coyote Valley and avoiding the increased greenhouse gases associated with sprawl development

Andrea Mackenzie,  
General Manager

Alex Kennett, District 1

Mike Flaughner, District 2

Sequoia Hall, District 3

Dorsey Moore, District 4

Shay Franco-Clausen, District 5

Mike Potter, District 6

Kalvin Gill, District 7

33 Las Colinas Lane  
San José, CA 95119

  
  
openspaceauthority.org

- Coyote Valley represents an opportunity to reinvest in our local **agricultural economy**
- Coyote Valley provides an opportunity to create an unparalleled natural urban preserve providing **recreation opportunities** to the citizens of San José

Attached for your reference is a file that contains more detail regarding the conservation benefits highlighted above. We will make hardcopies of these materials available for you, City staff, and the public at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Coyote Valley Study Session.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature. A small, handwritten-style flourish or mark is visible to the right of the box.

Andrea Mackenzie  
General Manager



# Coyote Valley: A Case for Conservation

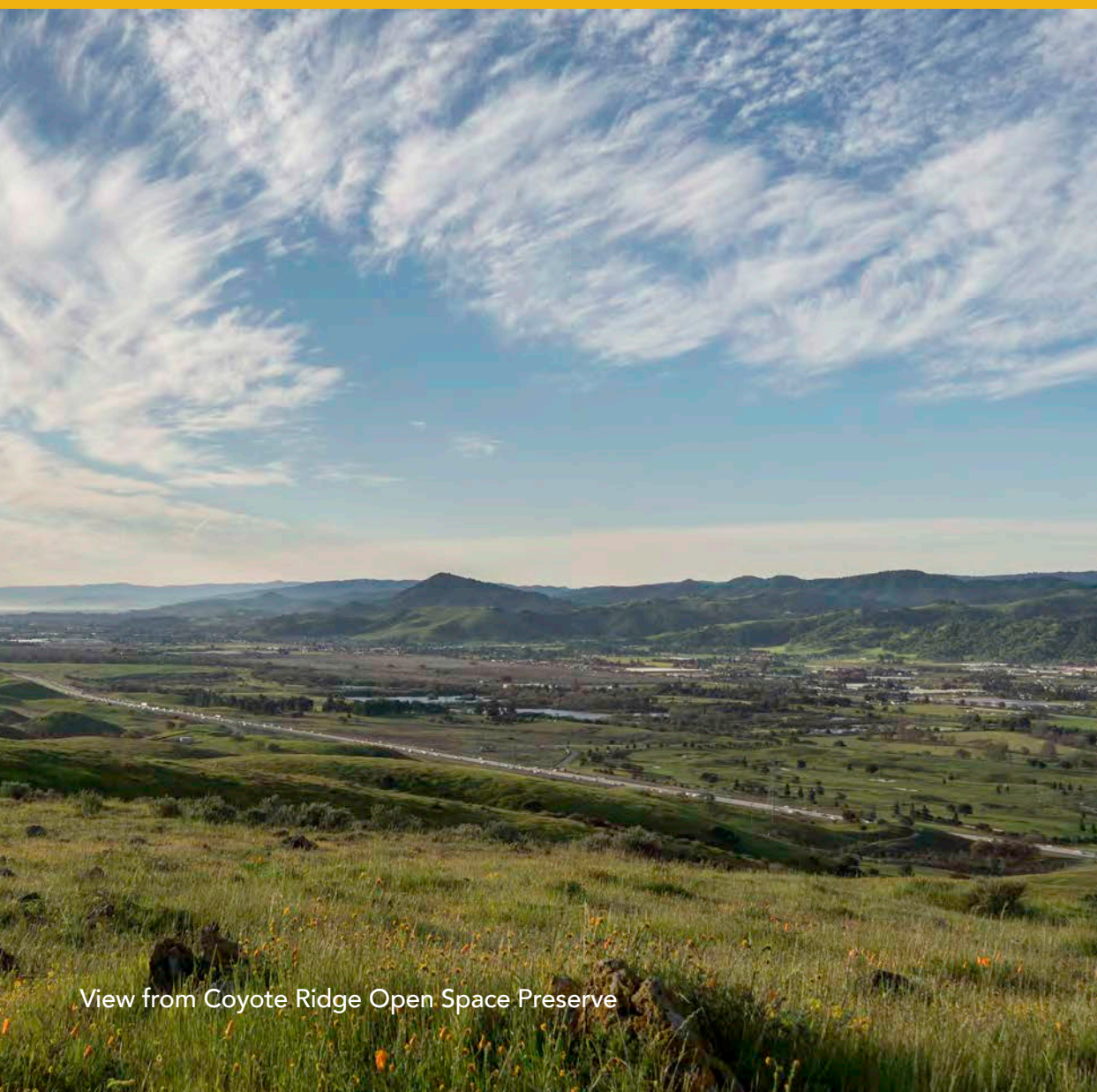




“Coyote Valley represents a rare opportunity to preserve an intact floodplain upstream of a major urban area.

It is the prime example of nature as infrastructure, and its protection is essential for flood risk reduction, wildlife linkages, and resilience to climate change.”

John Laird  
California Secretary for Natural Resources



View from Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve



# Coyote Valley





# The myriad benefits of conservation in Coyote Valley

Strategic investments in conservation, smart land use policies, and green urban design can provide for a sustainable future in Santa Clara County – even in the face of population growth and climate change.

**Nature as infrastructure** means recognizing and protecting the natural ecological processes that provide a multitude of important services that increase our community's resilience to climate change and promote the health and safety of its residents.

Coyote Valley offers unparalleled opportunities to create a 21st century greenbelt in close proximity to urban San Jose, and delivers a host of benefits:



**Flood protection** provided by natural floodplains



A **clean water** supply for area residents



Increased **climate resilience** to adapt to extreme natural events



**Agriculture** as part of a thriving local economy



**Wildlife connectivity** and linkages between mountain ranges



Open space for **recreation and public health**

By investing in our open spaces and conserving Coyote Valley, we can protect these ecological, economic, and quality of life benefits – now and for future generations.





# Coyote Valley

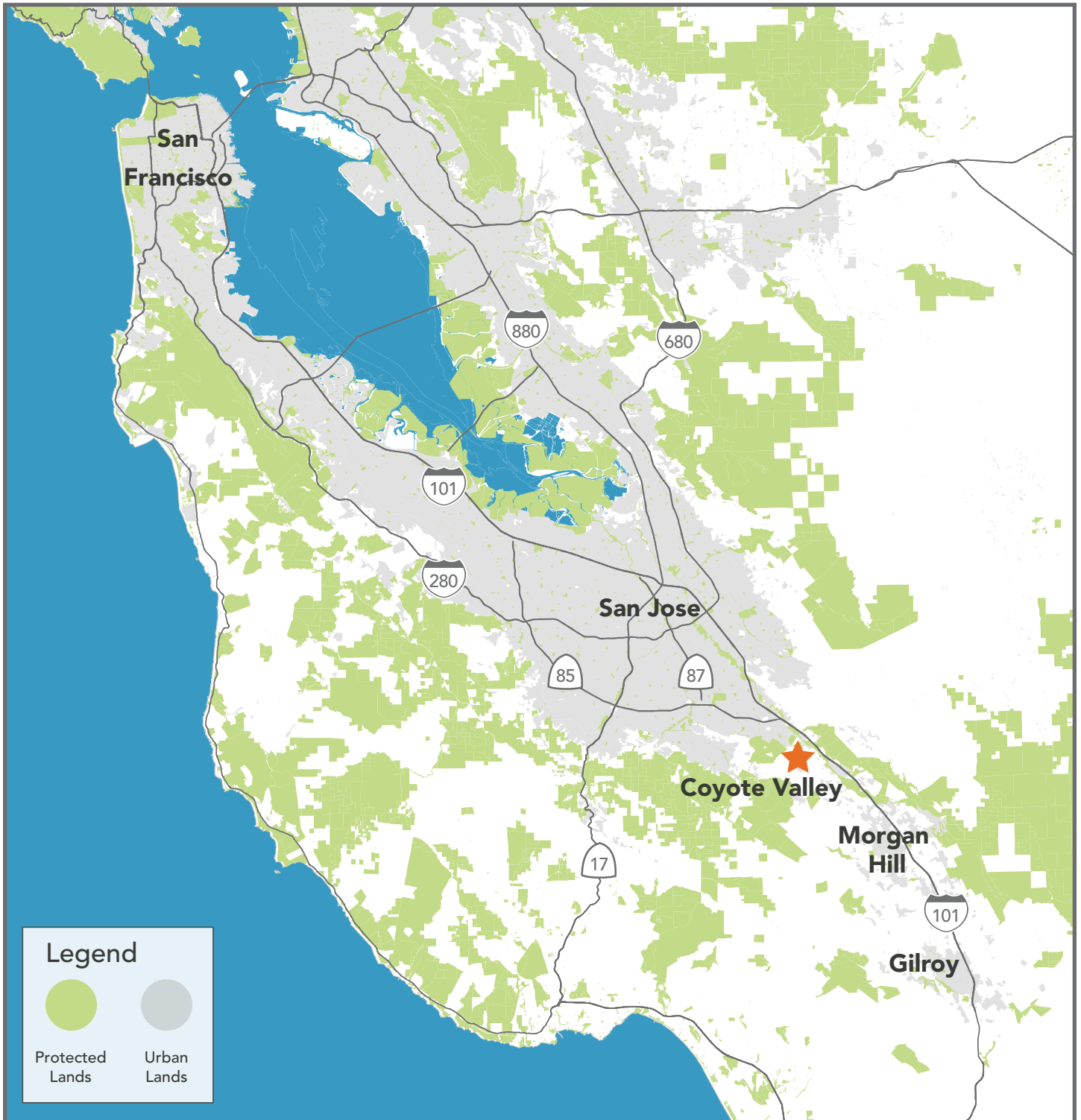


Photo credit: Stephen Joseph

# Water Resources



Coyote Valley is a critical landscape that **protects San Jose's water resources and downstream residents** through its **natural infrastructure**.

The City and its conservation partners have an opportunity to conserve and enhance land in ways that will **safeguard our groundwater aquifer, preserve local floodplains**, and protect wildlife and rare habitats.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Avoiding development in areas of Coyote Valley protects Silicon Valley's largest remaining **groundwater recharge area**, freshwater wetland, and undeveloped floodplains below Anderson Dam.
- Conservation and restoration along Fisher Creek and Laguna Seca would allow these lands to **hold more water during storms and floods**, slowly releasing these waters through riparian areas, wetlands, and into the aquifer, **improving water quality** flowing into Coyote Creek.
- Investment in floodplain preservation and restoration to capture and store excess stormwater upstream of San Jose has the potential to **reduce the likelihood, severity, and extent of downstream flooding**, helping to buffer communities from increasingly intense storm events.



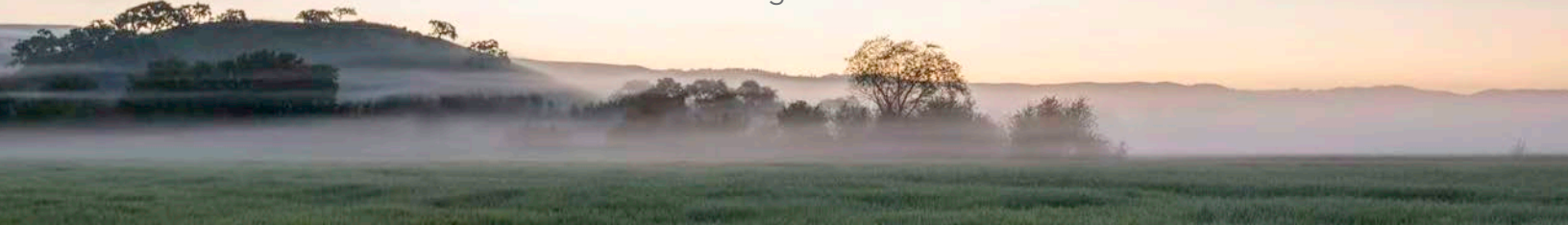
Homes and businesses around Coyote Creek suffered **\$100M** in damages in the 2017 floods



Restored floodplains in Coyote Valley could prevent ~450 acre-ft of water from flowing through Coyote Creek during a single storm event – enough to **fill SAP Arena**



Coyote Valley contains half of Silicon Valley's remaining undeveloped **aquifer recharge area**





## WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Most of San Jose's land near creeks and over its aquifer has been developed, polluting its waterways and aquifer, increasing stormwater runoff, and exposing billions of dollars of property to damage when creeks flood. These heavily developed landscapes lack the resilience and ecosystem services that were provided by the lands in their former natural state.



As climate change causes more frequent and intense floods and droughts, the future is likely to be very different from the past, creating new challenges for cities on top of growing regulatory requirements. Cities like San Jose are spending enormous sums in developed areas to remediate the effects of urbanization in exchange for incremental, localized improvements in water quality and habitat enhancement. Addressing the effects of urbanization is expensive.

Development of Coyote Valley will reduce or impair natural floodplain functions, requiring costly mitigation measures. If developed, the full restoration potential of Fisher Creek and Laguna Seca would not be realized for habitat and other conservation values. **Conserving and enhancing Coyote Valley could be a model** for utilizing natural infrastructure that buffers the City of San Jose in the face of more frequent and intense storm events, working to alleviate downstream flooding, protecting groundwater recharge, and improving water quality.

"Our city experienced some of the worst flooding in 20 years in 2017.

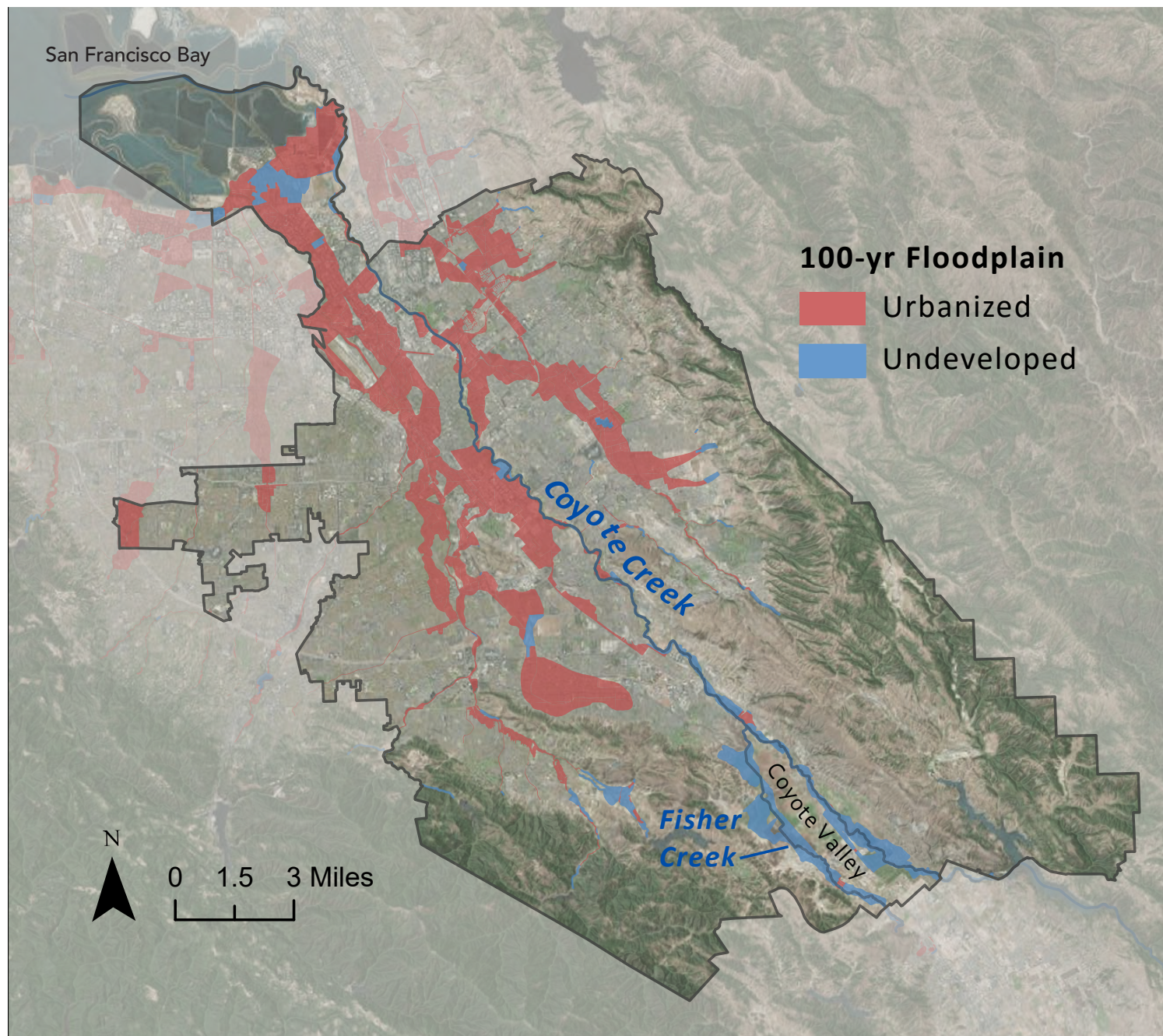
While the Coyote Creek flood taught us valuable lessons in resilience and disaster recovery, it also highlighted the role of nature based solutions – so-called 'green infrastructure' such as floodable plains and open spaces – to facilitate rainwater and stormwater re-entering the water cycle."

– *Climate Smart San Jose*





## FLOODPLAINS IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE AND ITS SPHERE OF INFLUENCE



This map shows 100-year floodplains within San Jose's Sphere of Influence. Red areas show the extent of the City's floodplain that has been developed. The undeveloped floodplains in Coyote Valley, upstream of downtown San Jose, are the largest remaining intact assemblage along Coyote Creek. Protection of the natural floodplains in this strategic location provides an unparalleled opportunity to absorb floodwaters upstream of urbanized areas. These floodplains can be preserved and enhanced to maintain floodplain function, and can be managed to reduce flood impacts and preserve and enhance groundwater recharge.

## INVESTING IN COYOTE VALLEY'S NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Modernizing San Jose's flood system includes recognizing that managed flooding in Coyote Valley can help protect downstream areas while also supporting water quality protection and sensitive ecosystems. Avoiding development in sensitive areas in Coyote Valley would maintain room for more water to be stored upstream of downtown San Jose, providing opportunities to further **buffer San Jose from flooding, improve water quality** flowing into Coyote Creek, and **protect a groundwater aquifer and recharge area that is susceptible to contamination**. This work would also support large-scale ecosystem restoration opportunities on the valley floor.

The western foothills and valley floor of Coyote Valley could be used to capture stormwater in a network of expanded floodplains, swales, and ponds, slowly releasing it to a restored Fisher Creek and the Laguna Seca wetland complex before slowly draining into Coyote Creek. This would help reduce the risk of flooding downstream, buffer groundwater from declines during drought years, and protect water quality in Coyote Creek.

Conservation investments would increase **climate resilience** for natural and built communities while providing **other benefits** including habitat connectivity, water for sensitive habitats, carbon sequestration, increased agricultural viability, and recreation opportunities.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Work with willing landowners to protect lands within the Fisher Creek floodplain to preserve its natural attributes and prevent contamination of shallow groundwater areas and water that flows into Coyote Creek.
- Restore and enhance wetland and riparian areas along Fisher Creek and Laguna Seca where managed flooding can benefit sensitive ecosystems, support natural flood control, and improve water quality flowing into Coyote Creek.
- Leverage public-private partnerships and funding sources to integrate water resource investments with co-benefits like improved habitat and wildlife crossings, agricultural land preservation, park and recreation opportunities, and greenhouse gas mitigation.
- Plan natural flood control improvements in coordination with Santa Clara Valley Water District's Coyote Creek flood protection effort from Montague to Tully Road, to optimize Coyote Valley's contribution to public health and safety.
- Investigate opportunities to provide watershed-scale benefits that align with the California Department of Water Resources' California Water Plan. Model projects after other multi-benefit floodplain protection projects, including the Yolo Bypass near Sacramento, Napa River, Los Angeles River, and areas around Houston, Texas.

Photo credits: Tanya Diamond, Patty Eaton, Tom Grey, cc Gary Nafis, Derek Neumann

### MORE INFORMATION

- Reducing Climate Risks with Natural Infrastructure (CA Landscape Conservation Partnership)
- A Flood of Benefits: Using Green Infrastructure to Reduce Flood Risks (The Nature Conservancy)
- Coyote Valley Water Resource Investment Strategy: Phase 2 Report (SCVOSA/SCWWD - in preparation)
- Coyote Valley Landscape Linkages: A Vision for a Resilient, Multi-benefit Landscape (SCVOSA)
- [www.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalley](http://www.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalley)



# Climate Resilience



Coyote Valley offers an unparalleled opportunity for San Jose to leverage partnerships and funding to increase the region's climate resilience – the ability of our natural and urban communities to respond and adapt to extremes in temperature and precipitation, leading to drought, fire, and flooding.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- San Jose has a unique opportunity to protect and restore existing **natural infrastructure** in Coyote Valley to buffer the effects of a changing climate.
- Nature as infrastructure can be **more efficient, more resilient**, and a **better long-term investment** than built infrastructure, and includes many other benefits such as connected landscapes for wildlife, healthy recreation opportunities, and a thriving agricultural economy.
- By protecting the **multi-benefit natural infrastructure** of Coyote Valley, San Jose can leverage local, regional, and state funding, and model innovative leadership.



Coyote Valley contains **thousands of acres** that can recharge aquifers and absorb flood waters



Agricultural lands produce **less than 2% of the greenhouse gas emissions** produced by urbanized areas



Investments of **\$600M+** in open space statewide have reduced CO<sub>2</sub> by an estimated **4.27M metric tons**

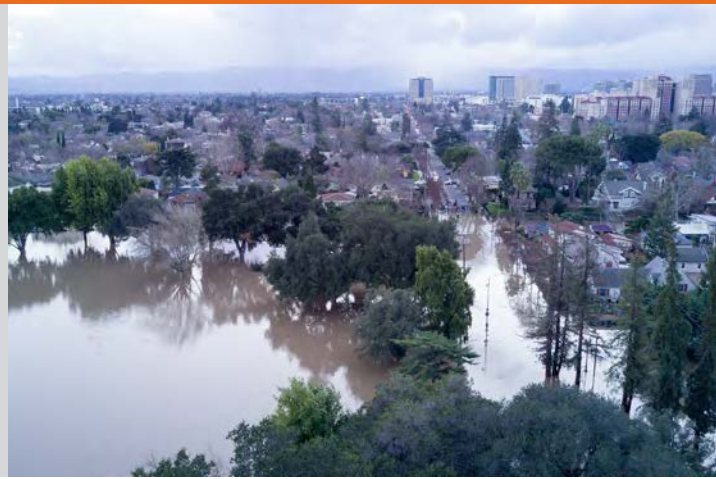


## WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Climate change is increasing the frequency, severity, and unpredictability of storms, flooding, drought, and wildfire.

As we have seen, the recurring economic and social costs of responding to these disasters are immense.

With significant growth projected in Santa Clara County over the next 30 years, now is the time to plan our communities and landscapes to increase our climate resilience and prepare for this new normal.



## OPPORTUNITIES

- **Invest** in Coyote Valley's natural infrastructure to help **meet goals of Climate Smart San Jose**, such as avoiding greenhouse gas production.
- **Work with the Open Space Authority and the Santa Clara Valley Water District to protect and restore remaining floodplains and aquifers** along Fisher Creek and Coyote Creek to provide natural flood control and clean water for San Jose.
- Identify projects that further the climate goals of Plan Bay Area, MTC, ABAG, and others, and **leverage partnerships and external funding sources** such as state bond measures and regional grant programs.
- **Protect key agricultural lands** identified in the **Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan** to prevent their conversion to urban uses and the corresponding production of greenhouse gas emissions. These lands can also sequester carbon and curb sprawl and associated vehicle miles traveled.



## CASE STUDY: NAPA COUNTY

In 1986, the Napa River flooded, causing three deaths and an estimated \$100M in property damage. Instead of building higher levees, the County worked with the water district and the Army Corps to remove bridges, restore floodplains, and restore 900 acres of wetlands, returning the river to its natural course.

When waters rise, they are diverted into a bypass, significantly mitigating flooding and saving \$26M in damages annually – and also providing bird habitat and recreational trails.

Photo credits: Tom Grey, Kevin Lowe, Tyler MacNiven, Derek Neumann

## MORE INFORMATION

- Healthy Lands & Healthy Economies: Nature's Value in Santa Clara County (SCVOSA)
- Nature as Infrastructure for Climate Resilience - Protecting Coyote Valley (SCVOSA)
- Climate Smart San Jose Phase 2: Natural and Working Lands
- [www.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalley](http://www.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalley)



# Agriculture



With thousands of acres of scenic and productive farms, orchards, and ranches, **Coyote Valley offers an opportunity to reinvest in our agricultural economy** – increasing our local food supply and protecting our cultural heritage, while also benefiting the environment and quality of life throughout the region.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Farms in Santa Clara County directly provide **more than 8,100 jobs**, and in 2014 created a total of **\$1.6B in economic output**.
- Investments that increase agricultural production in Coyote Valley can triple the profitability of farming and generate an estimated **\$50M** in annual production and agritourism revenues.
- Agricultural lands can **sequester carbon** and **prevent sprawl**, and are key to meeting California's **2030 greenhouse gas reduction targets**.
- Well-managed agricultural lands in Coyote Valley can help **mitigate flooding downstream**, recharge aquifers, and provide valuable wildlife habitat.



Most of Coyote Valley is agricultural, including **5,600 acres** of prime farmland



Coyote Valley represents **30% of the value** of crop production in Santa Clara County



Keeping **100 acres** in farmland (vs. urban use) annually equates to removing **1,340 cars** from roads



## WHAT'S AT STAKE?

California is losing an average of 50,000 acres of farmland to development each year. Coyote Valley represents some of our region's last remaining farms, orchards, and ranches – our cultural heritage and a local food supply.

Agricultural lands naturally buffer urban areas from the impacts of storms and climate change. In Coyote Valley, farms also prevent our groundwater aquifers from being paved over – protecting a clean water supply.

These farmlands provide forage and cover for wildlife species living in and moving through Coyote Valley.



## OPPORTUNITIES

- **Protect key agricultural lands identified in the Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan** through fee purchase, conservation easements, and other voluntary incentives.
- Create and invest in a **countywide agricultural conservation easement program**.
- Work with local farmers and water resource agencies to **leverage stormwater management funds** to preserve floodplains and encourage flood-tolerant crops.
- **Promote sustainable agricultural practices** such as no-till farming to increase carbon sequestration.
- Strengthen Santa Clara County's zoning and **Right-to-Farm ordinances**, and maintain LAFCO's strong agricultural preservation policies.
- Coordinate with other cities and the County to **expand agricultural zoning districts**.



## CASE STUDY: YOLO BYPASS

The Yolo Bypass is a functioning floodplain west of Sacramento that incorporates productive farmland and wildlife habitat. This multi-benefit landscape can serve as a model for Coyote Valley.

When rains are heavy, a system of low dams allows water to spill over into the bypass, protecting Sacramento from flooding. The land is also used for flood-compatible crops, and provides valuable wetland habitat for fish and birds.

Photo credits: Cait Hutnik, Derek Neumann

## MORE INFORMATION

- Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan (Santa Clara County and SCVOSA)
- Santa Clara Valley Greenprint (SCVOSA)
- Sustaining Agriculture and Conservation in Coyote Valley (SAGE)
- Santa Clara County Crop Reports (Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture)
- American Farmland Trust
- [www.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalley](http://www.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalley)



# Wildlife Connectivity



The Coyote Valley offers an **irreplaceable and unique opportunity to link landscapes** and connect habitats for plants and wildlife, protecting biodiversity, and allowing for adaptation to climate change.

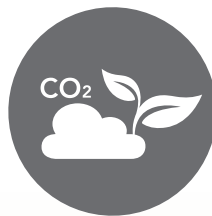
Protection of significant portions of the valley floor is required to ensure the **resilience and integrity of the 1.13+ million acres of core habitat** in the surrounding Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The ecologically rich landscape of Coyote Valley offers an **unparalleled opportunity** to protect irreplaceable remnants of rare habitat, restore habitat, and protect resident and migratory wildlife.
- The valley is the **best opportunity to link** the Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range, required for species and habitats to disperse, migrate, and shift ranges in response to climate change.
- Restoration of **wetland and riparian habitat**, especially in Laguna Seca and along Coyote Creek and Fisher Creek, is our best chance to protect wildlife pathways while buffering the San Jose region from stormwater.



Coyote Valley hosts **12 species** of rare, threatened, and endangered plants and animals



Restoration of **hundreds of acres** of wetlands would offer climate and ecological resilience



Coyote Valley links **1.13 million acres** of core habitat in surrounding mountain ranges

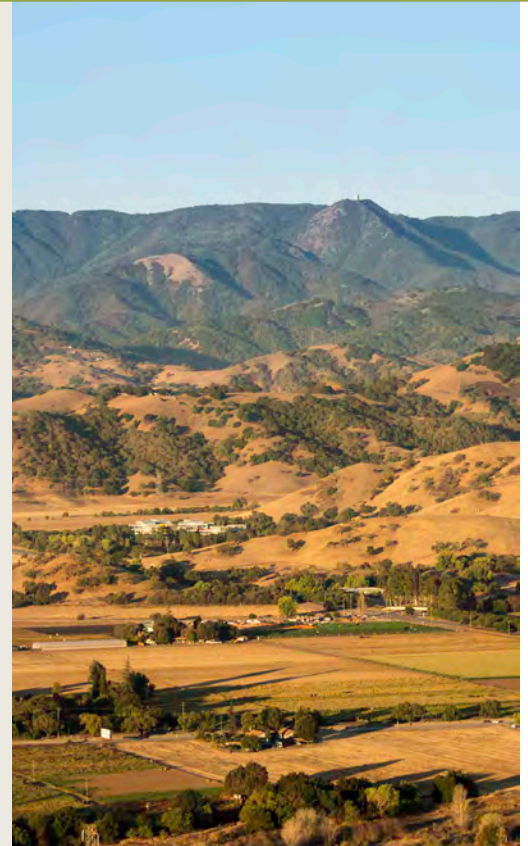


## WHAT'S AT STAKE?

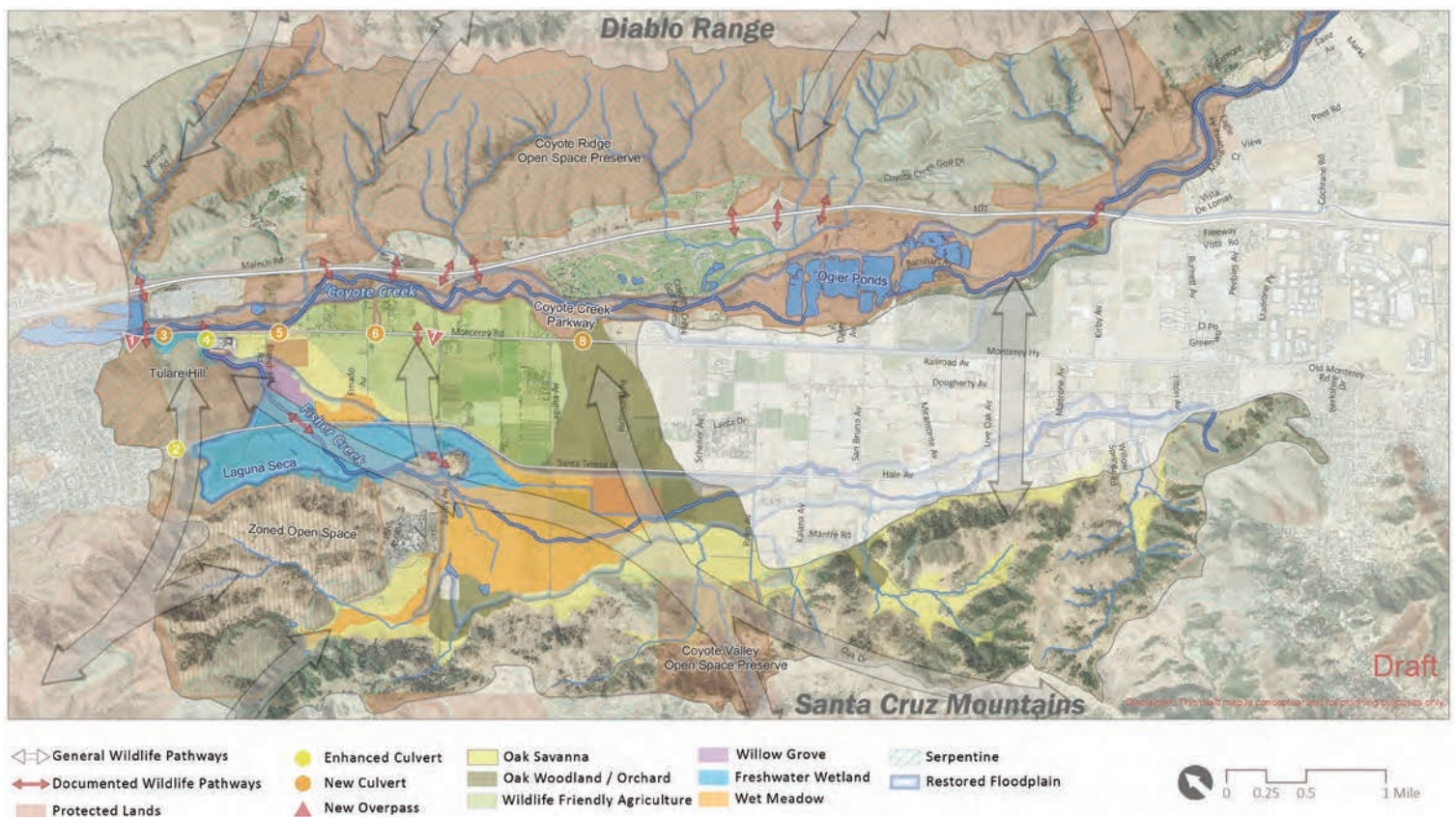
Many state and regional agencies recognize the importance of **connecting habitats via linkages**. Wide-ranging species such as mountain lion, American badger, coyote, and bobcat need large areas of connected habitat or could become locally extinct.

The *Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan* (HCP/NCCP) and other state and regional assessments have identified Coyote Valley as the essential opportunity to link landscapes and connect habitats to protect biodiversity in the Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range – now and in the face of climate change.

Coyote Valley presents a unique opportunity for investment that benefits the natural and urban environment. By protecting and restoring the landscape for wildlife connectivity, we also preserve San Jose's floodplain and water supplies, create a unique opportunity to connect people to the land, and help ensure that the City grows in a way that is more efficient and climate-smart.



**The Coyote Valley Landscape Linkage** vision was developed by a multi-disciplinary team of scientists who determined the necessary essential elements for protecting and restoring a broad and resilient landscape.





## PROTECTING RARE SPECIES

Coyote Valley is one of the last opportunities to enhance valley floor habitat and protect breeding **burrowing owls** in Santa Clara County, where numbers have declined drastically.



By restoring valley oak savannas, willow groves, and native grasslands, the County could meet habitat and wetland mitigation goals developed in the *Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan* that will be difficult to meet elsewhere, and could restore breeding habitat for the owl and the threatened tricolored blackbird, and also benefit many other species.

This restoration would also help the City of San Jose reach carbon sequestration goals through the retention of more carbon in wetland soils and restored vegetation.

## SAFE PASSAGE FOR MAMMALS

Scientists from UC Santa Cruz are studying radio-collared **bobcats** in Coyote Valley to better understand where land protection and restoration will be most helpful to maintain functional habitat connectivity.

Early data suggest that the Coyote Creek Parkway and Fisher Creek are critical movement pathways. Restoration of Fisher Creek could improve this corridor and provide many other benefits.



The study also shows frequent road crossings and fatalities along Bailey Avenue, Santa Teresa Boulevard, and Old Monterey Highway – where B02, a radio-collared female also known as Elderberry (above), was killed by a vehicle.

The scientists are working to identify road-crossing hotspots where safe passage infrastructure can significantly reduce or mitigate wildlife-vehicle conflict and mortality.

## WETLAND RESTORATION

The historic Laguna Seca wetland complex, within Fisher Creek's floodplain, was once a 1,000+ acre freshwater wetland complex and an important stopover for migratory waterfowl on the Pacific Flyway.

Despite being dredged and partially drained in 1916 to clear the land for agriculture, the area still retains some wetland characteristics due to its low elevation and heavy clay soils, and waterbirds continue to use this habitat.

Restoration of this increasingly rare wetland habitat could support rare species like the **California tiger salamander**, and expand habitat for many fish, bird, amphibian, reptile, and mammal species.



Numerous other species will be attracted to the wetland complex, especially during times of severe drought. Restored wetlands would also capture stormwater and improve water quality, making them an important component of regional climate resilience.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- **Protect Coyote Valley from imminent development threats** that could significantly diminish the functionality and vitality of the region for wildlife.
- **Leverage funding** from Prop 1, Prop 68, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Valley Habitat Agency, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Wildlife Conservation Board, and US Fish and Wildlife Service to meet shared goals.
- **Restore Laguna Seca**, the County's largest freshwater wetland, which will **increase ecological resilience** along the Pacific Flyway, one of the most threatened wildlife migration corridors in the Bay Area, and also **store stormwater and reduce downstream flood impacts**.
- Identify projects that further goals of the **Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan, Critical Linkages Bay Area and Beyond**, and others, and leverage partnerships and external funding sources.
- Partner with the **High Speed Rail Authority**, which has included in its preliminary design nine proposed state-of-the-art underpasses for wildlife in Coyote Valley.
- **Reduce the high rates of wildlife-vehicle collisions** by making it easier for wildlife to cross Monterey Highway, the Union Pacific rail line, Santa Teresa Boulevard, Highway 101, Bailey Avenue, and other roads by adding wildlife underpasses, overpasses, and directional fencing, removing debris, restoring vegetation, and providing gaps in the medians.
- Use Coyote Valley as a location for **endangered species habitat mitigation** for development projects in other areas of the city.
- **Encourage sustainable farming and ranching practices that support biodiversity** in the region. Agricultural lands can provide permanent habitat for wildlife in field margins, hedgerows, buffer strips, riparian corridors, and woodlots, important foraging habitat for raptors, and temporary habitat as species move between larger areas of suitable habitat.



Photo credits: Tom Grey, cc Gary Nafis, Derek Neumann, OSA wildlife cam, Ryan Phillips, Laurel Serieys, Eric Smith

## MORE INFORMATION

- Coyote Valley Landscape Linkage: A Vision for a Resilient, Multi-benefit Landscape (SCVOSA)
- Critical Linkages: Bay Area and Beyond (Bay Area Open Space Council)
- Coyote Creek Watershed Historical Ecology Study (San Francisco Estuary Institute)
- Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan
- [www.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalley](http://www.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalley)



# Recreation and Public Health



Just 10 miles from downtown San Jose, Coyote Valley offers the opportunity to create an **unparalleled natural urban preserve** that will provide access to open space and trails – improving quality of life, benefitting public health, and contributing to the local economy.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Coyote Valley is a key connection for regional recreational opportunities and trail networks, which will improve **physical and mental health**, wellbeing, and **quality of life** for more than a million residents.
- The **significant economic value** of parks and trails includes tourism, improved public health, improved private property value, and regional investment due to quality of life, as well as the natural infrastructure services they provide.
- Parks and open space are **educational and cultural resources** that connect us to nature and provide a sense of place.



Coyote Valley connects  
**500,000 acres** of parks and  
protected open space



Local parks and trails  
annually attract more than  
**\$125M in tourism spending**



By facilitating outdoor exercise,  
local trails and open space save  
**\$25M+ in medical costs** per year



## WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Cities around the world are struggling to re-green paved-over landscapes; San Jose has an opportunity to save a significant assemblage of wildland within the city limits, creating its own "Central Park."

As San Jose's urban nature preserve, Coyote Valley can become a world-class destination, offering diverse landscapes, impressive views, a healthy agritourism industry, unparalleled wildlife viewing, and a regionally interconnected trail network. This is an opportunity for San Jose to provide meaningful and educational experiences in nature, clean our air, and benefit the local economy and real estate values.



## OPPORTUNITIES

- Partner with **Santa Clara County Parks, Land Trust of Santa Clara Valley, Peninsula Open Space Trust, and Amah Mutsun Land Trust** to link parks, construct trails, and encourage public access.
- Work with **Santa Clara Valley Water District** and **Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency** to use mitigation lands as recreation opportunities.
- **Leverage local, state, and regional funding** from One Bay Area, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Santa Clara County, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and Prop 68.
- Partner with the **Bay Area Ridge Trail Council** to make the trail connection between the Diablo Range and the Santa Cruz Mountains.
- **Complete the Fisher Creek Trail Alignment**, connecting the Coyote Creek Trail to the east and the Bay Area Ridge Trail to the west.



## CASE STUDY: BOSTON PARKS

A model of landscape-level open space in close proximity to a large urban center, Boston's **Emerald Necklace** is a network of seven parks.

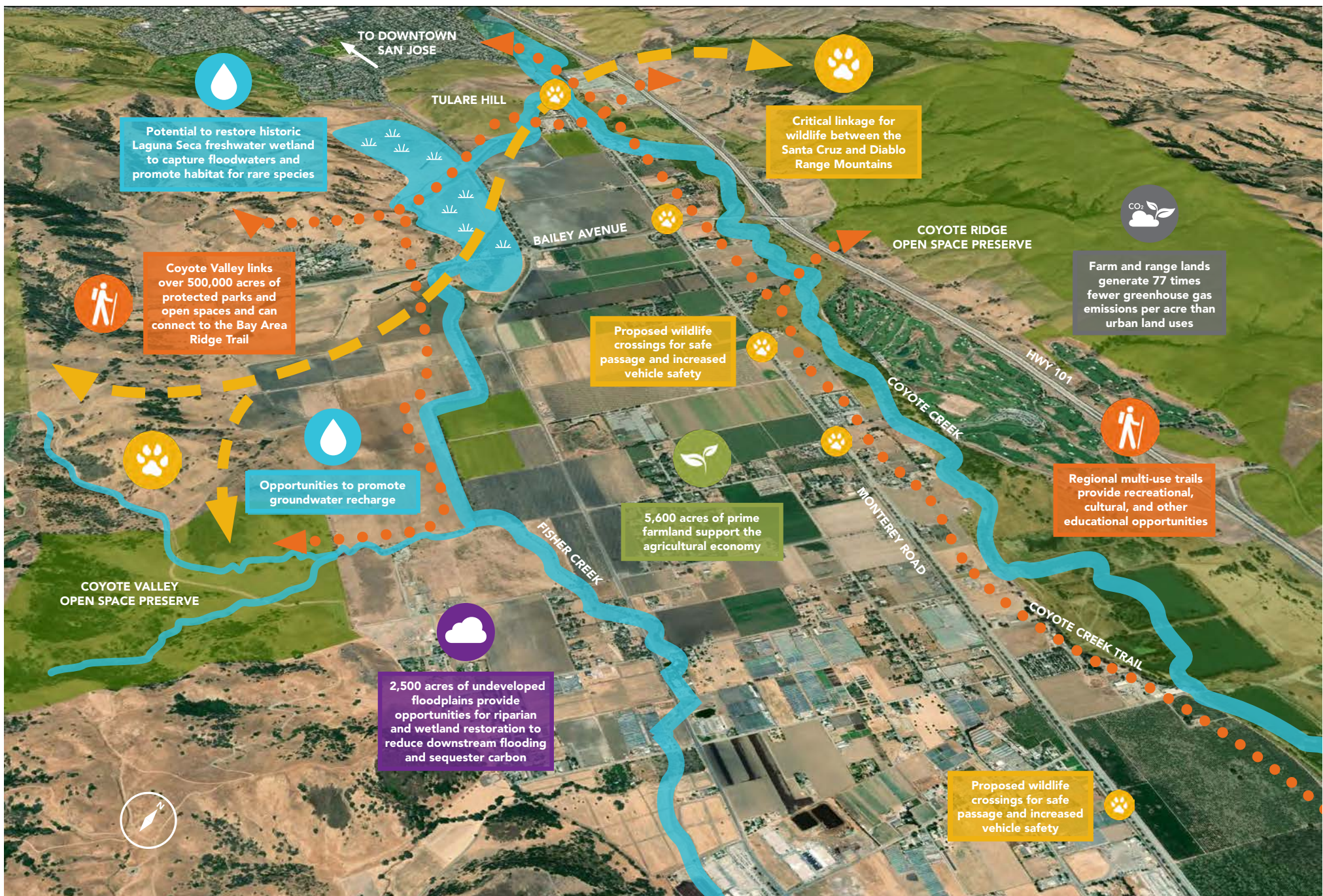
Created through public-private partnerships, the 1,200-acre network offers recreational opportunities in the heart of the city. The Emerald Necklace connects residents to nature and attracts more than a million visitors each year.

Photo credits: Annie Burke, Ron Horii, Cait Hutnik, Derek Neumann

## MORE INFORMATION

- The Economic Benefits of the Park & Recreation System in San José, CA (Trust for Public Land)
- Greenprint (now Activate San Jose) (City of San Jose)
- Santa Clara County Parks Countywide Trails Master Plan
- Measuring the Economic Value of a City Park System (Trust for Public Land)
- The Central Park Effect (Central Park Conservancy)
- [www.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalley](http://www.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalley)





## MAP OF COYOTE VALLEY CONSERVATION VALUES

This image is conceptual and for discussion purposes only, highlighting the important values and potential of Coyote Valley's natural infrastructure. Not to scale.  
Source Data: Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, Santa Clara County, Santa Clara Valley Water District



# References



## Water Resources

Giwargis, Ramona. 2017. *San Jose now faces 390 claims from victims totalling \$18 million*, *San Jose Mercury News*, September 17, 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.mercurynews.com/2017/09/17/san-jose-flood-city-now-faces-390-claims-from-victims-totaling-18-million/> (January 3, 2019).

- Homes and businesses around Coyote Creek suffered \$100 million in damages in the 2017 floods.

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority in partnership with Santa Clara Valley Water District (in preparation). *Coyote Valley Water Resource Investment Strategy: Phase 2 Report*.

- Restored floodplains in Coyote Valley could prevent ~450 acre-ft of water from flowing through Coyote Creek during a single storm event – enough to fill SAP Arena.

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. 2014. GIS data from *The Santa Clara Valley Greenprint: A guide for protecting open space and livable communities*. San Jose, CA.

- Coyote Valley contains half of Silicon Valley's remaining undeveloped aquifer recharge area.



## Climate Resilience

California Air Resources Board, California Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and California Natural Resources Agency. 2018. *California 2030 Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan: Concept Paper*. 17p.

<https://arb.ca.gov/cc/natandworkinglands/nwl-implementation-plan-concept-paper.pdf>

- Investments of \$600M+ in open space statewide have reduced CO<sub>2</sub> by an estimated 4.27 million metric tons.

Napa County. 2018. Flood & Water Resources: Programs. Retrieved from <https://www.countyofnapa.org/1074/Flood-Water-Resources> (Nov. 15, 2018).

- Napa County Case Study.

Shaffer, S. as cited in Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority & Santa Clara County. 2018. *Santa Clara County Agricultural Plan*. 81p.

<https://www.openspaceauthority.org/conservation/current-projects/santa-clara-valley-agricultural-plan.html>

- Agricultural lands produce less than 2% of the greenhouse gas emissions produced by urbanized areas.



## Agriculture

Howitt, R., MacEwan, D., Garnache, C., Medellin Azuara, J., Marchand, P., Brown, D., Six, J., & Lee, J. 2013. *Agricultural and Economic Impacts of Yolo Bypass Fish Habitat Proposals*. 59p.

[https://watershed.ucdavis.edu/files/biblio/Yolo\\_0.pdf](https://watershed.ucdavis.edu/files/biblio/Yolo_0.pdf)

- Yolo Bypass Case Study.



Shaffer, S. as cited in Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority & Santa Clara County. 2018. *Santa Clara County Agricultural Plan*. 81p.

<https://www.openspaceauthority.org/conservation/current-projects/santa-clara-valley-agricultural-plan.html>

- Keeping 100 acres in farmland (vs. urban use) annually equates to removing 1,340 cars from roads.

Sustainable Agriculture Education. SAGE. 2016. *Coyote Valley Agriculture*. Retrieved from [https://www.sagecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/CoyoteValleyAgricultureFlier\\_crops-soils-habitat.jpg](https://www.sagecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/CoyoteValleyAgricultureFlier_crops-soils-habitat.jpg) (Nov. 15, 2018).

- Coyote Valley represents 30% of the value of crop production in Santa Clara County.

## Wildlife Connectivity

California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2018. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB).

Retrieved from <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB> (November 15, 2018).

- Coyote Valley hosts 12 species of rare, threatened, and endangered plants and animals.

Penrod, K., Garding, P. E., Paulman, C., Beier, P., Weiss, S., Schaefer, N., Branciforte, R., & Gaffney, K. 2013. *Critical Linkages: Bay Area & Beyond*. Produced by Science & Collaboration for Connected Wildlands, Fair Oaks, California in collaboration with the Bay Area Open Space Council's Conservation Lands Network.

[http://www.scwildlands.org/reports/CriticalLinkages\\_BayAreaAndBeyond.pdf](http://www.scwildlands.org/reports/CriticalLinkages_BayAreaAndBeyond.pdf)

- Coyote Valley links 1.13 million acres of core habitat in surrounding mountain ranges.

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. 2018. *Coyote Valley Landscape Linkage*. Retrieved from Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority and Conservation Biology Institute. 2017. *Coyote Valley Landscape Linkage: A Vision for a Resilient, Multi-benefit Landscape*. Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, San José, CA. 74p.

<https://www.openspaceauthority.org/conservation/conservation-priorities/coyote-valley/coyote-valley-landscape-linkage.html>

- Restoration of hundreds of acres of wetlands would offer climate and ecological resilience.

## Recreation and Public Health

Emerald Necklace Conservancy. 2018. Park Overview. Retrieved from

<https://www.emeraldnecklace.org/park-overview/> (November 15, 2018).

- Emerald Necklace Case Study.

The Trust for Public Land. 2016. *The Economic Benefits of the Park & Recreation System in San José, California*. 32 p.

[https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/files\\_upload/updated-san-jose-econ-rept.pdf](https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/files_upload/updated-san-jose-econ-rept.pdf)

- Local parks and trails annually attract more than \$125M in tourism spending.
- By facilitating outdoor exercise, local trails and open space save \$25M+ in medical costs per year.





[www.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalley](http://www.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalley)



**The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority** conserves the natural environment, supports agriculture, and connects people to nature, by protecting open spaces, natural areas, and working farms and ranches for future generations. The Authority has protected over 25,000 acres of open space, natural areas, watersheds, and wildlife habitat.

**33 Las Colinas Lane, San Jose, CA 95119 | 408. [REDACTED] | [www.openspaceauthority.org](http://www.openspaceauthority.org)**



Photo credits: Liv Ames, Ron Erskine, Beth Hamel, Stephen Joseph, cc William Warby, Authority staff



January 22, 2019

Dear San Jose City Council Study Session:

It was less than one year ago when I joined leaders of Latino Outdoors for an overnight backpacking trip into the Diablo Range as they learned the skills needed to lead their own trips into the outdoors for members of their communities. That trip also took me into the Coyote Valley, and a hike in the hills adjacent, that illustrated the importance of this valley in connecting the landscapes and ecosystems of the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range. From that vantage point, it was clear that this valley not only provided breathing space and quality of life to residents of the region, but an important wildlife corridor for species that migrate through the area.

As U.S. Secretary of the Interior, I came to appreciate the efforts of governments at every level to understand the lands under their stewardship, shaping communities that thrived in harmony with the natural world. I also came to recognize the multiple facets of democracy and civil society needed to create a future that is both economically successful and environmentally sustainable. Once developed, natural lands and ecosystems are disrupted forever. I witnessed, first-hand, communities create a return on investment in public lands through improved property values, quality of life, and the resultant attraction of businesses and stable jobs to their region. In my prior role leading outdoor retailer REI, local investments in natural spaces attracted businesses and promoted civic engagement in land stewardship.

As you study the future of your region and sharpen the vision you would like to make a reality, I encourage you to shape your policies and investments to preserve irreplaceable natural spaces, not only for today, but for the health and wellbeing of the people and critters for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell  
U.S. Secretary of the Interior  
2013-17

**From:** Barbara Lo < >

**Sent:** Thursday, January 10, 2019 8:17 AM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

I urge you to support allocating the full \$50 million that voters approved in Measure T for the protection and restoration of Coyote Valley.

Coyote Valley — the wetlands, open space, and farmland just south of urban San Jose — has been threatened by industrial sprawl for too long. 5,000 people have signed the petition calling for the protection of Coyote Valley. The funds available thanks to Measure T give us the opportunity to permanently protect this vital landscape.

There is widespread community support for preserving this irreplaceable resource. For flood protection, the economy, wildlife, climate action, agriculture, and nature lovers - the highest and best use of North Coyote Valley is conservation and restoration.

Warehouses and industrial sprawl are incompatible with and would sacrifice the existing value Coyote Valley provides to San Jose residents. What's worse, they would not even guarantee an economic benefit to the City.

For all these reasons, I urge you to advocate for a full \$50 million allocation of Measure T funding for the protection and restoration of Coyote Valley. When matched by the additional \$80 million that the Peninsula Open Space Trust has available, this will provide a huge total impact that will benefit the city of San Jose, Santa Clara County, and the entire Bay Area.

Regards,  
Barbara Lo



**From:** Jessica Jasper < >  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 10, 2019 6:05 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

I urge you to support allocating the full \$50 million that voters approved in Measure T for the protection and restoration of Coyote Valley.

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Regards,  
Jessica Jasper

**From:** Christine Nagel < >

**Sent:** Thursday, January 10, 2019 1:03 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

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Regards,  
Christine Nagel



**From:** Liliana Paz < >

**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2019 9:53 AM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

I urge you to support allocating the full \$50 million that voters approved in Measure T for the protection and restoration of Coyote Valley.

Coyote Valley — the wetlands, open space, and farmland just south of urban San Jose — has been threatened by industrial sprawl for too long. 5,000 people have signed the petition calling for the protection of Coyote Valley. The funds available thanks to Measure T give us the opportunity to permanently protect this vital landscape.

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Regards,  
Liliana Paz

**From:** Arvind Kumar < >

**Sent:** Sunday, January 13, 2019 10:58 PM

**To:** City Clerk; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District7; District8; District9; District 10

**Subject:** Re: 1/22/19 City Council Coyote Valley Study Session: Protect Coyote Valley!

To



Subject

Re: 1/22/19 City Council Coyote Valley Study Session: Protect Coyote Valley!

Content

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Council Members,

I am one of the many who supported Measure T expecting that \$50 million will be made available to purchase property in Coyote Valley to protect our water quality and to reduce the risk of flooding in San Jose.

I encourage you to support a robust conservation program for Coyote Valley. Coyote Valley provides vital ecosystem services -- natural flood control and a buffer against the severe weather events exacerbated by climate change, clean air and water, local agriculture, recreation, and wildlife habitat and corridors between mountain ranges -- that we'll lose if the valley is developed.

Please protect Coyote Valley so it can protect us. This was the idea behind Measure T.

Sincerely,

Arvind Kumar



**From:** Dave Poeschel < >

**Sent:** Sunday, January 13, 2019 5:12 PM

**To:** City Clerk; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10

**Subject:** Re: 1/22/19 City Council Coyote Valley Study Session: Protect Coyote Valley!

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Council Members,

I am one of the many who supported Measure T expecting that \$50 million will be made available to purchase property in Coyote Valley to protect our water quality and to reduce the risk of flooding in San Jose.

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Please protect Coyote Valley so it can protect us. This was the idea behind Measure T.

Sincerely,

David W. Poeschel

**From:** Katja Irvin <  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 12, 2019 5:04 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

I urge you to support allocating the full \$50 million that voters approved in Measure T for the protection and restoration of Coyote Valley.

Coyote Valley — the wetlands, open space, and farmland just south of urban San Jose — has been threatened by industrial sprawl for too long. 5,000 people have signed the petition calling for the protection of Coyote Valley. The funds available thanks to Measure T give us the opportunity to permanently protect this vital landscape.

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Regards,  
Katja Irvin

**From:** Monica Schwenke < >  
**Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 8:33 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

I urge you to support allocating the full \$50 million that voters approved in Measure T for the protection and restoration of Coyote Valley.

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Regards,  
Monica Schwenke



**From:** Mary Zlotoff < >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 6:54 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

I urge you to support allocating the full \$50 million that voters approved in Measure T for the protection and restoration of Coyote Valley.

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Regards,  
Mary Zlotoff

**From:** Rebecca Gallinger < >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 6:27 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

I urge you to support allocating the full \$50 million that voters approved in Measure T for the protection and restoration of Coyote Valley.

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Regards,  
Rebecca Gallinger

**From:** Rose Navarra < >

**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2019 9:27 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

I urge you to support allocating the full \$50 million that voters approved in Measure T for the protection and restoration of Coyote Valley.

Coyote Valley — the wetlands, open space, and farmland just south of urban San Jose — has been threatened by industrial sprawl for too long. 5,000 people have signed the petition calling for the protection of Coyote Valley. The funds available thanks to Measure T give us the opportunity to permanently protect this vital landscape.

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Regards,  
Rose Navarra



**From:** Jeremy Barousse <

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 10:42 AM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley By Investing for Land Conservation

Dear M ayor and Ci ty Cou ncilmembers,

I urge you to allocate the full \$50 million from Measure T for land conservation in Coyote Valley. This incredible landscape can protect San Jose residents from flooding as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat and farmland, and increase our region's climate resilience. It's time to protect Coyote Valley! Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Barousse  
San Jose Resident

**From:** Swanee Edwards < >

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 3:18 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Cc:** 'Sergio Jimenez'; Jimenez, Sergio

**Subject:** Coyote Valley: Now's the time. This is the moment we've been working toward. Now is a critical time to act to show how much we care!

**Dear Mayor and City Council- members,**

**I urge you to allocate the full \$50 million from Measure T for land conservation in Coyote Valley. This incredible landscape can protect San Jose residents from flooding as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat and farmland, and increase our region's climate resilience. It's time to protect Coyote Valley! Thank you for your support.**

Ever Onward,

Swanee Edwards  
Morgan Hill

**From:** Rebecca Tanous < >

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 12:58 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

I urge you to support allocating the full \$50 million that voters approved in Measure T for the protection and restoration of Coyote Valley.

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There is widespread community support for preserving this irreplaceable resource. For flood protection, the economy, wildlife, climate action, agriculture, and nature lovers - the highest and best use of North Coyote Valley is conservation and restoration.

Warehouses and industrial sprawl are incompatible with and would sacrifice the existing value Coyote Valley provides to San Jose residents. What's worse, they would not even guarantee an economic benefit to the City.

For all these reasons, I urge you to advocate for a full \$50 million allocation of Measure T funding for the protection and restoration of Coyote Valley. When matched by the additional \$80 million that the Peninsula Open Space Trust has available, this will provide a huge total impact that will benefit the city of San Jose, Santa Clara County, and the entire Bay Area.

Regards,  
Rebecca Tanous



**From:** Lee Pauser < >

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 12:27 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley!

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

I urge you to allocate the full \$50 million from Measure T for land conservation in Coyote Valley. This incredible landscape can protect San Jose residents from flooding as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat and farmland, and increase our region's climate resilience. It's time to protect Coyote Valley!

Thank you for your support.

Lee Pauser

District 10

San Jose, CA

**From:** Kathryn Poeschel < >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 12:27 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor and City Council-members,

**I strongly urge you to allocate the full \$50 million from Measure T for land conservation in Coyote Valley. This incredible landscape can protect San José residents from flooding as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat and farmland, and increase our region's climate resilience. With the passage of Measure T, the city of San José has an opportunity to ensure that critical areas of Coyote Valley are permanently protected as open space and natural flood control.**

Thank you for your support,  
Kathryn Poeschel, 95120

**From:** Sue Dileanis < >

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 10:31 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Please protect Coyote Valley

**Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers:**

**I'm writing to you about a matter of great importance to me. I voted for measure T to conserve Coyote Valley. I'm asking that the full \$50 million from Measure T be used for land conservation in Coyote Valley. This incredible landscape can protect San Jose residents from flooding as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat and farmland, and increase our region's climate resilience.**

**Protecting Coyote Valley is a win-win for people and wildlife!**

**Sincerely,**

**Sue Dileanis**



**From:** james rogers <>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 8:29 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Honorable Council Members,

Please allocate the full \$50 million from Measure T for land conservation in Coyote Valley. This beautiful landscape can protect San Jose residents from flooding as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat and farmland, and increase our region's climate resilience. I hike at Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve (Open Space Authority) accessed by Palm Ave. off Santa Teresa/Hale. It is a terrific hike and will give you a great view of what we are trying to preserve. Not only that, but compact development within your existing footprint will be most economical for you to provide urban service to. It's time to protect Coyote Valley! Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Connie Rogers, former Gilroy Council Member

**From:** Patrick Ferraro <>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 6:11 PM  
**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; City Clerk  
**Subject:** Preserving Coyote Valley and Protecting San Jose's Water Quality

Request that the City Clerk transmit the following and attached letter to the San Jose Council and Mayor's Office as public testimony for Council Agenda on January 22, 2019

***Patrick T. Ferraro***

January 15, 2019

Mayor Sam Liccardo and San Jose City Council  
200 E. Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

**Via email to:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**Subject: Preserving Coyote Valley and Protecting San Jose's Water Quality**

Honorable Mayor Liccardo and San Jose City Council Members:

Thank you for considering public testimony regarding the many reasons for preserving the Coyote Valley as permanent open space, including flood protection, groundwater quality protection and wildlife corridor protection.

As I do regularly, as a lecturer in water policy and water management at both San Jose State University and Santa Clara University, I offer you my long-time experience as a former elected director of the Santa Clara Valley Water District and former executive director of the Silicon Valley Pollution Prevention Center.

The Coyote Valley's 7000+ acres of flatlands have far more value to the City of San Jose as permanent open space than any value further urban development may seem to offer.

Because of its geologic formation and location, the Coyote Valley functions as the hub of the County's water system, connecting the surface runoff of over 200 square miles of watershed to our greatest natural capital: the valley's groundwater basins. This groundwater is currently the drinking water source for nearly 2 million residents and employees throughout greater San Jose/Silicon Valley.

The gravel and sand deposits that form the upstream watershed of Coyote Creek in Coyote Valley allows for rainfall and runoff in the Coyote Watershed to sustainably recharge the groundwater basin to the north. This allows water companies and private well owners to safely pump up to 100 - 200 million gallons of drinking water per day, depending on the availability of various sources in our water portfolio.

The natural capital of the groundwater basin allowed for the initial agricultural economy of the County to flourish until the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It continued to provide a clean, reliable and low-cost local water supply as the Santa Clara Valley morphed into the State's economic engine in the form of Silicon Valley.

The high porosity and permeability of the Coyote Valley allows both local and Central Valley Project imported water to be easily recharged, filtered, stored and transported downgradient through the alluvial deposits. **This valuable natural capital also makes the quality of the water extremely vulnerable to anthropogenic sources of pollution.** Roadways and other hardscape generate urban runoff. Human activities potentially degrade our groundwater quality, resulting in either the need for expensive well-head treatment or abandonment of the groundwater as a drinking water source for millions of valley residents and employees. Conventional low impact development practices for stormwater management are unable to adequately mitigate the potential degradation of the high-quality water currently enjoyed by our local communities.

We need to preserve the Coyote Valley as permanent open space to protect our precious groundwater quality. This local water supply will sustain future generations. It will also provide the benefit of flood protection for many parts of San Jose that are in danger, due to land subsidence, which occurred during past periods of sustained overdraft of the groundwater basin.

The groundwater basin now acts as our reserve for times of drought. We must continue our vigilance to protect this local water resource. We must balance demand with recharge and assure that the quality of this supply is protected from pollution from all sources, especially those connected to urbanization.

Thank you for considering this and other testimony regarding the preservation of Coyote Valley as permanent open space.

Best regards,



Patrick T. Ferraro

Former elected director, Santa Clara Valley Water District

Lecturer on water policy and management, SJSU and Santa Clara University

**From:** Kris Katari < >

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 5:24 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Please protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

I urge you to allocate the full \$50 million from Measure T for land conservation in Coyote Valley.

The Coyote Valley serves as a critical wildlife corridor; without it, we will gradually lose the diversity of wildlife that we still enjoy in our mountains. This incredible landscape can protect San Jose residents from flooding as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat and farmland, and increase our region's climate resilience.

It's time to protect Coyote Valley! Thank you for your support.

Kat  
95124

**From:** Molly Cox < >

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 2:34 PM

**To:** City Clerk; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10

**Subject:** Re: 1/22/19 City Council Coyote Valley Study Session: Protect Coyote Valley!

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Council Members,

Although I am not a San Jose resident, I am one of the many who supported Measure T expecting that \$50 million will be made available to purchase property in Coyote Valley to protect our water quality and to reduce the risk of flooding in San Jose.

I encourage you to support a robust conservation program for Coyote Valley. Coyote Valley provides vital ecosystem services -- natural flood control and a buffer against the severe weather events exacerbated by climate change, clean air and water, local agriculture, recreation, and wildlife habitat and corridors between mountain ranges -- that we'll lose if the valley is developed.

Even though Measure T is only being funded by San Jose, Coyote Valley is vital to the livability of the entire Bay Area.

Please protect Coyote Valley so it can protect us. This was the idea behind Measure T.

Sincerely,  
Molly Cox

**From:** John Cordes < >

**Sent:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 8:38 AM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

**Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,**

**I urge you to allocate the full \$50 million from Measure T for land conservation in Coyote Valley. This incredible landscape can protect San Jose residents from flooding as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat and farmland, and increase our region's climate resilience. It's time to protect Coyote Valley! Thank you for your support.**

*Sincerely,*

John Cordes





*fiscally sponsored by  
Community Initiatives*

January 15, 2019

San José City Council  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San José, CA 95113

Re: Support for the protection and restoration of Coyote Valley

Honorable Councilmembers,

Protecting and restoring Coyote Valley means we can look forward to a host of benefits for local communities and ecosystems, including bolstering bio-connectivity, flood control and mitigation, and groundwater recharge. Latino Outdoors is grateful to fellow advocates, such as the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, who are already on record in describing and detailing these and other important environmental services associated with the protection of Coyote Valley.

As an organization dedicated to connecting people to nature, we would add that Coyote Valley offers accessible, open space that is important for the health and wellbeing of surrounding communities, including south San Jose, Morgan Hill, and others. Community members can participate in wellness walks, hikes, and other outdoor activities there. These are activities that are relatively simple to engage in. This is important because there are often socio-economic and cultural barriers keeping under-resourced and/or under-represented communities from participating in healthy outdoor recreation. Sometimes it is the high price tag associated with “big ticket” activities such as backpacking, cycling, or even camping. Other times it is not having access to transportation to a trailhead, regional park, or preserve. And still others, a lack of awareness and information impedes people’s ability to enjoy nature and the outdoors. More often than not, it is a combination of factors.

At Latino Outdoors, we work with many families and individuals who are starting to engage in outdoor recreation and enjoy its associated health benefits. Approximately 75% of the outdoor programming we provide are day hikes, and these regularly include the participation of people who are receiving their introduction to nature. We want to make sure that all communities, regardless of socioeconomic level, have access to open spaces that provide them with entry level outdoor recreation opportunities that inspire healthier lifestyles. We hope that you will join us in that effort by supporting the protection and restoration of Coyote Valley.

Sincerely,

Luis Villa  
Executive Director

January 22, 2019

Dear San Jose City Council Study Session:

It was less than one year ago when I joined leaders of Latino Outdoors for an overnight backpacking trip into the Diablo Range as they learned the skills needed to lead their own trips into the outdoors for members of their communities. That trip also took me into the Coyote Valley, and a hike in the hills adjacent, that illustrated the importance of this valley in connecting the landscapes and ecosystems of the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range. From that vantage point, it was clear that this valley not only provided breathing space and quality of life to residents of the region, but an important wildlife corridor for species that migrate through the area.

As U.S. Secretary of the Interior, I came to appreciate the efforts of governments at every level to understand the lands under their stewardship, shaping communities that thrived in harmony with the natural world. I also came to recognize the multiple facets of democracy and civil society needed to create a future that is both economically successful and environmentally sustainable. Once developed, natural lands and ecosystems are disrupted forever. I witnessed, first-hand, communities create a return on investment in public lands through improved property values, quality of life, and the resultant attraction of businesses and stable jobs to their region. In my prior role leading outdoor retailer REI, local investments in natural spaces attracted businesses and promoted civic engagement in land stewardship.

As you study the future of your region and sharpen the vision you would like to make a reality, I encourage you to shape your policies and investments to preserve irreplaceable natural spaces, not only for today, but for the health and wellbeing of the people and critters for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell  
U.S. Secretary of the Interior  
2013-17

From: swedeital  
Date:01/17/2019 4:03 PM (GMT-08:00)  
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo  
Cc: Johnny Khamis  
Subject: Save coyote wetlands

Hello

I live at Lakeview Terraces ,owner and I'm head of the neighborhood watch program for our area

I would appreciate any support you have for no building or anything on Coyote Creek Wetlands we need to keep our landscapes undeveloped for all of our Wildlife for us and our generations to come

thank you so much for your support

Pamela

Lakeview terraces

San Jose