



# SIERRA CLUB

## LOMA PRIETA

SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

Jan. 18, 2019

San Jose City Council and Mayor  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San Jose, CA 95113  
Via Email: [cityclerk@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@sanjoseca.gov)

Re: January 22, 2019 Coyote Valley Study Session

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Council Members,

Protecting the natural resources of Coyote Valley is among the **highest priorities** for the 40,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter. 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!**

We urge you to make the **full \$50 million** investment from Measure T available for the acquisition of open space **in Coyote Valley** to prevent flooding and water quality contamination.

Further, we encourage you to envision what the area could be with support for a **robust conservation program** which protects the vital ecosystem services that we'll lose if the valley is developed.

### **Natural flood control and a buffer against the severe weather events exacerbated by climate change:**

Providing for lands permanently protected from development permits many aspects of flood protection to the existing built areas of San Jose. It is clear that retention ponds and wetlands could function to reduce high water flows into the Coyote Creek. Minimizing hardscape in the valley slows runoff and increases percolation. And when flood water is excessive, financial losses can be minimized by lowering water levels by choosing to flood open space and more resilient infrastructure in Coyote Valley. It is better to be prepared to flood the Coyote Valley flood plain than allowing us to be at risk of flood waters destroying urban assets and disrupting and endangering lives.

These and other opportunities to minimize flood damage costs should be exploited and further explored. Not including the enormous financial investment in Anderson Dam, the SCVWD has already spent over \$320 million<sup>1</sup> on flood control projects in the Coyote Watershed. \$50 million is a small price to pay and is efficient use of funds for the opportunity to leverage nature's capital.

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<sup>1</sup> SCVWD Five Year Capital Improvement Program, Chapter 4, Flood Protection Capital Improvements, <https://www.valleywater.org/sites/default/files/2018-03/Chapter%203%20-%20Flood%20Protection.pdf>  
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## **Clean air and water:**

Providing for lands permanently protected from development permits trees and plants to filter pollutants and convert carbon dioxide into oxygen. This may seem obvious but we often take it for granted. Having local open space improves air quality. More sprawling development would only increase air pollution.

Coyote Valley is also a large part of the Coyote Watershed. And it is part of the "unconfined groundwater subbasin" (underground drinking water which is vulnerable to pollution due to a high water table and other geologic features). It is essentially a forebay to the Santa Clara Valley and can supply hundreds of millions of gallons of drinking water per day. It is a critical piece of infrastructure which needs to be protected. In addition to flood control, restoration of wetlands, bioswales, and riparian enhancements could provide enhanced pollution filtration and percolation, recharging the aquifer with clean water supplies. Enhanced ground water capture and storage capacity will be increasingly valuable as climate change increases the likelihood of severe drought and flood events.

## **Climate Smart leadership and local agriculture:**

As the City of San Jose moves forward with Climate Smart plans, it will need to recognize the roll that natural and working lands (NWL) play in reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) production. NWLs produce fewer GHGs than urban and suburban lands. Densifying existing built areas reduces GHG per capita (and city services costs). Moreover, Coyote Valley presents an opportunity to sequester carbon with restoration of existing and expanded riparian habitats with trees and other plants. As potential partners in property ownership, organizations like the Peninsula Open Space Trust and the Santa Clara Valley Open Space authority also provide enhanced opportunities to obtain grants and promote sequestration programs. Coyote Valley could become a national leader in the study and implementation of the carbon farming agricultural practices that can sequester carbon such as cropland composting, constructing shelterbelts and hedgerows, proscribed grazing, riparian restoration, no till and minimal till practices, use of silvopasture, and nutrient management. Further, research is ongoing to improve crop plants' ability to sequester carbon in their root systems.<sup>2</sup>

Efforts to protect local agriculture are being made with the recently adopted Santa Clara County Agriculture Plan. And there is desire to establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee to provide an ongoing study of ways to enhance the viability of local agriculture and agritourism. There remain many opportunities to leverage the nearby market of millions of people in Silicon Valley and the need to supply schools and hospitals in particular provides an opportunity to provide healthy lifestyle improvements.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-climate-change-plants-20171117-htlstory.html>  
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**Recreation:**

Coyote Valley and the region already provide opportunities for much needed recreation to the hard working families of San Jose. The riding, biking, hiking, birding, golfing, and other recreational activities are already popular at the Coyote Creek Trail, Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve, Coyote Ridge wildflower and butterfly habitat, rural roads, Coyote Creek Golf Club, Spino Farm pumpkin patch in and about Coyote Valley. With conservation of more land and with enhanced wildlife habitat, the recreational opportunities will reinforce each other, creating an opening for a regional recreational destination of renown and enhanced opportunity for recreation related industry.

**Wildlife habitat and corridors between mountain ranges:**

The Coyote Valley provides critical linkages between more than a million acres of Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range wildlife habitat. Maintaining healthy genetic diversity within many species requires the connectivity that the valley floor provides between these habitats. Protection of a significant portion of the land will be required and "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."<sup>3</sup>

Restoration of the valley floor with the Laguna Seca wetland, riparian corridors, encouraging a variety of agricultural from alfalfa to orchards, will add to the most needed wildlife habitats and help a vast diversity of species in addition to improving the connectivity between the larger mountain habitats.

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<sup>3</sup> Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority | Coyote Valley: A Case for Conservation | December 2018  
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## Beauty:

Bounded by the oak studded Santa Cruz Mountains to the west and one of the most spectacular wildflower and butterfly displays on the planet in the spring to the east, the valley is framed by natural beauty. The verdant fields and ribbon of green riparian streams appeal to our subconscious for a reason. Our perception of beauty evolved to help us be attracted to and obtain our needs<sup>4</sup> and Coyote Valley is absolutely beautiful.

Having access to natural beauty is important. Many studies show the benefits to physical and mental health with access to nature.<sup>5</sup>



Sierra Club hike, April 8, 2018. Photo by Ronald Horii.

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<sup>4</sup> In Evolution, a Taste for Beauty Has a Purpose, <https://www.npr.org/2004/10/04/4057069/in-evolution-a-taste-for-beauty-has-a-purpose>

<sup>5</sup> URBAN NATURE FOR HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING A research summary for communicating the health benefits of urban trees and green space, [https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/fs\\_media/fs\\_document/urbannatureforhumanhealthandwellbeing\\_508\\_01\\_30\\_18.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/urbannatureforhumanhealthandwellbeing_508_01_30_18.pdf)



Please protect Coyote Valley so it can protect us. This was the idea behind the water protection elements of Measure T. We urge you to make the full \$50 million available from the measure for the acquisition of open space in Coyote Valley to prevent flooding and water quality contamination. We 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 help Coyote Valley become the jewel of world renown it can be.

Sincerely,

David W. Poeschel, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Open Space Committee Chair

CC: Katja Irvin, Gladwyn d'Sousa, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Conservation Committee Co-chairs



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

- 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,

Andrea Mackenzie  
General Manager

# Coyote Valley: A Case for Conservation

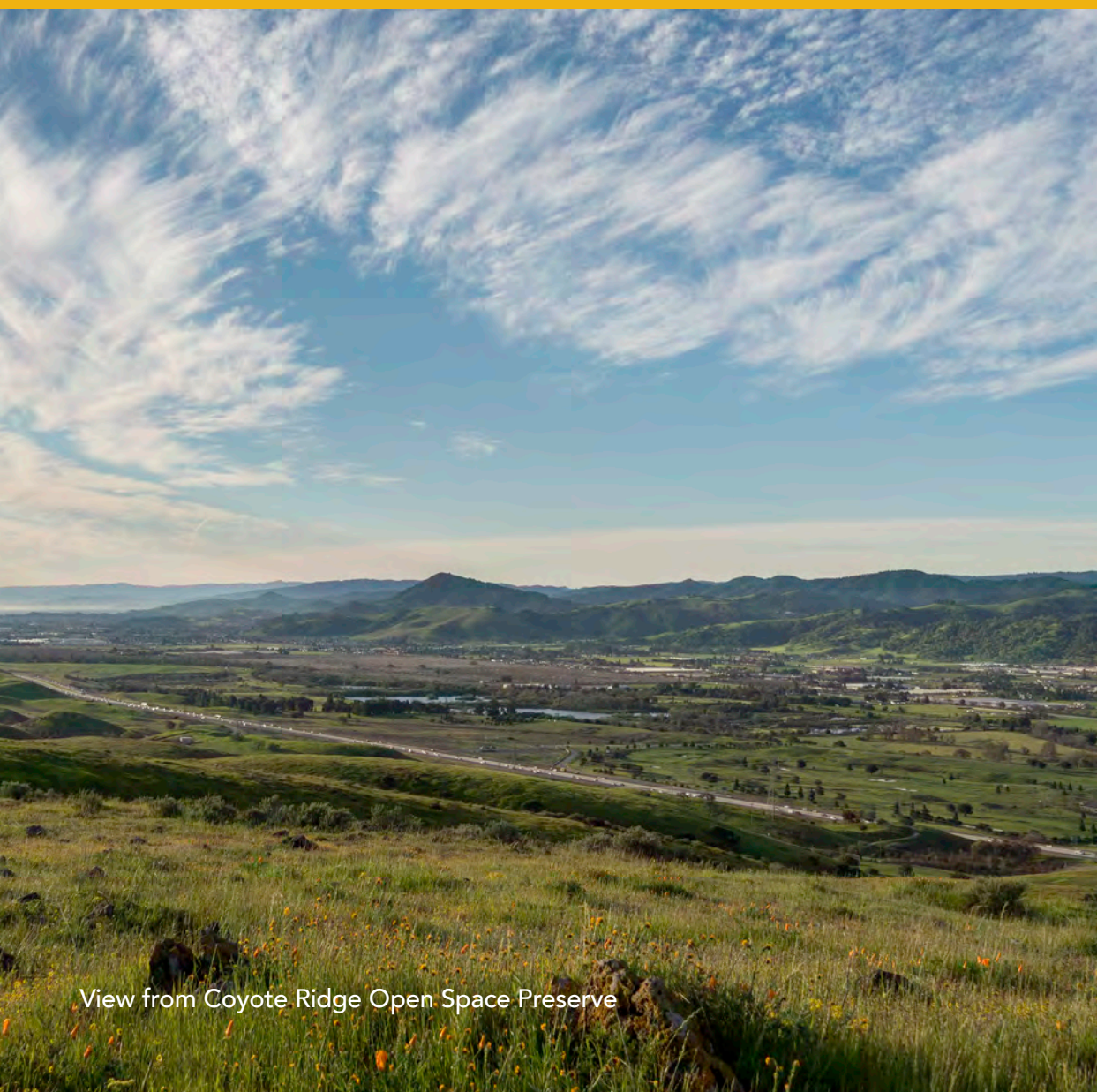




“Coyote Valley represents a rare opportunity to preserve an intact floodplain upstream of a major urban area.

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

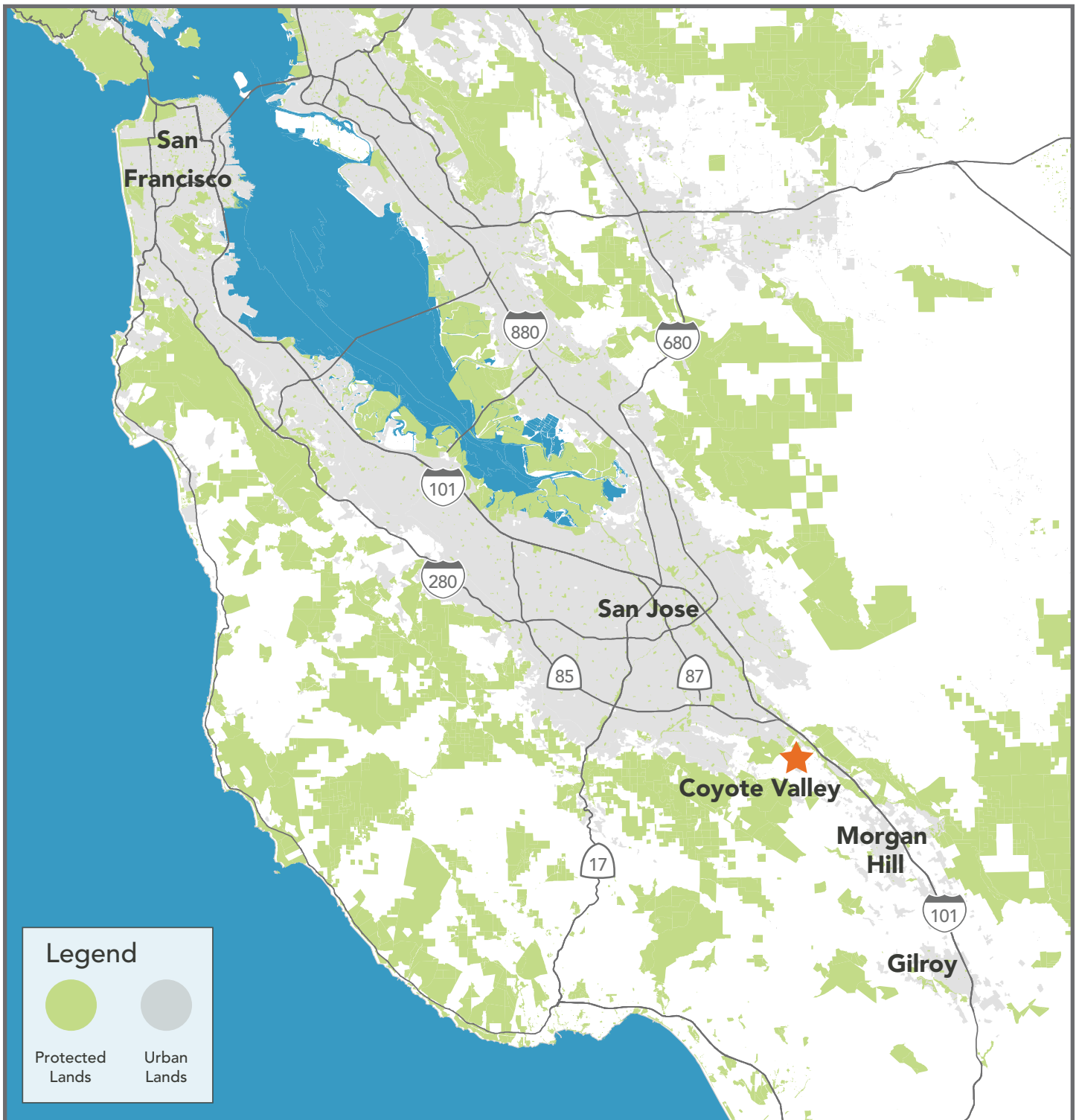


Photo credit: Stephen Joseph



# 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.

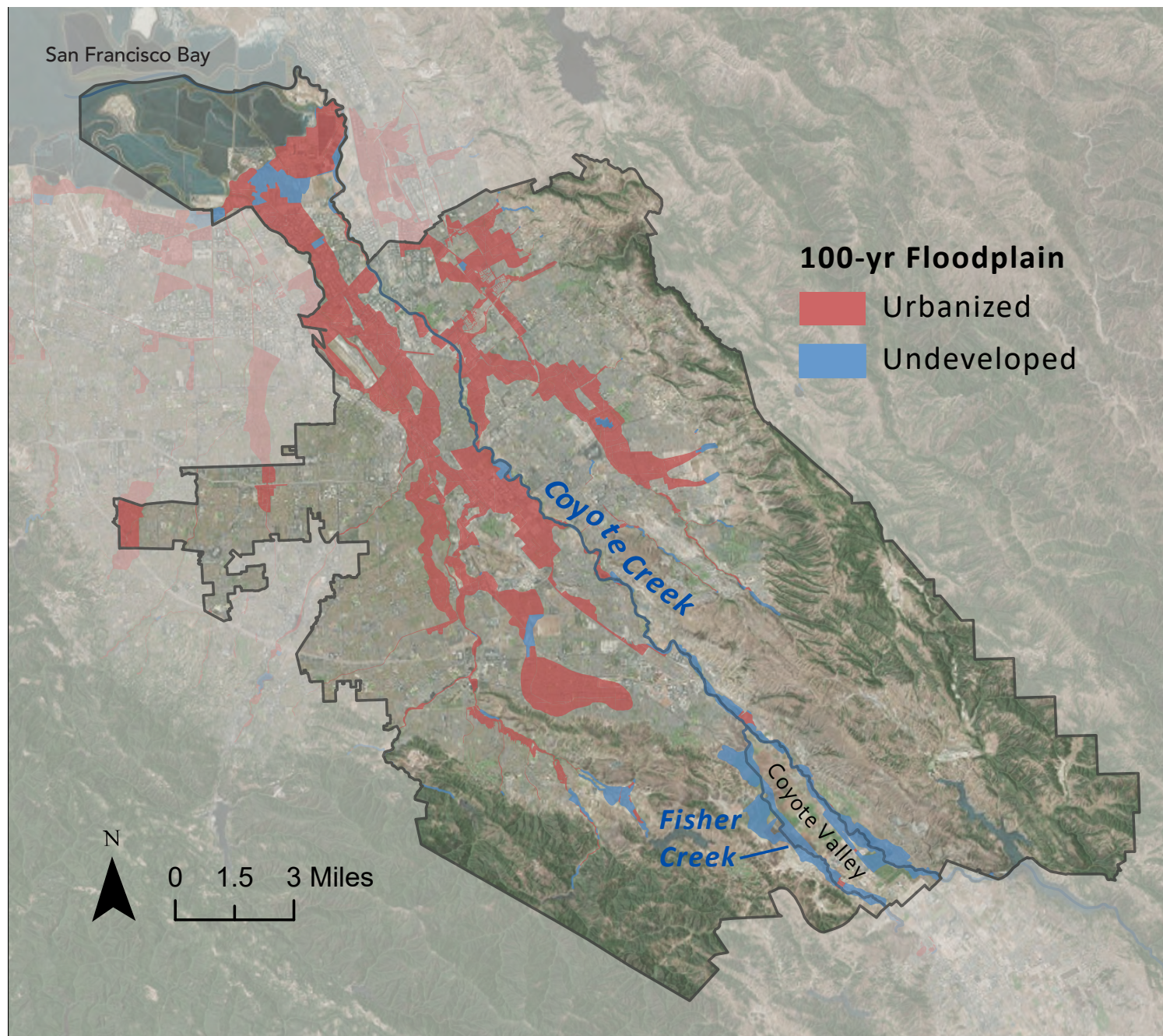
While the Coyote Creek flood taught us valuable lessons in resilience and disaster recovery, it also highlighted the role of nature based solutions – so-called 'green infrastructure' such as floodable plains and open spaces – to facilitate rainwater and stormwater re-entering the water cycle."

– *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**

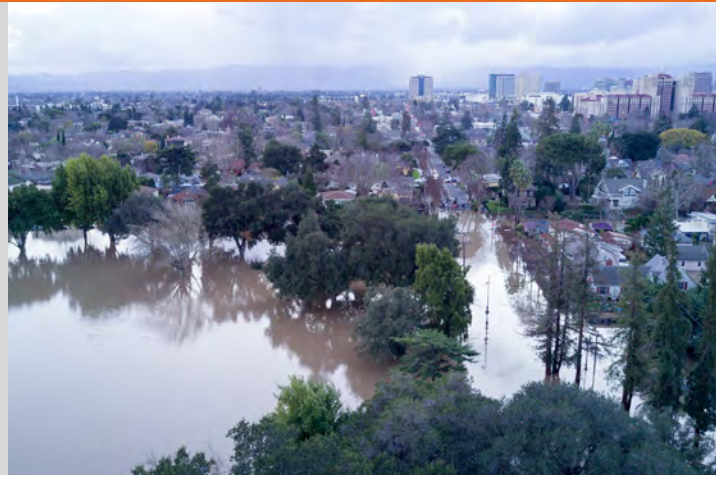


## WHAT'S AT STAKE?

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.

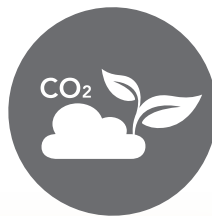
Protection of significant portions of the valley floor is required to ensure the **resilience and integrity of the 1.13+ million acres of core habitat** in the surrounding Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range.

## 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

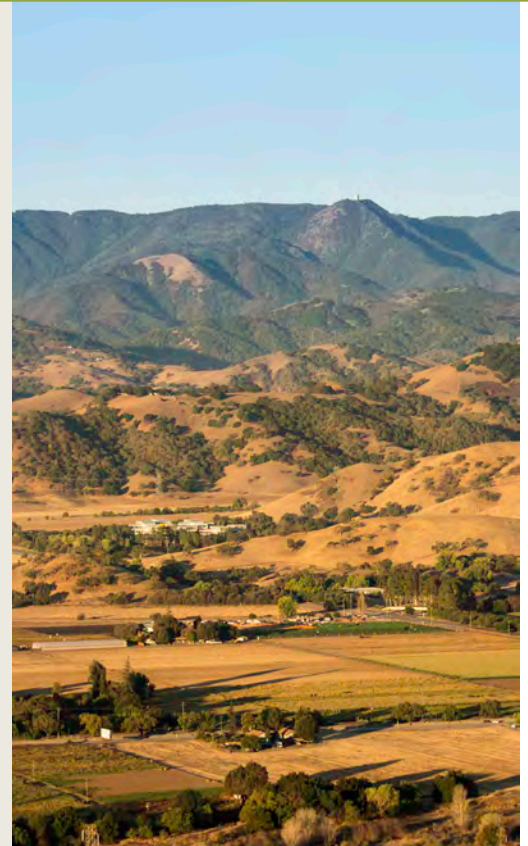


## WHAT'S AT STAKE?

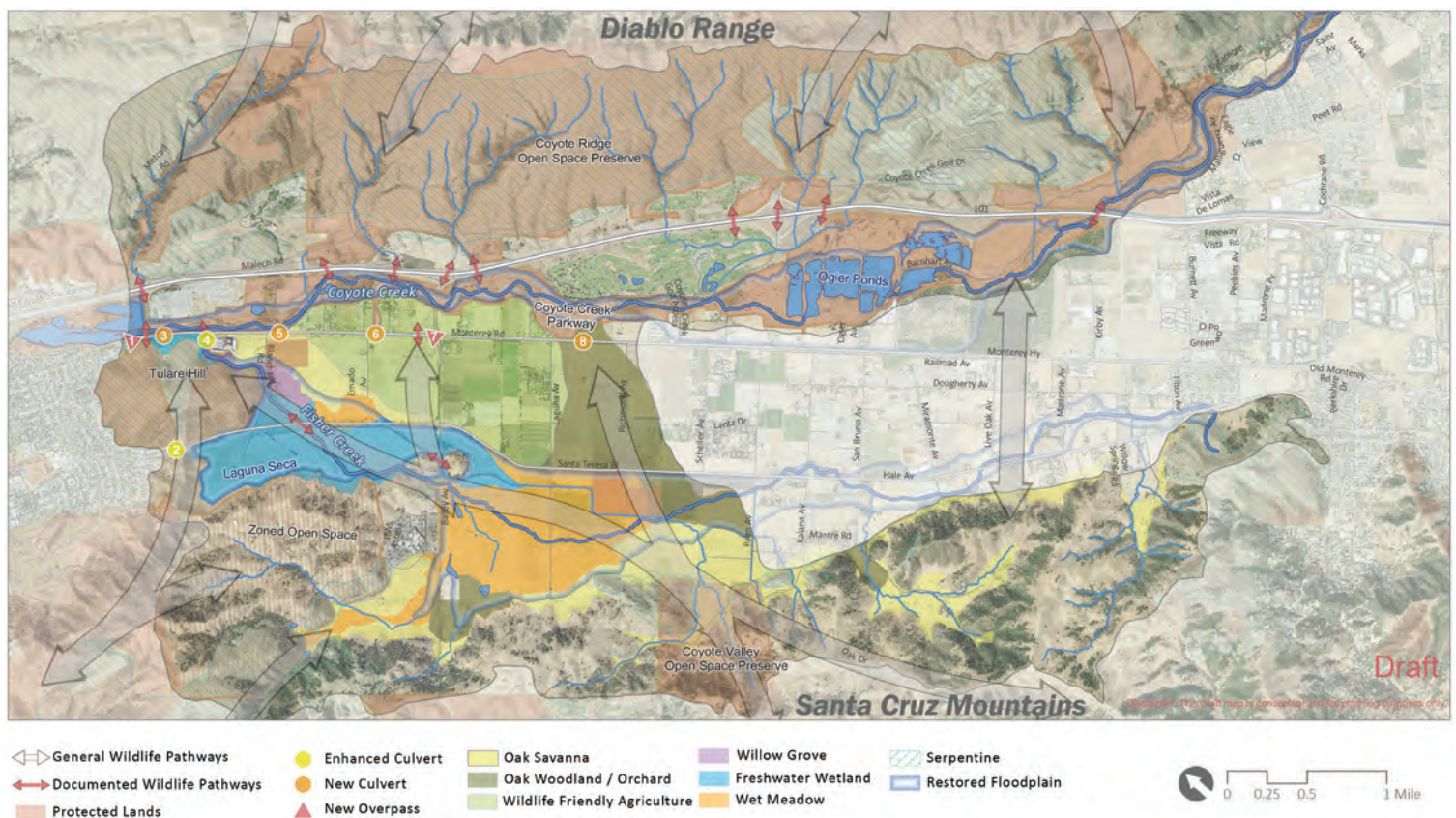
Many state and regional agencies recognize the importance of **connecting habitats via linkages**. Wide-ranging species such as mountain lion, American badger, coyote, and bobcat need large areas of connected habitat or could become locally extinct.

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.

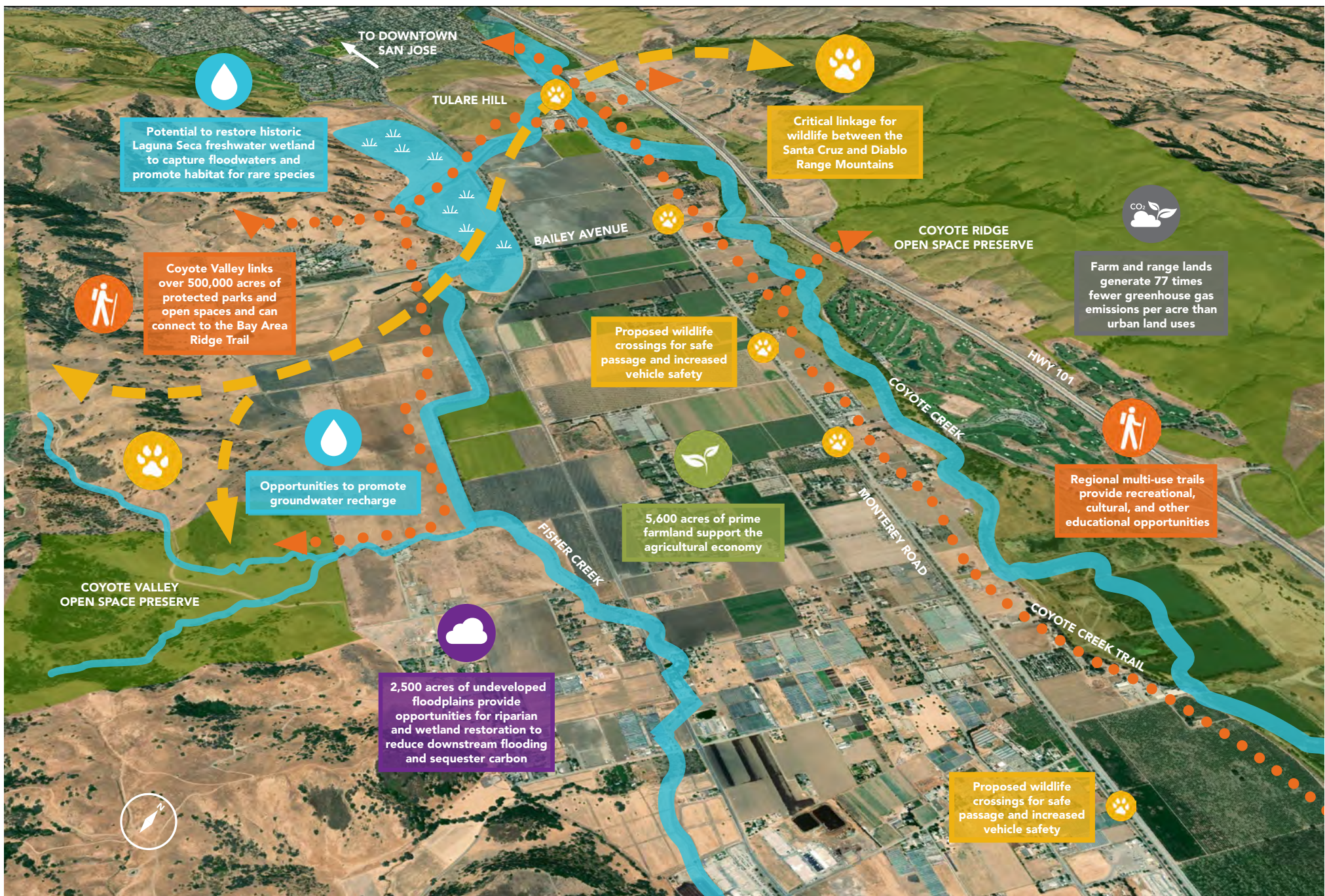
Created through public-private partnerships, the 1,200-acre network offers recreational opportunities in the heart of the city. The Emerald Necklace connects residents to nature and attracts more than a million visitors each year.

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 (CNDDDB).

Retrieved from <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB> (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 | 408.224.7476 | [www.openspaceauthority.org](http://www.openspaceauthority.org)**



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



**From:** Michael Kutilek < >

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019 4:52 PM

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

**Subject:** Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Council Members,

I attended the City Council meeting on Tuesday afternoon Jan. 22 and listened intently to the discussion regarding the future of Coyote Valley. I was particularly impressed with the arguments presented by the environmental group and feel strongly that full protection measures are in the best long-term interests of our city and all of its residents.

Like most voters, I supported Measure T expecting that the \$50 million would be used for protection and conservation. Now I urge you to support a robust conservation program for Coyote Valley because it provides natural flood control and a buffer against severe weather events exacerbated by climate change. It also provides clean air and water, local agriculture, recreation and the last remaining wildlife corridor between the Diablo and Santa Cruz Ranges.

These are all benefits that we'll lose if the valley is developed. Please adhere to the idea behind Measure T and protect Coyote Valley so it can protect us.

Sincerely,

Michael Kutilek, Ph.D

Emeritus Professor of Biology, SJSU

---

**From:** Susan Kelso]

**Sent:** Friday, February 01, 2019 10:09 AM

**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov)>; District1 <[district1@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district1@sanjoseca.gov)>; District2 <[District2@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District2@sanjoseca.gov)>; District3 <[district3@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district3@sanjoseca.gov)>; District4 <[District4@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District4@sanjoseca.gov)>; District5 <[District5@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District5@sanjoseca.gov)>; District 6 <[district6@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district6@sanjoseca.gov)>; District7 <[District7@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District7@sanjoseca.gov)>; District8 <[district8@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district8@sanjoseca.gov)>; District9 <[district9@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district9@sanjoseca.gov)>; District 10 <[District10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District10@sanjoseca.gov)>; City Clerk <[city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov)>

**Subject:** Measure T land conservation funds

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing about the \$50 million in funding from measure T that has been proposed to be allocated to environmental protection projects. I urge you to allocate the full \$50 million for open space and environmental protection, with a priority for land acquisition.

If what I have read is accurate -- that major landowners in Coyote Valley are poised to negotiate land sales to conservation organizations, or are already in active negotiations -- this is literally a one-time opportunity to generate a win-win situation for the region. Land acquisition should be the highest priority in order to leverage this one-time opportunity.

Benefits include

- invaluable open space, wildlife habitat, and wildlife migration and regional trail connections
- protection of local (San Jose) residents from flooding
- increased resilience for the broader region with respect to climate change

I was a San Jose resident for nearly 20 years before moving slightly up the peninsula within Santa Clara County. The conservation measures proposed have benefits across the region as well as for San Jose residents.

Thank you for your support of land and environmental conservation.  
Susan Kelso

**From:** p.bair@sbcleancreeks.com < >

**Sent:** Monday, January 28, 2019 3:26 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.

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,

Philip Bair



**From:** Andrew Mattioda <  
**Sent:** Monday, January 21, 2019 2:57 PM  
**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; City Clerk; District2  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

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.

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. This includes the rejection of permits for building a residence in the middle of an active wildlife pathway (i.e. CP17-010).

Please protect Coyote Valley so it can protect us.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrew Mattioda

**From:** Patty Doherty < >

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 11:24 AM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Please protect Coyote Valley

Dear members of San Jose City Council,

I understand that you are doing a study session on Measure T funds.

Please protect Coyote Valley from being paved over for warehouses since it serves such an important role in collecting water during the rains, both filling the aquifers and holding onto water that would otherwise flood San Jose.

Thank you,

Patty Doherty

**From:** are hamilton < >

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 11:43 AM

**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.

**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,  
Robert Hamilton



rom: Christine Pepin < >

Date: January 22, 2019 at 3:33:14 PM PST

To: [District1@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District1@sanjoseca.gov), [mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov), [District2@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District2@sanjoseca.gov), [District3@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District3@sanjoseca.gov), [District4@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District4@sanjoseca.gov), [District5@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District5@sanjoseca.gov), [District6@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District6@sanjoseca.gov), [District7@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District7@sanjoseca.gov), [District8@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District8@sanjoseca.gov), [District9@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District9@sanjoseca.gov), [District10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:District10@sanjoseca.gov)

**Subject: Protect Coyote Valley**

Dear San Jose Councilmembers,

My name is Christine Pepin and I am a councilmember of the Green Party of Santa Clara County. I was planning to speak during public comments but I have to leave the session now.

As environmental panelists said at today's study session, Coyote Valley is a beautiful and pristine landscape of critical importance. *Not only is it home to over 200 species of local and migratory birds (25 of which either are rare, have special status, or both), but bobcats, coyotes, deer, and other wildlife use the valley to migrate between the Diablo Mountain Range and Santa Cruz Mountains, while also relying on this "ecological highway" for habitat and vital resources. It contains the largest freshwater wetland in Santa Clara County, Laguna Seca. Its critical role for groundwater recharge and San Jose's flood control capacity should not be underestimated.*

I would like to add that Coyote Valley is host to a very diverse and unique ecosystem called **serpentine grassland & chaparral**. This ecosystem hosts endangered butterflies, native succulents, and native wildflowers because only these species are adapted to the harshly alkaline soil. If it is developed this would be lost forever.

As you know, Coyote Valley also makes up some of the last remaining farmland of the Santa Clara Valley. Many groups are working to revitalize agriculture, sustain conservation, and support an area linked to vibrant regional food systems and diverse urban communities.

This approach lies at the heart of the **Green New Deal which, by the way, the Green Party of the US proposed as part of their political platform over a decade ago**. Our fight for planetary survival is linked to our fight for economic survival, including sustainable and regenerative agriculture. Environmental and economic justice are narrowly intertwined. The Green New Deal is a comprehensive response to these crises. We have to reconcile our lifestyles - the way we live, produce and consume - with the physical limits of our planet.

Coyote Valley is exactly the type of ecosystem you'd want to preserve in order to achieve this.

Thank you.

-Christine Pépin

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:** p.bair@sbcleancreeks.com < >

**Sent:** Monday, January 28, 2019 3:26 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.

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,

Philip Bair

**From:** Vicki Alexander < >

**Sent:** Sunday, January 27, 2019 6:42 PM

**To:** City Clerk; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District9

**Cc:** District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District 10

**Subject:** Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

I strongly urge you to allocate the full \$50 million from Measure T for land conservation in Coyote Valley. Coyote Valley is an incredible resource for San Jose and for the entire Bay Area; it can protect San Jose residents from flooding, provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat and corridors for animals to travel, and farmland for healthy local produce. If managed properly, Coyote Valley can also increase our region's climate resilience.

I would not support a compromise that only protects part of Coyote Valley and that opens other areas to development. It's time to protect Coyote Valley!

Thank you for your support.

Vicki Alexander



**From:** wanda alexander < >

**Sent:** Sunday, January 27, 2019 7:54 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** COYOTte Valley is most important as a protector of our quality of life.

The Valley is air we breathe and the water we drink.

PLEASE PRESERVE IT!

WANDA BROADIE ALEXANDER

**From:** Erin Salter < >

**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 10:13 AM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** measure T funds

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.

-Erin Salter

District 1 resident

**From:** Carolyn Straub < >

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 1:39 PM

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

**Subject:** re: Allocating the \$50 million for Coyote Valley on Feb. 12

*Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,*

*Coyote Valley must be free of industry. It is not for sale to developers who have enough land and quite enough prestige and money to compromise our Measure T - against US. This beautiful land would look awful with buildings and parking lots. San Jose already has unsightly city properties which can be better used - instead of our free land.*

*We urge you to allocate the full \$50 million from Measure T for land conservation in Coyote Valley. This incredible landscape can reduce the risk of flooding for San José residents as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat, farmland and a regional Ridge Trail connection, as well as increase our region's climate resilience. It's time to protect Coyote Valley.*

*Thank you for your support, written at the suggestion of Bay Ridge Trail Council*

*Carolyn Straub  
Steve McHenry  
District 7*



**From:** Karen Stephenson < >

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 2:17 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Coyote Valley

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

**From:** Doreen Van Tuyl < >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 3:21:09 PM  
**To:** City Clerk; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District7  
**Subject:** Measure T

*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 reduce the risk of flooding for San José residents as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat, farmland and regional Ridge Trail connection, as well as increase our region's climate resilience. It's time to protect Coyote Valley! Thank you for your support.*

I do not know how to express myself passionately with factual scientific information without boring you or sounding like a nut. Above is the template or suggestion I was given. I think this is a good short summary.

However, it doesn't really show how vitally important it is to our survival and quality of life to the human beings in this county. The impact of not saving this valley from development will take time to reveal itself to humanity. However, the impact of our poor choices is already showing itself in the degradation to our environment, such as global warming, and wildlife population and health and will increase and reveal itself rapidly if we don't save Coyote Valley.

Choosing to "compromise", isn't a compromise at all. If we allow any further development in this area, than in real life practically none of the benefits will exist in saving only a portion of the valley.

Please do not allow money to win. It will only be a short term advantage to a small amount of people and not a lasting fix for the whole population and our descendants. I support efficient, organized revitalization in already developed areas like the Google and San Jose City's joint plan for development.

Thank you for your hard work and for making the hard decisions necessary in representing us.

Sincerely,

Doreen Van Tuyl

**From:** Steven Finet < >

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 9:41 PM

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

**Subject:** Save 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 reduce the risk of flooding for San José residents as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat, farmland and regional Ridge Trail connection, as well as increase our region's climate resilience. It's time to protect Coyote Valley! Thank you for your support.*

*Best,  
Steven Finet  
Concerned voter*

--

Steven Finet, RN, MSN



**From:** Doron Dru < >

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 9:50 PM

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

**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 reduce the risk of flooding for San José residents as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat, farmland and regional Ridge Trail connection, as well as increase our region's climate resilience. It's time to protect Coyote Valley! Thank you for your support.*

*Thank you*

*Doron Drusinsky*

From: **Liz Tam** < >

Date: Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 10:06 PM

Subject: Prudent flood control and Coyote Valley

To: <[city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov)>, <[mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:mayoremail@sanjoseca.gov)>,  
<[district1@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district1@sanjoseca.gov)>, <[district2@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district2@sanjoseca.gov)>,  
<[district3@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district3@sanjoseca.gov)>, <[district4@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district4@sanjoseca.gov)>,  
<[district5@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district5@sanjoseca.gov)>, <[district6@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district6@sanjoseca.gov)>,  
<[district7@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district7@sanjoseca.gov)>, <[district8@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district8@sanjoseca.gov)>,  
<[district9@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district9@sanjoseca.gov)>, <[district10@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district10@sanjoseca.gov)>

Mayor Liccardo and Council Members,

I am one of the 197,110 citizens who voted yes on Measure T last year. I urge you to use funds raised by this bond measure to acquire open space in Coyote Valley for flood control. Much of Coyote Valley is a natural flood plain; allowing Coyote Valley to serve its natural purpose could be a cost-effective method to avoid another disastrous flood in Coyote Creek.

Thank you,  
Lisbeth Tam  
San Jose, CA 95120

**From:** Lisa Schmidt < >

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:12 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Lisa Schmidt



**From:** Kristel Wickham < >

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:22 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a hiker in the many city and county parks in and around Coyote Valley, a taxpayer and one who votes in every election, 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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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 (more than 1.5x match!), this will provide a huge total impact that will benefit the city of San Jose, Santa Clara County, and the entire Bay Area. The natural water infrastructure, the beauty of the open space, and the vital habitat for many species of flora and fauna are 'priceless'. Please don't miss this opportunity.

Regards,  
Kristel Wickham

**From:** Connie Rogers < >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:26 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

Coyote Valley's marshy land provides flood protection and percolation into our underground aquifers. For these reasons, in addition to its beauty and wildlife it is imperative to protect it.

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Connie Rogers

**From:** Rea Freedom < >

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:32 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Rea Freedom



**From:** Mark Gion < >  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 8:29 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Mark Gion

**From:** Eric Acedo < >

**Sent:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 12:26 AM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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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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,  
Eric Acedo

**From:** Howard Cohen <>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 9:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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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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.

I also urge you to zone the entire Coyote Valley such that there can never be any development in that region. It should be permanent farmland and open space.

Regards,  
Howard Cohen



**From:** CYRIL BOUTEILLE < >

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 9:43 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
CYRIL BOUTEILLE

**From:** Susan Price-Jang < >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 8:56 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Susan Price-Jang

**From:** Thomas Carlino < >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 6:23 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Thomas Carlino



**From:** Christine Shepherd < >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 6:00 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

Please protect Coyote Creek!

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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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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,  
Christine Shepherd

**From:** Ben Martin < >

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:53 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Ben Martin

**From:** Lori Adam < >

**Sent:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 9:36 AM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Lori Adam

**From:** Liz Westbrook <>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 3:25 PM

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

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley - Allocating \$50 million of Measure T Funds for Conservation on February 12

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council urges you to allocate the full \$50 million from Measure T for land conservation in Coyote Valley. This incredible landscape can reduce the risk of flooding for San José residents as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat, farmland and regional Ridge Trail connection, as well as increase our region's climate resilience. It's time to protect Coyote Valley!

The Bay Area Ridge Trail is a planned 550-mile trail encircling the nine Bay Area counties along the Ridge Lines. Today, 375 miles of the Ridge Trail are open for hikers, cyclists, runners and – and permanently protected as a legacy for the future. Over 80 of these Ridge Trail miles are located in Santa Clara County. When completed, the Ridge Trail through North Coyote Valley will connect Santa Teresa County Park to Coyote Creek Parkway. The protection of the historic, scenic and natural resource values of Coyote Valley would greatly enhance the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Liz Westbrook

--

Liz Westbrook  
Trail Director  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council



**From:** James Eggers < >

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 3:26 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
James Eggers

**From:** Lynne Deegan-McGraw < >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 3:37 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Lynne Deegan-McGraw

**From:** Amy Rabinovitz < >

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:07 PM

**To:** City Clerk

**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Amy Rabinovitz

**From:** Paul Bickmore < >  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 11:37 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers)

Support allocating the full fifty million dollars 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. Five thousand 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,  
Paul Bickmore

## Re: Agenda Item 3.4

Stephanie Reyes < >

Today, 4:19 PM

Agendadesk

Inbox

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers Re: Agenda item 3.4 for the 2/12 meeting)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Stephanie Reyes



## Re: Agenda Item 3.4

Peter Bennett < >

Yesterday, 6:38 PM

Agendadesk

Inbox

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers Re: Agenda item 3.4 for the 2/12 meeting)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Peter Bennett

## Agenda Item 3.4

Kathryn Zeidenstein

Yesterday, 6:41 PM

Agendadesk

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers Re: Agenda item 3.4 for the 2/12 meeting)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Kathryn Zeidenstein

## Agenda Item 3.4

Kristal Caidoy

Yesterday, 10:23 PM

Agendadesk

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers Re: Agenda item 3.4 for the 2/12 meeting)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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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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,  
Kristal Caidoy

## Agenda Item 3.4

[Richard Mercer](#) < >

Today, 12:46 AM

Agendadesk

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

(City Clerk—please distribute this to all Councilmembers Re: Agenda item 3.4 for the 2/12 meeting)

As a taxpayer and regular voter on environmental and infrastructure measures, 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,  
Richard Mercer

Re: Agenda Item 3.4

Erica Stanojevic < >

Sat 2/9, 7:39 PM

To help protect your privacy, some content in this message has been blocked. To re-enable the blocked features, [click here](#).

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Regards,  
Erica Stanojevic



\_\_\_\_\_

re: Council meeting Feb. 12, Agenda item 3.4: Status Report on Measure T

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I write as an individual to join the chorus of San José citizens urging you to protect Coyote Valley and to use the full \$50 million allocation from Measure "T" for its preservation.

It is imperative that Coyote Valley remain undeveloped:


- The valley recharges our deep-level aquifer that supplies much of our water. Industrial development in the valley would invite contamination of our drinking water supply.
- The natural landscape retains rainwater. If the valley were to be paved over, water would rush downstream practically instantaneously whenever it rains, increasing the risk of floods in the urban areas. The natural landscape that's there now holds back the water, allowing it to flow over an extended period of time and at a much more manageable rate.
- The valley is also the natural migration corridor connecting the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Diablo Range. Development in the valley could isolate the populations of wildlife, leading to inbreeding and their eventual demise.

The County of Santa Clara is on board with the preservation of the valley, as exemplified by the Board of Supervisors' recent approval of an Agricultural Preservation plan which will fund the acquisition of development easements from local farmers to reduce development pressures and to keep the valley lands in an unpaved state. The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), the Open Space Authority (OSA), and others are also working to help preserve the valley's rural nature.

You may hear some people advocating for the development of the Coyote Valley, correctly pointing out that San José needs jobs. However,

- The development often contemplated for Coyote Valley is for “distribution warehouses”, which cover large swaths of land (with lots of rainwater runoff) but which are highly automated and employ few workers. In contrast, development in the Downtown core, by the Diridon Station, and at transit-oriented Urban Villages can employ many times more people, both by the higher-valued nature of their work and by the multi-story facilities in which they work.
- There is little to no public transit serving Coyote Valley, so nearly everyone working there would have to drive, negatively impacting our greenhouse gas (GHG) and VMT (vehicle miles traveled) levels.

You may hear that San José has a smaller percentage of employment lands than nearby cities, and also that it is important for San José to preserve the employment lands that it has. However,

- 
- The percentage for employment lands in San José is skewed by the fact that, unlike our neighboring cities, we have a large amount of undevelopable land within our city limits. When the number is adjusted for the roughly a third of the city's area that is bay lands and hillsides, San José's percentage of employment lands is more in line with our neighbors.
  - And, while I agree that it's a pity that past Councils approved housing on former industrial lands (e.g., near North Oakland Road), Coyote Valley is not existing industrial land that is to be lost to housing, but rather this is just a change in designation so that undeveloped natural lands can remain natural and undeveloped.

Voters in San José last April overwhelming voted against Measure "B" in order to prevent Coyote Valley from falling to urban sprawl, and again in November we overwhelmingly voted in favor of Measure "T" to provide the funding necessary to help permanently protect Coyote Valley from all development, both housing and commercial. We also have repeatedly shown our support for the natural open space with our support for County Parks and the Open Space Authority.

We the people have spoken!  
Now it is time for you on the Council to act!  
Protect Coyote Valley!

Thank you,

~Larry Ames

Dr. Lawrence Ames, longtime environmentalist, supporter of Open Space, and an advocate for the Coyote Valley.

cc: City Clerk;  
Dave Sykes, City Manager;  
Megan Fluke and Alice Kaufman, Committee for Green Foothills;  
Jean Dresden, San José Parks Advocates;  
Shani Kleinhaus, Audubon Society

**From:** Marc Mitchell < >  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2019 10:29 AM  
**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; City Clerk  
**Subject:** Protect Coyote Valley with a fully funded Measure T

*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 reduce the risk of flooding for San José residents as well as provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat, farmland and regional Ridge Trail connection, as well as increase our region's climate resilience. It's time to protect Coyote Valley! Thank you for your support.*

*Marc Mitchell  
12 year San Jose resident*