

Public Advisory Committee

SAN BENITO COUNTY CONSERVATION PLAN

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Jennifer Piggott, ICF
May 31, 2023



Using Zoom

- If you need help with the Zoom platform, please raise your hand (call-in users press *9)
- To call in to the meeting:
 - Phone number: 1-877-853-5247
 - Meeting ID: 821 5508 3924
 - Password: 509717
- Please close all Apps and programs and limit other streaming or downloads
- All Planning Team and PAC members are participants and can self mute/unmute and turn video on/off
- All non-PAC and public participants are muted. Please hold your questions until the Public Comment portion towards the end of the meeting.



Meeting Ground Rules

- ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE.** Turn video on and share all relevant information and concerns.
- BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND.** Focus on objectives and common vision.
- THINK SYNERGY.** Create cooperation, seek win/win solutions.
- SPEAK ONE AT A TIME.** Raise your hand and be professional and respectful of other people.
- ACTIVELY LISTEN.** Be open minded, first seek to understand, then to be understood.
- AVOID REDUNDANCY.** Focus on the discussion to avoid repeating.
- TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.** Meetings are not recorded verbatim, point out when a statement needs to be recorded.
- BE REASONABLE.** Use examples that can be achieved and be mindful of budget and staffing constraints.
- BE SPECIFIC.** Use examples and explain reasons behind your statements or questions.
- THINK BIG PICTURE.** Understand the difference between word-smithing and re-phrasing for clarity.
- STAY FOCUSED.** Leave non-SBCCP related issues outside the meeting.
- STRATEGIC MOMENTS.** Work together to discover strategic moments.



Meeting Objectives

- Receive feedback on the Outreach Plan stakeholder list.
- Provide an understanding of how the SBCCP covered activities list is developed.
- Solicit feedback on the types of activities that should be considered for coverage in the SBCCP.



Agenda

1. Welcome and Meeting Procedures (Jennifer Piggott, ICF)
2. Introductions of New PAC Members (Jennifer Piggott, ICF)
3. Review of the Outreach Plan stakeholder list (PAC Members)
4. Review of the Covered Activities (Bernadette Clueit, ICF)
 1. PAC Q&A
5. Public comment
6. Next steps
 1. Next PAC Meeting: August 30, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.



Introductions of New PAC Members

- When called on by facilitator, provide 30 second introduction
- Include
 - Name
 - Affiliation
 - Interest in SBCCP and participating in the PAC
- Existing PAC and Planning Team members, please introduce yourself and provide your affiliation when called on for the first time in the meeting.





OUTREACH PLAN STAKEHOLDER LIST



Stakeholders

Stakeholders include “any individual, group of individuals, organizations, or political entity with a stake in the outcome of a decision.”

The target audience for the SBCCP includes a wide range of organizations, agencies, and members of the public directly or indirectly impacted by or interested in the HCP/NCCP process.





OVERVIEW OF COVERED ACTIVITIES



Covered Activities

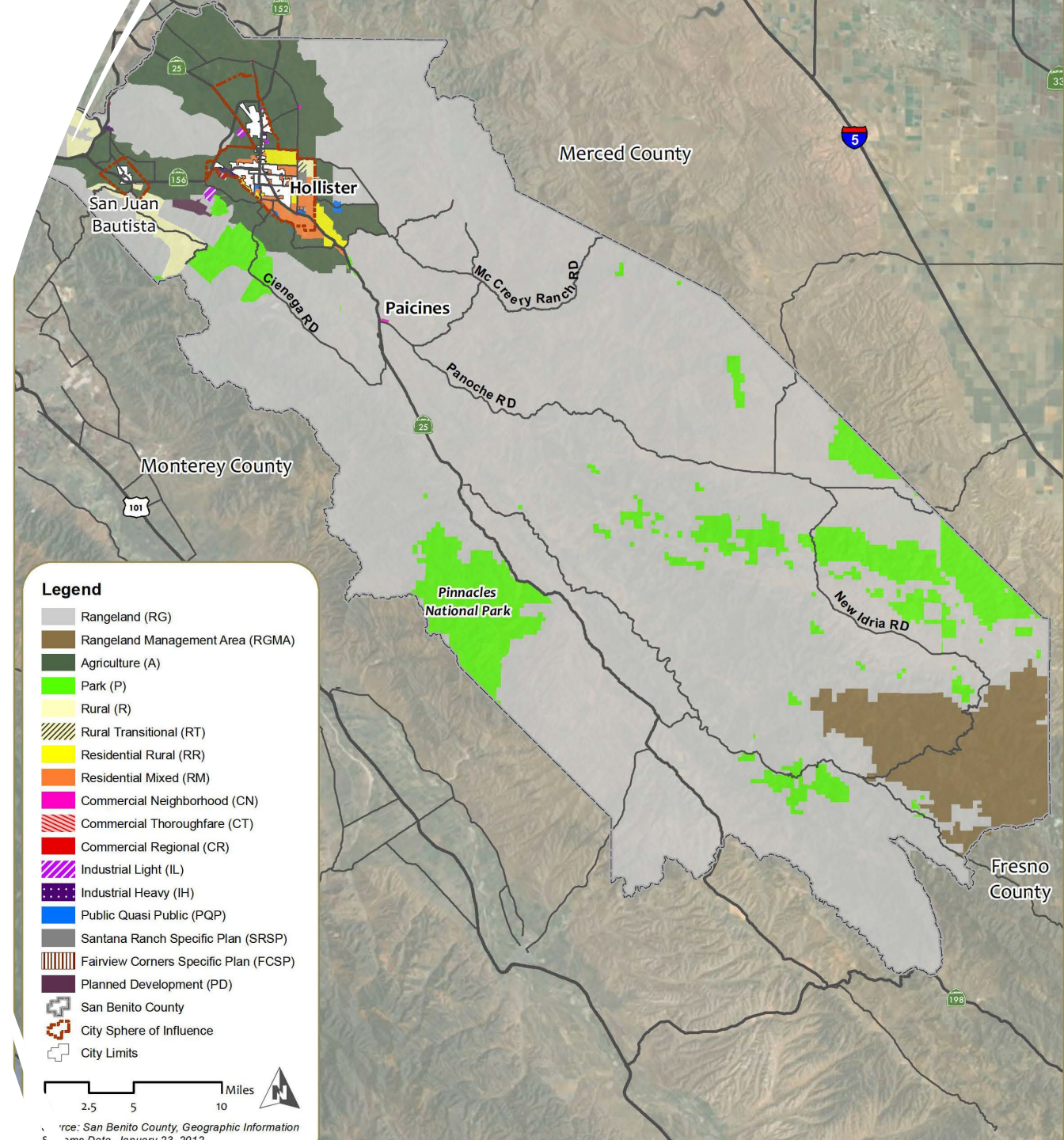
- The list of projects and activities for which take authorization will be provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the species addressed in the SBCCP.
- To be eligible for incidental take authorization, activities must be otherwise lawful; not funded, authorized, or carried out by a federal agency; and must be under the direct control or authority of the permittee.



Typical Covered Activities:

- Housing development
- Commercial development
- New infrastructure development (roads, pipelines etc.)

Activities are based on the approved General Plan



Reminder:

The SBCCP does not

- Approve or deny specific projects
- Replace or change the County's permitting or planning process
- Add or reduce development permitting requirements



Process for Identifying Covered Activities

Step 1. Identify potential covered activities

- Includes both specific projects and on-going activities
- There is a reasonable expectation that the covered activity would occur within the permit term of the Plan
- Enough is known to adequately describe the activity and the effect it would have on covered species.



Process for Identifying Covered Activities

Step 2. Apply screening criteria

- Control or Authority
- Location
- Timing
- Impact
- Project Definition
- Practicability



Process for Identifying Covered Activities

Step 3. Draft, review, and finalize list and descriptions

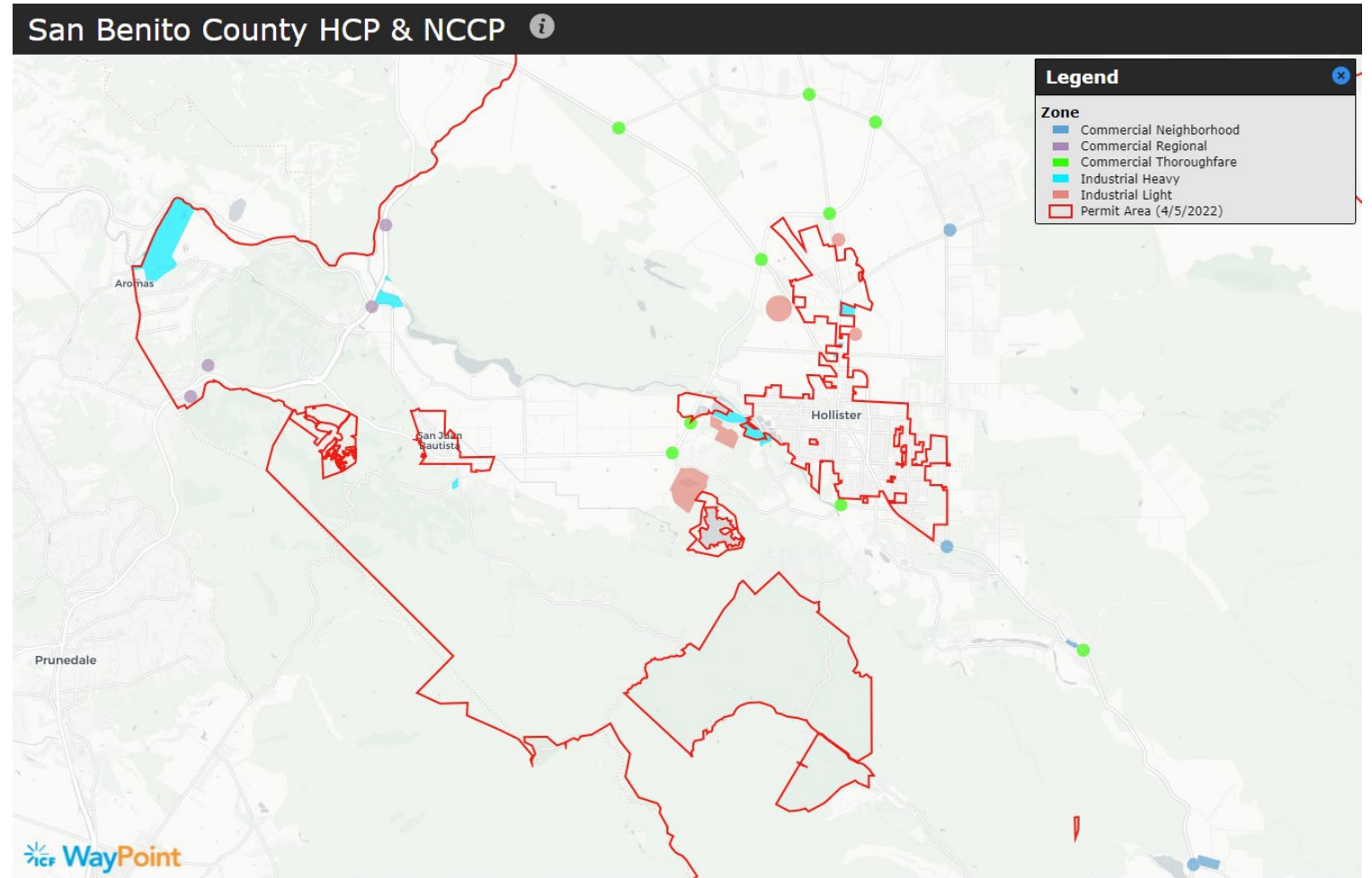
- Iterative process
- Demands a high level of input and feedback from County staff and others familiar with the activities
- Must have enough information on all covered activities to perform the impact analysis



Categories of Covered Activities

Urban Projects in Rural Areas

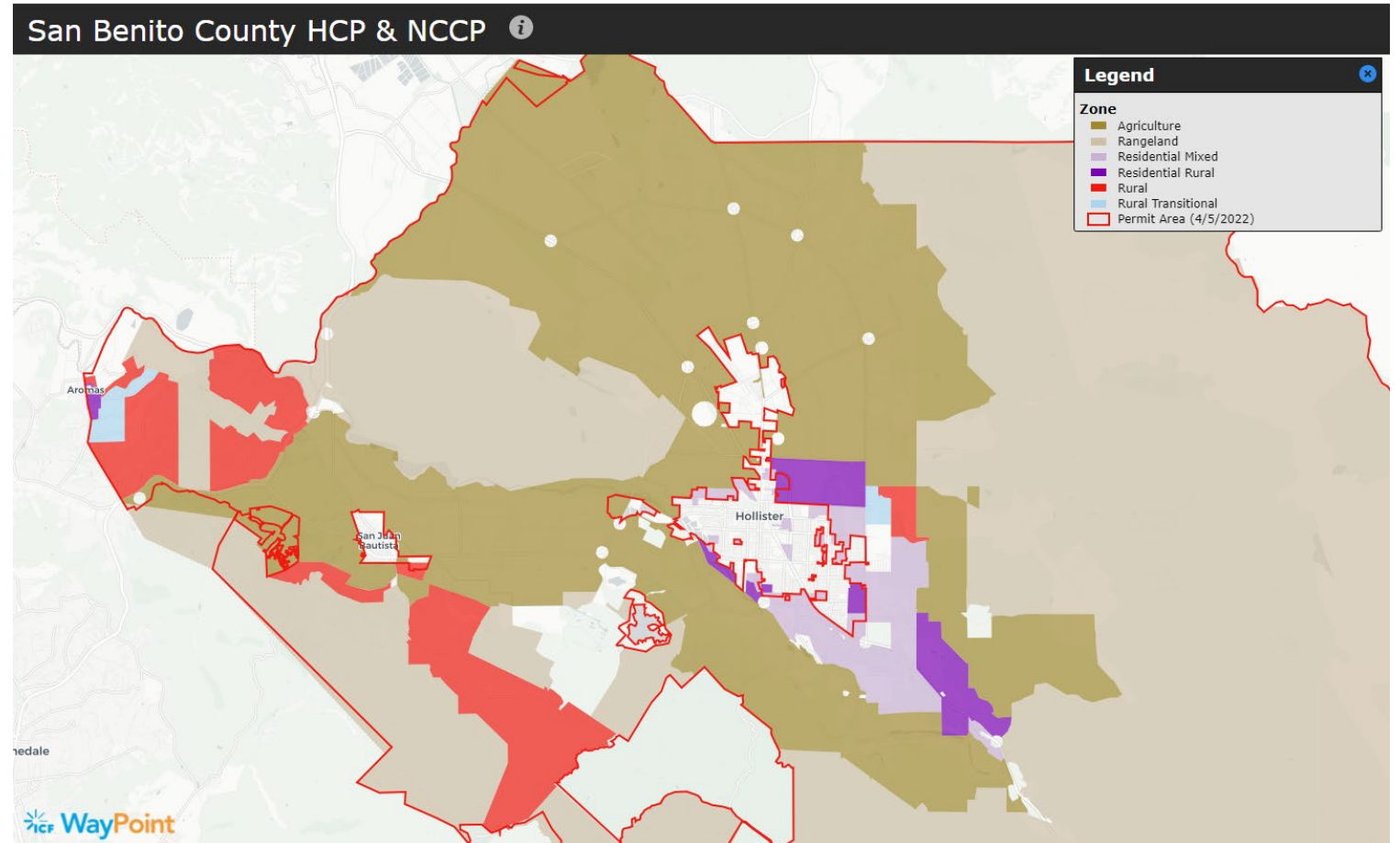
- Development that will typically result in nearly 100 percent loss of natural habitats with the exception of urban streams.
- Urban projects occur within the unincorporated County in areas around cities where infrastructure and public services are available.



Categories of Covered Activities

General Rural Development

- Development outside the urban service area and established designated urban areas in unincorporated San Benito County.
- Residential development in areas outside the planning limits of urban growth but where infrastructure and public services are available.



Categories of Covered Activities

Rural Infrastructure Development

- Public infrastructure projects outside the cities' planning limits of urban growth.
- Rural transportation projects provide and enhance infrastructure that supports existing development and new development planned under current general plans.



Source: [December 9, 2020 Mobility Partnership Agenda Packet](#)

Categories of Covered Activities

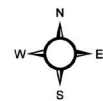
Rural Operations and Maintenance

- Operation is defined as activities which require continual use and management in order to work properly.
- Maintenance is defined as activities which are preventive, corrective, or scheduled in order to fix a project or keep it working effectively.

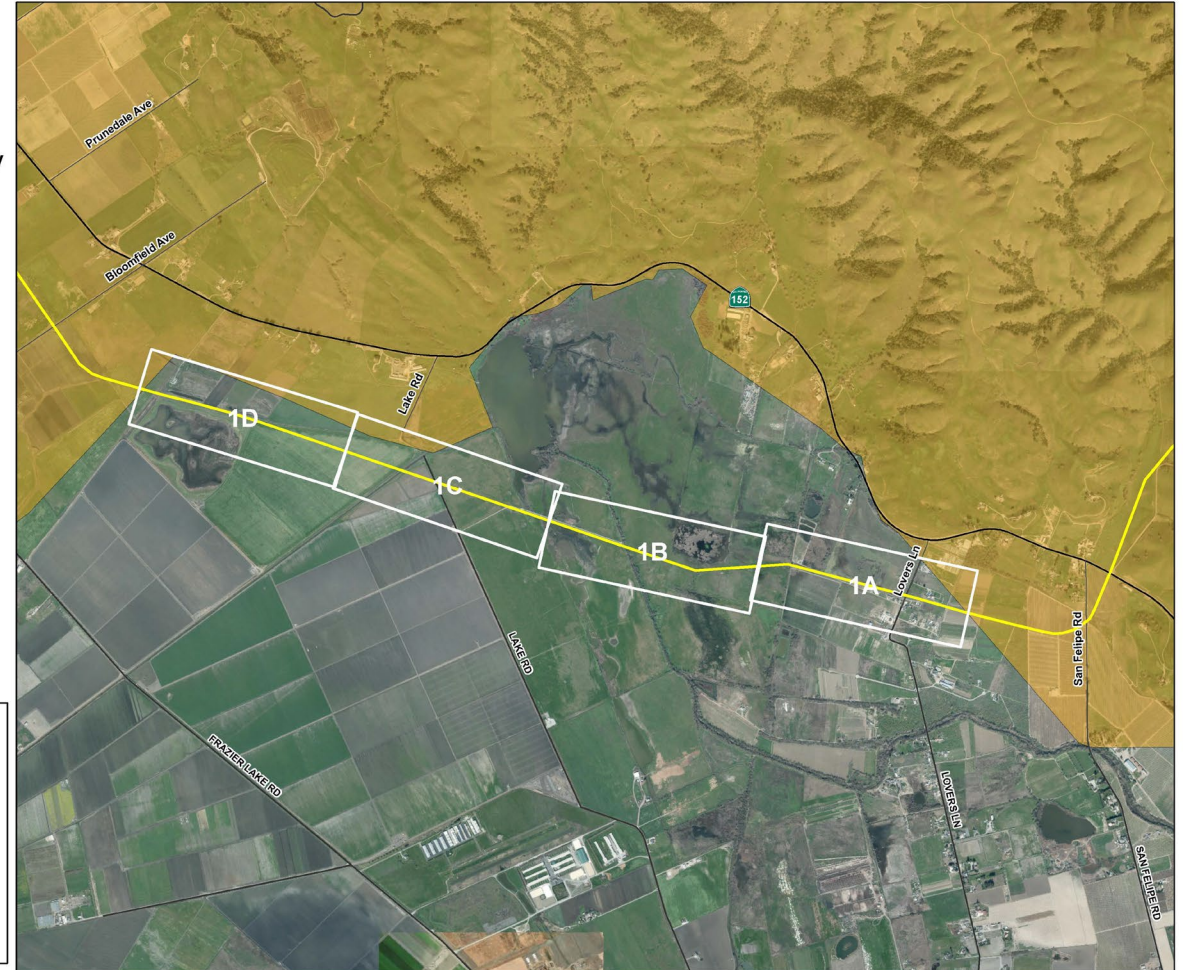


Figure 1: Santa Clara Conduit Infrastructure in San Benito County

- Santa Clara Conduit
- Santa Clara County



0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet
One Inch Approximately Equals 2,000 Feet



Categories of Covered Activities

In-Stream Operations and Maintenance

- Activities or projects that occur in or immediately adjacent to streams and adjacent riparian vegetation that may result in impacts on a stream or canal.
- This may include activities at dams, reservoirs, and on-stream ponds.





Categories of Covered Activities

Conservation Strategy Implementation

Implementing some of the mitigation actions may result in low levels of take of the covered species that therefore require take authorization and must also be named as covered activities.

What About Agricultural Activities?

Normal and routine agricultural practices are not usually covered, with some exceptions.



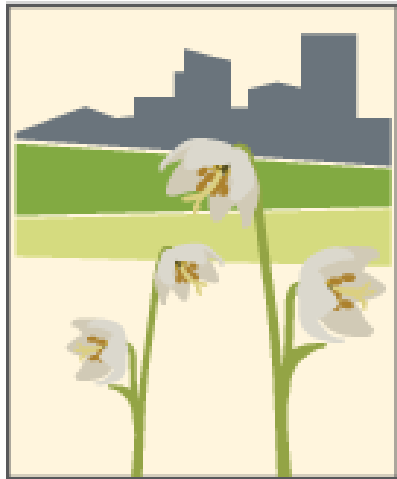
Yolo HCP/NCCP Example:

- Normal and routine agricultural practices on conservation easement lands in the reserve system
- Management activities to maintain suitable habitat conditions
- Activities associated with agricultural economic development

See the [Agriculture and the Yolo HCP/NCCP](#) brochure for more information



What About Agricultural Activities?



SANTA CLARA VALLEY
HABITAT AGENCY

Santa Clara County HCP/NCCP Example:

Neighboring landowner protection program:

- Take coverage for routine ag activities on lands within 1 mile of Reserve System boundaries
- Limited to a subset of covered species

See the [Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency](#) for more information





PUBLIC COMMENT



Public Comment

- Use raise hand feature in Zoom if you are a member of the public (i.e., not a PAC or Planning Team member) and you wish to provide a comment or ask a question.
- If you called in from a phone, type *9 to raise your hand.
- Please limit comments to 3 minutes per person.
- Comments/questions must address agenda items and/or the SBCCP



Next Steps

- 2023 Q3 Public Advisory Meeting: Wednesday August 30, 3:00 pm
 - Planned discussion topic – species proposed for coverage in the SBCCP
- For more information, please contact the SBCCP Project Team at:
 - SBCCP@cosb.us

