

Public Advisory Committee

SAN BENITO COUNTY CONSERVATION PLAN

Arielle Goodspeed, County of San Benito
Jennifer Piggott, ICF
August 30, 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: 842 4026 2967
 - Password: 826251
- 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.



Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Meeting Procedures (Jennifer Piggott, ICF)**
- 2. Land Cover Mapping Update (Bernadette Clueit, ICF)**
 1. PAC Q&A
- 3. Review of Proposed Covered Species List (Bernadette Clueit, ICF)**
 1. PAC Q&A
- 4. Public comment**
- 5. Next steps**
 1. Next PAC Meeting: November 29, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.





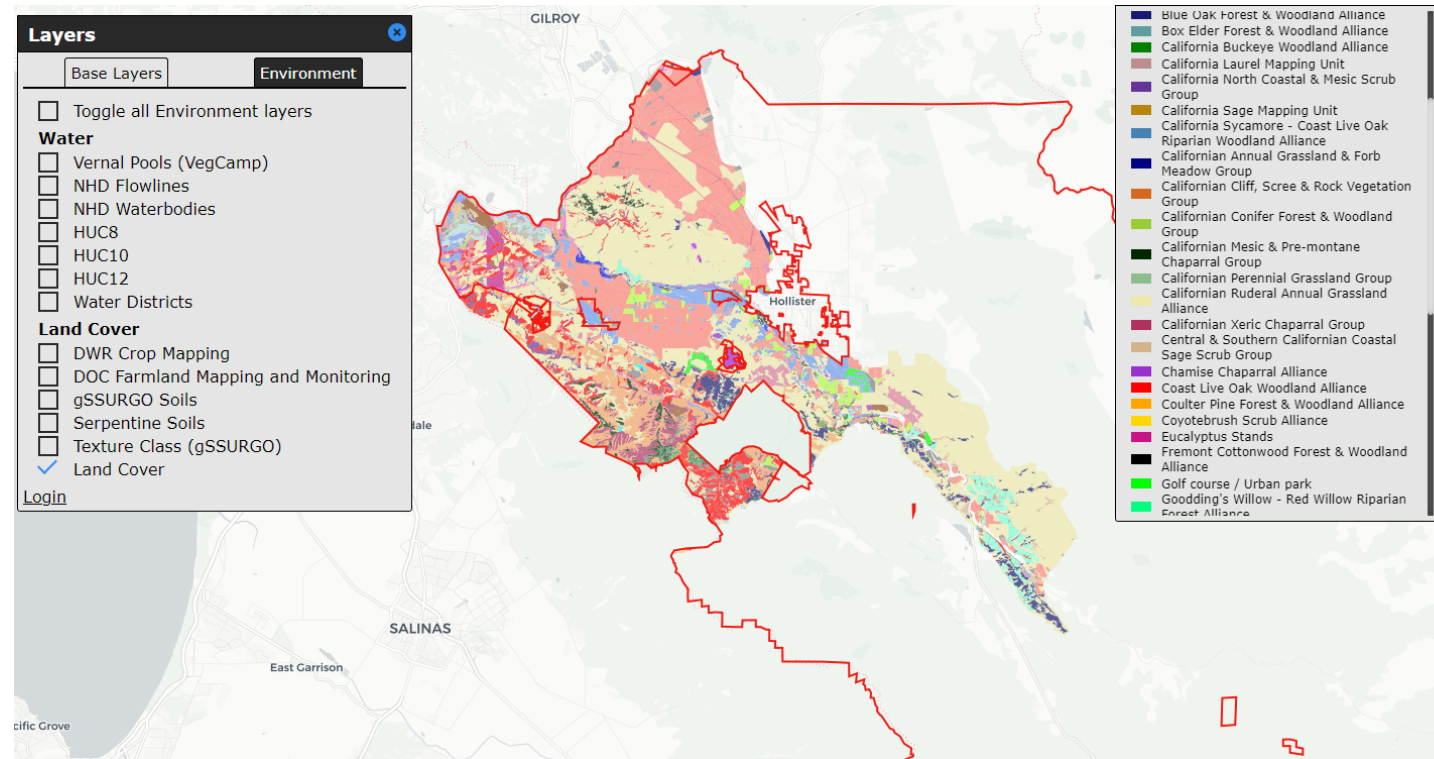
LAND COVER MAPPING UPDATE



Land Cover Mapping

- First six watersheds in northwestern county complete
- Next area of focus is grasslands
- Explore the project map:

<https://ecosystems.azurewebsites.net/SanBenitoCounty/>





OVERVIEW OF COVERED SPECIES



Covered Species

- Both the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Act require applicants to list the species for which take authorization is requested. This is commonly referred to as the covered species list.
- The proposed list of covered species will be developed by the County with support and guidance from ICF, the wildlife agencies, the SBCCP PAC, and the SBCCP Science Advisors.
- The selection of covered species is guided by specific criteria to provide a transparent, systematic, and repeatable process.



Covered Species

- The covered species list for the ESA Section 10 and NCCCP Act Section 2835 permits may include both listed species and non-listed species that have the potential to become federally or state listed during the permit term.
- To develop the covered species list, ICF uses a three-step process:
 - Step 1. Identify potential covered species.
 - Step 2. Apply screening criteria.
 - Step 3. Review and finalize the proposed covered species list.



Step 1. Identify potential covered species

- Species listed as threatened or endangered under ESA and/or CESA
- Proposed or candidate species for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under ESA and/or CESA
- California Terrestrial and Vernal Pool Invertebrates of Conservation Priority, and “Special Animals” as tracked by California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB)
- Species determined to meet the definitions of endangered, rare, or threatened under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)



Step 1. Identify potential covered species con't

- Plant species listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act
- Species considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be “rare, threatened, or endangered in California”
- Plant species listed by CNPS as Rare Plant Rank 3 and 4 may be included based on local significance or recent biological information
- “Special Plants” as defined by CDFW, including vascular plants, bryophytes, and lichens



Step 2. Apply Screening Criteria

- **Occurrence** - known to, or has potential to, occur in the plan area
- **Listing status** - needs to be listed or have an appreciable probability of becoming listed within the proposed permit term
- **Impact** - the covered activities are expected to result in take
- **Data** - sufficient scientific data exist to evaluate impacts and develop conservation measures
- **Necessary and Efficient** – is there another pathway for take coverage? Will inclusion add substantial cost or complexity to plan development and/or implementation?



Step 3. Review and Finalize List

- Completion of Steps 1 and 2 results in development of an initial proposed covered species list
- The covered species are identified as “proposed” for coverage in the SBCCP because they are not actually covered until the permits are issued by US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CDFW
- Development of covered activities descriptions will help refine final covered species list
- Independent scientific expertise and regulatory agency expertise will help refine final covered species list



Results of the Screening Process

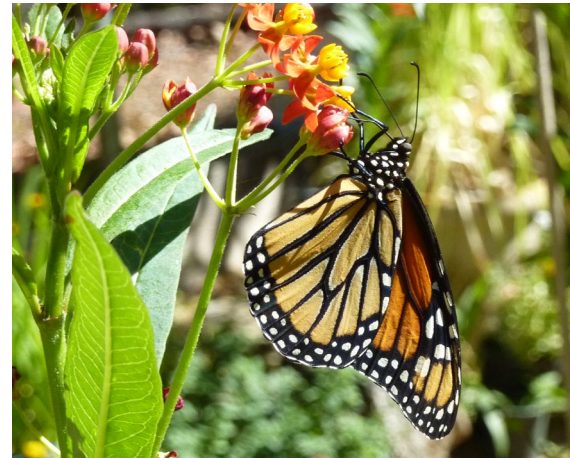
- 102 species were evaluated
- Initial proposed list includes 21 species that may be appropriate to cover
- This initial list of covered species will be updated in the coming months as the first phase of the SBCCP progresses

Species	Scientific Name
Invertebrates	
Crotch bumble bee	<i>Bombus crotchii</i>
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardi</i>
Amphibians and Reptiles	
Blunt-nosed leopard lizard	<i>Gambelia silus</i>
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>
California tiger salamander, Central California DPS	<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>
Foothill yellow-legged frog, West/Central Coast clade	<i>Rana boylei</i>
Southwestern pond turtle	<i>Actinemys pallida</i>
Western spadefoot	<i>Spea hammondi</i>
Birds	
Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>
Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>
Tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>
Mammals	
American badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>
Giant kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys ingens</i>
Nelson's (=San Joaquin) antelope squirrel	<i>Ammospermophilus nelsoni</i>
San Joaquin kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>
Mountain lion, Southern California/Central Coast ESU	<i>Puma concolor</i>
Plants	
San Joaquin woolly-threads	<i>Monolopia congdonii</i>
Hoover's button-celery	<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>hooveri</i>



Proposed Covered Species – Invertebrates

Species	Scientific Name	Status	
		State	Federal
Crotch bumble bee	<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	SC	—
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	—	FC
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	—	FT
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	—	FE



Proposed Covered Species – Amphibians

Species	Scientific Name	Status	
		State	Federal
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	SSC	FT
California tiger salamander, Central California DPS	<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	ST	FT
Foothill yellow-legged frog, West/Central Coast clade	<i>Rana boylei</i>	SE	FT
Western spadefoot	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	SSC	FR



Proposed Covered Species – Reptiles

Species	Scientific Name	Status	
		State	Federal
Blunt-nosed leopard lizard	<i>Gambelia silus</i>	SE, FP	FE
Southwestern pond turtle	<i>Actinemys pallida</i>	SSC	FR



Proposed Covered Species – Birds

Species	Scientific Name	Status	
		State	Federal
Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	SSC	—
Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	SE	FE
Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	ST	—
Tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	ST	—



Proposed Covered Species – Mammals

Species	Scientific Name	Status	
		State	Federal
American badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	SSC	—
Giant kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys ingens</i>	SE	FE
Nelson's (=San Joaquin) antelope squirrel	<i>Ammospermophilus nelsoni</i>	ST	—
San Joaquin kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	ST	FE
Mountain lion, Southern California/Central Coast ESU	<i>Puma concolor</i>	UR	—



Proposed Covered Species – Plants

Species	Scientific Name	Status	
		State RPR	Federal
San Joaquin woolly-threads	<i>Monolopia congdonii</i>	—	FE
Hoover's button-celery	<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>hooveri</i>	1B	—



Photo Credits: David Greenberger, Aaron Arthur

Suggestions Received to Date

Tule elk

- Occurrence – yes
- Listing Status – no

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments	Global Rank	State Rank	ESA	CESA	Other Status	Records in CNDDDB?	End Notes?
<i>Cervus canadensis nannodes</i>	tule elk		G5T3	S3	None	None		No	

- Impact – potentially transportation infrastructure projects (similar to mountain lion)
- Data – yes



Suggestions Received to Date

Oak species

- Occurrence – yes
- Listing Status – no

Scientific Name	Common Name	Element Code	Federal Listing Status	State Listing Status	Heritage Rank	Rare Plant Rank	Other Status	Seed Banked	Records in CNDDDB?
<i>Quercus dumosa</i>	Nuttall's scrub oak	PDFAG050D0	None	None	G3/S3	1B.1	BLM:S IUCN:EN USFS:S	Yes	Yes
<i>Quercus turbinella</i>	shrub live oak	PDFAG05270	None	None	G5/S4	4.3	IUCN:LC	No	No

- Impact – no
- Data – no

Oak woodland will be addressed as a natural community in the SBCCP



Project Team Contact

- SBCCP@cosb.us
- Visit the [project website](#) and click the [Contact Us](#) button





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 Q4 Public Advisory Meeting: Wednesday November 29, 3:00 pm
 - Planned discussion topic – process for developing the conservation strategy
- For more information, please contact the SBCCP Project Team at:
 - SBCCP@cosb.us

