

San Benito County Habitat Conservation Plan



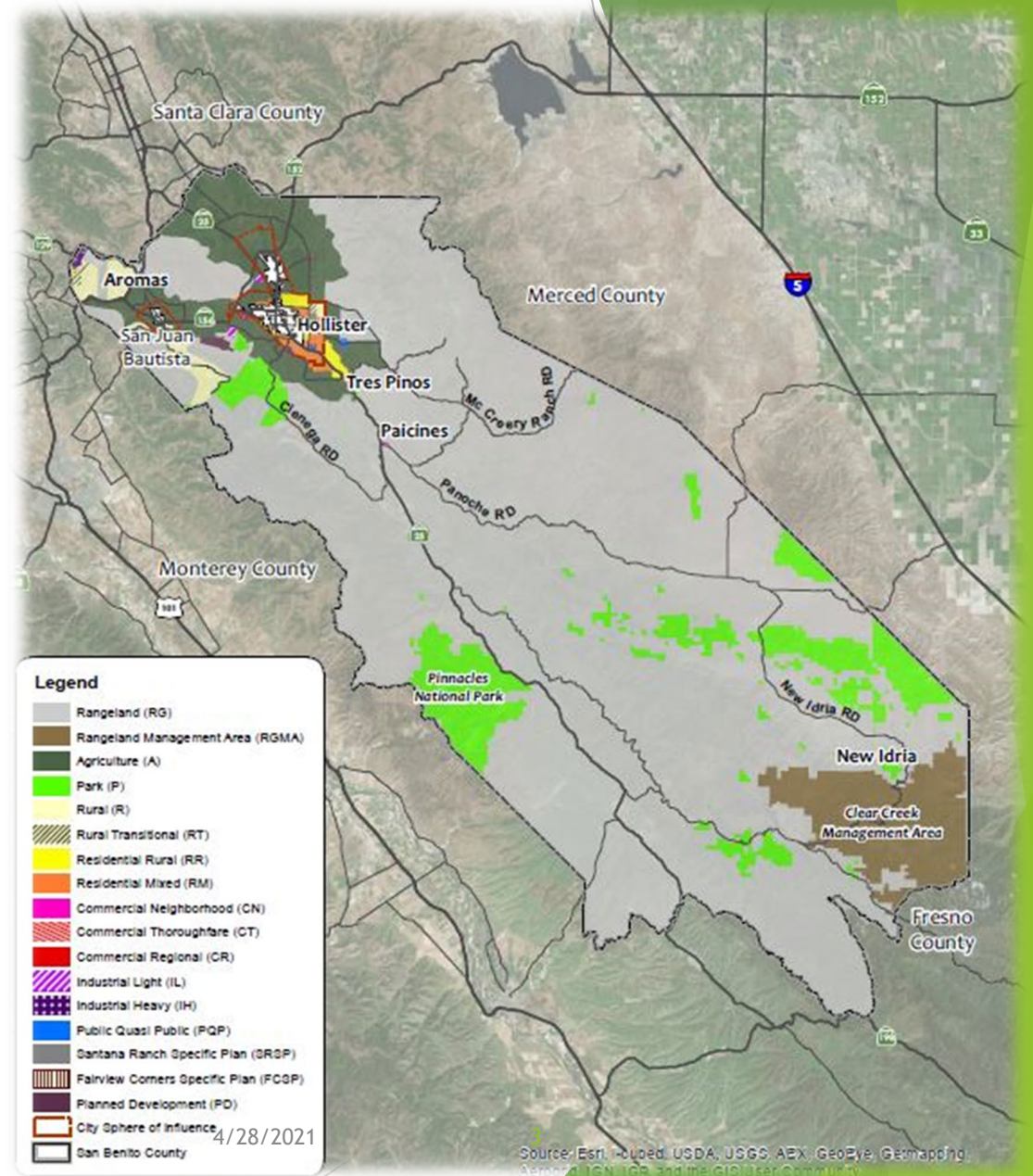
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Ordinance 541 and General Plan Policy NCR-A

- The County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 541 on August 1, 1988 establishing a Habitat Conservation Plan study area and setting interim mitigation fees to finance a Habitat Conservation Plan and protect the San Joaquin Kit Fox.
- General Plan Implementation Program NCR-A: Habitat Conservation Plan; The County shall consider working with the state and federal agencies to prepare and adopt a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for listed and candidate species in San Benito County.

Benefits of Regional Conservation Planning

- Regional planning would better serve the community than project-by-project permitting:
 - Streamlined permitting approach than project-by-project endangered species permitting
 - Approved plan provides faster permitting mechanisms
 - Provides clarity and transparency



Regional Conservation Plans address these problems through a streamlined permitting process



Benefits of Regional Conservation Plans

- Streamline projects
- Increase local control
- Improve mitigation
- Create new open space
- Create new recreation
- Protect watersheds
- Protect viewsheds
- Implement local policies
- Prevent new species listings
- Protect against climate change
- Attract new money for conservation
- Provide necessary agency permits
- Eligible for HCP Land Acquisition Program

Staff applied for a grant application for a county-wide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) called San Benito County Conservation Plan (SBCCP) in February 2021 after receiving Board of Supervisors Approval on February 23, 2021.

- County expects to hear back in June 2021 if awarded grant.
- Planning will begin soon after awarded.

San Benito County Conservation Plan Covered Species

FEDERALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES		
Animals		
Common name	Scientific name	Status
Blunt-nosed leopard lizard	<i>Gambelia sila</i>	FE, SE, SFP
California condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	FE, SE, SFP
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT, SSC
California tiger salamander, Central California Distinct Population Segment	<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	FT, ST
Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	FE, SE
Giant kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys ingens</i>	FE, SE
San Joaquin kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	FE, ST
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	FT
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	FE
Plants		
Common name	Scientific name	Status
San Joaquin woolly-threads	<i>Monolopia congdonii</i>	FE
AT-RISK SPECIES		
Animals		
Common name	Scientific name	Status
Foothill yellow-legged frog, West/Central Coast clade	<i>Rana boylei</i>	FR, SE
Southwestern pond turtle	<i>Actinemys pallida</i>	FR, SSC
Western spadefoot toad	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	FR, SSC

Abbreviations: FE = Federally endangered; FT = Federally threatened; FR = Under Federal review; SE = State endangered; ST = State threatened; SFP = State fully protected; SSC = State species of special concern

Task Summary

Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural
Community Conservation Plan Scoping
and Strategy Development/Science
Advisory Panel/Planning Agreement for
NCCP

Deliverables include memoranda confirming the following
tasks:

- Execute Planning Agreement between CDFW
- Identify a preliminary list of natural communities and species known or reasonably expected to be found in those communities
- Design and implementation of the science advisory process
- Identify covered activities
- Confirm covered species
- Develop draft method for impact assessment
- Develop draft biological goals and objectives

Prepare for public outreach meetings

Task Summary

Public and Stakeholder Outreach

Deliverables include development or implementation of the following:

- Public Workshops
- Public Presentations
- Press Releases
- Informational Brochures

County has created an ADHOC Committee for the purpose of Public and Stakeholder Outreach

- First Meeting will be on Monday May 3, 2021 at 4pm and can be attended via Zoom or on a limited capacity at the RMA Upstairs Conference Room at 2301 Technology Parkway
- Details will be posted on the website and can be emailed to those interested
- Please note we are looking for 1-2 members of the public to serve on the committee (would like to have one member be an agricultural stakeholder)

Task Summary

Drafting the SBCCP

Deliverables include developing the following draft SBCCP chapters:

- Chapter 1. Introduction
- Chapter 2. Land Use and Covered Activities
- Chapter 3. Existing Conditions
- Chapter 4. Assessment of Take
- Chapter 5. Conservation Strategy
- Chapter 6. Conditions on Covered Activities
- Chapter 7. Monitoring and Adaptive Management Framework

Task Summary

Scoping Environmental Compliance Documents (CEQA/NEPA)

Deliverables include:

- Begin identifying potential effects of the proposed actions.

An initial list of human and environmental resource areas that the proposed project may have significant impacts on

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