

**EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN ASSOCIATION (HCPA)**

DATE: May 10, 2002
TO: HCPA Coordination Group Members
FROM: Member Agency Staff
SUBJECT: Next Coordination Group meeting

The next meeting of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan Association (HCPA) Coordination Group will be held as follows:

Friday, May 17, 2002
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
City of Pittsburg Council Chambers
65 Civic Drive.

Attached please find the meeting agenda and related meeting materials. Several documents that will be discussed in detail are not included in this packet because they were included in the background binders handed out last time. These documents are the memos in Section 3 related to covered species and covered impacts. If you need a copy of these documents, please feel free to contact John Kopchik.

Also included in your packet are two documents requested last time: 1) a contact list for Coordination Group members (for members' use only); and 2) a map of the HCPA Inventory Area (which differs very slightly from the Planning Area map that you already have in that shoreline and tidally influenced areas are left out of the Inventory Area).

Please contact John Kopchik of the Contra Costa County Community Development Department at (925)335-1227(email: jkopc@cd.co.contra-costa.ca.us) with any questions .

Attachments.

HCPA East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan Association

HCPA Coordination Group Meeting

Friday, May 17, 2002
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

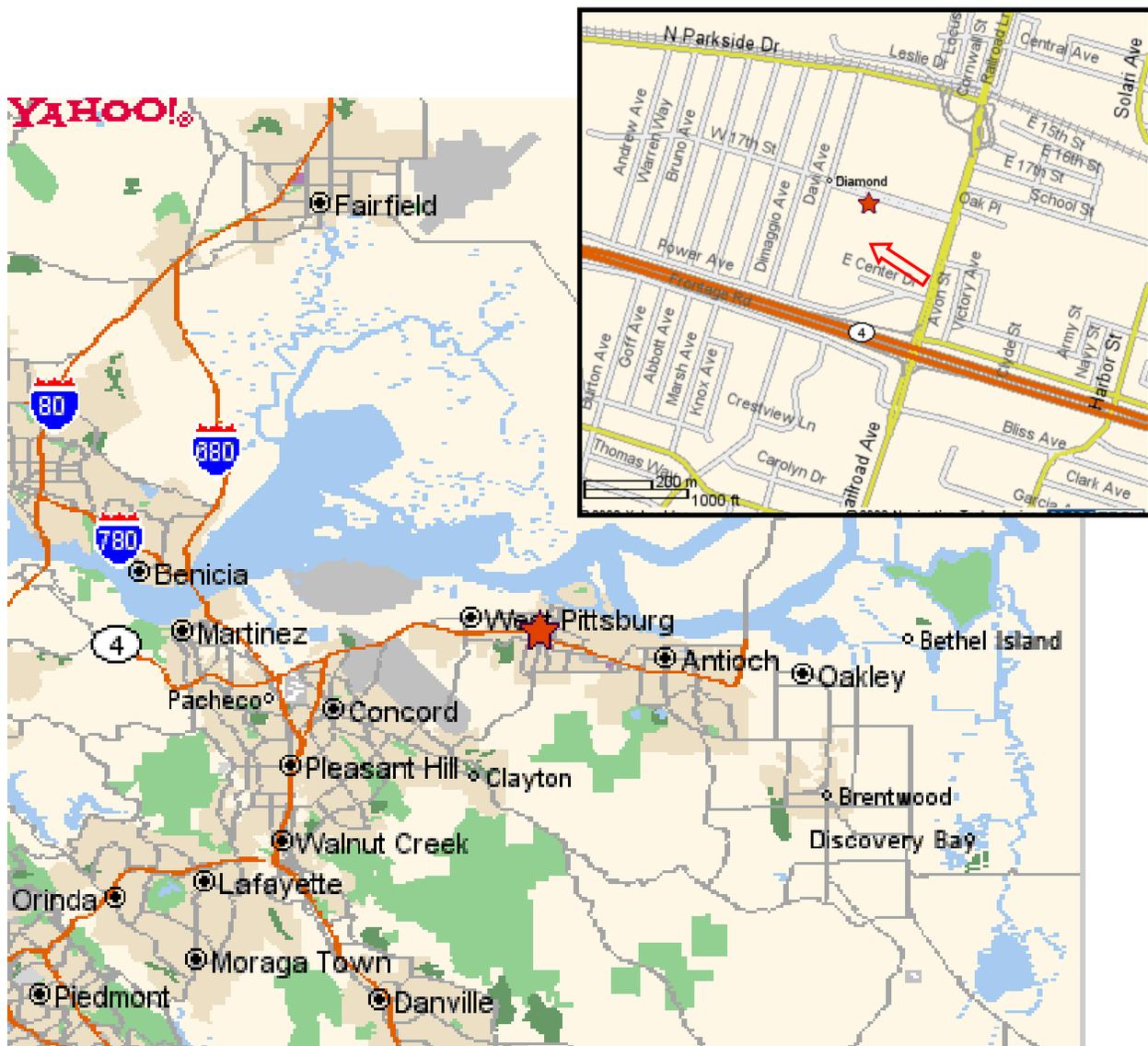
City of Pittsburg Council Chambers
65 Civic Drive in Pittsburg, 3rd Floor
(see map on reverse)

Agenda

- 1:00 Introductions. Review contents of meeting packet.
- 1:05 Review and approve Draft Meeting Record of the April 18, 2002 Coordination Group meeting.
- 1:10 Review and approve revised Operating Procedures. Review and recommend revised Draft HCPA Mission Statement to the Executive Governing Committee.
- 1:15 Presentation on the components of a Natural Community Conservation Plan (David Zippin, Jones and Stokes).
- 1:35 Presentation on the HCPA Science Advisory Panel: What is its purpose? How will it function? (The 1st Science Advisory Panel meeting is scheduled for May 29 at 11 am) (Erica Fleishman, Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford University, Science Advisory Panel Facilitator).
- 2:00 Review Draft Covered Species Criteria and Covered Species List. Consider developing a recommendation to the Executive Governing Committee on this matter.
- 2:20 Review Draft Covered Activities List. Consider developing a recommendation to the Executive Governing Committee on this matter.
- 2:40 Review and comment on Draft Questions for the 1st meeting of the Science Advisory Panel.
- 2:50 Confirm upcoming meeting dates and review upcoming topics. Upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows for the City of Pittsburg Council Chambers:
 - Tuesday, June 18, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Thursday, July 18, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- 2:55 Public comment.
- 3:00 Adjourn.

Times are approximate. If you have questions about this agenda or desire additional meeting materials, you may contact John Kopchik of the Contra Costa County Community Development Department at 925-335-1227.

Map and Directions to Pittsburg City Hall 65 Civic Drive



Directions from I-680, Central County

- 1) Take Hwy 4 East toward Antioch/Stockton
- 2) Follow Hwy East over the hill (Willow Pass)
- 3) Exit Railroad Ave. (the 2nd exit after the hill)
- 4) At the end of the exit ramp, turn left on Railroad Ave.
- 5) Turn left at the second intersection, East Center Drive (signs for various city offices will also point you this way)
- 6) Immediately bear right into the large parking lot next to City Hall
- 7) Meeting is on the 3rd floor

Directions from Antioch and points east

- 1) Take Hwy 4 West toward Martinez/Richmond
- 2) Exit Railroad Ave.
- 3) At the end of the exit ramp, turn right on Railroad Ave.
- 4) Turn left at the next intersection, East Center Drive (signs for various city offices will also point you this way)
- 5) Immediately bear right into the large parking lot next to City Hall
- 6) Meeting is on the 3rd floor

DRAFT MEETING RECORD

East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan Association (HCPA) Coordination Group

Kickoff Meeting
Thursday, April 18, 2002
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

City of Pittsburg Council Chambers

For review and approval by the Coordination Group on May 17, 2002

3:00 Welcome and introductions (Dennis McCormac, Contra Costa Water District and John Kopchik, Contra Costa County Community Development Department).

Mayor Frank Quesada of the City of Pittsburg welcomed participants. Meeting attendees introduced themselves. Coordination Group members in attendance were:

Peter Rauch, CNPS-East Bay Chapter	Mike Daley, Sierra Club
Jay Torres-Muga, Seeno Construction	Mike Vukelich, Farm Bureau
Carl Wilcox, CA Dept. of Fish & Game	Janice Gan, CA Dept. of Fish & Game
Sheila Larsen, US Fish and Wildlife Service	Winston Rhodes, City of Brentwood
Jeremy Graves, City of Clayton	Kerri Watt, Shea Homes
Junko Peterson, Contra Costa RCD	Seth Adams, Save Mount Diablo
Jim Gwerder, CCC Citizens' Land Alliance	Barry Hand, City of Oakley
Jerry Brown, CC Water District	Fran Garland, CC Water District
Dennis McCormac, CC Water District	
Alicia Guerra, Morrison & Foerster for Contra Costa Council	
Guy Bjerke, Home Builders Association of Northern California	

Other attendees included: Sharon Marsh, Byron MAC.

3:10 Background on the conservation planning effort, including the purpose and role of the HCPA Coordination Group. Overview of background documents. (John Kopchik).

John Kopchik made a brief presentation using PowerPoint. Coordination Group members asked a variety of questions, including a question on the Science Advisory Panel and how it would be formed. Staff provided a brief answer and indicated that a more thorough overview would be provided at next Coordination Group meeting when the Panel facilitator, Erica Fleishman of the Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford University, would be invited to make a presentation.

3:30 HCP 101 Presentation (David Zippin, Jones and Stokes Associates). David Zippin provided an overview of how Habitat Conservation Plans are prepared. Members asked a variety of questions, including two topics that need to be pursued further at a future

meeting: 1) the inclusion of wetlands conservation and permits in planning process; and 2) details on developing a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP), the state law equivalent of an HCP, including how this would be affected by recent legislation.

David Zippin reviewed the contents of the binders which had been distributed. Coordination Group members requested a copy of a map of the HCPA Inventory Area (which is different from HCPA Planning Area in that shoreline portions of the Planning Area are omitted from the inventory area). Coordination Group members also requested that contact information for Group members be provided.

- 4:00 Presentation/Discussion/Acknowledgement of HCPA Coordination Group Operating Procedures.** Jeremy Graves reviewed proposed Operating Procedures. The Operating Procedures were amended and approved by consensus (please see revised Operating Procedures (5-17-02 version) for a record of amendments).
- 4:10 Review and consider recommending revisions to the draft HCPA Mission Statement, referred to the Coordination Group by the Executive Governing Committee of the HCPA.** Barry Hand reviewed the Draft Mission Statement with the Group. The Draft Mission Statement was amended and recommended by consensus to the Executive Governing Committee (please see revised Draft Mission Statement (5-17-02 version) for a record of amendments).
- 4:30 Identification of issues and opportunities: participants will be asked to describe their major concerns and hopes regarding development of the East Contra Costa County HCP.** This topic was combined with the 4:10 item. Comments were largely focused on the Draft Mission Statement and amendments.
- 4:50 Discuss dates for upcoming meetings.** May 17 at 1 pm was selected as the date for the next meeting. June 18 and July 18 at 1 p.m. were tentatively identified as additional meeting dates.
- 4:55 Public comment.** None.
- 5:00 Adjourn.**

HCPA Coordination Group Operating Procedures, 5/17/02
(showing revisions to 4/18/02 version with underline and ~~strikeout~~)

- a) Coordination Group provides recommendations to EGC.
- b) Member agencies provide staff support.
- c) Member agencies shall keep a written record of the outcomes of Coordination Group meetings. Draft meeting records will be reviewed by the Coordination Group at the subsequent meeting. Audio recordings of Coordination Group meetings shall be taken and retained. (In the event that available technology fails to successfully record voices, this item shall be revisited)
- d) Consensus-based recommendations are the goal. If after an extensive effort to develop a consensus recommendation the group is still not in agreement, irreconcilable viewpoints will be reported to the EGC.
- e) Coordination Group participants should respect the right of other participants to present their point of view.
- f) All Coordination Group meetings will be open to the public and will include public comment.
- g) Coordination Group members should regularly report back to their constituencies on the East County HCP.
- h) Documents prepared by staff for discussion at a Coordination Group meeting shall be available at least 96 hours in advance of the meeting.

Draft Mission Statement for the HCPA, 5/17/02
(showing revisions to 4/18/02 version with underline and ~~strikeout~~)

The East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan will provide comprehensive species, wetlands and ecosystem conservation and contribute to recovery of endangered species by balancing open space, habitat, agriculture, and urban development within East Contra Costa County, while:

- balancing open space, habitat, agriculture, and urban development;
- reducing the cost and increasing the clarity and consistency of federal and state permitting,
- consolidating and streamlining these processes into one, locally-controlled plan,
- encouraging, where appropriate, the multiple use of protected areas, including recreation and agriculture,
- sharing the costs and benefits of the habitat conservation plan ~~process and implementation among participating agencies~~ as widely and equitably as possible, and
- protecting the rights of private property owners, ~~and~~
- ~~contributing to the conservation and recovery of endangered species and their habitats.~~

Overview of the HCPA Science Advisory Panel

Prepared by Erica Fleishman, Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford University, and John Kopchik, Contra Costa County Community Development Department

The purpose of independent science review. There are a number of reasons for including independent science review in the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) / Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) for eastern Contra Costa County. These include the following:

- a) Science review is now a requirement of the NCCP Act, as amended by the state of California in 2002.
- b) Independent review will help to assure that the HCP/NCCP is based on appropriate and valid scientific techniques and principles.
- c) Including science review in early phases of the development of the HCP/NCCP, such as we propose, may uncover and resolve scientific issues before they threaten our schedule and budget.

Facilitator for the science review process. The success of the science review process will depend heavily on the work of the panel facilitator. The facilitator will assist with designing the review process, selecting and recruiting panelists, and framing questions for the panel. The facilitator will also run panel meetings and assist the panel chair in documenting findings. Agency staff, with the assistance of the Jones and Stokes team, considered a list of potential facilitators and selected two facilitators for interview. Based on this research, staff recommended hiring Erica Fleishman, a scientist who works for the Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford University. Dr. Fleishman has an excellent and directly relevant academic background, has experience in coordinating the efforts of multiple scientists and in convening large scientific conferences, and is very enthusiastic about the potential for assisting with our HCP/NCCP. The Executive Governing Committee approved the hiring of Dr. Fleishman.

Assembling the Panel. The panel facilitator was asked to identify the areas of scientific expertise that should be represented on the panel. Dr. Fleishman recommended the following areas of expertise:

1. Taxonomic expertise. Most of the species covered by the HCP can be grouped into several major taxonomic categories, including aquatic invertebrates, herptiles (amphibians and reptiles), raptors, and plants. One terrestrial invertebrate (Valley elderberry longhorn beetle), one small mammal (San Joaquin kit fox), one bat, and several other species of birds (a shorebird, an owl, and a blackbird) are also on the list.
2. Moderate to large-scale ecological patterns and processes (e.g., community or landscape ecology, hydrology, quantitative ecology)
3. Conservation biology (e.g., principles of reserve design, surveys and monitoring, adaptive management, role of human and natural disturbance at multiple spatial and taxonomic scales)
4. Conservation and land-use planning in practice

Dr. Fleishman further recommended that the following pragmatic criteria be considered in selecting potential panel members:

1. Scientific credibility
2. Interpersonal skills, including the ability to function as a responsible and productive member of a team
3. Oral and written communication skills

Dr. Fleishman and agency staff also felt it would be helpful to include some members who participated in the biological technical review for the East County Pilot Study Task force because of their familiarity with the geographic area and with the basic methods used to gather ecological information for the HCP.

To assemble the panel, we (the facilitator, agency staff, and project consultants) first brainstormed a list of individuals in the greater San Francisco Bay Area with appropriate scientific expertise. Next, Dr. Fleishman used the pragmatic criteria described above to help cull the initial list. Dr. Fleishman then proposed a final list of panel members based on the interest and availability of the scientists contacted and on the aim of building a well-balanced panel in terms of ecological background and practical experience¹ (as described above). With prior authorization from the Executive Governing Committee of the HCPA, agency staff approved Dr. Fleishman's recommended list of panelists and offered honoraria of \$2500 for panel members and \$4000 for the panel chair.

The following individuals comprise the Science Advisory Panel for the HCPA:

Lynn Huntsinger (Chair)
Barbara Ertter
Alan Launer
Sue Orloff
Bruce Pavlik
Brian Walton

Biographical information on panel members and the facilitator is provided below.

¹ We sought members with both breadth and depth of expertise; the informal network of professional courtesy and information exchange among scientists bolsters our confidence that any gaps in knowledge regarding individual species covered under the plan can be filled if the need arises.

Lynn Huntsinger, Chair

Lynn Huntsinger (Ph.D., Wildland Resource Science, University of California, Berkeley) is Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California, Berkeley. Huntsinger's research focuses on range ecology and management, including effective collaboration between government and private landowners. For example, she is examining the developing role of ranching and the dairy industry in land conservation in Marin County and elsewhere in California. Other ongoing studies include diversity patterns of native grasses in urbanized landscapes, land fragmentation and oak woodlands, and fire hazard management in California and Nevada. Huntsinger has considerable practical experience working for and interacting with federal and state resource management agencies, including the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. She also is a member of the editorial boards of several peer-reviewed journals. Huntsinger previously served on the Biological Technical Review Committee of the Alameda–Contra Costa Biodiversity Working Group, East County Pilot Study Task Force.

Barbara Ertter

Barbara Ertter (Ph.D., Biology, City University of New York and The New York Botanical Garden) is Research Botanist in the University Herbarium and Jepson Herbarium at the University of California at Berkeley, where she holds the joint position of Administrative Curator and Curator of Western North American Botany. Her professional training and research orientation primarily involve plant systematics, floristics, and biogeography, with special interest and expertise in the flora of the east San Francisco Bay area. In 1997, she published the first comprehensive synopsis of native and naturalized plants in the East Bay. Ertter also has recently updated the Mount Diablo flora, increasing the number of recorded species by 25%. She has served as President of the California Botanical Society and Chair of the Rare Plant Scientific Advisory Committee of the California Native Plant Society, which provided the scientific underpinning for the latest (6th) edition of the *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California*. Ertter previously served on the Biological Technical Review Committee of the Alameda–Contra Costa Biodiversity Working Group, East County Pilot Study Task Force.

Alan Launer

Alan Launer (Ph.D., Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University) is Campus Biologist for Stanford University and Senior Research Associate in the Department of Biological Sciences. His current work focuses primarily on the conservation biology of organisms inhabiting human-modified landscapes. Specific topics of research include the ecology and conservation of species restricted to the serpentine soil-based grasslands of the San Francisco Bay area, land-use and conservation planning for grasslands and scrub in central coastal California, and land-use planning and endangered species preservation in the north Livermore Valley (Alameda County, California). As Campus Biologist, Launer works on numerous issues involving protected species and university land use. His projects include development of both a Habitat Conservation Plan for Stanford lands and a conservation plan for California tiger salamanders on Stanford lands, investigating the biotic impacts of non-native fishes, and informing university land-use policy concerning red-legged frogs and other species of conservation concern.

Susan Orloff

Susan Orloff is a certified wildlife biologist with more than twenty years of professional experience. She specializes in biological assessments for rare and endangered wildlife, inventories of wildlife populations, habitat evaluation and management, and impact analysis and mitigation design. She has conducted habitat assessments, evaluated potential impacts, and developed detailed mitigation plans for more than 100 projects throughout California and the western United States. Orloff specializes in the sensitive species of the San Joaquin Valley and has managed and supervised numerous field-intensive investigations of the endangered San Joaquin kit fox. She is considered an authority on the kit fox and has published several professional papers on this species.

Bruce Pavlik

Bruce Pavlik (Ph.D., Botany, University of California, Davis) is Professor of Biology at Mills College in Oakland, California. His research has focused on the ecology and physiology of plants native to western North America, including the conservation of endangered species. Ecological restoration has become central to his research program. Recent projects have emphasized the design and active management of populations and communities using field-based, experimental approaches. Most of his projects have been associated with grasslands and deserts, but unusual ecosystems (dunes, geothermal springs, serpentinite outcrops, vernal pools) have received special attention. Pavlik is author or coauthor of more than forty scientific and popular publications, including *Oaks of California*, *California's Changing Landscapes*, and the fifth edition of *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California* (1994, California Native Plant Society).

Brian Walton

Brian Walton (M.S., San Jose State University) has been Coordinator of the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group of University of California Santa Cruz for more than 25 years. Walton has expertise in recovery and management of endangered species of raptorial birds. In recent years, his research has focused on problem solving with respect to conflicts between raptors and their prey, such as Peregrine Falcons that prey on endangered terns, plovers, or murrelets and Bald Eagles that prey on endangered Island foxes. Walton has conducted California state-wide surveys and regional surveys of peregrine and prairie falcons, golden and bald eagles, goshawks, and burrowing owls. He also has served on recovery teams for the Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, and California Condor.

Erica Fleishman, Facilitator

Erica Fleishman (Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno) is Research Associate at the Center for Conservation Biology, Stanford University. Fleishman has expertise in analytic and predictive modeling of species occurrence, identification and application of 'indicator' and 'umbrella' species, and the integration of science and land-use planning. In the early 1990s, she worked with the Scientific Review Panel for the southern California coastal sage scrub NCCP to compile and review relevant biological information. Much of Fleishman's research is conducted in partnership with government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private landowners. As a result, she understands the practical realities of land-use planning, and communicates

effectively with diverse professionals and stakeholders as well as researchers. Fleishman also has considerable experience coordinating teams of scientists and editing scientific documents.

Anticipated Science Advisory Panel meeting schedule and agendas:

Meeting 1 (May 29)

1. Review land cover methodology, maps, criteria for selecting covered species and priority listings, profiles of priority 1 species
2. Review questions posed by the HCPA Team

Meeting 2 (early July 2002, possibly by email)

1. Review ecological and conservation principles on which conservation strategies / alternatives will be based
2. Review questions posed by the HCPA Team

Meeting 3 (Fall 2002)

1. Review draft conservation strategy and substantive alternatives
2. Review questions posed by the HCPA Team

Meeting 4 (Spring 2003)

1. Review the draft HCP/NCCP
2. Review questions posed by the HCPA Team



Memorandum

Date: May 7, 2002

To: East Contra Costa County HCP Staff, HCPA Coordination Group

cc:

From: David Zippin and Ed West, Jones & Stokes

Subject: **Draft Questions for Science Advisory Panel—Meeting 1**

The primary function of the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) is to provide independent review of the scientific foundations of the HCP/NCCP. To help focus the input of science panels on HCPs and NCCPs, applicants typically pose specific questions for the panel to consider and answer in writing. We have chosen this format for the East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP.

The science panel is not restricted to answering our questions, but we feel that answers to our questions will be most useful in improving the HCP/NCCP. At their first meeting on May 29, we propose that the SAP discuss the following documents:

- Draft of Chapter 3: Biological resources inventory
- Draft land cover map
- Draft species profiles
- Draft covered species criteria
- Preliminary covered species list

We propose that the SAP consider the following 5 questions at their first meeting. These questions have been reviewed and edited by Erica Fleishman, the science panel facilitator.

1. Given the limitations in data availability, funding, and time (e.g., the minimum mapping unit, and availability of data sources for land cover, soils, streams, watersheds, topography, NDDDB records), are the land cover classification and the methods used to map land cover types sufficient to assess impacts of covered activities, identify conservation areas and actions, and conduct the conservation planning effort?
2. Are the limitations of the methods for land cover type mapping with respect to the conservation planning effort adequately discussed?
3. Do the profiles of each proposed covered species adequately catalogue and summarize the ecological literature on this species most relevant to the East Contra County HCP/NCCP? (note: the profiles are not intended to be treatises on each covered species)

If not, please provide citations of missing data relevant to this effort and copies or original papers, if possible.

4. Did our covered species evaluation overlook any species whose survival or viability, either at the species level or in the inventory area, is likely to be significantly affected by the proposed activities?
5. Have we appropriately applied the covered species criteria to generate the preliminary covered species lists?

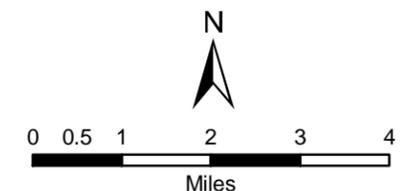
Please provide your comments on these questions or suggest additional questions to pose to the panel.

East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP

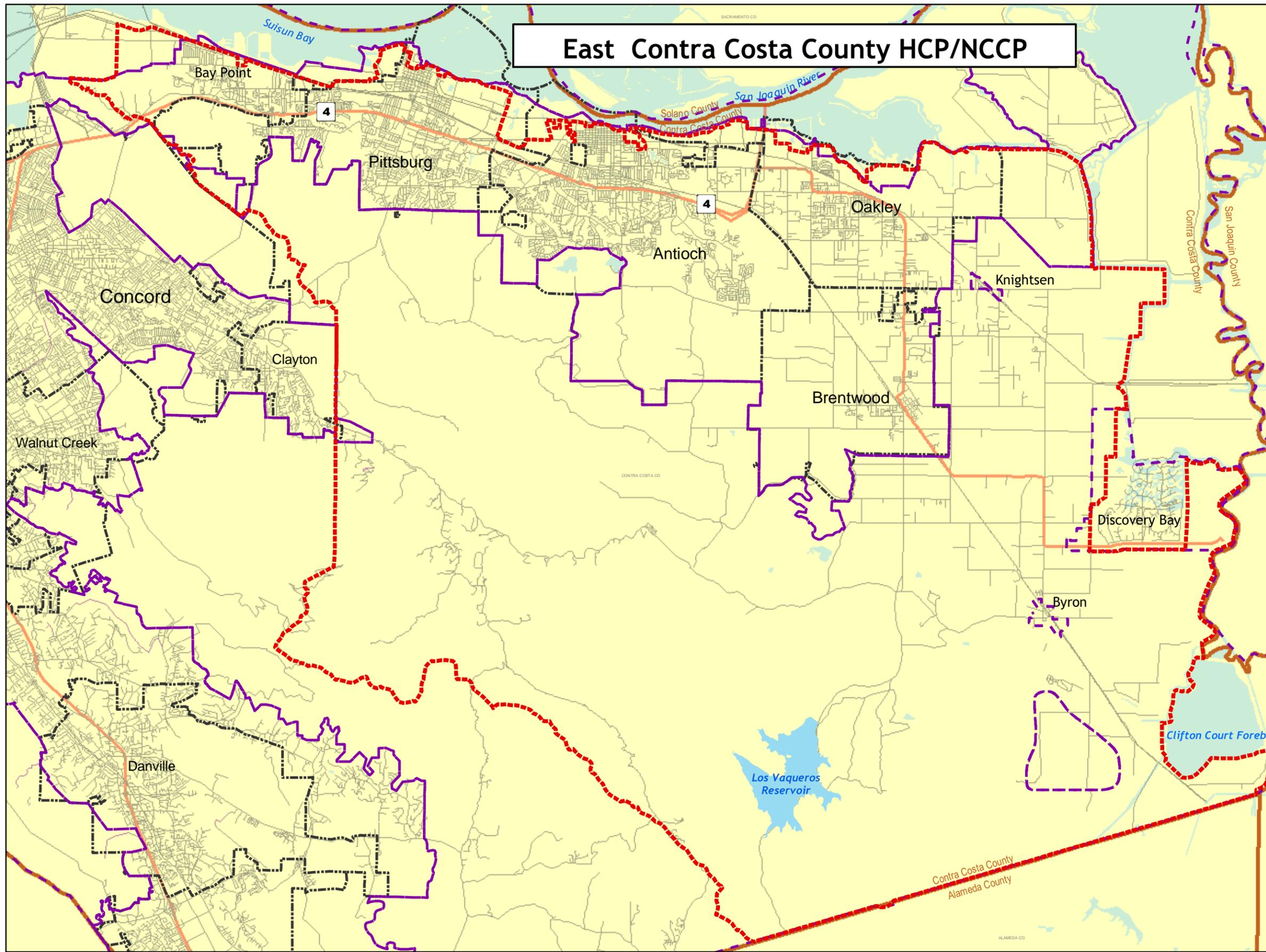
DRAFT

Legend

-  Inventory Area
-  Urban limit line
-  City limits



Source: Jones & Stokes, 2002
February 14, 2002



Inventory Area