



SANTA CLARA  
COUNTY PARKS



BFS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS + H.T. HARVEY & ASSOCIATES + BALANCE HYDROLOGICS + DAVID J. POWERS

# Coyote Canyon

## Natural Resources Management Plan & Interim Access Plan

Housing, Land Use, Environment & Transportation  
Committee

October 17, 2019



# Presentation Overview

- Planning Purpose
- The Plan Document
- Interim Access (IA) Plan
- Recommended Public Access Option
- Natural Resource Management (NRM) Plan
- Environmental Review
- Next Steps

# Planning Purpose



## Understand

Existing conditions, opportunities, and constraints.



## Identify

Strategies and practices for maintaining and enhancing natural resources.



## Develop

Recommendations for limited public access and how to manage natural resources on the Property.



# Plan Document

## Interim Access Plan

Provide Public Access on the Property

- Provides a recommended public access option
- Focuses on a limited portion of the Property

## Natural Resource Management Plan

Protect, Conserve and Enhance Natural Resources

- Evaluates current management practices
- Creates adaptive management and monitoring program
- Establishes a grazing plan

## Mitigated Negative Declaration

CEQA Compliance

- Analyzes potential impacts from:
  - NRM Plan on a programmatic level
  - IA Plan on a project level
- Mitigates impacts to a less-than-significant level

# Interim Access Plan



## **Limited Focus**

Focuses on the west side of Coyote Canyon (core of the property)



## **Balancing Nature**

Designed based on findings from NRM Plan



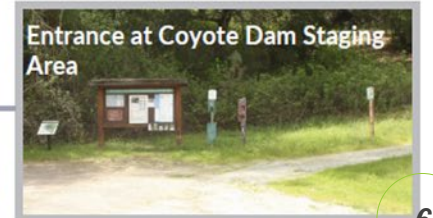
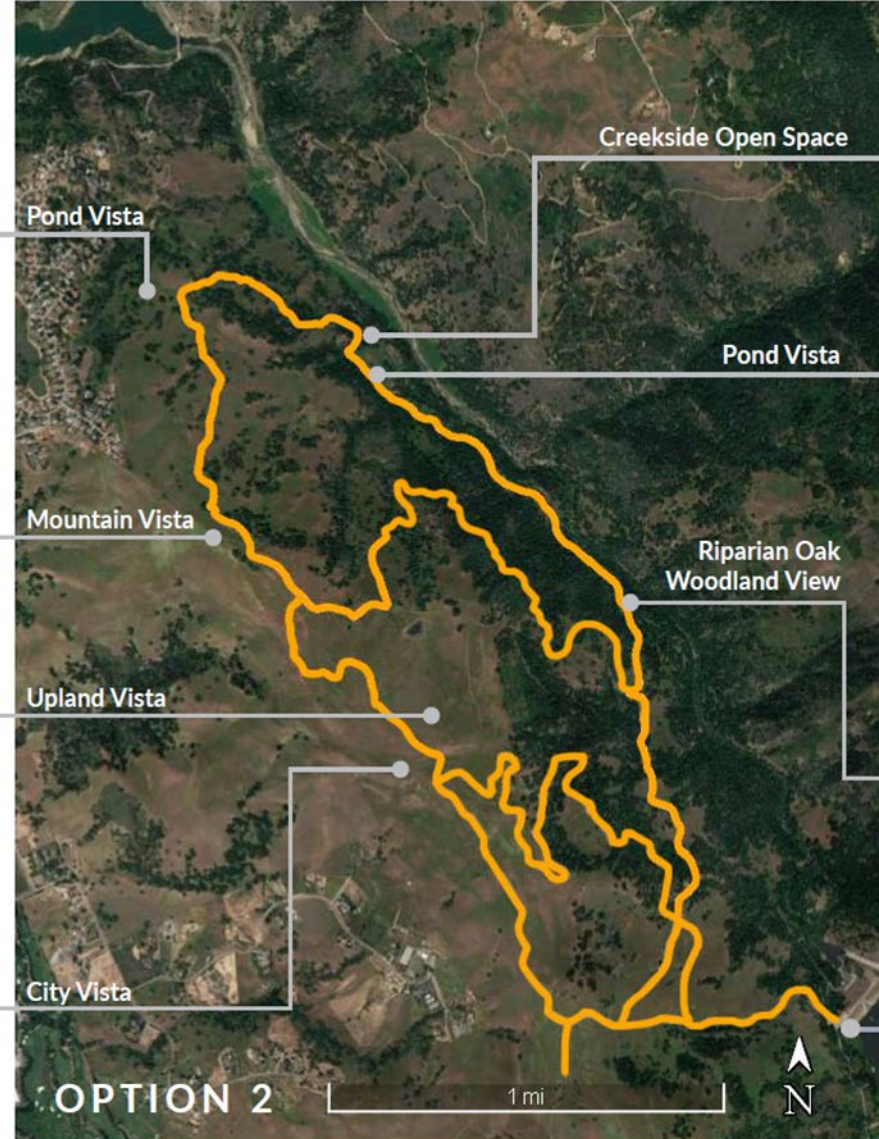
## **Recommended Alignment**

Provides loop trail connections for users and north/south patrol route for maintenance and operations

# Balancing Public Access and Natural Resources

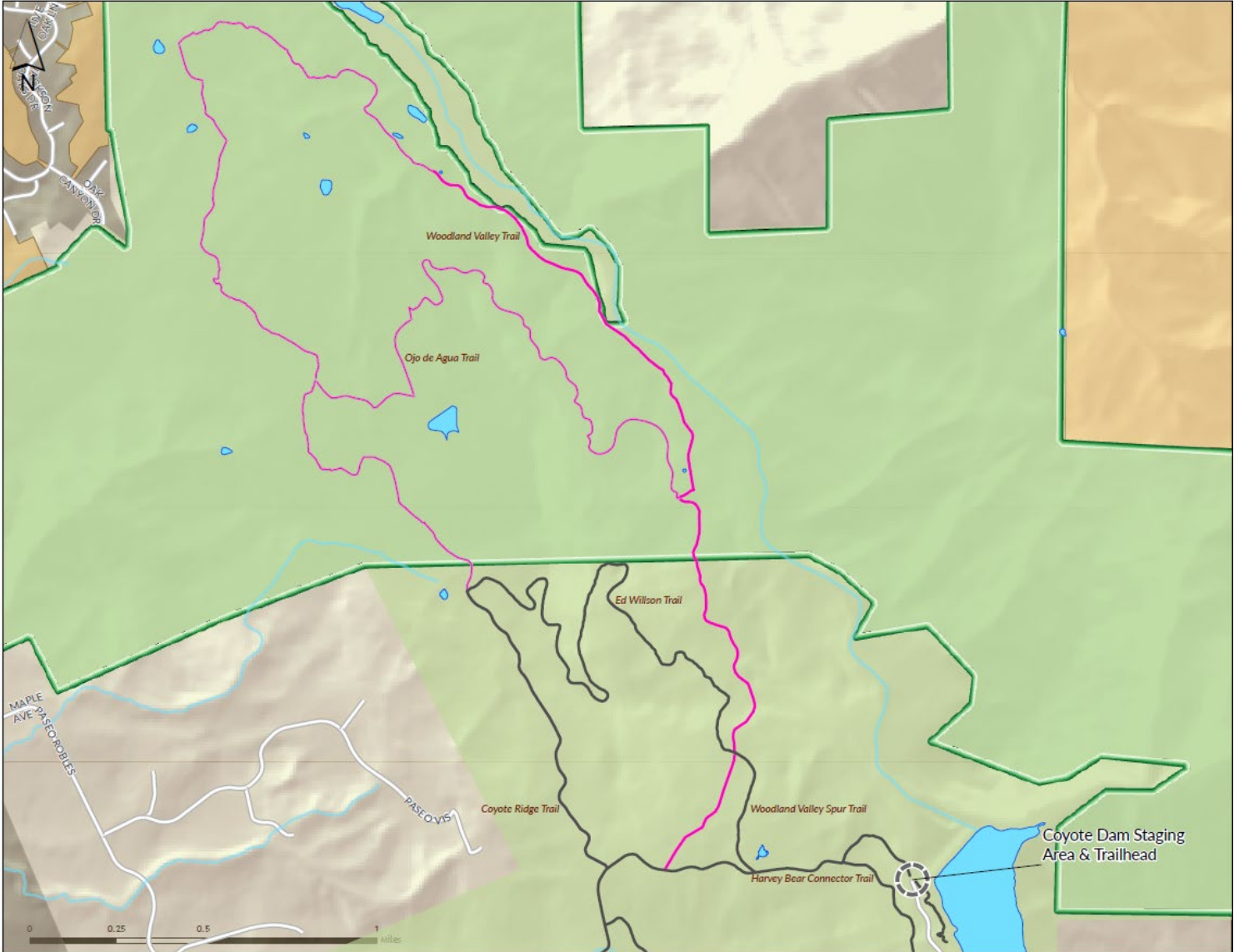
## Recommended Public Access Alignment

- Segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Views of the City of Morgan Hill & Santa Cruz Mountains
- Accessible from the existing trail system in Coyote Lake – Harvey Bear Ranch County Park
- Most of the recommended option uses the existing ranch road network



# Recommended Public Access Option

## Balancing Department Goals with Nature



### Legend

- Coyote Canyon Proposed Trails
- Existing Trails
- Coyote Canyon Boundaries
- Santa Clara County Parks
- Protected Lands
- Cities
- Public Road

# NRM Plan



## **Identify Resources**

Detailed surveys and background document review performed by experts



## **Adaptive monitoring & management**

Strategies for monitoring & protection of sensitive plants & wildlife



## **Grazing Plan**

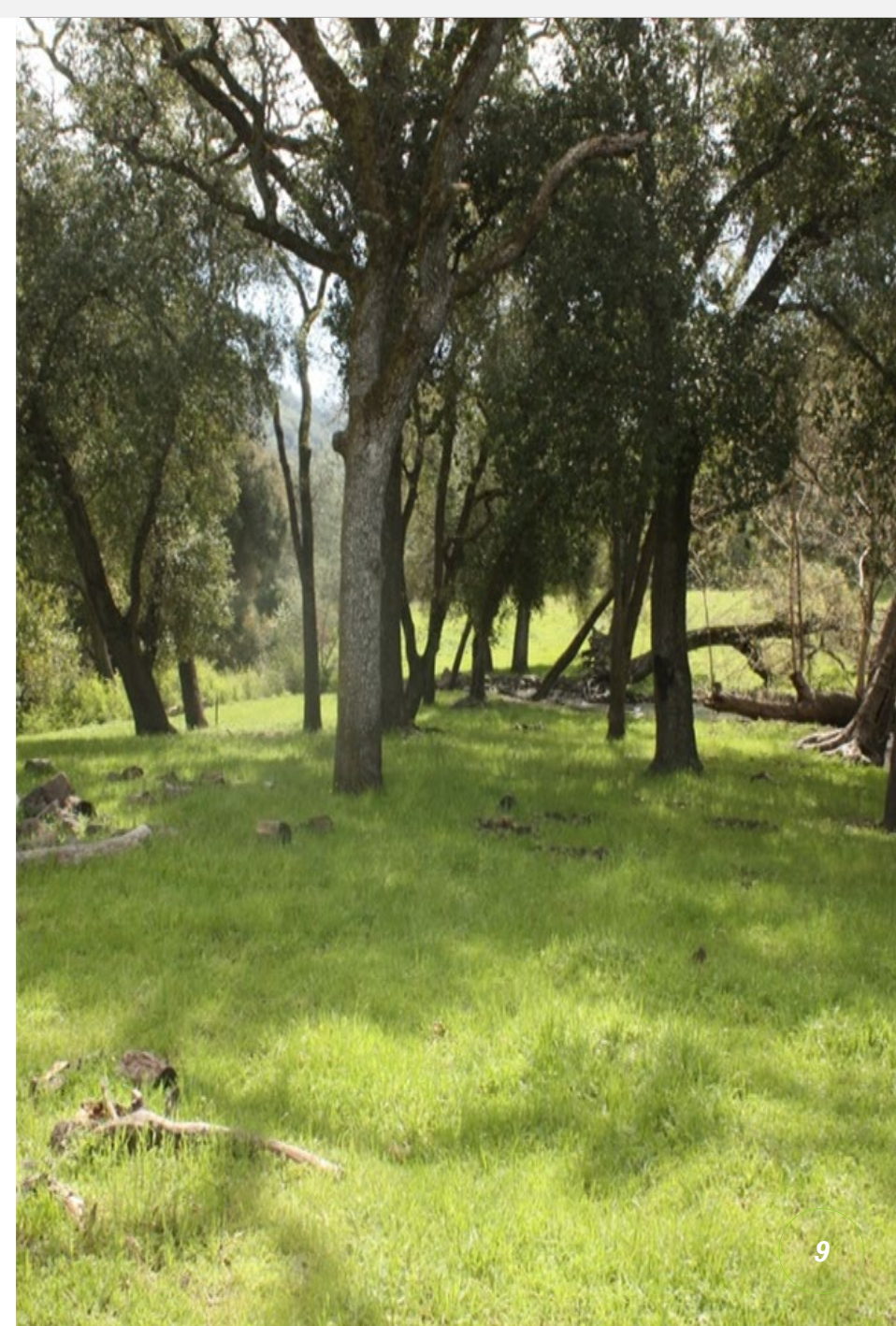
Use grazing for wildfire risk reduction & habitat enhancement





# NRM Plan Goals

- Monitor and protect occurrences of sensitive plants and communities
- Improve riparian habitat and water quality through selective cattle exclusion areas
- Monitor and protect oak woodlands
- Monitor and protect nesting birds, golden eagles, and wintering burrowing owls
- Monitor and manage invasive plants and wild pigs
- Enhance habitat and species as staffing and funding allows



# Grazing Plan Goals

- Protecting, conserving, and enhancing natural plant communities
- Minimizing fire hazards to parklands and private property by managing vegetative fuels
- Rehabilitating degraded vegetation and wildlife habitat
- Establishing cooperative relationships with adjacent property owners
- Provide safe, recreational access for park users



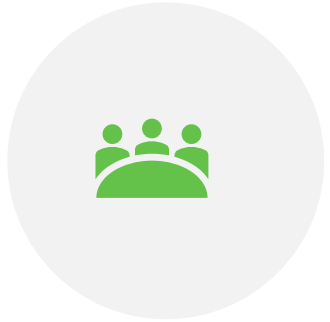
# Environmental Review

The Department has reviewed the Project under CEQA to fully assess any potential environmental impacts and moved forward with a Mitigated Negative Declaration. Comments were related to wildfire, hydrology, biological resources, trail construction and grazing on the Property.

<b>Number of Comments Received</b>	<b>11</b>
Mitigations for Project Impacts to	Cultural resources, Biological Resources, Water quality and hydrology
Public Comment Period	April 30 – June 2, 2019 August 13 – Sept. 15, 2019



# Next Steps



## **Board of Supervisors**

Anticipation of the Plan and CEQA Documentation to be submitted for approval at the December BOS Meeting



## **Finalize Documents**

Compile and publish Plan and CEQA Documentation



## **Implementation**

Secure permits and begin trail conversion and construction





# Questions