

# Opportunities for Water Resources Collaboration

## One Water Plan: Coyote Creek Watershed

SCVWD Board of Directors Meeting

August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

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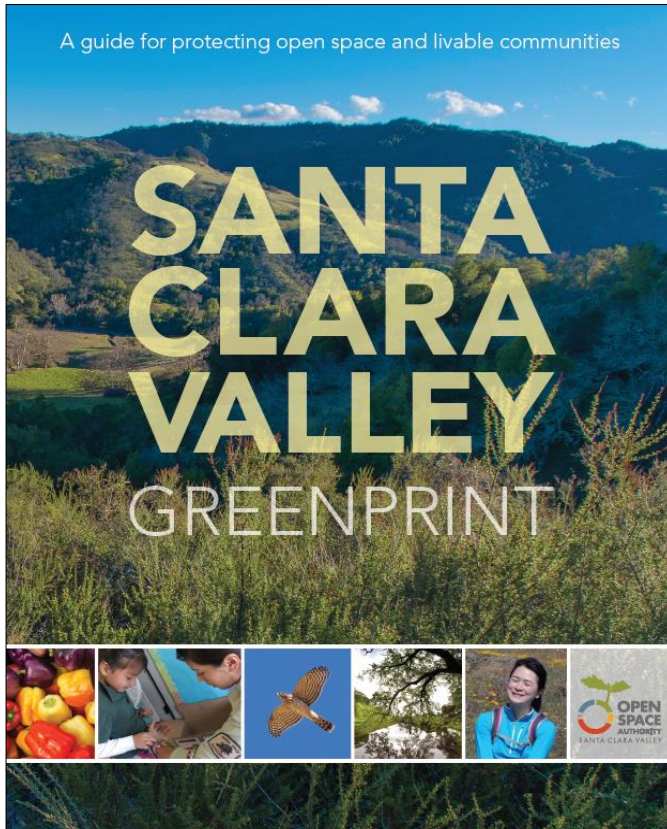
## Mission Statement

The Open Space Authority conserves the natural environment, supports agriculture and connects people to nature, by protecting open spaces, natural areas, and working farms and ranches for future generations.

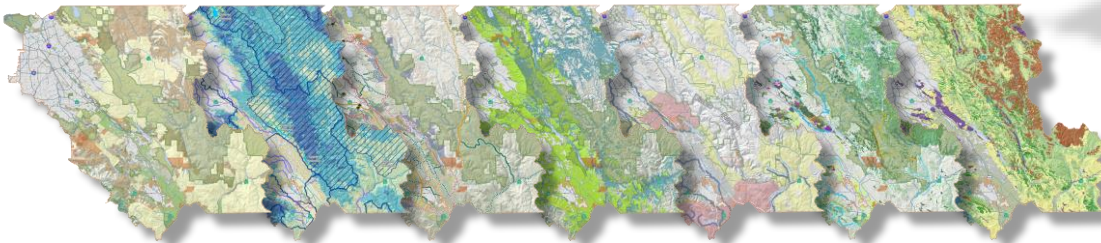
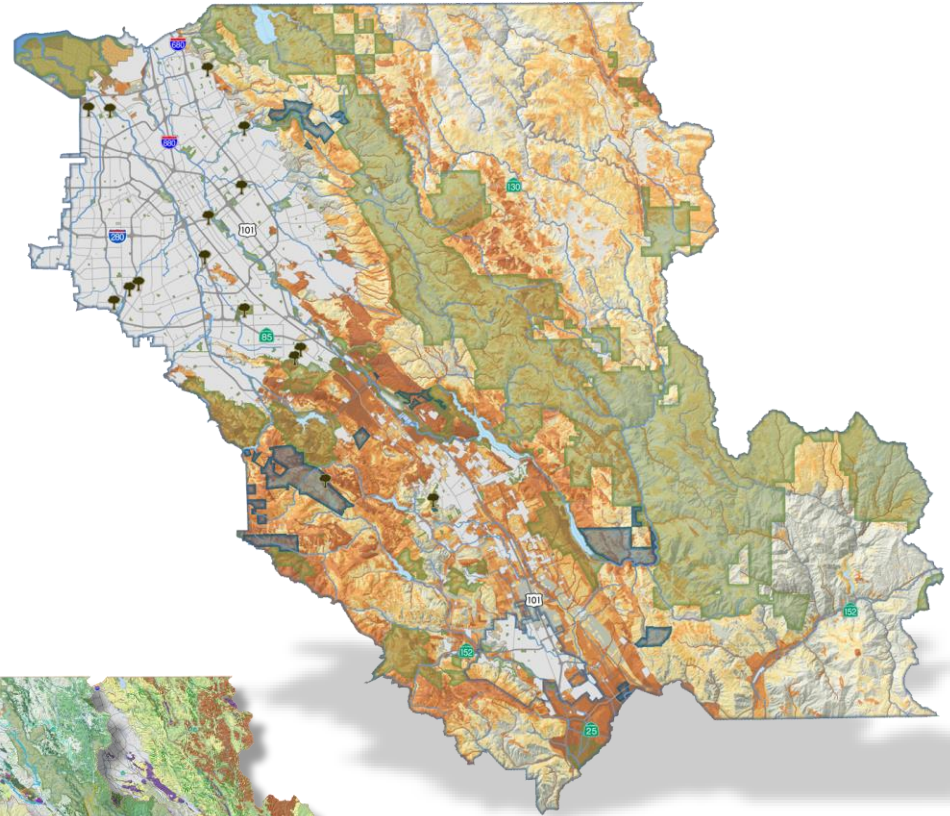
# Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

- Open Space District created in 1993
- Funded by benefit assessment district & Measure Q parcel tax
- 30 full-time staff
- Volunteer and docent program
- Over 18,000 acres protected to date
- Urban Open Space Program

# The Santa Clara Valley Greenprint



- 30-year plan for integrated land conservation in the Santa Clara Valley







# Healthy Lands & Healthy Economies

Value of Ecosystem Goods & Services in Santa Clara County

**\$1.6 billion to \$3.9 billion per year**

Source: Batker et al., 2014

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# HISTORIC ECOLOGY

## LAGUNA SECA 100 YEARS LATER



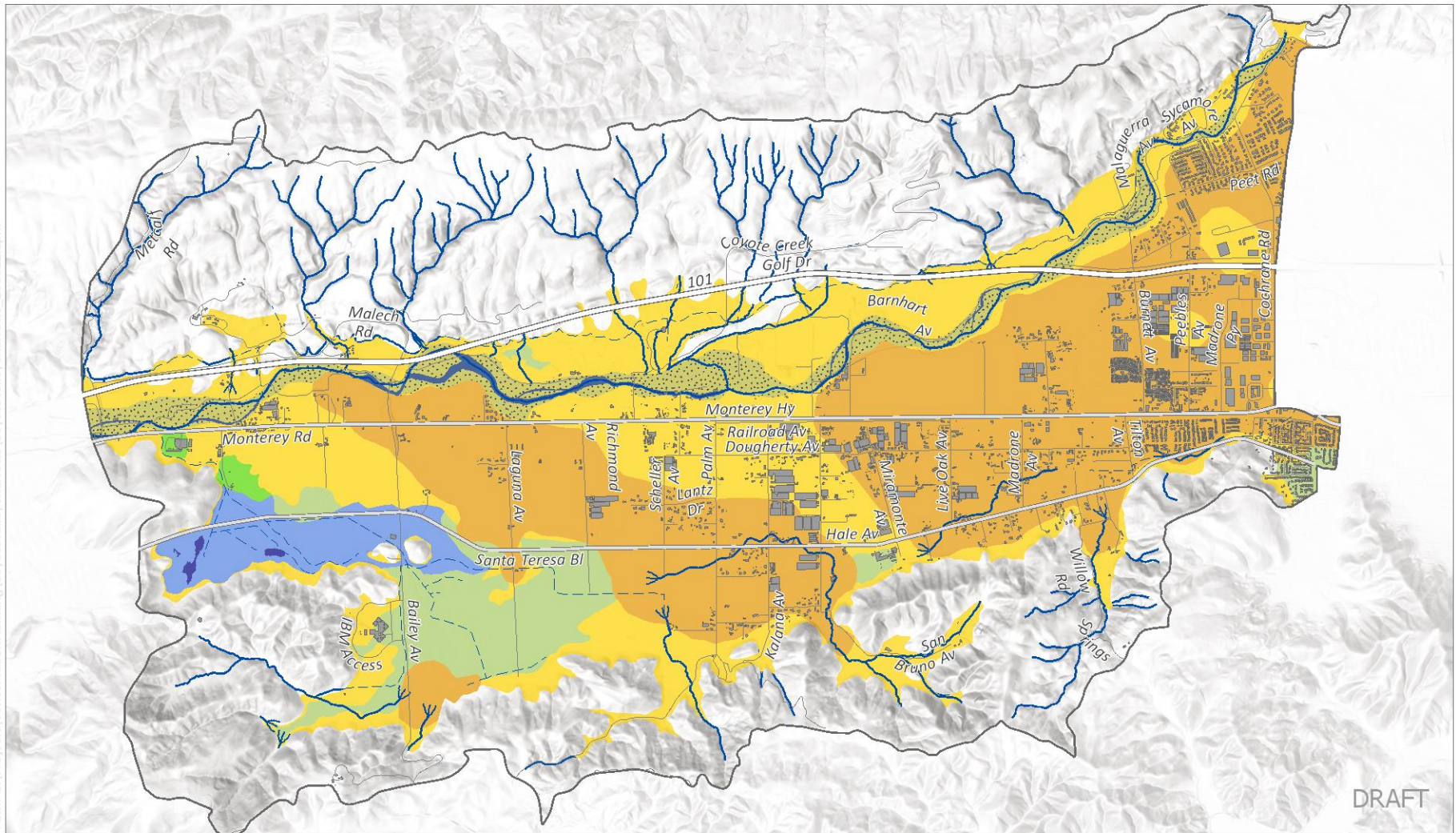
2015



1916

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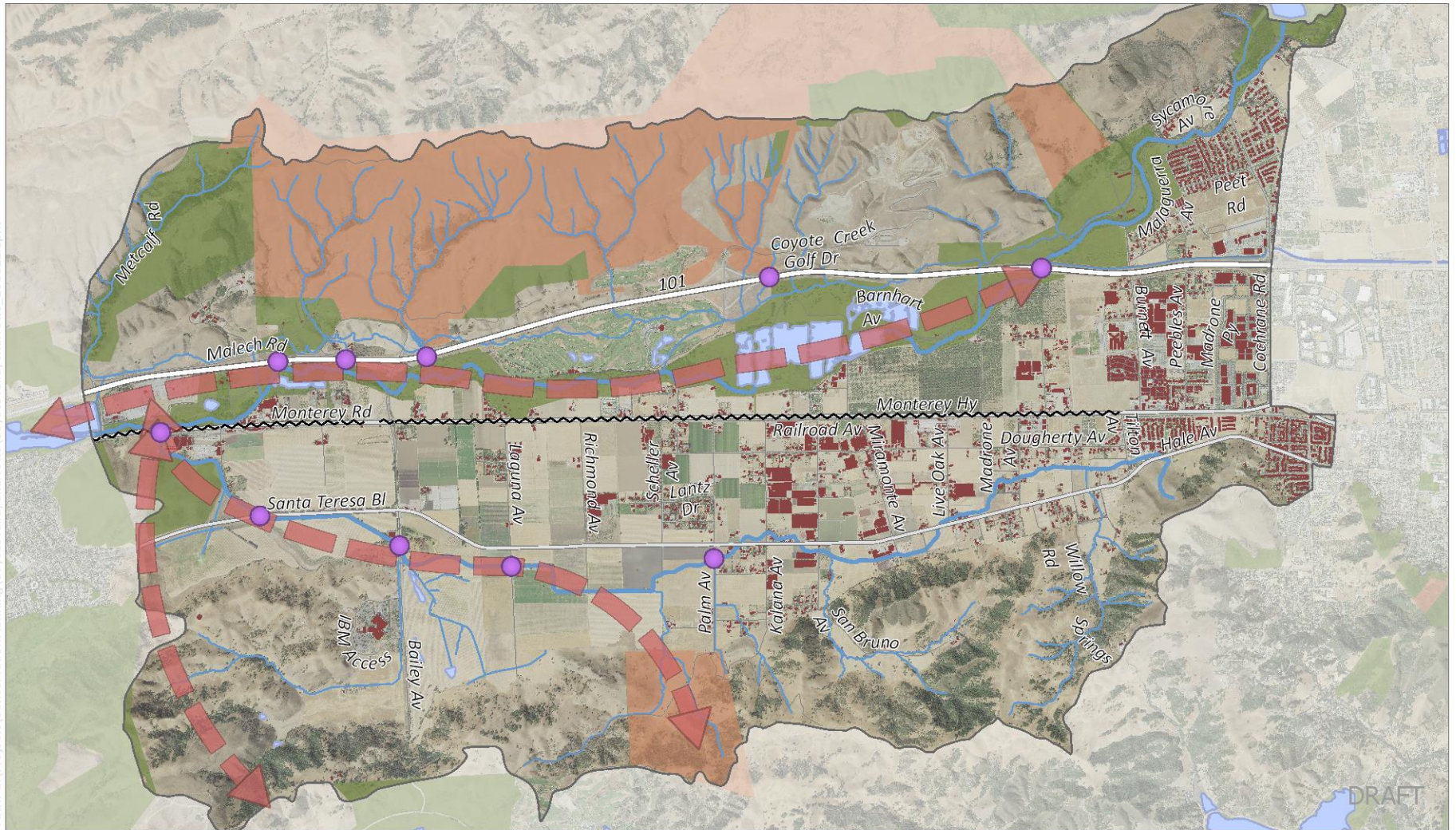




- Historic Creek
- Modern Creek Addition
- Yellow: Oak Savanna
- Orange: Oak Woodland
- Blue: Freshwater Marsh
- Green: Wet Meadow
- Light Green: Willow Grove
- Dark Blue: Perennial Pond
- Dotted Pattern: Riparian



Path: G:\Projects\Conservation\Planning\CoyoteValley\Charrette\CoyoteValleyCharrette\_160811.aprx



- Confirmed Passage Locations
- Buildings
- OSA Preserves
- Other Protected Open Space
- ~ Road Median

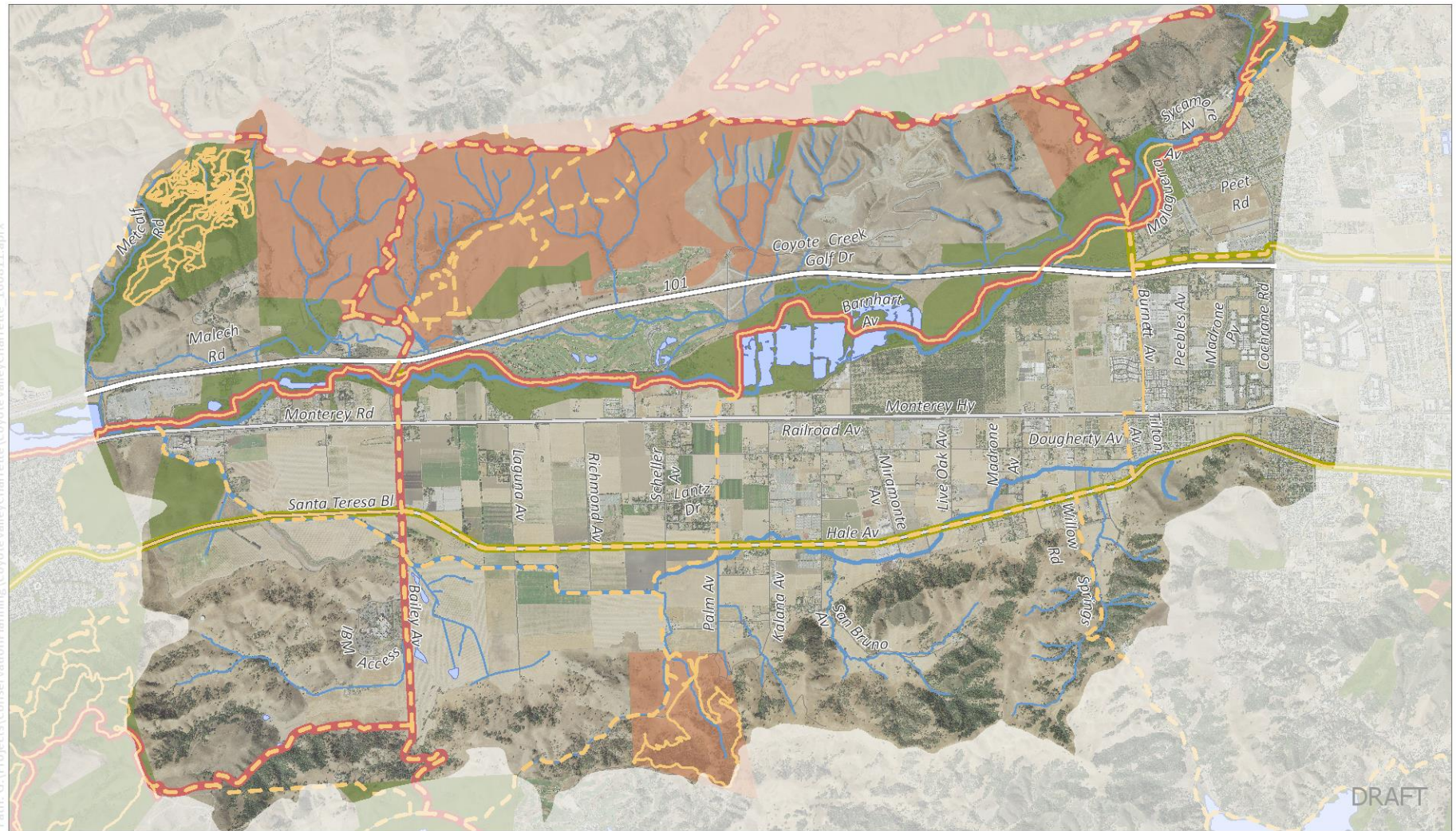


# FARMLAND CONSERVATION

- Over 3,700 acres of Prime farmland in active production in the Coyote Valley
- New orchard crop operations show growing feasibility of high-value crop production in the Coyote Valley.
- North and Mid Valley found to be “High” to “Very High” Farmland Conservation Scores in Santa Clara Valley Greenprint.

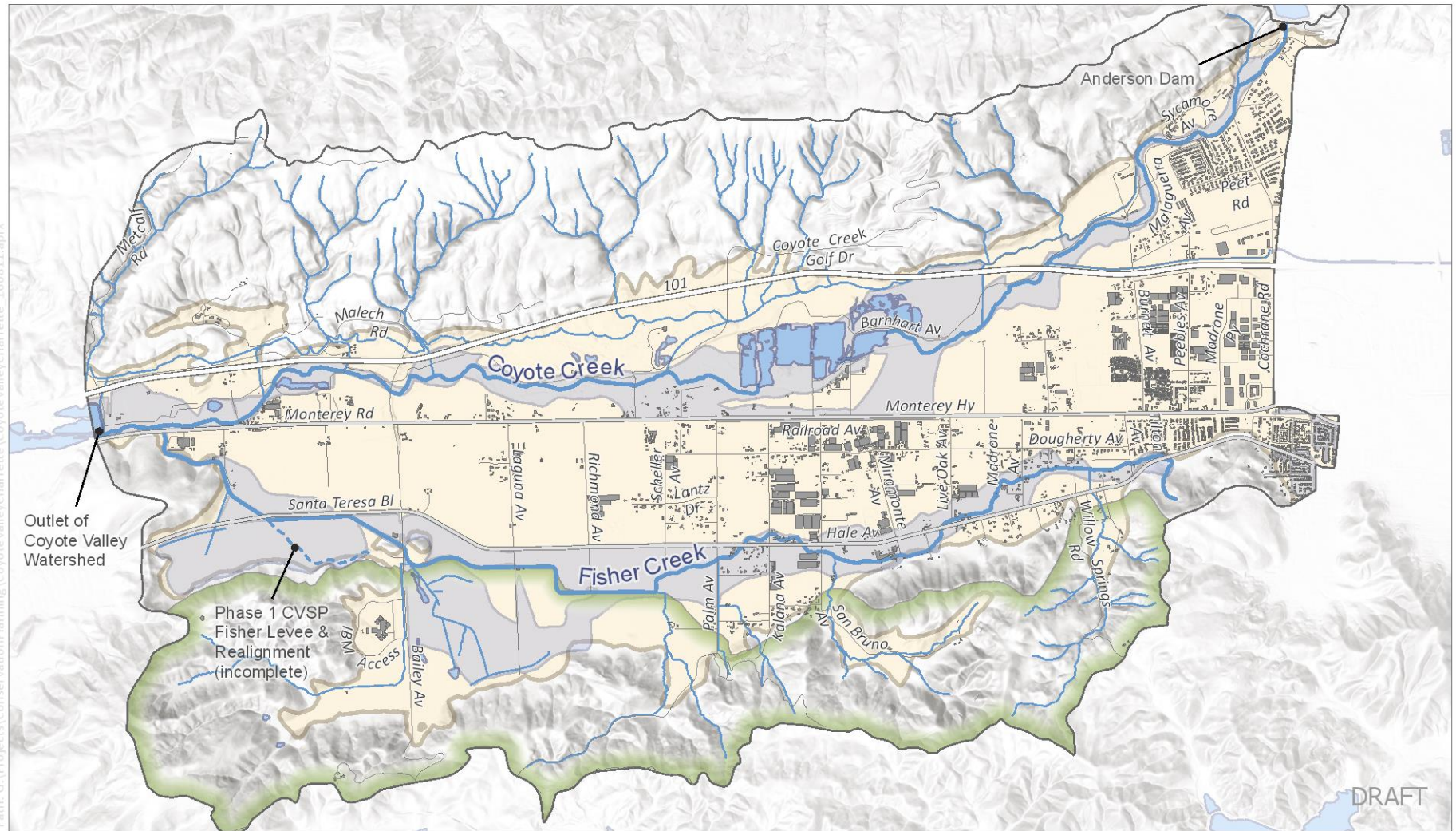






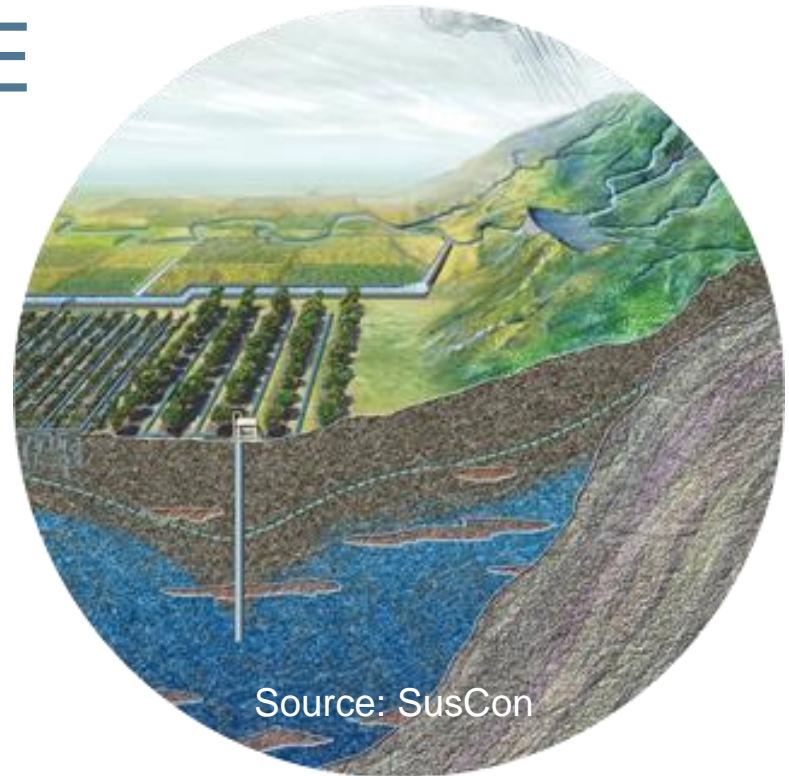
- |                     |                             |                            |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Trail Status</b> | Bay Area Ridge Trail        | OSA Preserves              |
| Incomplete          | Juan Bautista De Anza Trail | Other Protected Open Space |
| Complete            |                             |                            |





# INVESTING IN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Management and restoration of natural lands to improve provisioning of water related ecosystem services will provide meaningful and quantifiable benefits to the community.





# Coyote Valley Water Resource Investment Strategy

Develop locally-relevant data that characterizes and quantifies how investments in existing natural capital and open spaces in the Coyote Valley:

- provide measurable benefits,
- can be cost effective
- complement and protect built infrastructure
- provide a suite of co-benefits ordinarily not supported by traditional infrastructure projects
- can be rapidly implemented and scaled throughout a watershed.

# Key Findings: Phase 1

- The Coyote Valley is already **naturally recharging enough water for thousands of homes** during single storm events and contains zones that are highly suitable for additional stormwater capture and groundwater recharge
- Enhanced stormwater capture will provide measurable and potentially very valuable **downstream flood risk reduction** (Upper bounds estimates indicate reductions in flood flows by over 50% at Williams Street during 10-yr events).
- Even limited restoration of Fisher Creek and Laguna Seca would result in **thousands of linear feet of expanded riparian corridor and hundreds of acres of new wetlands, wet meadows, and valley oak savannah.**



# Next Steps

- Through the next phases of this project, our aim is to identify a suite of **cost-effective, practical restoration projects** around Fisher Creek and the Laguna Seca that are appealing to funders and can be implemented in partnership between OSA, SCVWD, the wildlife agencies, and willing landowners.
- Phase 2 of this project will provide:
  - the most suitable/optimal locations for green infrastructure
  - specific types of projects and conceptual designs
  - more detailed modeling of projected benefits and estimated costs



# Thank You

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