



Broadcaster

Santa Clara County Farm Bureau

Volume 2, Issue 3

Issue update: Habitat Conservation Plan

The Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan—often referred to as the HCP—has undergone significant changes over the last few months and is changing daily. Since the public comment period ended in April, the plan’s preparers have been working to address some of the more loudly voiced concerns. They are focusing on reducing the cost and scope of the plan, fee concerns, technical concerns raised by the Farm Bureau and Cattlemen’s Association regarding management and implementation of the Reserve System, and the need for an economic analysis. Consultants and staff for the local partners (City of Gilroy, City of Morgan Hill, City of San Jose, Santa Clara County, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and Valley Transportation Authority) have until the end of September to present a reduced version of the plan so local entities can reevaluate their participation in the plan. The local partners also approved funding for an economic impact analysis to determine which stakeholders are likely to be impacted negatively, positively, or neutrally by the plan and its development fees.

Below are some items the local partners are considering to reduce the size and scope of the plan:

- Remove the Rural Development component of the plan, which would have included fees up to \$20,000/acre for barns, coolers, shops, homes, etc. in unincorporated areas. Instead, an opt-in provision would be available for projects with direct impacts to endangered species.
- Increase emphasis on conservation easements rather than fee title acquisitions
- Attempt to incorporate permits from US Army Corps. of Engineers
- Increase the maximum parcel size for exemption
- Reduce assumptions for the amount and type of growth in Almaden Valley, Coyote Valley, and Morgan Hill’s Southeast Quadrant
- Remove Golden Eagle and Townsend’s Western Big-eared Bat from the list of covered species

Due to significant outstanding issues, the Farm Bureau remains opposed to the Habitat Plan. The plan would still:

- Cost nearly \$1 billion over 50 years
- Transfer 45,000 acres from private hands and local tax rolls to public ownership
- Create duplicative requirements for LAFCO ag mitigation and SCVHP fees, would not include Regional Water Board permits
- Be governed by a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with little accountability or transparency
- Create another government entity with regulatory authority to enforce environmental laws
- Allow recreational use on lands acquired for habitat purposes

The Public Review Draft misses the mark from what it was originally intended to do and it does not meet the needs of Santa Clara County residents. The system for complying with state and federal Endangered Species Acts is broken, but the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan is not the appropriate fix. Endangered Species Act compliance adds cost to many public and private projects, but throwing nearly \$1 billion into a Habitat Plan managed by an unaccountable agency over the next 50 years will not solve our problems. Existing land use policies, state and federal laws to protect endangered species, the Williamson Act, and land conservation efforts in the region already provide strong protections for species and habitat. Our local cities, county, and infrastructure agencies should not be pursuing an HCP/NCCP at this time.

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From the desk of Congressman Jerry McNerney

California is the nation's breadbasket, producing countless agricultural products. The agricultural community creates jobs, generates tens of billions of dollars in revenue each year, and feeds people around the globe. You are an integral part of that process here in Santa Clara County, from growing crops like mushrooms, peppers and lettuce to producing wine grapes and cut flowers.

Farmers and ranchers are a special group. You wear several hats on a daily basis and face many challenges. You are business owners facing stiff competition who work hard to remain profitable, especially in these difficult economic times; you are scientists, examining your product to ensure its safety and quality before it hits the marketplace; you are stewards of the environment, working hard to maintain quality goods and protect the land; and you're expected to comply with complex federal and state regulations. That's why it's so important that we work together to ensure you are provided with the tools you need to prosper and thrive.

There are few, if any, other industries where so much is re-

quired of business owners, and it's impressive that you are able to succeed with so many competing responsibilities and pressures. I admire the work you do on a daily basis to support our communities, our state, and our nation. In so many instances, farming is a family business. We must work together to keep quality agricultural lands in the hands of families who know how to be good stewards, raise good crops, and that care about the future of agriculture in Santa Clara County. I've met growers who wanted nothing more than to pass their farm to the next generation, but worried that the estate tax would make that dream impossible. Legislation signed into law in December of last year provides a solution to the estate tax for two years. I have also fought for permanent policies to ensure that agricultural land passed from family member to family member will be exempt from estate taxes if the land is kept for agricultural purposes.

Another issue looming in all of our minds is the 2012 Farm Bill. For too long, the Farm Bill provided huge benefits to regions like the Midwest and all but ignored our needs here in California. In the

last Farm Bill, I fought to obtain support for priorities unique to California, like specialty crops, pest control, and voluntary conservation programs. I'll continue these efforts as the 2012 Farm Bill is developed, and I look forward to working with you throughout this process.

I always enjoy hearing from the people I represent and I encourage you to stay in touch with me. Please don't hesitate to contact me to share an idea or request assistance from a federal agency. I can be reached at (408) 744-0727 or you can send me a message through my website at www.mcnerney.house.gov. I look forward to continuing our work together to support the Santa Clara County agricultural community.

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Congressman Jerry McNerney was sworn into office on January 4, 2007. He is proud to represent California's 11th District, which includes the City of Morgan Hill in Santa Clara County as well as parts of Alameda, Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties. Congressman McNerney, who has his PhD in mathematics, worked for over two decades in the clean energy industry prior to his election to Congress.



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The Santa Clara County Farm Bureau is now offering a chance to reach the agriculture and farming community in a new way through business card, ¼-page, ½-page, and full-page advertising opportunities.

Our bi-monthly newsletter reaches farmers, ranchers, rural homeowners, community groups, and elected officials throughout Santa Clara County, providing you with targeted advertising.

The Broadcaster is the only publication focused on serving local agriculture.

For more information contact Cristina Barkdull at cbarkdull@sccfarmbureau.org or (408) 776-1684.



Grapevine moth update

European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) is an insect pest of grapes that is native to Mediterranean Europe. While grapes are the preferred host, this pest will also occasionally feed on the flower and fruit of other crops

such as blackberry, cherry, kiwi, olives, nectarine, persimmon, plum and pomegranate. Larvae (worms) feed inside the fruit and within the fruit clusters which damages the fruit and exposes it to secondary fungal infections.

European Grapevine Moth was first found in the United States in September 2009 in the Napa Valley. State-wide trapping ensued and moths were found in a number of counties, including Sonoma, Solano, Mendocino, San Joaquin, Merced and Fresno. In September 2010, an infestation was discovered in southern Santa Clara County. In 2011, infestations were found in Nevada County and in Santa Cruz County.

In Santa Clara County, the area under quarantine is approximately 94 square miles and affects 39 commercial growers and approximately 620 acres of wine grapes. The treatment zone - located at the epicenter of the infestation - affects 9 commercial grape growers and 110 acres of grapes. There are also approximately 20 residential properties with grapevines within the treatment area.

Staff from the County's Division of Agriculture continue to monitor approximately 825 traps in Santa Clara County on a two-week schedule. These traps have been placed in vineyards throughout the County and in secondary hosts such as olives, stone fruits and privets located within the quarantine area.

The first of three generations of adult European Grapevine Moths emerged in April. A total of 19 moths were trapped at three separate locations in Santa Clara County. Fortunately, all detections were in the same general vicinity as last September's detections and do not alter the established quarantine area.

Commercial grape growers within the treatment zone began coordinated treatment efforts in April 2011. Also, residents with grapes growing on their properties had the option of allowing State staff to remove the flowers or fruit from their vines, or allow staff to apply the organically-registered, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), to the vines on a weekly basis.

Treatments for the second flight of European Grapevine Moths adults are now underway. With the continued cooperation of grape growers and residents in the treatment zone, we remain hopeful that no additional moths will be found.

For additional information on EGVM, visit the County Department of Agriculture's website at:

www.sccagriculture.org

2010 Crop Report

Each year, the Division of Agriculture prepares an agricultural crop report describing the acreage, yield and gross value of commodities produced on farms and ranches in Santa Clara County. The 2010 Crop Report for Santa Clara County is now complete and it describes a total gross value for local agricultural production of \$266,141,100 -- an increase of 2% from the 2009 value of \$260,717,300.

In 2010, 23 different agricultural commodities grown in Santa Clara County exceeded \$1,000,000 in crop value. The County's top three crops are nursery crops (\$90.6 million), mushrooms (\$60.7 million), and bell peppers (\$13.4 million). All three top crops showed increased value over 2009.

Santa Clara County is consistently ranked 2nd in California in mushroom production. Farming only 149 acres, the 7 mushroom growers in the County produce a crop with the gross value of \$60.7 million - an impressive accomplishment!

In 2010, cherries suffered a significant decrease of 52% in crop value from 2009 due to untimely rains during harvest. These late rains caused the ripening fruit to split and rendering it unmarketable.

Crops with notable increases in crop value in 2010 were wax & chili peppers, lettuce, fresh tomatoes and beans. Salad greens, processing tomatoes, corn, garlic and onions declined in value compared to 2009.

I encourage consumers to support our local agricultural producers by taking advantage of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) offerings, visiting the many roadside produce stands and any of the 32 Certified Farmers Markets in the County. Enjoy the wide variety and great quality of farm products produced in Santa Clara County!

I would like to express my gratitude for the continuing cooperation of all individuals, growers, and agencies who contribute the information necessary to prepare the Crop Report. My staff work diligently to gather and compile the data for this annual report and we very much appreciate the support and assistance from our local agricultural producers.

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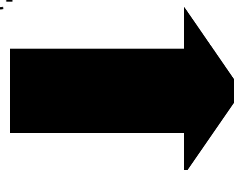
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To view the 2010 Crop Report and prior crop reports, visit the Division of Agriculture's website at www.sccagriculture.org

Protect your workers and yourself from heat illness

As temperatures rise and harvest crews head to the fields, be prepared for unannounced inspections from the California Occupational Health and Safety Administration (Cal/OSHA) and the Economic and Employment Enforcement Coalition (EEEC). California employers are required to provide water and shade, train employees on heat illness, and implement written procedures for compliance.

Heat illness prevention compliance materials in English and Spanish are available online at the Farm Labor Employers Service website www.fels.org. Information is available at

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/heatillnessinfo.html>

California employers are required to take these four steps to prevent heat illness



1. Training

Train all employees and supervisors about heat illness prevention.

2. Water

Provide enough fresh water so that each employee can drink at least 1 quart per hour, *and encourage them to do so.*

3. Shade

Provide access to shade and encourage employees to take a cool-down rest in the shade for at least 5 minutes. *They should not wait until they feel sick to cool down.*

4. Planning

Develop and implement written procedures for complying with the Cal/OSHA Heat Illness Prevention Standard.

SCCFB awards scholarships

The Santa Clara County Farm Bureau recently awarded scholarships to three bright high school seniors. Each of the recipients is interested in a career in the agriculture industry and has a passion for spreading the message of agriculture.

Nicole Dronek from Live Oak FFA will attend West Valley College for her general education before transferring to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to study Agriculture Education. Amy McBirney from Sobrato FFA will attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and study Dairy Science for her pre-veterinary studies. Vania Espinoza from Gilroy FFA will attend Brigham Young University to study Genetics and Biotechnology.

We are pleased to support a strong future for the industry by assisting these students and we wish them the best in their pursuits.



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Community Alliance with Family Farmers working with local schools, growers



The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for California family farms and sustainable agriculture. The Farm to School program is working in Santa Clara County to connect school districts with local growers through both educational programs and procurement with food service. We're looking for farmers who are interested in partnering with us for the 11-12 school year. Below are a couple of ways we're looking for farmers to get involved:

1) **Harvest of the Month Sourcing**
We are expanding the Harvest of

the Month program in the county to 300 classrooms. Participating classrooms will get a kit that features one fruit or vegetable each month and includes the samples of the produce, a farmer profile, and nutrition and agriculture curriculum. Ideally, food service directors will also purchase the produce from the same growers for the cafeteria. We need growers to commit to selling the produce to us during a specific month and let us interview you to write a farmer profile. We'll handle the delivery to schools.

2) **Resource Guide**

CAFF is creating a resource for food service directors who want to purchase locally that details local growers and what they are willing to sell directly to schools as well as educational offerings. The guide will list farmer names, contact info, and any specific

crops that you could sell to schools at a wholesale rate. We also will list farms that conduct on the farm educational programs for school groups.

3) **Hosting Field Trips**

CAFF partners with schools and school districts to provide a 3 part Know Your Farmer program. We are looking for growers, particularly in the South County to partner with us to host field trips with 4th and 5th grade students. We just ask you to introduce yourselves and the farm, and we'll handle the transportation, chaperones, curriculum, and teaching. The students love it and establish a great connection to where their food comes from.

If you're interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Laura Salcido at laura@caff.org or (408) 390-8285 to get more information.

Support FarmPAC, win a trip or a new UTV



The Fund to Protect the Family Farm (FarmPAC) is the voice and muscle representing California farming interests in the political arena. Farm Bureau does not use member dues for political contributions so individual contributions to FarmPAC are needed to support candidates committed to the best interest of farmers and ranchers, regardless of party affiliation. The Young Farmers and Ranchers drawing is a great way to make a contribution. Five prize packages will be awarded at CFBF's Annual Meeting in December. Tickets are available at the Farm Bureau office for a suggested donation of \$25, which is not tax deductible.

The Fund to Protect the Family Farm (FarmPAC) is the

New Holland 115 2WD Rustler Utility Vehicle

Paint Rock Adventures, Wyoming—\$3,000 credit for one of three packages: 5 day fly-fishing for two, 3 day cow elk hunt for two, or 7 day bull elk hunt for one. Travel, gratuity, and tags not included.

Nordstrom Shopping Spree—Shop to your heart's desire with this \$1,000 gift card.

Wine Tasting Weekend—Enjoy two days of Paso Robles wine country with a personal guide who will show you all the great up and coming wineries.

National Finals Rodeo—Take in the excitement of Las Vegas in 2012 with a trip for two including hotel, airfare, and tickets to the rodeo.



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The mission of the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau is to serve its members by protecting, promoting, and preserving agriculture in Santa Clara County as a business and a way of life.