



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Draft East Alameda County Conservation Strategy
Released for Public Review and Comment
Second Community Meeting Set for September 14

The Draft East Alameda County Conservation Strategy, a blueprint for conserving biological resources in the region, is now available for a 30-day public review and comment. The Draft Conservation Strategy can be found on the project website at:

www.eastalco-conservation.org/documents.html.

A CD-ROM copy is also available upon request.

On September 14, 2010, a community meeting on the Conservation Strategy will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room in the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin, CA 94568. The purpose of this meeting is to present the Draft Conservation Strategy to the public, provide information on the purpose and benefits of having a conservation strategy for biological resources in East Alameda County, explain who is involved, and invite comments on the draft document.

The Conservation Strategy will facilitate regional conservation of special-status wildlife and plant species and streamline permitting for future development and infrastructure projects. Currently, project mitigation is done on a case-by-case basis, resulting in piecemeal conservation that is more time-consuming, expensive and less effective at preserving and connecting the open space and natural habitat areas found in East Alameda County. This regional conservation strategy will facilitate the connection of open space and habitat in the upper Alameda Creek watershed with adjacent natural areas and watersheds in Contra Costa, San Joaquin and Santa Clara Counties.

Regulatory agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ca. Department of Fish and Game, and Regional Water Quality Control Board participated in developing the Conservation Strategy.

“Creating a comprehensive Conservation Strategy will help local, state and federal agencies address the big picture needs of the people and wildlife that share East Alameda County,” said

Cay C. Goude of the Fish and Wildlife Service. "Working in this cooperative manner will provide the maximum benefits to all through a smoother permitting process."

In addition to regulatory agencies, a diverse group of stakeholders participated in developing the strategy, including Alameda County Community Development Agency; Alameda County Congestion Management Agency; Alameda County Waste Management Authority; Alameda County Conservation Partnership; East Bay Regional Parks District; the Cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton; Zone 7 Water Agency; landowners; developers; and environmental and conservation groups.

Written comments on the Draft Conservation Strategy are welcome and can be sent via mail or e-mail before 5 p.m. on October 4 to:

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Anyone with questions about the Conservation Strategy can contact Mary Lim, Conservation Strategy Coordinator, at 925-454-5036 or visit the website at www.eastalco-conservation.org.

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