

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

1 Laguna Seca Restoration

Restoration of Laguna Seca could include removal or filling of existing drainage channels and sub-surface drains, re-contouring land to provide a mosaic of habitat types, reconnecting Fisher Creek to more of historic Laguna Seca and restoring native vegetation. A key constraint is the existing Laguna Seca dam built in the 2000s in anticipation of then-planned development. Removing or "notching" the dam is one of the best opportunities to restore more natural conditions in Laguna Seca.

2 Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Restoration

High groundwater and low-lying land offer a great opportunity to restore aquatic and riparian habitat within the Fisher Creek 100-year floodplain on the west side of Coyote Valley.

3 Oak Savanna and Grassland Habitat Restoration

Restoring oak savanna and native grasslands would provide connectivity and habitat for native plants and wildlife, including bobcats, butterflies, burrowing owls, and other raptors. Tulare Meadows represents an especially unique opportunity for establishment of a mosaic valley-floor habitat types.

4 Improved and Adaptable Agricultural Lands

Agricultural uses on conserved properties could be enhanced and crop types diversified, with the greatest potential on lands east of Fisher Creek that are less flood prone. Adaptive grazing—techniques that manage livestock to mimic grazing of wild herds—could be implemented throughout the project area. Farmstands, u-picks and other agritourism uses could also allow people to connect with local agriculture.

5 Invasive Species Management

Invasive wildlife species, such as bullfrog and crayfish threaten the health and stability of many aquatic resources in Coyote Valley and will need to be managed as habitats are restored. More extensive management of invasive vegetation already present will be required in tandem with native plant restoration to create and maintain healthy ecosystems.

6 Safer and More Sustainable Transportation Routes

Coyote Valley offers opportunities to close key gaps in the regional trail network and create safe and enjoyable routes to travel via foot or bike between open space in the Diablo Range and Santa Cruz Mountains. Improvements to Bailey Avenue and Santa Teresa Boulevard could include bike and foot paths as part of the regional trail network. Shade structures and trail connections to existing bus stops could make accessing Coyote Valley via public transit more welcoming and comfortable.

7 Places for People to Connect with Nature

Unique opportunities exist to connect people to nature in ways that protect wildlife and sensitive habitats in Coyote Valley. Carefully located features like easily accessed interpretive trails, wildlife viewing lookouts, and outdoor educational spaces could offer opportunities to enjoy the many public health benefits nature provides. Volunteer habitat restoration and stewardship projects can allow people to play a direct role in shaping the future of Coyote Valley.

8 Improved Landscape Linkage Infrastructure

Improvements to roads and transportation infrastructure are needed to strengthen Coyote Valley as a safe landscape linkage for wildlife. Locations are being identified for infrastructure improvements (like culverts and fencing) that will allow animals to safely move across the valley floor and into the surrounding mountain ranges.

