

PART 4: BENEFITS

The City is proposing a Priority Conservation Area (PCA) with Urban Greening and Regional Recreation designations for the area within its Sphere of Influence (Sphere). The intent of the PCA designation is to provide benefits to the Bay Area by improving, restoring, and protecting regional resources such as arroyos, parks, and trails.

The City's 2003 General Plan includes Goals, Objectives, and Policies to maintain biodiversity within the City's Planning Area, enhance public access to Livermore's unique natural resources, provide a multi-modal transportation system, and incorporate water and energy efficiency actions.

In 2009, the Livermore City Council adopted a Climate Change Element, at the time it was one of the first of its kind in California. The Climate Change Element includes an inventory of the City's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) that serves as a baseline for projecting future emissions and evaluating and developing emission-reduction strategies. The City's 2012 Climate Action Plan (CAP) includes strategies to reduce community-generated GHG emissions, consistent with statewide GHG reduction efforts.

On July 25, 2011, the Livermore City Council accepted the East Alameda County Conservation Strategy as guidance for regional conservation and environmental permitting and as support for open space acquisitions as part of the City Council's priority for Open Space Preservation. The City is currently working in coordination with the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish & Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, and California Regional Water Quality Control Board to develop a comprehensive Stream Maintenance Program (SMP). The SMP includes activities necessary to restore storm water conveyance capacity and to reduce flood and fire hazards such as the removal of litter, overgrowth and invasive plant species. Each activity will include habitat restoration and enhancement to return natural creeks and arroyos to their native conditions.

Urban Greening and Regional Recreation designations under a PCA align with the policies already in place in the City's documents discussed above. In addition to the regional benefits from implementing the City's General Plan through the Conservation Strategy, CAP, and SMP, the PCA designations will support Primary Benefits to Community Health, Recreation, and Climate and Resilience. Potential Co-Benefits are Water Supply and Quality, and Wildlife Habitat.

URBAN GREENING/REGIONAL RECREATION

Primary Benefits

Community Health: Community Health Benefits from PCA Urban Greening and Regional Recreation designations include improving access to neighborhood parks and supporting performance measures in the City's CAP. The City's CAP establishes a GHG emission reduction the target of below 15% of 2008 levels. Implementing the bicycle and pedestrian improvement measures of the CAP would reduce GHG by 2.4% by 2020 and increase non-motorized transportation opportunities to neighboring communities, regional transit (ACE, BART and LAVTA), and regional parks and open spaces including Sycamore Grove Regional Park, Lake Del Valle Regional Park, and Brushy Peak Regional Preserve. Additionally, implementing water efficiency, urban forestry, and municipal efficiency measures of the CAP would reduce GHG by an additional 12% by 2020.

Example Projects:

- Sidewalk gap closures on South Livermore Avenue from Chateau Way to Arroyo Mocho Trail to increase connectivity to the existing trail system and Robertson Park.
- Trail improvements including trail crossings, furnishings, signage, and staging areas that promote access to the regional trail system.
- Isabel Neighborhood Trail connections to Ida Holms Neighborhood Park.
- Energy efficient improvements to civic facilities such as expansion of photovoltaic solar installation at the Civic Center and the addition of electric vehicle charging stations at public facilities citywide.

Recreation: Recreational Benefits include improving access to the regional trails and parks. The City's Bikeways and Trails Master Plan (Master Plan) is consistent with the master plans for the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP). Three significant regional trails exist within the City's Sphere and are already considered PCAs: Iron Horse Regional Trail, Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Regional Trail, and Brushy Peak to Del Valle Regional Trail. The City's Master Plan proposes and implements a local network of multi-use trails and local connections to the regional trail system and regional parks including Sycamore Grove Regional Park, Lake Del Valle Regional Park, and Brushy Peak Regional Preserve.

The City actively collaborates with EBRPD, LARP and the Tri-Valley Conservancy to fund and acquire open space for regional parks and trail connections. In 2010, the City contributed \$2 million toward the EBRPD acquisition of 640 acres in Doolan Canyon that will serve as the cornerstone property of a new Regional Park. In 2011 and 2013, the City contributed \$1 million and \$500,000 toward the EBRPD acquisition of 65 acres and 79 acres, respectively, for expanding the Brushy Peak Regional Preserve.

Example Projects:

- Multi Use trail gap closure between the existing terminus of the South Livermore Valley Wine Trail to Vallecitos Road with improved pedestrian access to Sycamore Grove Regional Park and the Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Regional Trail.
- Complete Arroyo Seco Trail connection to the Iron Horse Regional Trail providing increased neighborhood access to the regional trail system.
- Completion of Arroyo Road Trail with connection into Sycamore Grove Regional Park and Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Regional Trail.
- Completion of southern segment of Isabel Trail and connection with Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Regional Trail.
- Bicycle and pedestrian improvements to Tesla Road including construction of a segment of the South Livermore Wine Trail with connections to Brushy Peak to Del Valle Regional Trail.

Climate and Resilience: Climate and Resilience Benefits from an Urban Greening PCA designation include achieving greenhouse gas emission targets established in the City's CAP and increasing areas within the City with carbon storage potential.

Example Projects:

- Acquisition of open space for regional conservation of habitat for special status

- species, passive recreation opportunities including trails.
- Development of a citywide tree inventory, tree and landscape planting to increase tree canopy, reduce irrigation, and expand the use of recycled water.

Potential Co-Benefits

Wildlife Habitat: Wildlife Co-Benefits from an Urban Greening PCA designation include Protecting Bay Area Critical Linkages and other Critical Habitat identified in the Conservation Strategy. The City's Sphere contains important natural resources including the Springtown Alkali Sink Preserve, Garaventa Wetlands Preserve, and several arroyos and streams that comprise the Alameda Creek watershed. These natural areas provide opportunity to protect and enhance wildlife connectivity for species between North and South Livermore (two existing PCA Natural Areas) and facilitate movement through the I-580 barrier, which bisects the city, in conjunction with pedestrian, bike, and trail improvements.

Example Projects:

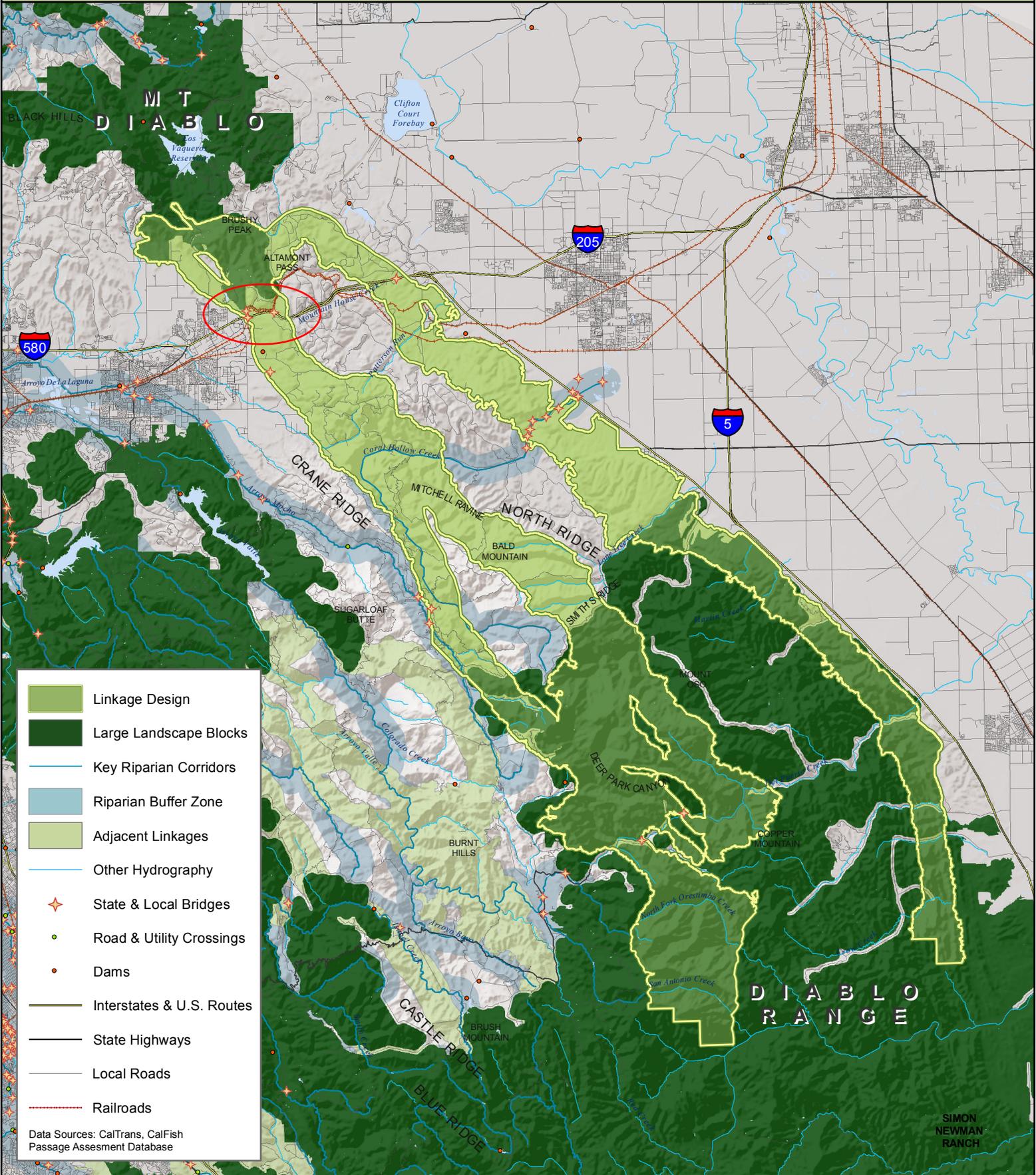
- Wildlife enhancements as part of trail development along riparian areas such as the Arroyo Mocho Trail, Arroyo Las Positas Trail, and Altamont Creek Trail.
- I-580/Greenville Rd undercrossing improvements to facilitate pedestrian and bike improvements within a portion of the Mt. Diablo to Mt Hamilton Linkage of the Diablo Range identified in regional study Bay Area Critical Linkages.
- Riparian corridor enhancements on Arroyo Las Positas, incorporated as part of trail improvements at the I-580 undercrossing.

Water Supply and Quality: Water Supply and Quality Co-Benefits include protecting the urban water supply, protecting and restoring streams and aquifers for groundwater recharge, and supporting the Alameda Creek watershed health as shown in the Greenbelt Alliance Detailed Watershed Lands map. The Greenbelt Alliance mapper considers the areas within the City's Sphere important for a healthy functioning watershed, including areas that allow groundwater infiltration and underground water storage based on CA Department of Water Resources Data and the California Basin Characterization Model (2012).

Example Projects:

- Litter and obstruction removal, bank restoration and planting with native plant species to restore drainage functions of the natural arroyos and streams.
- Riparian restoration projects along critical and priority streams such as the Arroyo Mocho and Arroyo Las Positas.
- Replacing hardscape and enhancing public landscape improvements such as parks, plazas, medians and organizing green spaces citywide with water efficient, shade producing, and low maintenance plant species.

Figure 136. Mt. Diablo - Diablo Range Linkage Design



- Linkage Design
- Large Landscape Blocks
- Key Riparian Corridors
- Riparian Buffer Zone
- Adjacent Linkages
- Other Hydrography
- State & Local Bridges
- Road & Utility Crossings
- Dams
- Interstates & U.S. Routes
- State Highways
- Local Roads
- Railroads

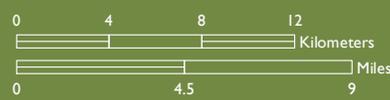
Data Sources: CalTrans, CalFish Passage Assessment Database



In Partnership with the San Francisco Upland Habitat Goals Project

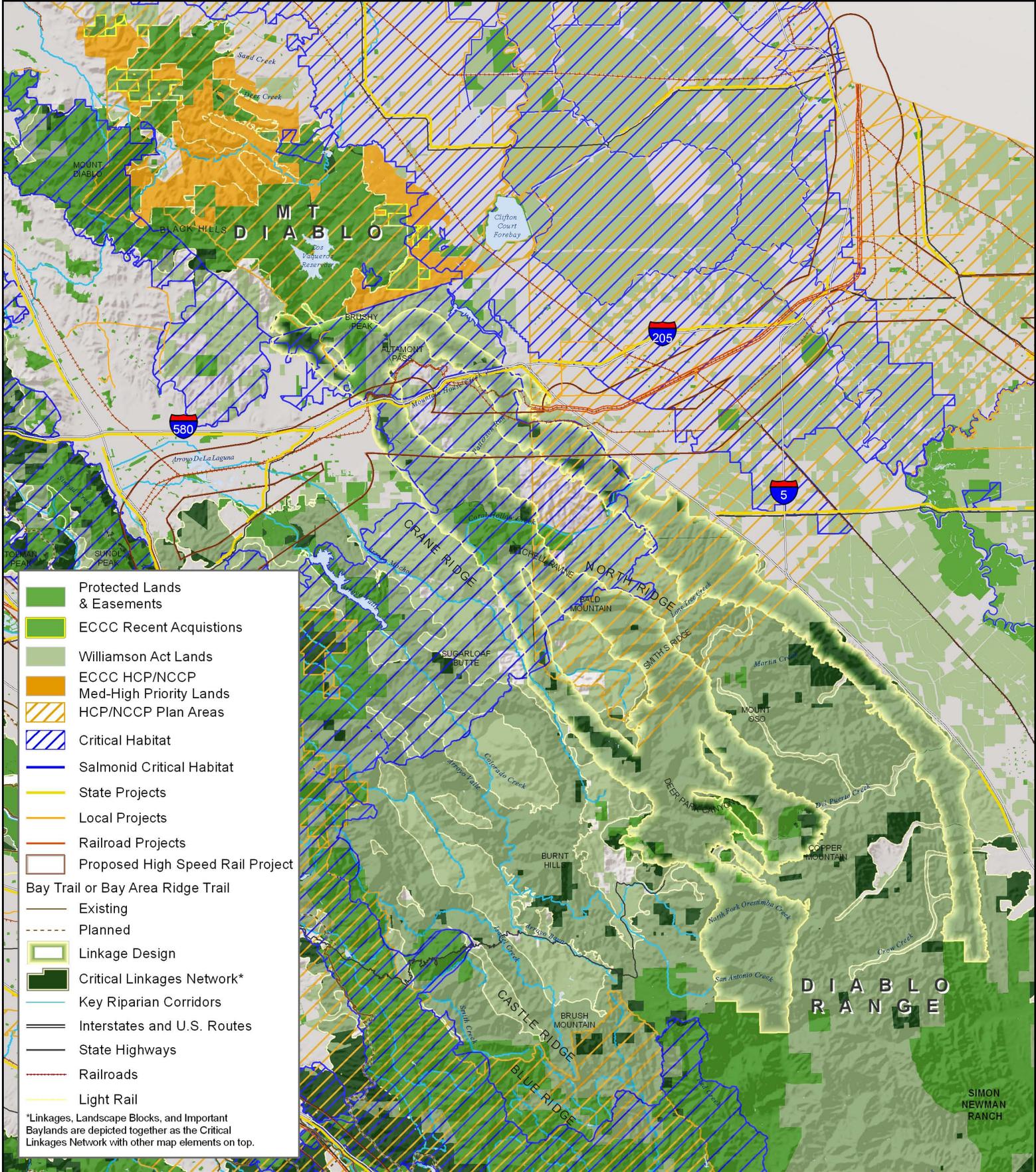


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Map Produced by SC Wildlands

Figure 173. Mt. Diablo - Diablo Range Linkage Design
Conservation Investments & Opportunities



In Partnership with
the San Francisco
Upland Habitat
Goals Project

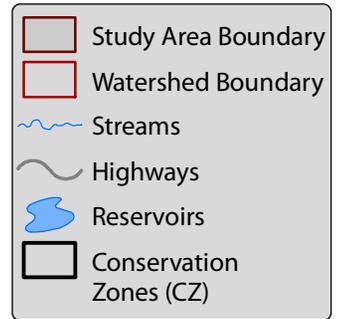


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Kilometers
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Map Produced by SC Wildlands

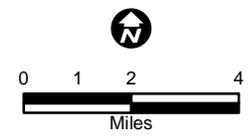
**Figure 3-1
Conservation Zones**

October 2010



Watershed Key

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Altamont Creek | 26. Mission Creek |
| 2. Arroyo Seco | 27. Mitchell Ravine |
| 3. Baby Peak | 28. Mountain House |
| 4. Berryessa Creek | 29. Mtn. House Ck. |
| 5. Bethany Reservoir | 30. Oakland |
| 6. Big Canyon | 31. Patterson Pass |
| 7. Brushy Creek | 32. Patterson Run |
| 8. Brushy Peak | 33. Polomares Creek |
| 9. Calaveras Reservoir | 34. San Antonio Res. |
| 10. Carbona | 35. San Joaquin Delta |
| 11. Carnegie | 36. SE of Midway |
| 12. Cayetano Creek | 37. Sheridan Creek |
| 13. Coffee Mill Creek | 38. Sinbad Creek |
| 14. Cottonwood Creek | 39. Stoneybrook Canyon |
| 15. Daugherty Hills | 40. Toroges Creek |
| 16. Dry Creek | 41. Trout Creek |
| 17. Gold Creek | 42. Tunnel Creek |
| 18. Indian Creek | 43. Upper Arroyo Mocho |
| 19. La Costa Creek | 44. Upr. Corral Hollow Ck. |
| 20. Lake Del Valle | 45. Upper Elk Ravine |
| 21. Lang Canyon | 46. Upper Kellogg Creek |
| 22. Leyden Creek | 47. Vallecitos Creek |
| 23. Livermore | 48. Valpe Creek |
| 24. Lower Arroyo Mocho | 49. Vern |
| 25. Lower Tassajara Ck. | 50. Whitlock Creek |



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