



SANTA CLARA VALLEY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR) AND ONLINE PUBLIC SESSION FOR THE PROPOSED INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) PROGRAM

Date: March 31, 2021

To: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Persons

RE: Notice of Availability of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Integrated Pest Management Program

The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority) is the Lead Agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for the Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM Program) Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). In accordance with the provisions of CEQA (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.), the Authority has released for public review a Draft PEIR for the IPM Program. The Draft IPM Guidance Manual (IPM Manual) is also available for public review.

The Authority will hold an online public meeting to receive public comments on the Draft PEIR on **April 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** Due to the shelter in place order issued in response to COVID-19 by Governor Gavin Newsom and the Santa Clara County Health Department, **this meeting will be held via Zoom webinar.** Please see below for the link to register for the meeting:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nLG8_RWTTNasa9f7y9Zp8w

The registration link will also be posted on the Authority's IPM Project web page at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/IPM>. After registering for the meeting, a link to join the webinar will be sent to the email provided during registration.

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PROJECT LOCATION

The Authority has preserved over 25,000 acres of open space, natural areas, watersheds, and wildlife habitat in the cities of Campbell, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, San Jose, and Santa Clara and the unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County. The IPM Program Area includes the 14 open space preserves currently owned and managed by the Authority, totaling 16,446 acres across Santa Clara County (Attachment 1), and excludes any publicly or privately-owned lands over which the Authority holds an easement. The preserves included in the IPM Program are described in Table 1.

Table 1 Authority-Owned and Managed Preserves Included in the IPM Program Area

Preserve # from Attachment 1	Preserve Name	Acres	Public Access Status
1	Coyote Ridge	1,832	Closed
2	Coyote Valley	348	Open
3	Croy Redwoods	116	Closed
4	Diablo Foothills	834	Closed
5	El Toro Preserve	39	Closed
6	Mount Chual	552	Closed
7	Pajaro River Agricultural Preserve	284	Closed
8	Palassou Ridge	3,524	Closed
9	Rancho Canada del Oro	5,538	Open
10	Santa Teresa Foothills	62	Closed
11	Sierra Vista	1,590	Open
12	Upper Uvas	1,216	Closed
13	Little Uvas	276	Closed
14	North Coyote Valley	235	Closed

Note: Acreages are rounded to the nearest one.

Source: Data compiled by Authority and Ascent Environmental in 2019 and 2021

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The overall goal of the IPM Program is to effectively manage pests in the Authority's open space preserves and facilities, while protecting human health and environmental quality. Specific objectives of the proposed IPM Program include the following:

- ▶ develop and implement site-specific pest management strategies that are effective in controlling targeted pests while avoiding damage to natural resources, promoting visitor safety and enjoyment, and protecting human health;

- ▶ keep the interested public informed about treatment strategies, upcoming projects, and environmental and public health protection measures;
- ▶ inhibit the establishment of new invasive species on Authority preserves, such as new invasive plants in natural areas, rangelands, and agricultural properties;
- ▶ maintain an inventory of invasive species infestations, monitor treatment effectiveness, and incorporate relevant monitoring results into future treatment applications;
- ▶ implement an adaptive management framework to promote the long-term effectiveness of pest management activities; and
- ▶ develop and implement an IPM Manual to standardize pest management and IPM procedures.

To achieve these objectives, the Authority has prepared an IPM Manual to facilitate the design and implementation of pest management strategies that are effective in controlling the target pests, cost-effective, safe for human health, and protective of natural resources including native species, special-status species, and water quality. The IPM Manual was developed based on review of existing scientific literature and plans documenting best approaches to effective pest management, as well as pest management approaches that have been successfully implemented by the Authority over the past several decades. There are six main components of the IPM Program:

1. Identifying a target species and understanding its life cycle and ecology;
2. monitoring and assessing the pest's distribution and abundance to gauge its impacts;
3. setting thresholds for targeted control to limit the pest's impacts while avoiding unnecessary and potentially costly treatments;
4. assessing site conditions to identify appropriate control treatments;
5. using the most benign, effective suite of control methods, by targeting the most vulnerable stage in a pest's life cycle and using biological, cultural, physical/mechanical, and chemical management tools; and
6. preventing pest problems through implementation of best management practices, early detection, and rapid response programs, among other prevention approaches.

Given the varied landscapes in which pests could occur, and that pest management techniques are rapidly evolving through scientific research and technical innovations, the IPM Manual outlines approaches for different IPM management categories, which include natural lands, agricultural lands, recreational facilities, and building and structures. A variety of methods can be used to manage pest plants and animals in these environments, including:

- ▶ manual treatments,
- ▶ mechanical treatments, and
- ▶ chemical treatments.

To treat invasive plants, specific treatment methods include: pulling and digging by hand, cutting, mowing, weed whipping, tarping, mulching, release of a biological control agent (e.g., an insect) that targets an invasive plant species, and herbicide application. For management of animal pests, the following techniques are proposed: prevention and habitat modification, physical barriers and

trapping, sanitation, and chemical control as a last resort (e.g., insecticidal soap, boric acid bait, diatomaceous earth, rodenticide, or fumigation). The use of herbicides, rodenticides, and fumigants under the IPM Program would be regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

After implementation of proposed mitigation measures included in the Draft PEIR, all of the potentially significant effects associated with the IPM Program would be reduced to a less-than-significant level. No significant and unavoidable impacts would occur with implementation of the IPM Program.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE DISCLOSURE

Within the IPM Program Area, there are three sites listed in the EnviroStor and GeoTracker databases maintained pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Only one of these sites is active, the Wright Mine in Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space Preserve. After implementation of proposed mitigation measures included in the Draft PEIR, impacts to the public or the environment associated with potential exposure to significant hazards from disturbance to known hazardous materials sites would be less than significant.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The Draft PEIR and the Draft IPM Manual are available for review online at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/IPM>.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

Agencies and interested parties may provide the Authority with written and/or email comments on the Draft PEIR. Comments on the Draft PEIR should be made in writing during the 45-day public review period that begins on March 31, 2021 and ends on May 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Written comments via email and mail can be provided no later than **May 17, 2021**.

Please send all comments by mail or email to:

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
33 Las Colinas Lane
San Jose, CA 95119

Attn: Galli Basson, Resource Management Specialist
Phone: (408) 224-7476
E-mail: gbasson@openspaceauthority.org

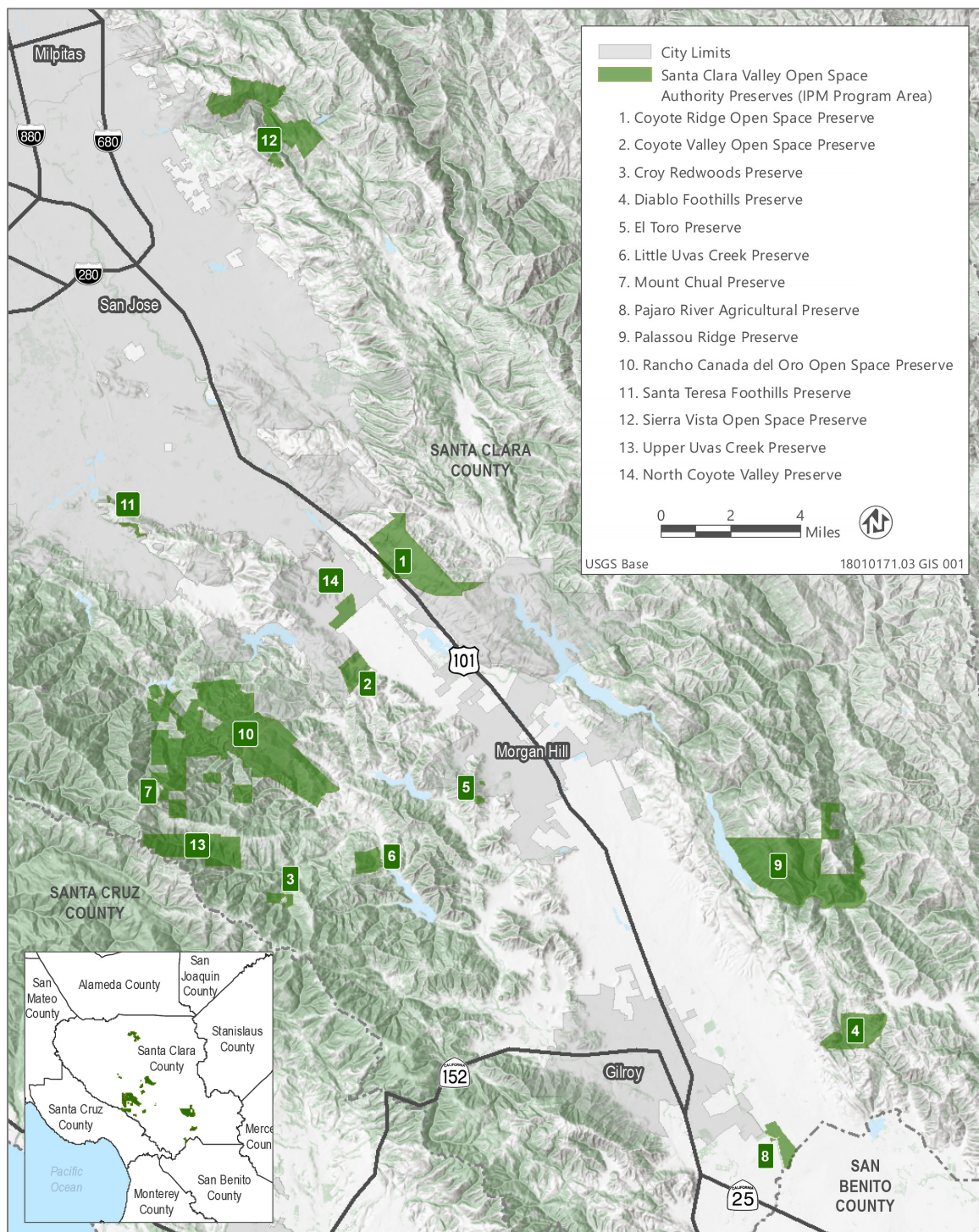
Comments provided by email should include "IPM Program PEIR Comment" in the subject line.

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ATTACHMENT 1. IPM PROGRAM AREA



Attachment 1

IPM Program Area