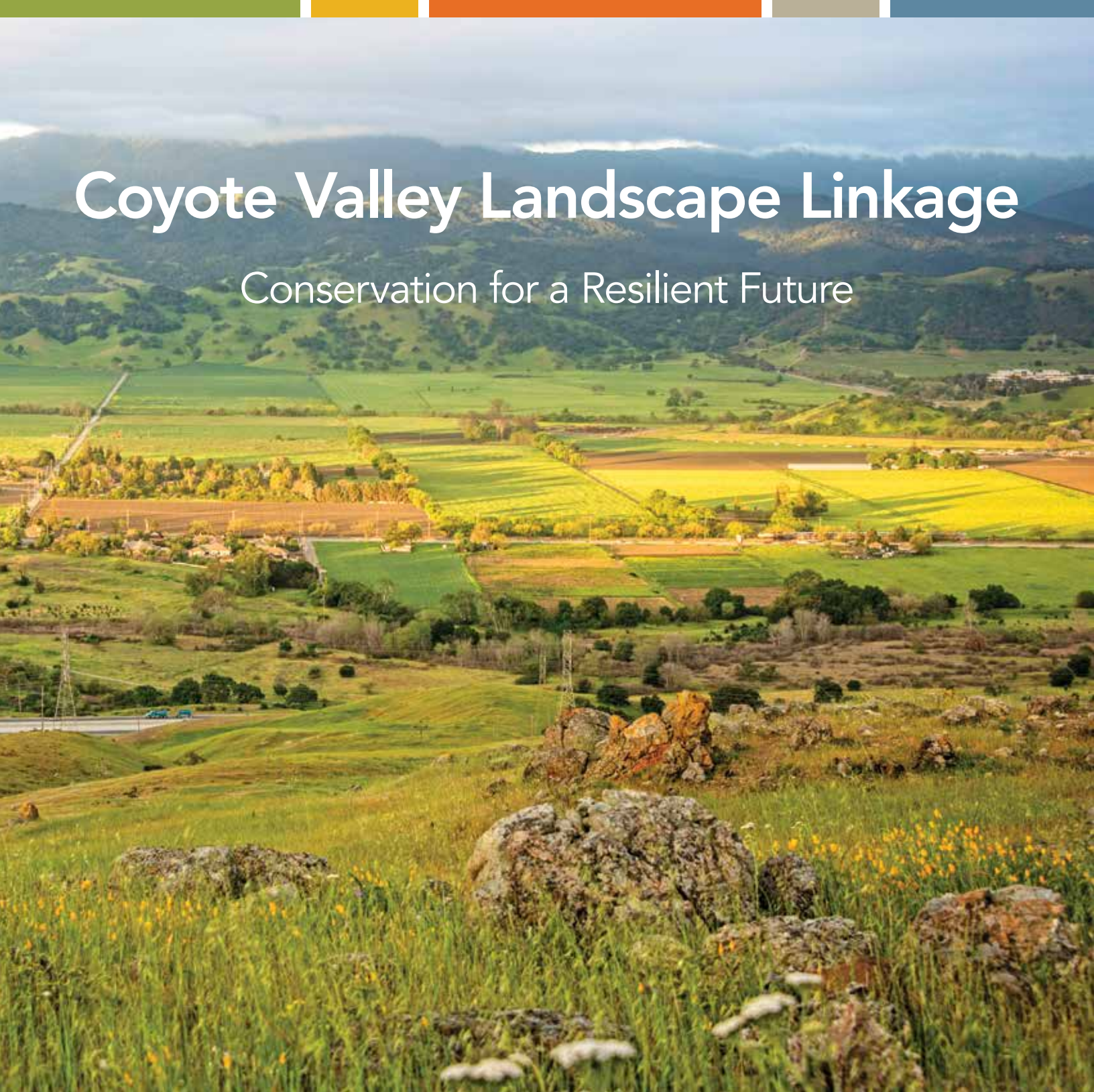
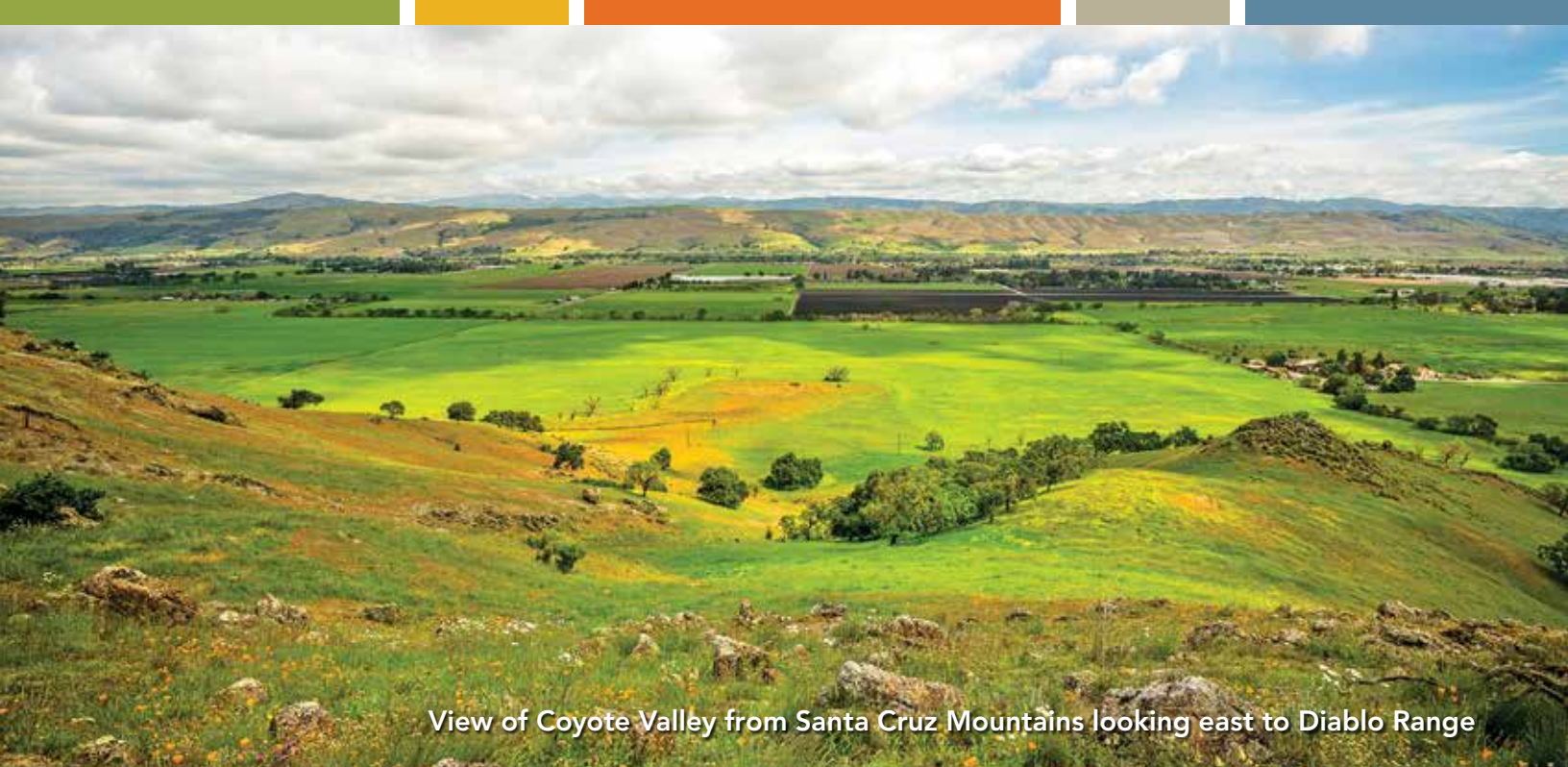


Coyote Valley Landscape Linkage

Conservation for a Resilient Future





View of Coyote Valley from Santa Cruz Mountains looking east to Diablo Range



Mountain Lion



Red-Legged Frog

Protection and restoration of the Coyote Valley will benefit a wide variety of wildlife including:

- Mountain Lion
- Gray Fox
- Bobcat
- American Badger
- Swainson's Hawk
- Western Burrowing Owl
- Tricolored Blackbird
- California Tiger Salamander
- California Red-Legged Frog
- Western Pond Turtle
- Bay Checkerspot Butterfly

A Unique Resource

Nestled between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range, Coyote Valley is the vital connection between these two mountain ranges, allowing wildlife to migrate, find mates, and adapt to climate change. Situated at the southern reaches of San Jose, the stunning Coyote Valley encompasses a unique combination of plant and wildlife habitat, farmland, important water resources, and an essential open space buffer to a bustling Silicon Valley.

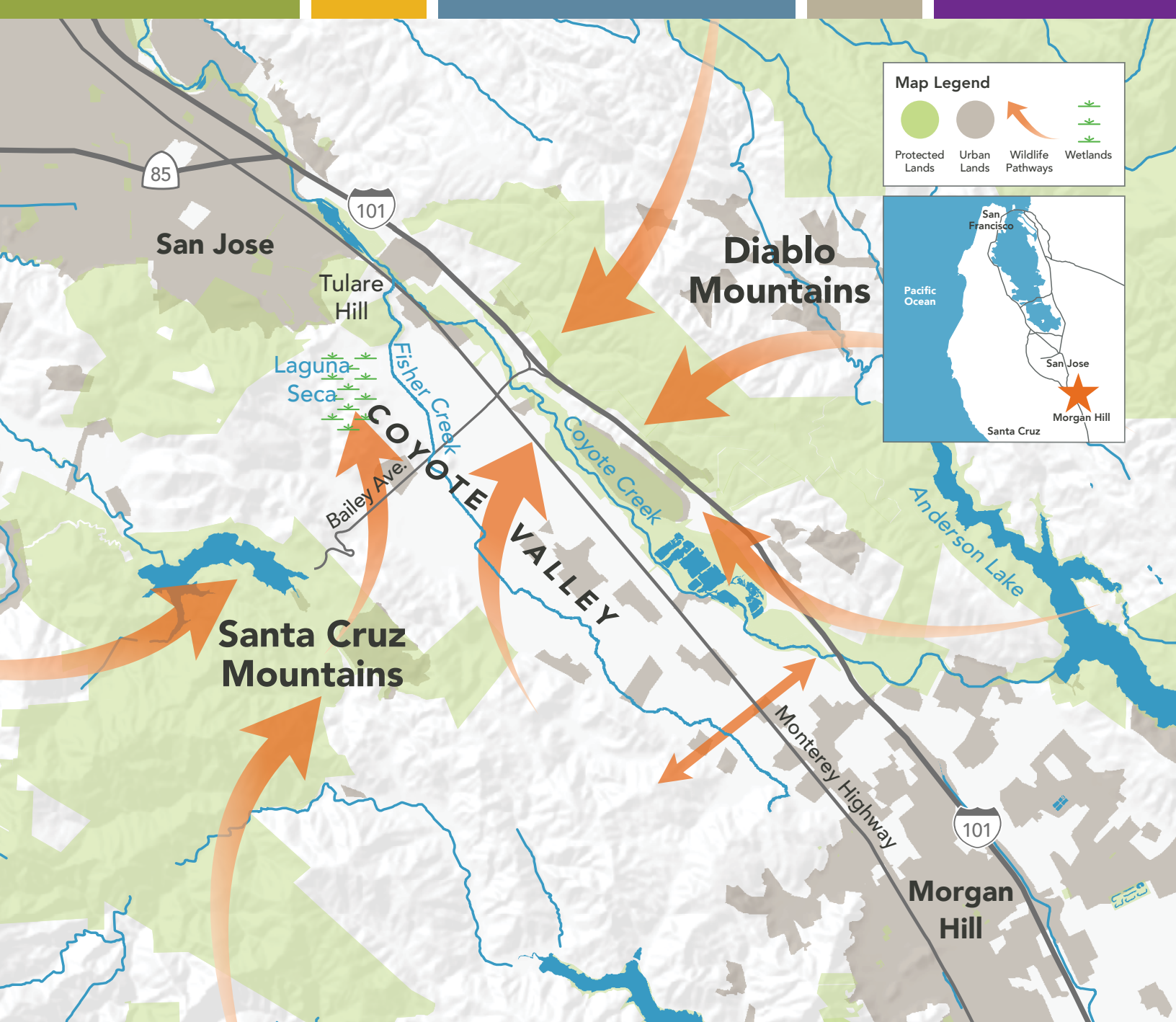
Recent scientific studies have documented rare species and animal movement in the Coyote Valley. Mountain lions, badgers, gray foxes, bobcats, and hundreds of bird species are all living in and moving through Coyote Valley. These species and others depend on Coyote Valley as a linkage to live in and move between mountain ranges, in order to maintain genetic diversity and overall ecological health, especially in the face of a changing climate.

Water resources also play an important role in Coyote Valley, as storm waters spread into open spaces, reducing the risk of flooding in Coyote Creek downstream. The waters also replenish groundwater basins that supply more than half of the Santa Clara Valley's drinking water.

Coyote Valley at a Crossroads

Coyote Valley was once filled with oak woodlands, grasslands, and wetlands but development has resulted in a loss and fragmentation of these habitats. Protecting critical habitat within a Coyote Valley Landscape Linkage is essential as climate change causes wildlife to adapt to rising temperatures by forcing them to move to different areas.

Nevertheless, there is still an opportunity to protect and restore the most unique portions of the valley. Over the years, billions of dollars have been invested to connect over 1.1 million acres of open space on either side of Coyote Valley, and the northern region is one key to linking these two mountain ranges. The incredibly rich biodiversity of our region depends on protection and restoration of Coyote Valley's connection, or "linkage" before this opportunity is lost.



A Clear Vision for Conservation

To establish a clear vision of a functional land connection for wildlife and protected water resources, the Open Space Authority assembled a team of scientists to design a landscape linkage for Coyote Valley. More than a dozen scientists and conservation planners determined the necessary essential elements for protecting and restoring a broad and resilient landscape linkage; one that can sustain biodiversity and facilitate wildlife movement in a changing climate.

- A focus on **northern Coyote Valley**, where the two mountain ranges are the closest, and the landscape is the most intact as a crossing point for wildlife, flood protection, and aquifer recharge
- **Fisher Creek**, a tributary to Coyote Creek that already supports wildlife movement across the Valley and is the centerpiece of the landscape linkage design
- **Laguna Seca**, the County's largest freshwater wetland, which slows storm waters and serves as habitat for rare amphibians and a wide range of birds and waterfowl, including many stopping along the Pacific Flyway
- **Tulare Hill**, which comprises terrain dense with sensitive species and serves as a stepping stone for the threatened Bay Checkerspot Butterfly



Laguna Seca, Santa Clara County's largest freshwater wetland

Bringing the Landscape Linkage to Life

Coyote Valley is the best opportunity we have to preserve a lifeline between the Diablo Range and Santa Cruz Mountains. The Open Space Authority is leading a collaborative conservation effort that will benefit plants, wildlife, and the resilience of our entire region. These efforts include working with willing landowners to help protect Coyote Valley's natural and agricultural landscape and designing with transportation and wildlife agencies to implement safe wildlife crossings across roads, such as culverts and bridges. Our partners, including those listed below, are vital to this landscape linkage design:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- CalTrans
- City of San José
- High Speed Rail Authority
- Pathways for Wildlife
- Peninsula Open Space Trust
- Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department
- Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Valley Habitat Agency
- Valley Transportation Authority

For more information or to download the full report, go to
openspaceauthority.org/preservation/wildlifelinkage.html



**Santa Clara Valley
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