

East Sacramento County Blue Oak Legacy Acquisition Area-Deer Creek Hills Project

Project Information

1. **Proposal Title:**

East Sacramento County Blue Oak Legacy Acquisition Area-Deer Creek Hills Project

2. **Proposal applicants:**

Aimee Rutledge, Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy

3. **Corresponding Contact Person:**

Aimee Rutledge
Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy
P.O. Box 163351 Sacramento, CA 95816
916 492-0908
Bond13mac@aol.com

4. **Project Keywords:**

Native Plants
River Basin Management
Wetlands, Seasonal

5. **Type of project:**

Implementation_Full

6. **Does the project involve land acquisition, either in fee or through a conservation easement?**

Yes

If yes, is there an existing specific restoration plan for this site?

No

7. **Topic Area:**

Riparian Habitat

8. **Type of applicant:**

Private non-profit

9. **Location - GIS coordinates:**

Latitude: 38.535

Longitude: -121.077

Datum:

Describe project location using information such as water bodies, river miles, road intersections, landmarks, and size in acres.

4000 acres located in the middle Cosumnes River/Deer Creek Watershed, between Deer Creek & the Cosumnes River, and containing Crevis Creek. Just northeast of the intersection of Scott and Latrobe Roads in Sacramento County, extending east on either side of Latrobe Road to Michigan Bar Road. Wraps around the north of Rancho Murieta. Approximately 7-8 miles south of U.S. Highway 50 and 1-2 miles north of Highway 16-Jackson Highway.

10. Location - Ecozone:

11.1 Cosumnes River

11. Location - County:

Sacramento

12. Location - City:

Does your project fall within a city jurisdiction?

No

13. Location - Tribal Lands:

Does your project fall on or adjacent to tribal lands?

No

14. Location - Congressional District:

11

15. Location:

California State Senate District Number: 5

California Assembly District Number: 10

16. How many years of funding are you requesting?

1

17. Requested Funds:

a) Are your overhead rates different depending on whether funds are state or federal?

No

If no, list single overhead rate and total requested funds:

Single Overhead Rate: 18

Total Requested Funds: \$1,000,000

b) Do you have cost share partners already identified?

Yes

If yes, list partners and amount contributed by each:

Soderquist Fund of the Sacramento Regional Foundation \$25,000

US Environmental Protection Agency/Trust for Public Land \$20,000

c) Do you have potential cost share partners?

Yes

If yes, list partners and amount contributed by each:

County of Sacramento \$500,000-\$1million

Private Landowner (Adjacent) \$1-1.5 million

Forest Legacy Program/Fed & State \$1 million or more

Department of Fish & Game/CA \$1 million or more

David & Lucile Packard Foundation \$1 million

d) Are you specifically seeking non-federal cost share funds through this solicitation?

No

If the total non-federal cost share funds requested above does not match the total state funds requested in 17a, please explain the difference:

18. **Is this proposal for next-phase funding of an ongoing project funded by CALFED?**

No

Have you previously received funding from CALFED for other projects not listed above?

No

19. Is this proposal for next-phase funding of an ongoing project funded by CVPIA?

No

Have you previously received funding from CVPIA for other projects not listed above?

Yes

If yes, identify project number(s), title(s) and CVPIA program.

114209G122 Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve, Sylva Property B1 Other

20. Is this proposal for next-phase funding of an ongoing project funded by an entity other than CALFED or CVPIA?

Yes

If yes, identify project number(s), title(s) and funding source.

N/A, dated 4/12/99	Land Trust Grant Program for Stewardship of Rangelands, Vernal Pools and Farmlands	US Environmental Protection Agency and The Trust for Public Land
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Please list suggested reviewers for your proposal. (optional)

Marie Sullivan US Fish & Wildlife Service 916/414-6538 marie_sullivan@fws.gov

Chuck Solomon US Bureau of Reclamation 916/978-5052 rsolomon@mp.usbr.gov

Mike Eaton The Nature Conservancy/Cosumnes-Delta 916/683-1699 meaton@cosumnes.org

Ron Suter Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, Recreation and 916/875-6132 rsuter@sacparks.org

21. **Comments:**

Another reviewer could be Tim Vendlinski of the US Environmental Protection Agency, 415/744-1989, vendlinski.tim@epamail.epa.gov Also, Jeff Calvert, CA Department of Fire and Forestry, 916/653-8286, jeff_calvert@fire.ca.gov

Environmental Compliance Checklist

East Sacramento County Blue Oak Legacy Acquisition Area-Deer Creek Hills Project

1. CEQA or NEPA Compliance

a) Will this project require compliance with CEQA?

Yes

b) Will this project require compliance with NEPA?

Yes

c) If neither CEQA or NEPA compliance is required, please explain why compliance is not required for the actions in this proposal.

2. If the project will require CEQA and/or NEPA compliance, identify the lead agency(ies). If not applicable, put "None".

CEQA Lead Agency: CA Wildlife Conservation Board

NEPA Lead Agency (or co-lead:) US Bureau of Reclamation

NEPA Co-Lead Agency (if applicable): US Fish & Wildlife Service

3. Please check which type of CEQA/NEPA documentation is anticipated.

CEQA

Categorical Exemption

Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration

EIR

none

NEPA

Categorical Exclusion

Environmental Assessment/FONSI

EIS

none

If you anticipate relying on either the Categorical Exemption or Categorical Exclusion for this project, please specifically identify the exemption and/or exclusion that you believe covers this project.

Exemption for land acquisitions for public open space use.

4. CEQA/NEPA Process

a) Is the CEQA/NEPA process complete?

No

If the CEQA/NEPA process is not complete, please describe the dates for completing draft and/or final CEQA/NEPA documents.

If funded by CVPIA program, US Bureau of Reclamation or US Fish & Wildlife Service will produce necessary NEPA documents. Likewise for CA Wildlife Conservation Board.

b) If the CEQA/NEPA document has been completed, please list document name(s):

5. **Environmental Permitting and Approvals** (*If a permit is not required, leave both Required? and Obtained? check boxes blank.*)

LOCAL PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Conditional use permit

Variance

Subdivision Map Act

Grading Permit

General Plan Amendment

Specific Plan Approval

Rezone

Williamson Act Contract Cancellation

Other

STATE PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Scientific Collecting Permit

CESA Compliance: 2081

CESA Compliance: NCCP

1601/03

CWA 401 certification

Coastal Development Permit

Reclamation Board Approval

Notification of DPC or BCDC

Other

FEDERAL PERMITS AND APPROVALS

ESA Compliance Section 7 Consultation

ESA Compliance Section 10 Permit

Rivers and Harbors Act

CWA 404

Other

PERMISSION TO ACCESS PROPERTY

Permission to access city, county or other local agency land.

Agency Name:

Permission to access state land.

Agency Name:

Permission to access federal land.

Agency Name:

Permission to access private land.

Landowner Name: Taines & Partners

Obtained

6. Comments.

2-The CA Wildlife Conservation Board will take on CEQA compliance only if they end up funding part of the project. Other possible lead agencies would be the CA Department of Fire & Forestry and/or the County of Sacramento.

Land Use Checklist

East Sacramento County Blue Oak Legacy Acquisition Area-Deer Creek Hills Project

1. Does the project involve land acquisition, either in fee or through a conservation easement?

Yes

If you answered yes to #1, please answer the following questions:

a) How many acres will be acquired?

Fee: 3500

Easement: 500

Total: 4000

b) Will existing water rights be acquired?

Yes

c) Are any changes to water rights or delivery of water proposed?

Yes If yes, please describe proposed changes.

Private landowner who is very likely to be a major donor may want to hold fee title on the 500 acres designated for a conservation easement, and may want to access groundwater from a well on the 500 acres to supply their nearby residence.

2. Will the applicant require access across public or private property that the applicant does not own to accomplish the activities in the proposal?

No

3. Do the actions in the proposal involve physical changes in the land use?

Yes

If you answered yes to #3, please answer the following questions:

a) How many acres of land will be subject to a land use change under the proposal?

4000

b) Describe what changes will occur on the land involved in the proposal.

Some passive recreational access on designated areas of the property. Possibly, a water well and underground piping to a nearby residence.

c) List current and proposed land use, zoning and general plan designations of the area subject to a land use change under the proposal.

Category	Current	Proposed (if no change, specify "none")
Land Use	Open space, cattle grazing	Managed habitat (oak woodlands, grasslands, seasonal wetlands) Passive recreational use in designated areas only. Water well, underground piping to nearby residence.
Zoning	AG-80	None.
General Plan Designation	AG-Recreation Reserve, with Resource Conservation Area overlay	None.

d) Is the land currently under a Williamson Act contract?

No

e) Is the land mapped as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Local Importance under the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program?

No

f) Describe what entity or organization will manage the property and provide operations and maintenance services.

The County of Sacramento will likely serve as the ownership entity of both the fee title portion (likely to be 3500 acres) and the easement area (likely to be 500 acres). The Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy negotiated the acquisition and will offer to assist Sacramento County with management, as necessary.

4. Comments.

Conflict of Interest Checklist

East Sacramento County Blue Oak Legacy Acquisition Area-Deer Creek Hills Project

Please list below the full names and organizations of all individuals in the following categories:

- **Applicants listed in the proposal who wrote the proposal, will be performing the tasks listed in the proposal or who will benefit financially if the proposal is funded.**
- **Subcontractors listed in the proposal who will perform some tasks listed in the proposal and will benefit financially if the proposal is funded.**
- **Individuals not listed in the proposal who helped with proposal development, for example by reviewing drafts, or by providing critical suggestions or ideas contained within the proposal.**

The information provided on this form will be used to select appropriate and unbiased reviewers for your proposal.

Applicant(s):

Aimee Rutledge, Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy

Subcontractor(s):

Are specific subcontractors identified in this proposal? No

Helped with proposal development:

Are there persons who helped with proposal development?

No

Comments:

Aimee B. Rutledge, Executive Director of the Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy developed this proposal, and will carry out the land acquisition, with the help of Wendy Baty, SVOSC administrative assistant, and the members of the SVOSC Board of Trustees, Chris Unkel, Robert Slobe, Russell Austin, Christy Anderson, Dick Troy, Wendel Flint, John Iander, Mark Kleinman, Bill Morrison, Richard Stover, Marcia Fritz, Patrice Cox and John Bianchi.

Budget Summary

East Sacramento County Blue Oak Legacy Acquisition Area-Deer Creek Hills Project

Please provide a detailed budget for each year of requested funds, indicating on the form whether the indirect costs are based on the Federal overhead rate, State overhead rate, or are independent of fund source.

Federal Funds

Year 1												
Task No.	Task Description	Direct Labor Hours	Salary (per year)	Benefits (per year)	Travel	Supplies & Expendables	Services or Consultants	Equipment	Other Direct Costs	Total Direct Costs	Indirect Costs	Total Cost
1	Land Acquisition-Fee Title-4062 acres +/-								11,373,600	11373600.0		11373600.00
		0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11373600.00	11373600.00	0.00	11373600.00

Year 2												
Task No.	Task Description	Direct Labor Hours	Salary (per year)	Benefits (per year)	Travel	Supplies & Expendables	Services or Consultants	Equipment	Other Direct Costs	Total Direct Costs	Indirect Costs	Total Cost
		0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Year 3												
Task No.	Task Description	Direct Labor Hours	Salary (per year)	Benefits (per year)	Travel	Supplies & Expendables	Services or Consultants	Equipment	Other Direct Costs	Total Direct Costs	Indirect Costs	Total Cost
		0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Grand Total=11373600.00

Comments.

The total purchase price of the 4062 +/- acres is \$11,373,600. We are requesting a CVPIA grant of \$1million, to go towards land acquisition of fee title.

Budget Justification

East Sacramento County Blue Oak Legacy Acquisition Area-Deer Creek Hills Project

Direct Labor Hours. Provide estimated hours proposed for each individual.

We are requesting \$1 million of CVPIA funds towards fee title land acquisition of 4062+/- acres, and are not requesting any related costs to the acquisition. We are funding those costs through our operational funds, an US Environmental Protection Agency grant, and other private grants.

Salary. Provide estimated rate of compensation proposed for each individual.

We are requesting \$1 million of CVPIA funds towards fee title land acquisition of 4062+/- acres, and are not requesting any related costs to the acquisition. We are funding those costs through our operational funds, an US Environmental Protection Agency grant, and other private grants.

Benefits. Provide the overall benefit rate applicable to each category of employee proposed in the project.

We are requesting \$1 million of CVPIA funds towards fee title land acquisition of 4062+/- acres, and are not requesting any related costs to the acquisition. We are funding those costs through our operational funds, an US Environmental Protection Agency grant, and other private grants.

Travel. Provide purpose and estimate costs for all non-local travel.

We are requesting \$1 million of CVPIA funds towards fee title land acquisition of 4062+/- acres, and are not requesting any related costs to the acquisition. We are funding those costs through our operational funds, an US Environmental Protection Agency grant, and other private grants.

Supplies & Expendables. Indicate separately the amounts proposed for office, laboratory, computing, and field supplies.

We are requesting \$1 million of CVPIA funds towards fee title land acquisition of 4062+/- acres, and are not requesting any related costs to the acquisition. We are funding those costs through our operational funds, an US Environmental Protection Agency grant, and other private grants.

Services or Consultants. Identify the specific tasks for which these services would be used. Estimate amount of time required and the hourly or daily rate.

We are requesting \$1 million of CVPIA funds towards fee title land acquisition of 4062+/- acres, and are not requesting any related costs to the acquisition. We are funding those costs through our operational funds, an US Environmental Protection Agency grant, and other private grants.

Equipment. Identify non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one (1) year and an acquisition cost of more than \$5,000 per unit. If fabrication of equipment is proposed, list parts and materials required for each, and show costs separately from the other items.

We are requesting \$1 million of CVPIA funds towards fee title land acquisition of 4062+/- acres, and are not requesting any related costs to the acquisition. We are funding those costs through our operational funds, an US Environmental Protection Agency grant, and other private grants.

Project Management. Describe the specific costs associated with insuring accomplishment of a specific project, such as inspection of work in progress, validation of costs, report preparation, giving presentations, response to project specific questions and necessary costs directly associated with specific project oversight.

We are requesting \$1 million of CVPIA funds towards fee title land acquisition of 4062+/- acres, and are not requesting any related costs to the acquisition. We are funding those costs through our operational funds, an US Environmental Protection Agency grant, and other private grants.

Other Direct Costs. Provide any other direct costs not already covered.

We are requesting \$1 million of CVPIA funds towards fee title land acquisition of 4062+/- acres, and are not requesting any related costs to the acquisition. We are funding those costs through our operational funds, an US Environmental Protection Agency grant, and other private grants.

Indirect Costs. Explain what is encompassed in the overhead rate (indirect costs). Overhead should include costs associated with general office requirements such as rent, phones, furniture, general office staff, etc., generally distributed by a predetermined percentage (or surcharge) of specific costs.

We are requesting \$1 million of CVPIA funds towards fee title land acquisition of 4062+/- acres, and are not requesting any related costs to the acquisition. We are funding those costs through our operational funds, an US Environmental Protection Agency grant, and other private grants.

Executive Summary

East Sacramento County Blue Oak Legacy Acquisition Area-Deer Creek Hills Project

Approximately 33,000 acres of oak woodlands, grasslands, and seasonal creeks remain in East Sacramento County. This rangeland area is outside the Sacramento County Urban Services Boundary, south of U.S. Highway 50 and north of the Cosumnes River, stretching to the El Dorado County line. The Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy (SVOSC) identified this area as essential open space on its 21st Century Open Space Vision, and Sacramento County is in process on its East County Open Space Study. SVOSC has negotiated an option until December 10, 2002 to buy 4062 +/- acres of oak woodlands and grasslands for \$11,373,600 in this area. On the November 2000 ballot, Sacramento County voters rejected a senior development (Deer Creek Hills) on part of this property. Recently, the City of Folsom received approval from the Sacramento County Local Area Formation Commission to expand their Sphere of Influence south of U.S. Highway 50, which would result in eventual development of a significant area of oak woodlands and grasslands to the north of the project area. Urban development in Placer, Sacramento and El Dorado Counties is closing to the north, west and east. A 1998 EIR on part of the property identified suitable habitat for: Swainsons Hawk and other raptors, western pond turtle, burrowing owls, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Chinook Fall Salmon and Steelhead (in the Cosumnes River-downstream from the project), CA tiger salamander, red-legged frog, western spadefoot toad, various bats and birds (tri-colored blackbird), and vernal pool-related species, including tadpole and fairy shrimp, and numerous plants (Boggs Lake hedge hyssop, Aharts dwarf rush, Legenere, Sacramento Orcutt grass, Laynes ragwort, Colusa grass, Delta wooly marbles, Greenes tuctoria). The project lies in the middle Cosumnes River watershed, between Deer Creek and the Cosumnes River, and contains Crevis Creek, other seasonal creeks and drainages, and some vernal pools. The project area links efforts by The Nature Conservancy to protect the lower Cosumnes watershed in Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties, and efforts by the American River Conservancy to protect the upper Cosumnes watershed in El Dorado County.

Proposal

Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy

**East Sacramento County Blue Oak Legacy Acquisition Area-Deer Creek Hills
Project**

Aimee Rutledge, Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy



sacramento valley
open space
conservancy

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October 4, 2001

CVPIA/CalFed Grant Request-

East Sacramento County Blue Oak Woodland Legacy Area-Land Acquisition

The Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy is pleased to submit a proposal to obtain US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Conservation Program funds for land acquisition to acquire 4062 +/- acres of oak woodlands, grasslands and seasonal wetlands in the East Sacramento County Blue Oak Woodland Legacy Area just outside the Sacramento County USB and north of the Cosumnes River along Deer and Crevis Creeks (tributaries to the Cosumnes).

East Sacramento County Blue Oak Woodland Legacy Area

Summary

This is a grant request by the Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy (SVOSC) for \$1 million for the fee title purchase of 4062+/- acres in the East Sacramento County Blue Oak Woodland Legacy area. The area includes habitats for the following endangered, threatened, or rare species (NOTE: This list appeared on a Natural Resources Conservation Service(NRCS)/US Department of Agriculture Wetland Reserve Program Application filed in November of 2000 on a nearby property along Deer Creek-Renown, and was made during a site visit with both NRCS and US Fish & Wildlife Service staff present. A 1998 EIR on part of the 4062 acre property also found that there was suitable habitat for the following species. A star indicates species identified by the EIR only.):

- Vernal pool fairy shrimp
- Vernal pool tadpole shrimp
- Western pond turtle
- Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB)
- Western spadefoot toad
- *California Tiger Salamander
- *California Red-legged frog
- Burrowing owl
- Swainson's Hawk
- *Tri-colored blackbird
- Sacramento Orcutt grass
- Slender Orcutt grass
- Legenere
- Bogg's Lake hedge hyssop
- *Ahart's dwarf rush

- *Layne's ragwort
- *Colusa grass
- *Delta wooly marbles
- *Greene's tuctoria
- Blue Oaks
- Valley Oaks

Habitats include vernal pool grassland, grassland, blue oak woodland, blue oak savannah, and riparian wetlands (Crevis Creek and other seasonal drainages).

Developers and land speculators have purchased and/or optioned many parcels in this area in anticipation of future residential and commercial development fueled by the proposed expansion of the City of Folsom south of Highway 50 and Sacramento County's recent Measure O, which would have authorized a large senior community (Deer Creek Hills) on part of the 4062 acre property (just to the north of the Cosumnes River and the existing Rancho Murieta development). But, there are still several large landowners who have ranched in this area for more than one generation, and other owners who are interested in exploring preservation options on their land.

SVOSC holds an option to acquire fee title on 4062 +/- acres until December 10, 2002, with a purchase price of \$11,373,600. We plan to transfer fee title directly to the County of Sacramento and, possibly, part of the property-500 acres-to a private conservation buyer (with a conservation easement in place to protect sensitive habitat resources and to direct and limit public use appropriately). Sacramento County or SVOSC would manage the sites in compliance with the easement for use as natural preserve areas with appropriate recreational and educational activities. SVOSC also plans to seek opportunities to preserve land surrounding our Tier A priority acquisition area with conservation easements, allowing ranching uses to continue and providing a larger habitat area and scenic relief, in the event development begins to encroach on the core area.

Geographical Location and Description

The properties under consideration include almost all the land within Sacramento County's East County Open Space Study Area, bounded by Highway 50/City of Folsom on the north, the Sacramento County urban services boundary on the west, the Cosumnes River on the south, and the Sacramento-El Dorado County line on the east. Properties range from 150 to 550 feet in elevation, with few exceptions, and are currently managed as cattle ranches, although many are owned or optioned by commercial and residential developers.

Criteria for priority ranking of Tier A priority properties (apply to all, unless noted):

- High density of blue oaks
- Near/surrounding tributaries to the Cosumnes River
- Wetlands/floodplain areas
- Willing sellers
- Reasonable value range (i.e. lower land prices further away from the proposed Folsom Sphere of Influence area and Highway 50)

Tier A Properties-Highest Priority (5520 +/- acres)

- Renown Properties. APN 073-050-21, 073-050-20, 073-060-10. 987 acres.
- Scott Ranch. APN 073-050-26, 073-050-38. 533 acres.

SVOSC option is on the following properties (total of over 4000 acres): NOTE: These properties are now owned by Hal and Susan Taines, Burgerlands and Sacramento 1000. Our option is with the new owners.

- Golden Acres, LP, Properties. APN 073-060-03, 073-060-18-073-060-20, 073-060-17, 073-060-19, 073-050-30, 073-050-29, 073-090-01, 073-090-33. 2008 acres.
- Clifford Land Associates Properties. APN 073-060-21, 073-060-06, 073-060-15, 073-060-11, 073-060-12, 073-090-08, 073-090-07, 073-090-12. 2036 acres.

Resource Information

Linkages

The project lies in the middle Cosumnes River watershed, between Deer Creek and the Cosumnes River, and contains Crevis Creek, other seasonal creeks and drainages, and some vernal pools. The project area links efforts by The Nature Conservancy to protect the lower Cosumnes watershed in Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties, and efforts by the American River Conservancy to protect the upper Cosumnes watershed in El Dorado County.

Habitats

The habitat types in this area include northern hardpan vernal pools and related grasslands, blue oak series, and riparian areas. The special status plant species associated with northern hardpan vernal pools include Legenere, and Sacramento and Slender Orcutt grasses. These plants have been indicated as species likely to be present by US Fish & Wildlife and US Department of Agriculture staff on an October 2000 site visit to the Renown property and in a 1998 EIR on part of the 4062 acre property.

Vernal pools of this region support many species of endemic invertebrates, including fairy and tadpole shrimp. Vernal pool grasslands also host rare amphibians such as the California tiger salamander and the Western spadefoot toad. Pools also serve as important staging grounds for migratory waterfowl, offering abundant water and protein-rich feeding grounds. This region also provides important winter forage for numerous hawks, including ferruginous, rough-legged, Swainson's (summer visitor), red-tailed hawks and northern harriers. All these species are likely to occur in the area. Hawks and other raptors have been sighted foraging.

Blue oak woodlands form a ring around the edge of the Great Central Valley, and epitomize the natural landscape of California. Animal diversity is higher in foothill woodlands than in either adjoining grasslands or conifer forests; 278 vertebrate species of wildlife rely upon oak woodlands for cover, food, nesting, or resting. Acorns provide a particularly rich food source, supporting wildlife from mule deer to field mice to insects. Blue oaks (*Quercus douglasii*) are unique to California, and occur on dry, foothill slopes. The blue oak is uniquely adapted to the heat and drought of this environment; it is the only tree species that extends into the lowest, sunniest slopes and plains. Its occurrence creates conditions which support a variety of grasses and understory shrubs including manzanita, redbud, coffeeberry, poison oak, and lavender. Due to this structural diversity, blue oak woodland provides critical cover, shade, food and other resources for animals such as black-tailed deer, gray fox, and acorn woodpeckers as they move up and down the foothills. California is losing its blue oak woodlands. This loss is particularly serious in the Sierra foothills, where forests are being cleared for ranching, housing developments, and vineyards. As these types of land conversion continue, woodland becomes more and more fragmented, leading to a decline in habitat quality and the species which depend upon the woodlands and their resources. The grasslands adjacent to the blue oak woodland areas and the riparian areas may also support the burrowing owl, according to US Fish & Wildlife and US Department of Agriculture staff on an October 2000 site visit to the Renown property and in a 1998 EIR on part of the 4000 acre property.

The riparian areas are intermittent creeks (Alder, Coyote, Carson, Deer and Crevis Creeks). In the Deer Creek area, Western pond turtle, VELB (blue elderberries) and Bogg's Lake Hedge Hessop have also been indicated as species likely to be present by US Fish & Wildlife and US Department of Agriculture staff on an October 2000 site visit to the Renown property, and the other plants listed in the "Summary" section of this proposal were listed in a 1998 EIR on part of the 4062 acre property. Land preservation along Deer and Crevis Creeks in the Tier A priority area would provide protection of upper tributaries in the Cosumnes River Watershed.

SVOSC hopes to establish a core protection area around Deer Creek and Crevis Creek by pursuing preservation of the Renown, the Scott Ranch, and 4062 acre property and other adjacent properties, that will provide a base to help protect more properties in this area. (See attached map at end of narrative.) We plan to pursue adjacent properties through either conservation easements or fee title acquisition, to build a larger preservation area.

The proposed acquisition area is a complement to preservation efforts of blue oak woodlands to the south in Sacramento County by The Nature Conservancy (see TNC support letter), and to the efforts of the American River Conservancy to preserve lands along upper Deer Creek and the upper Cosumnes River watershed in El Dorado County. TNC's Cosumnes Project aims to protect the lower and middle Cosumnes River watershed. Protection of the areas around Deer Creek can assist with long-term health of the downstream ecosystem and the lower Cosumnes watershed.

Management Objectives

The highest priority lands for acquisition (Renown, Scott Ranch, and the 4062 acre property) would be acquired by SVOSC, and SVOSC plans to transfer title to the County of Sacramento. On the 4000 acre acquisition, the likely ownership would be part in fee title to the County and part to a conservation buyer (with a conservation easement in place to protect sensitive habitat resources and to direct and limit public and private use appropriately). The primary management objective would be to sustain the natural resources and species on the sites, with a secondary management objective of appropriately directed and limited public access. Lands surrounding these properties would be targeted for preservation via conservation easements and stay as working ranches. Some owners may need to sell fee title, in which case, the model of purchasing the property and reselling it back to a cattle interest with an easement in place could be used. SVOSC plans to work to negotiate deals and assist with close of transactions. Natural resource needs on each property would need to be assessed prior to allowing any public access. Grazing management would need to provide appropriate support for the habitats on each site (i.e. to enhance native grass growth and to allow nesting and breeding seasons to occur undisturbed).

Financial Information

SVOSC has negotiated an option until December 10, 2002 to buy 4062 +/- acres of oak woodlands and grasslands along Crevis Creek for \$11,373,600.

Cost Share/Funding Partners

- The County of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Commission has set aside \$500,000 of its Proposition 12 per capita distribution for east county land acquisition.
- SVOSC is submitting a grant application for \$1 million or more to the Forest Legacy Program at the California Department of Fire and Forestry (10/2001 submittal date).
- California Assemblymember Anthony Pescetti submitted a \$1 million member's request for east county land acquisition in the 2001 State Budget, and California Senators Mike Machado

and Debra Ortiz supported that request. (The energy crisis severely impacted the ability to fund members' requests in 2001, and we were not successful, but we will attempt to request funds again in the 2002 State Budget).

- SVOSC applied to the Natural Resources Conservation Service Wetland Restoration Easement Program to help with acquisition of the riparian and vernal pool areas on the Renown Property, and missed the cutoff for funding for 2001, but are on their list.
- SVOSC plans to work to raise money from the local business and development communities, as well. SVOSC has made some initial inquiries, and have an anonymous private donor that is willing to fund a potentially significant portion of a deal on the 4000 acre site (potentially over \$1 million or more). SVOSC is mounting a community funding campaign.
- SVOSC has received a "kick-off" grant of \$25,000 from the Soderquist Fund of the Sacramento Regional Foundation.
- SVOSC has been notified that we are going to receive a \$20,000 grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency and The Trust for Public Land for East Sacramento County acquisition support costs.
- SVOSC has submitted an application to the David & Lucile Packard Foundation for \$1 million or more. (Submittal date 10/2001.)
- SVOSC will also plans to seek funds from appropriate Proposition 12 competitive grants, other private foundations, and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation.

Local and Regional Issues & Threats

Sacramento County has identified Deer Creek as a priority natural area in its general plan. Sacramento County is also in progress on their East County Open Space Study, which was initiated by the County Board of Supervisors in the Summer of 2000 to determine how they will balance their approach to preservation efforts and future development requests by landowners/developers in the area. The area is outside the urban services boundary of Sacramento County, but adjacent to the fast-growing areas of the City of Folsom and El Dorado Hills. Recently, the City of Folsom received approval from the Sacramento County Local Area Formation Commission to expand their Sphere of Influence south of U.S. Highway 50 (in the East County Study Area), which would result in eventual development of a significant area of oak woodlands and grasslands to the north of the project area. On the November 2000 ballot, Sacramento County voters rejected a senior development (Deer Creek Hills) on part of the 4062 acre property (Measure O). Urban development in Placer, Sacramento and El Dorado Counties is closing to the north, west and east. The land in the East County Study Area is still zoned AG-80 and much is also designated as a Resource Conservation Area. Successful preservation of the Tier A properties can create momentum for further preservation. The draft Sacramento County Habitat Conservation Plan encompasses the proposed acquisition area and would require preservation of the habitat types in the study area. Other environmental and preservation groups active locally area support preservation of this area. The Nature Conservancy, the Environmental Council of Sacramento, and many other organizations helped to fund the opposition campaign to Measure O. Sacramento Open Space (SOS), a separate non-profit which focuses on education and advocacy, has produced a power-point presentation (funded by Intel and others) on the opportunities for and threats to preservation in the area and is making rounds to local decision makers and civic organizations.

This document was prepared by Aimee Rutledge, Executive Director of the Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy at P.O. Box 163351; Sacramento, CA 95816; 916/492-0908; Bond13mac@aol.com.

Organizational Information

Total Acres Preserved: 1034

- 1994-11.5 acres blue oaks/flood basin, Kenwood Oaks Park, near Haggin Oaks Golf Course
- 1997-0.5 acres oaks, Sally Hudson Park, South Natomas, Orchard Ln. & River Plaza Dr.
- 1998-180 acres row crops (CE*), Valensin Ranch/Cosumnes River Preserve
- 1999-25 acres to be restored as giant garter snake habitat (CE*), Cosumnes River Preserve
 - 22 acres grazing/habitat land (CE*), Dry Creek Watershed, near Rio Linda
 - 184 acres grazing/vernal pools (CE*), planned Sac Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve, South Sac
 - 160 acres grazing/vernal pools (fee title), planned Sac Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve, S. Sac
 - 30 acres riparian wetlands (fee title), Humbug/Willow Creek Pkwy, Folsom/Lexington Hills
- 2001-4.5 acres riparian/grazing (fee title), Dry Creek Watershed, near Rio Linda
 - 250 acres riparian/grazing (CE*), Dry Creek Watershed, near Rio Linda
 - 2.25 acres American River bluffs (fee title), Fair Oaks
 - 164 acres vernal pools/riparian corridor (CE*), planned Sac Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve, South Sac

Total Acquisition Funds to Date: \$5,027,500

- Dry Creek Watershed-\$102,500
- Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve-\$4,000,000
- East County Oak Woodlands & Rangeland-\$25,000
- Fair Oaks Bluffs-\$900,000

Operational Status:

- Part-time Executive Director & Admin Assistant, Community Outreach and Event Consultants
- Dedicated Board of Trustees (13 members) and Advisory Council/Tech Advisors (23)

Community and Grant Partners (for complete, current Donor Report, check www.svosc.org):

- Dry Creek Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trust for Public Land
- Great Valley Center
- Gabilan Foundation
- David & Lucille Packard Foundation
- California Trails and Greenways Foundation
- Environmental Protection Agency (federal)
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act (US Fish & Wildlife)
- Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Teichert Foundation
- Sacramento Open Space
- City of Sacramento-Parks, Planning, Real Estate
- County of Sacramento-Parks, Planning, Real Estate, Water Resources, Transportation
- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
- California Department of Fish & Game (Wildlife Conservation Board)
- California Department of Transportation
- Soderquist Fund of the Sacramento Regional Foundation

Mission Statement:

The Conservancy was founded in 1990 on two basic principles—that open lands are necessary for quality of life and

that we must care for the land today so future generations may enjoy its physical and spiritual benefits tomorrow. SVOSC's mission is to preserve the beauty, character and diversity of the Sacramento Valley landscape by working with citizens, property owners, developers, public agencies and other nonprofit organizations. It creates dedicated open space by the acceptance of gifts, private purchase, facilitation of public acquisition, conservation easements and by cooperative efforts. It arranges for the preservation of these lands for agricultural, natural resource protection, recreation, and wildlife habitat purposes.

Maps Available (Displayed at CVP Technical Meeting 6/6/2001)

- East Sacramento County Habitat Map
- East Sacramento County Aerial Photo and Parcel Map

Maps Attached

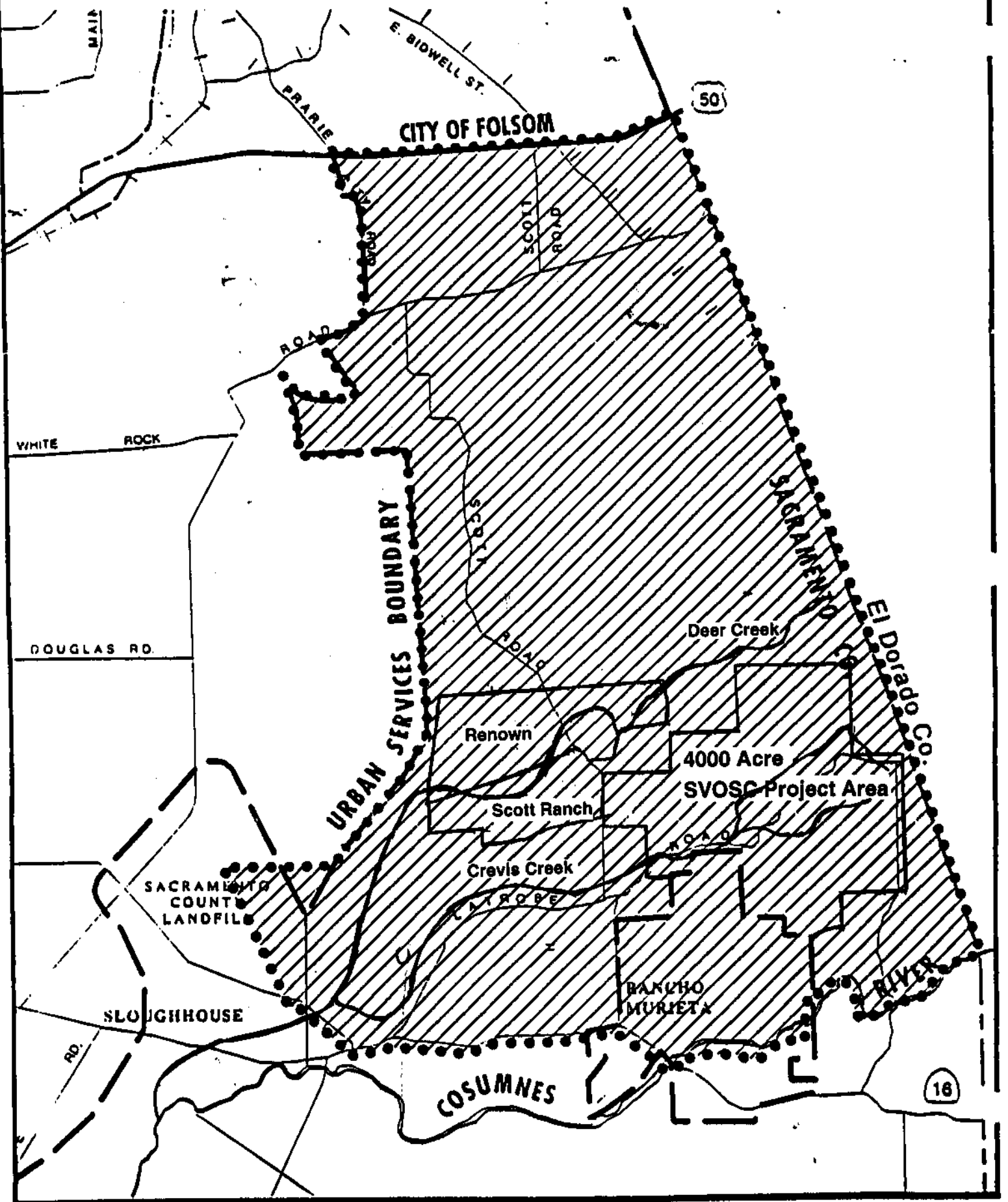
- B/W map of East County Open Space Study Area, with major roads, creeks (approximate courses), rivers, and Tier A properties (approximate boundaries) indicated.
- B/W SVOSC 21st Century Open Space Vision for Sacramento County with 4062 acre project indicated.
- Central Valley Ecoregion map by The Nature Conservancy with approximate location of 4062 acre project along the Cosumnes watershed indicated.

Letters of Support Available**East Sacramento County Blue Oak Woodland Legacy Acquisition Area**






- California Rangeland Trust
- The Nature Conservancy-Cosumnes/Delta Project Office
- Sacramento County Planning Department

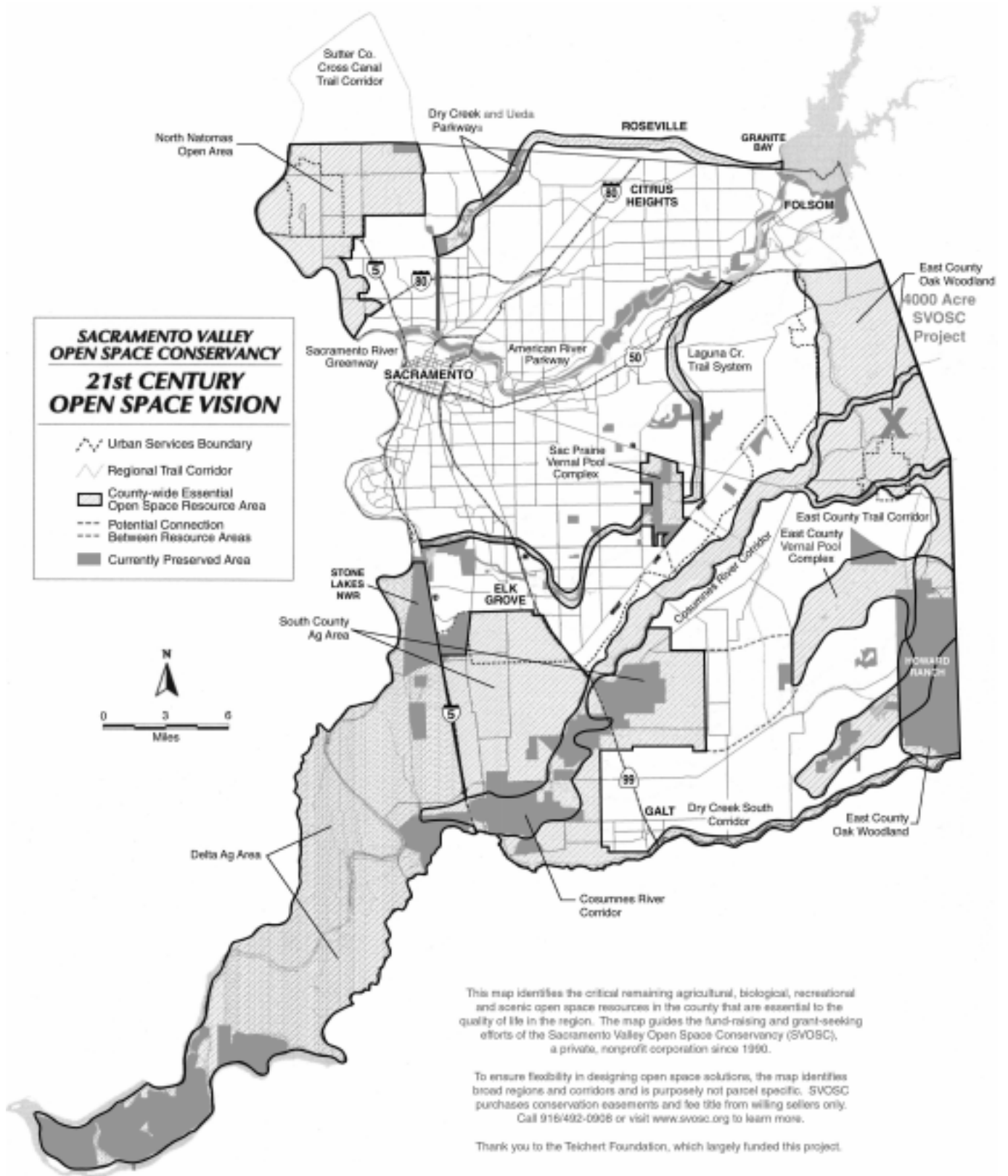
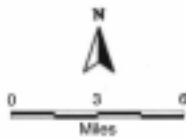
NOTE: Assemblymember Pescetti and Senator Machado submitted a unsuccessful budget request in the 2001-2002 state budget.

EAST COUNTY OPEN SPACE STUDY AREA



**SACRAMENTO VALLEY
OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY
21st CENTURY
OPEN SPACE VISION**

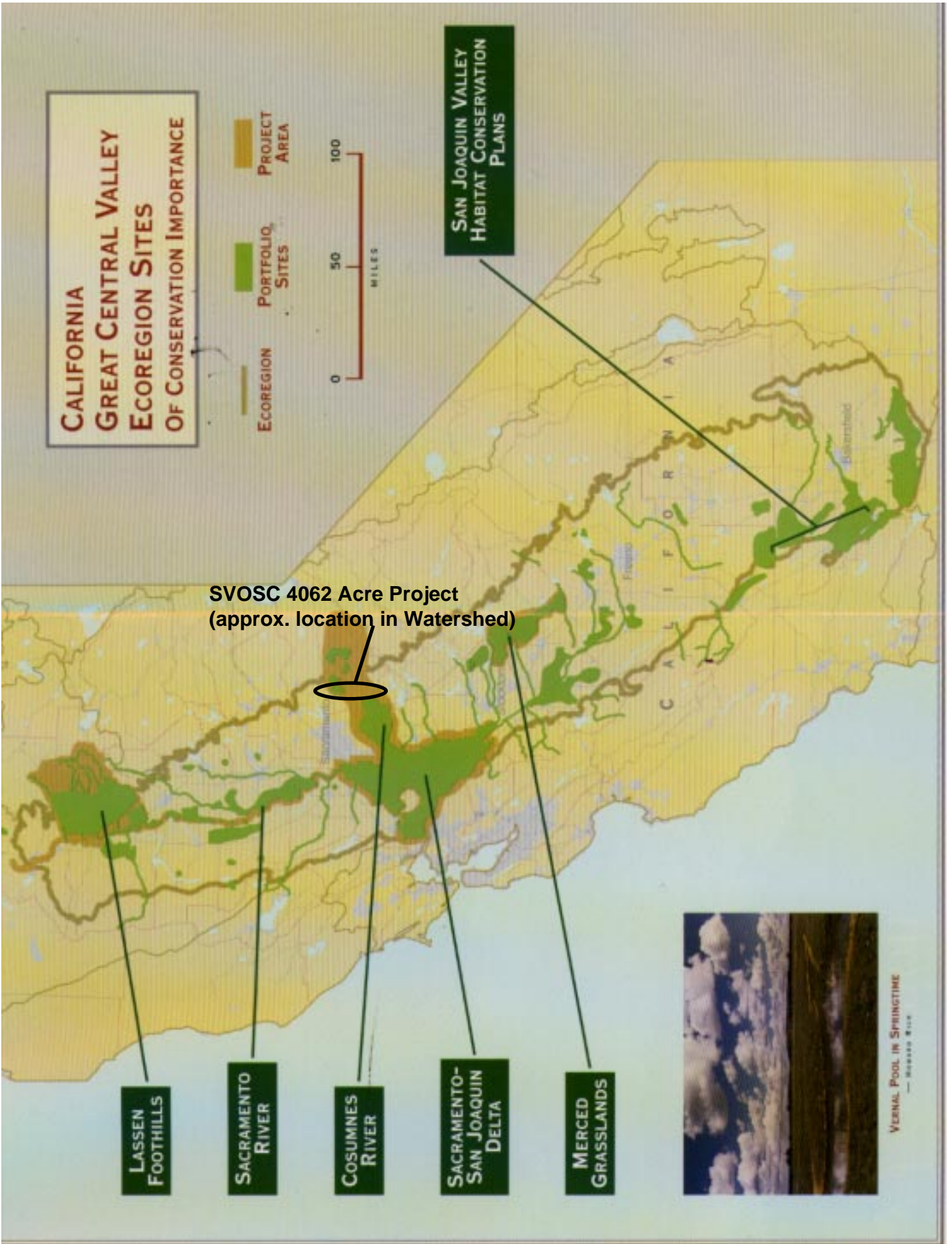
-  Urban Services Boundary
-  Regional Trail Corridor
-  County-wide Essential Open Space Resource Area
-  Potential Connection Between Resource Areas
-  Currently Preserved Area



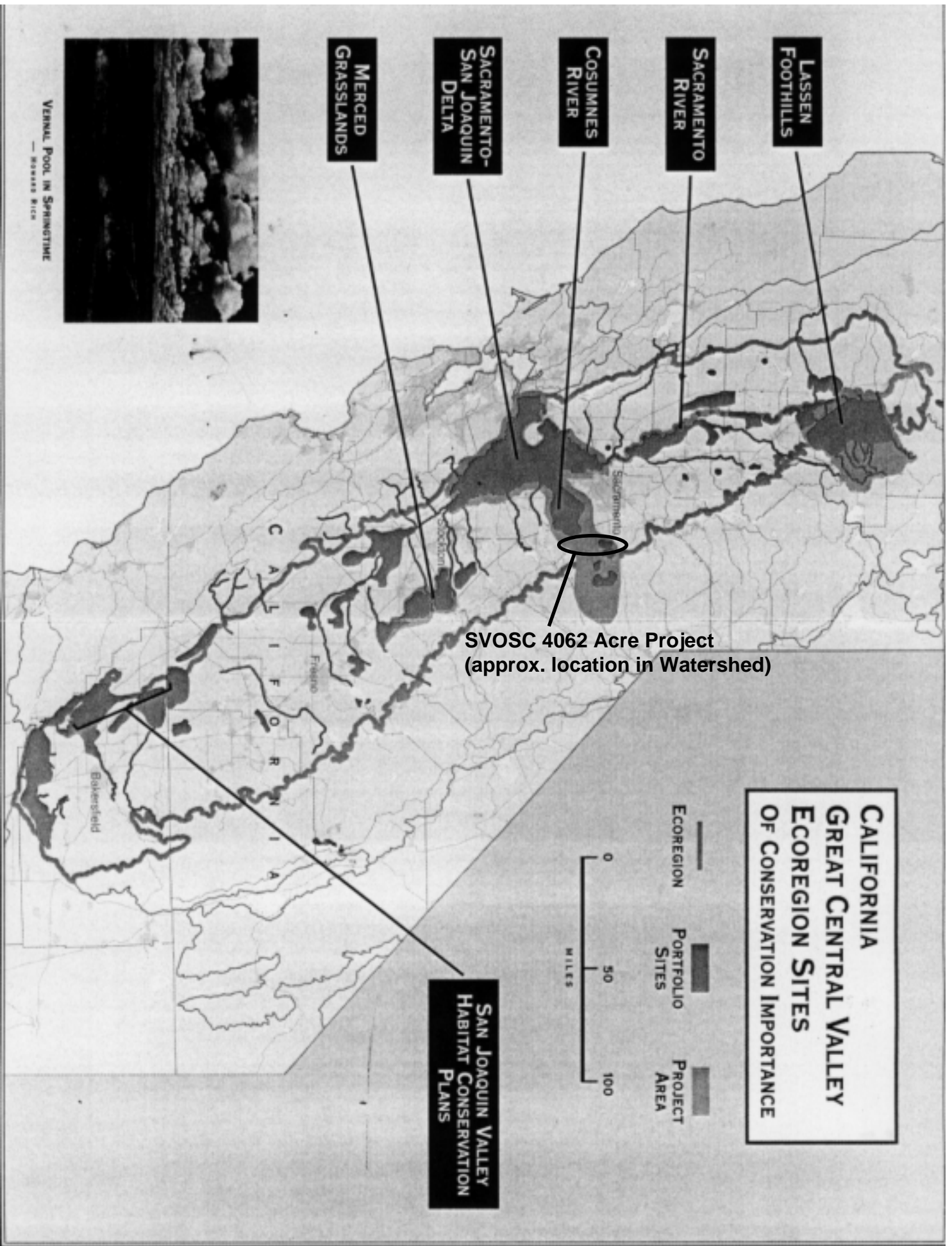
This map identifies the critical remaining agricultural, biological, recreational and scenic open space resources in the county that are essential to the quality of life in the region. The map guides the fund-raising and grant-seeking efforts of the Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy (SVOSC), a private, nonprofit corporation since 1990.

To ensure flexibility in designing open space solutions, the map identifies broad regions and corridors and is purposely not parcel specific. SVOSC purchases conservation easements and fee title from willing sellers only. Call 916/492-0908 or visit www.svosoc.org to learn more.

Thank you to the Teichert Foundation, which largely funded this project.



Map by The Nature Conservancy



Map by The Nature Conservancy