Stevens Creek

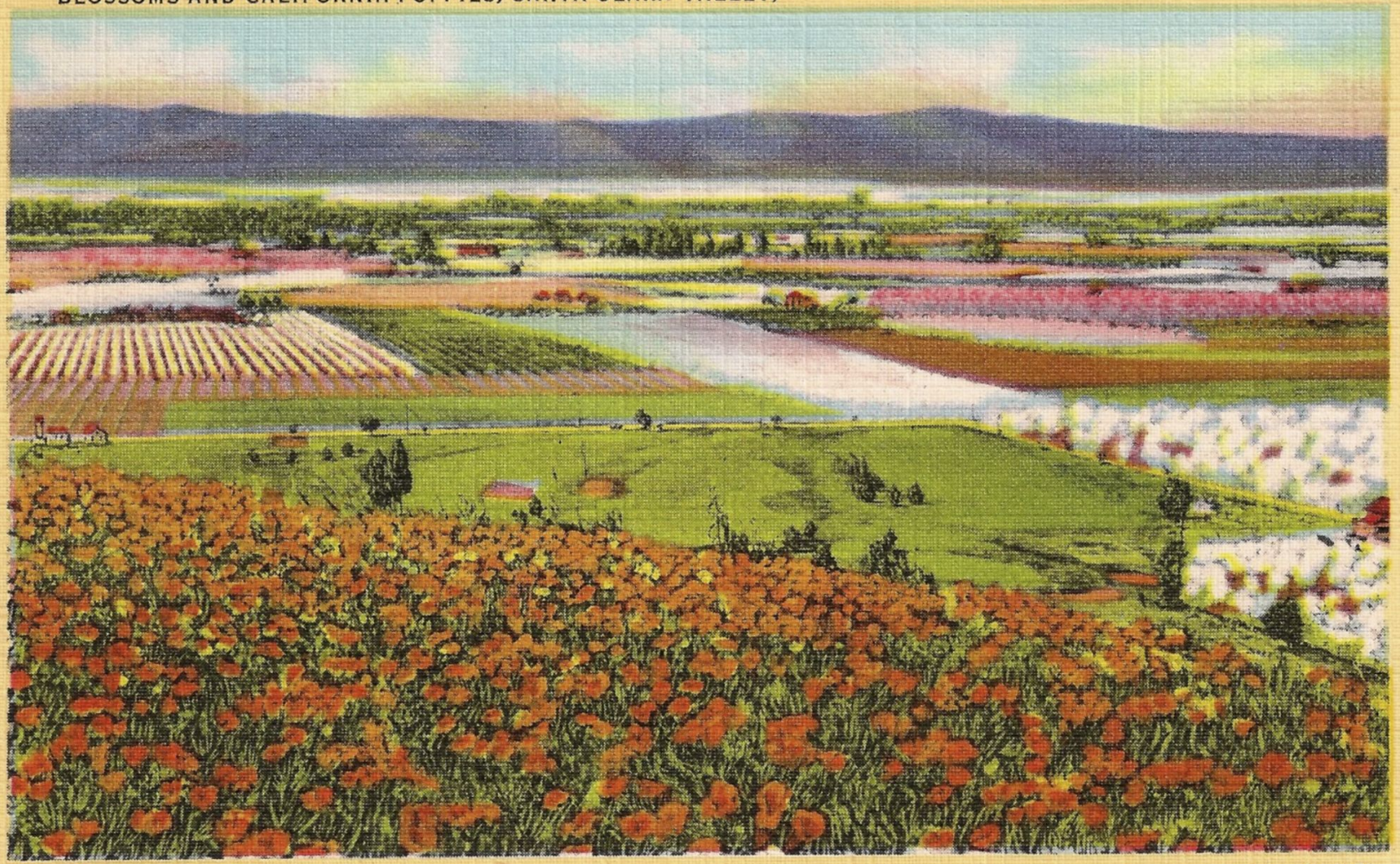
a corridor through space and time

Robin Grossinger

Founding Principal
Second Nature Ecology + Design

BLOSSOMS AND CALIFORNIA POPPIES, SANTA CLARA VALLEY,

400



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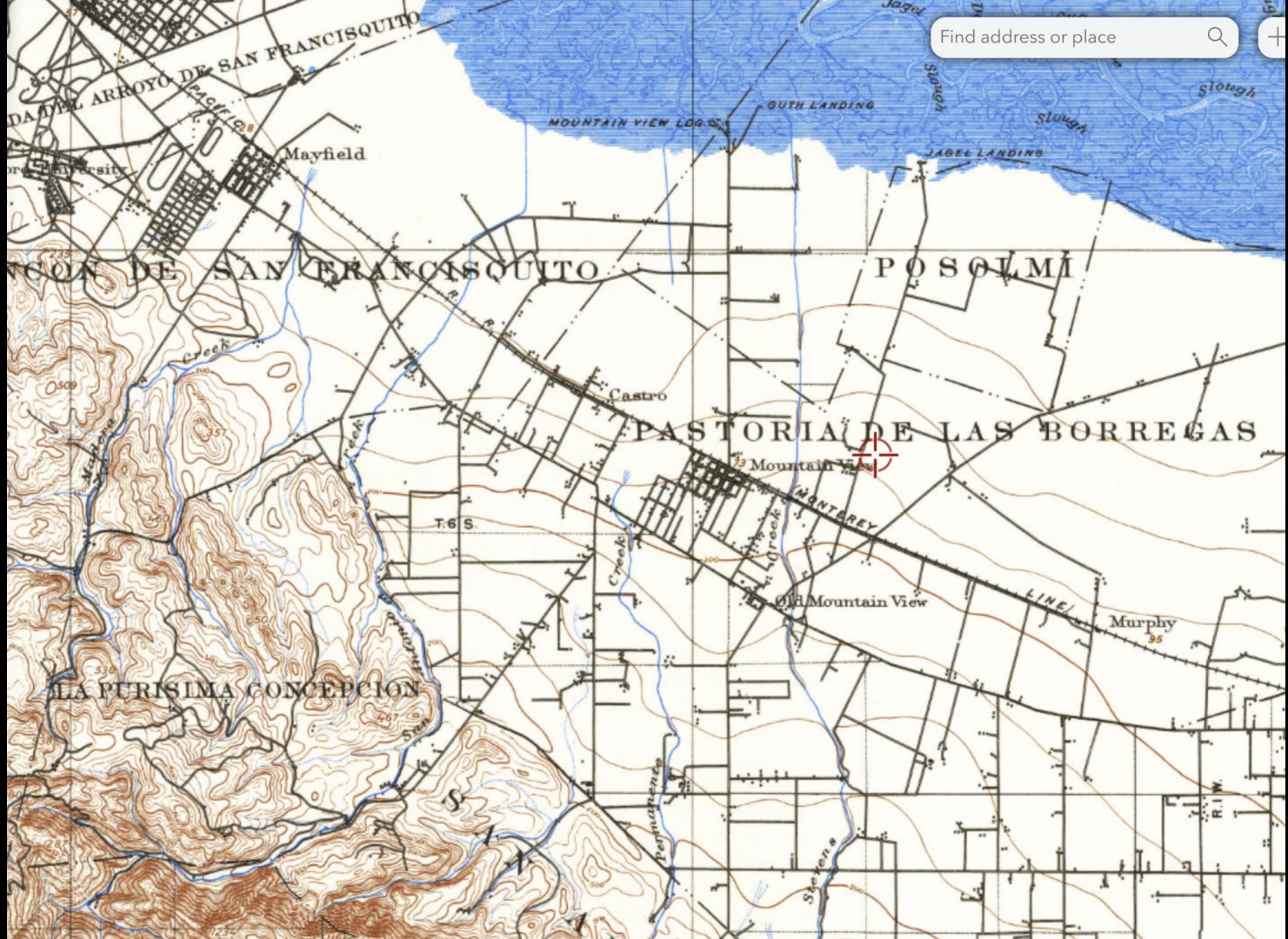
Find address or place
Mayfield
Castro
Mountain View
Old Mountain View
Murphy
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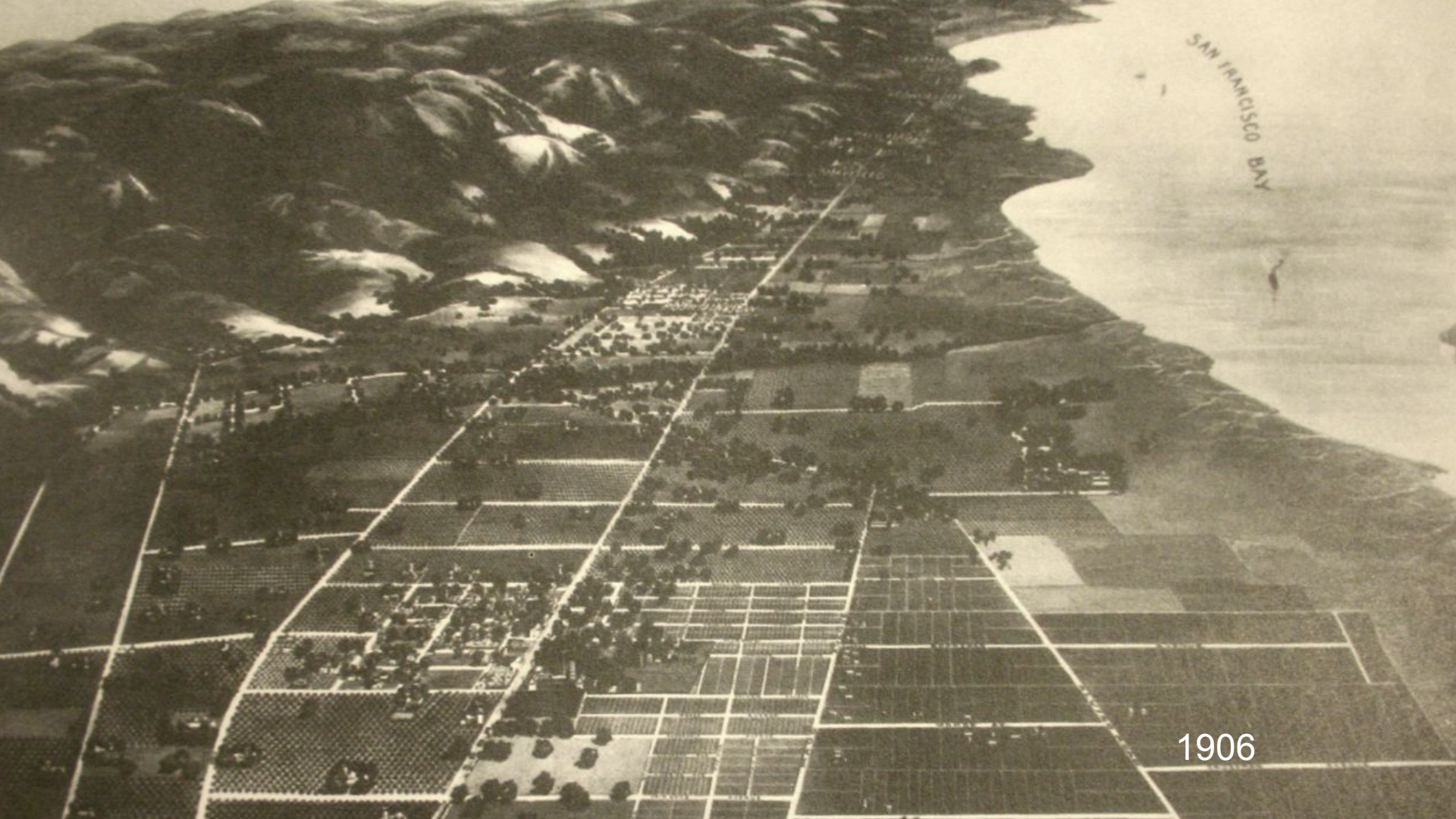
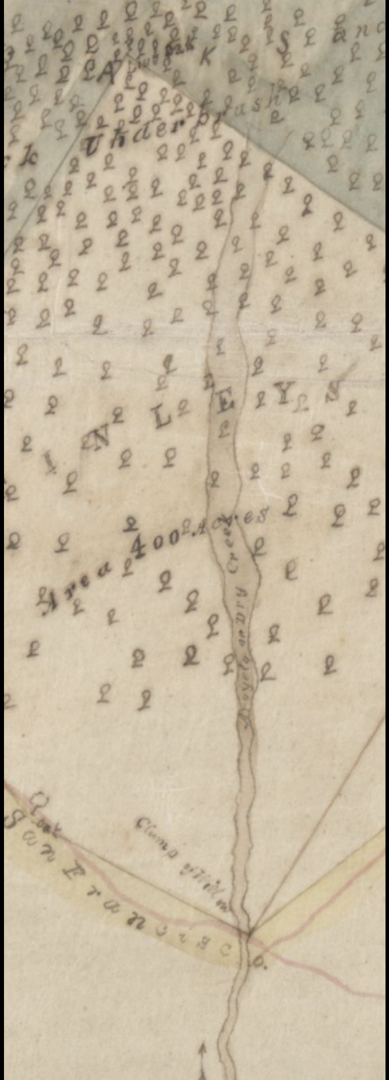
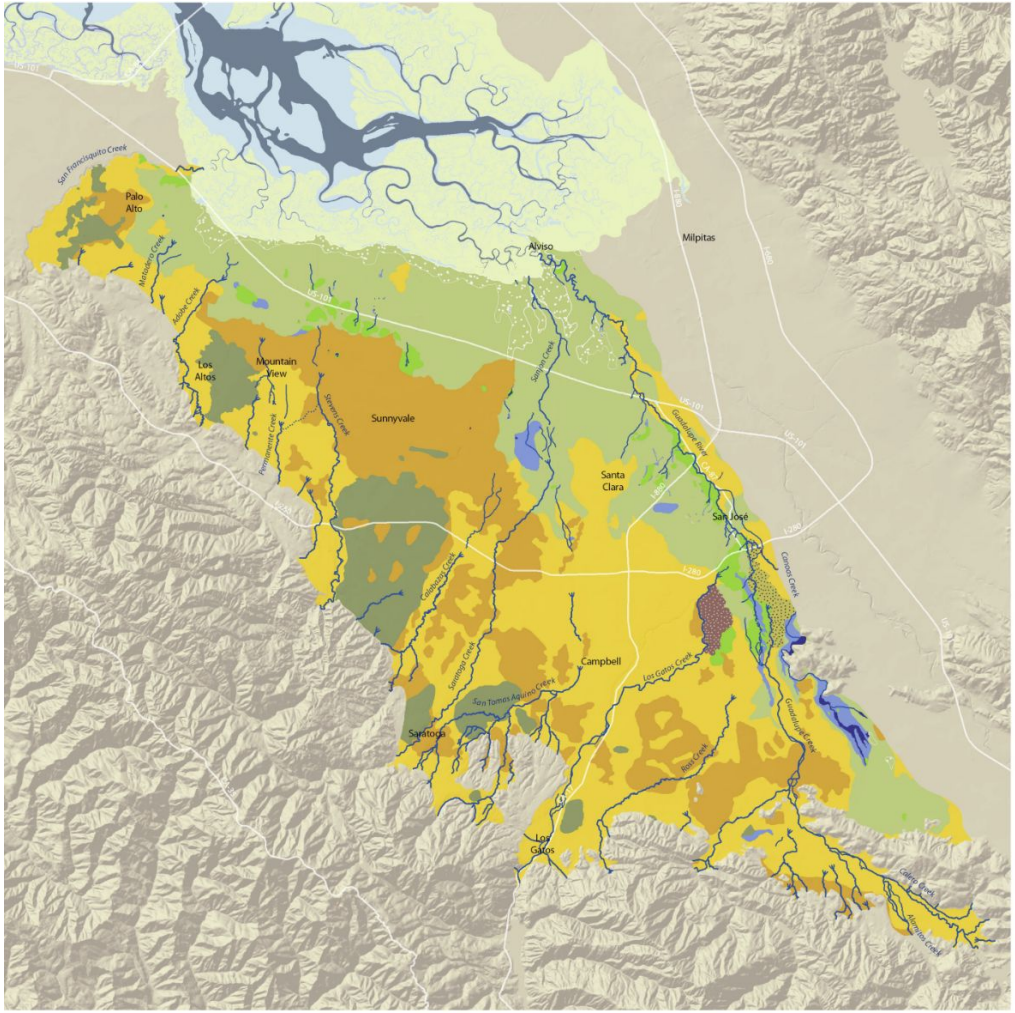
PASTORIA DE LAS BORREGAS
LA PURISIMA CONCEPCION
Slough
Creek
1899



1906

Fig. 23. Where Chester Lyman found extensive willow groves in the 1840s (a), U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (USCGS) mapper Ferdinand Westdahl found almost none exactly 50 years later – only a few tiny patches near the now-ditched Stevens Creek (b). By the 1890s, the area had been converted nearly entirely to agriculture. The modern alignment of Stevens Creek is shown on both images as a blue line for reference. (Lyman 1847b, courtesy of The Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley; Westdahl 1897a, courtesy of the National Ocean Service, Rockville, MD)


Under
INLEYS
Area 400 Acres
Dry Creek
San Francisco



HISTORICAL CONDITIONS, CIRCA 1850

The map at left reconstructs the habitat characteristics of west Santa Clara Valley prior to significant Euro-American modification.

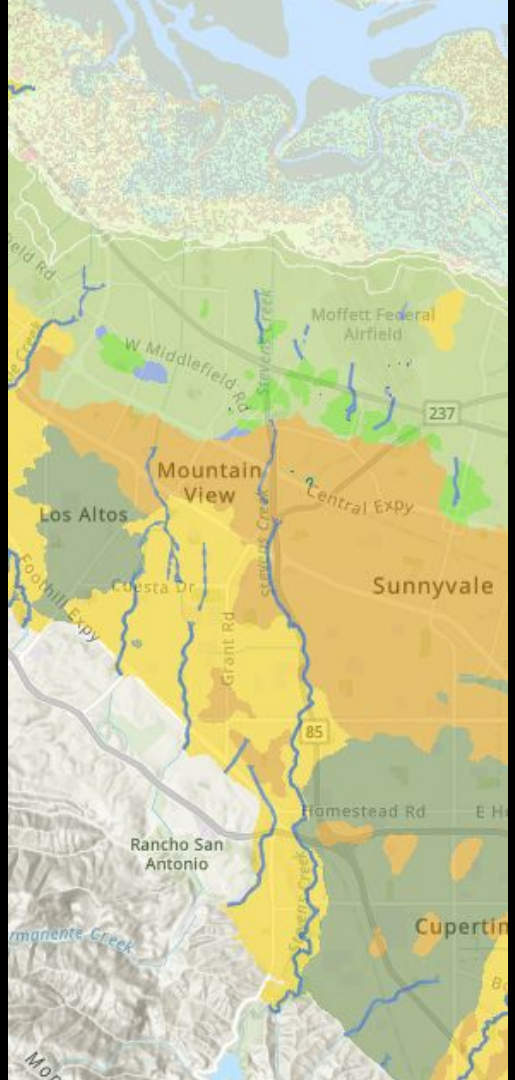
- Subtidal Water
- Tidal Flat
- Tidal Marsh
- Alkali Meadow
- Wet Meadow
- Valley Freshwater Marsh
- Perennial Freshwater Pond
- Willow Grove
- Sycamore Grove
- Wild Rose Thicket
- Box Elder Grove
- Oak Savanna
- Oak Woodland
- Chaparral

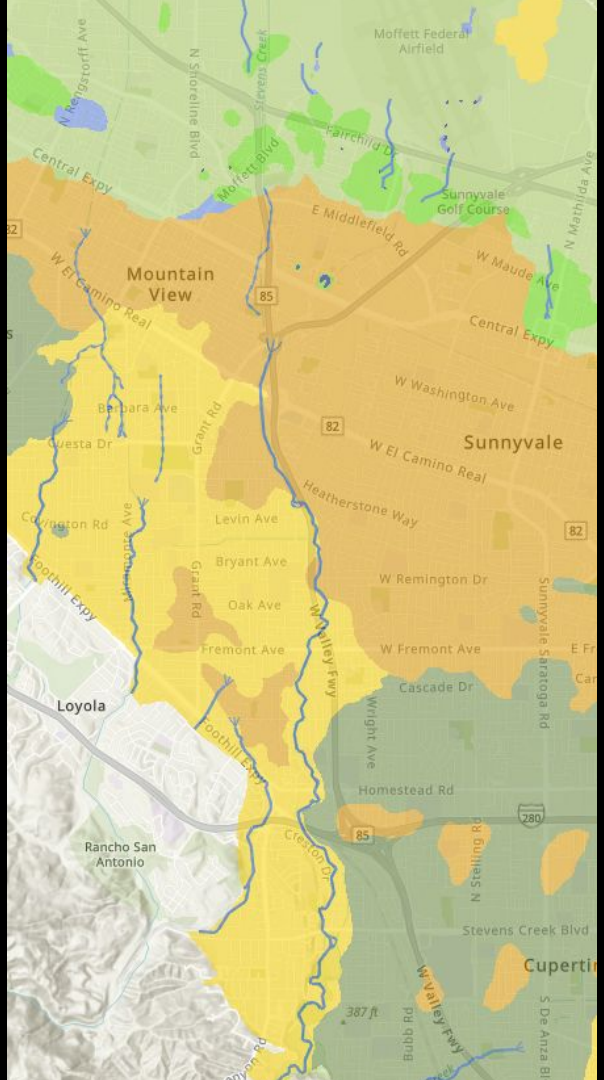
N

1:150,000

0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Kilometers


Moffett Federal Airfield
W Middlefield Rd
237
Mountain View
Central Expy
Los Altos
Sunnyvale
Cuesta Dr
Foothill Expy
Grant Rd
85
Homestead Rd
Rancho San Antonio
Cupertin


Moffett Federal Airfield
N Shoreline Blvd
Stevens Creek
Fairchild Dr
Central Expy
Moffett Blvd
Sunnyvale Golf Course
N Mathilda Ave
E Middlefield Rd
W Maude Ave
Mountain View
W El Camino Real
85
Central Expy
W Washington Ave
Grant Rd
82
Sunnyvale
W El Camino Real
Heatherstone Way
Levin Ave
Bryant Ave
W Remington Dr
Oak Ave
Fremont Ave
W Fremont Ave
Sunnyvale Saratoga Rd
Foothill Expy
Loyola
Cascade Dr
Wright Ave
Homestead Rd
280
Rancho San Antonio
Crescent Dr
N Stelling Rd
Stevens Creek Blvd
Cupertino
387 ft
Bubb Rd
S De Anza Blvd

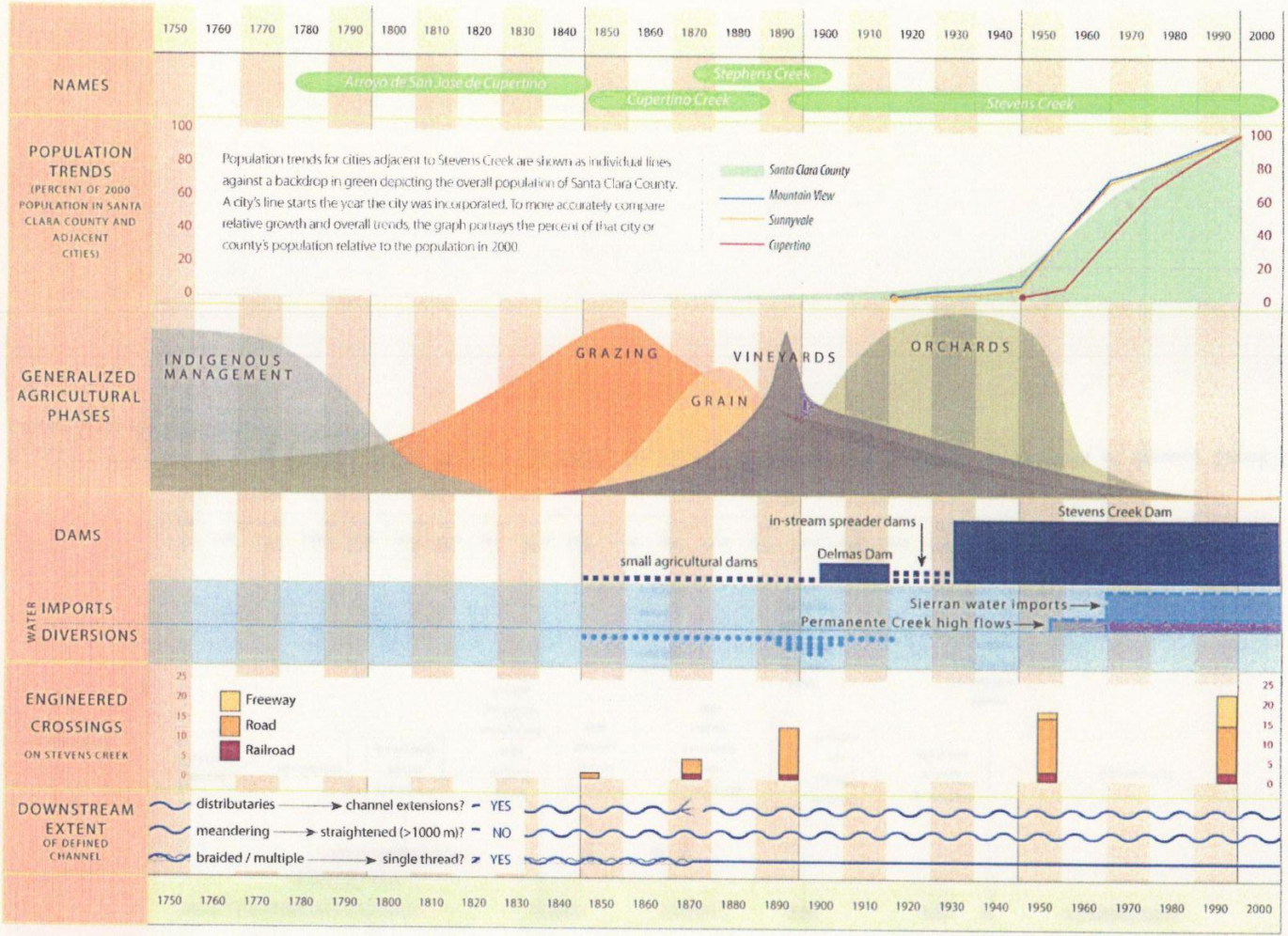
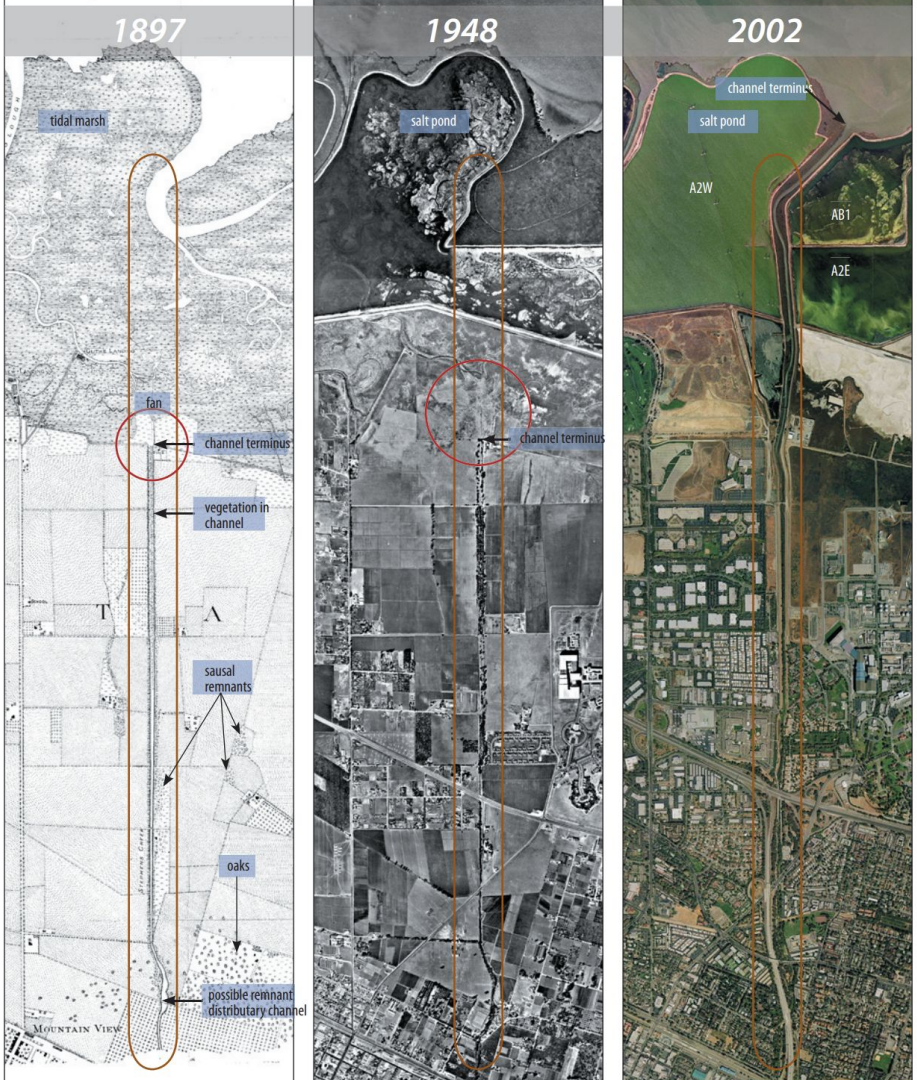
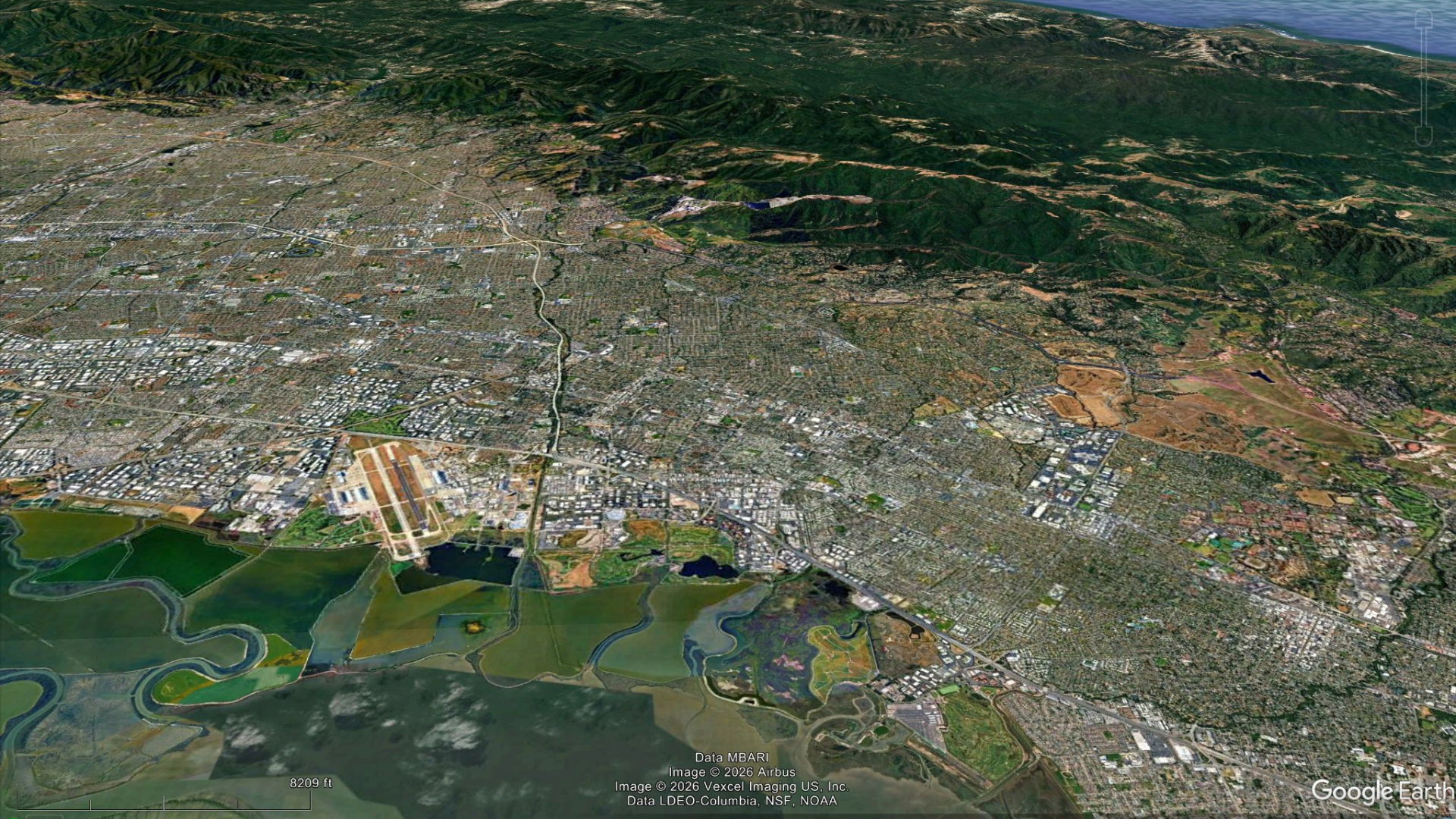
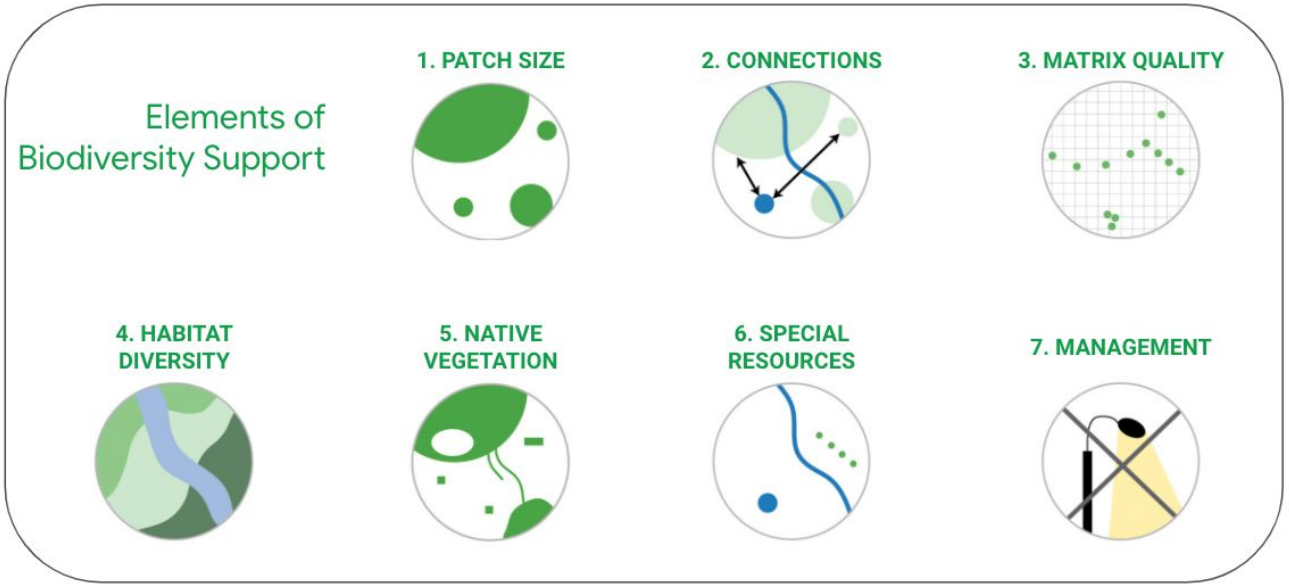
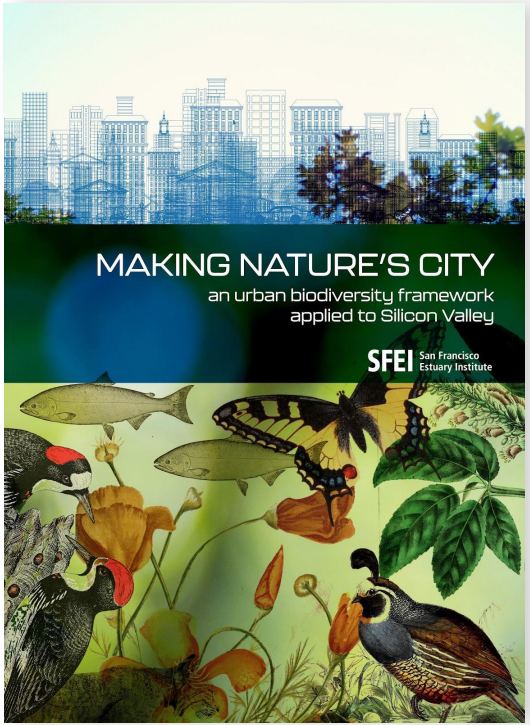


Figure 7-16 Stevens Creek WMU characteristics through time, 1750-2004.

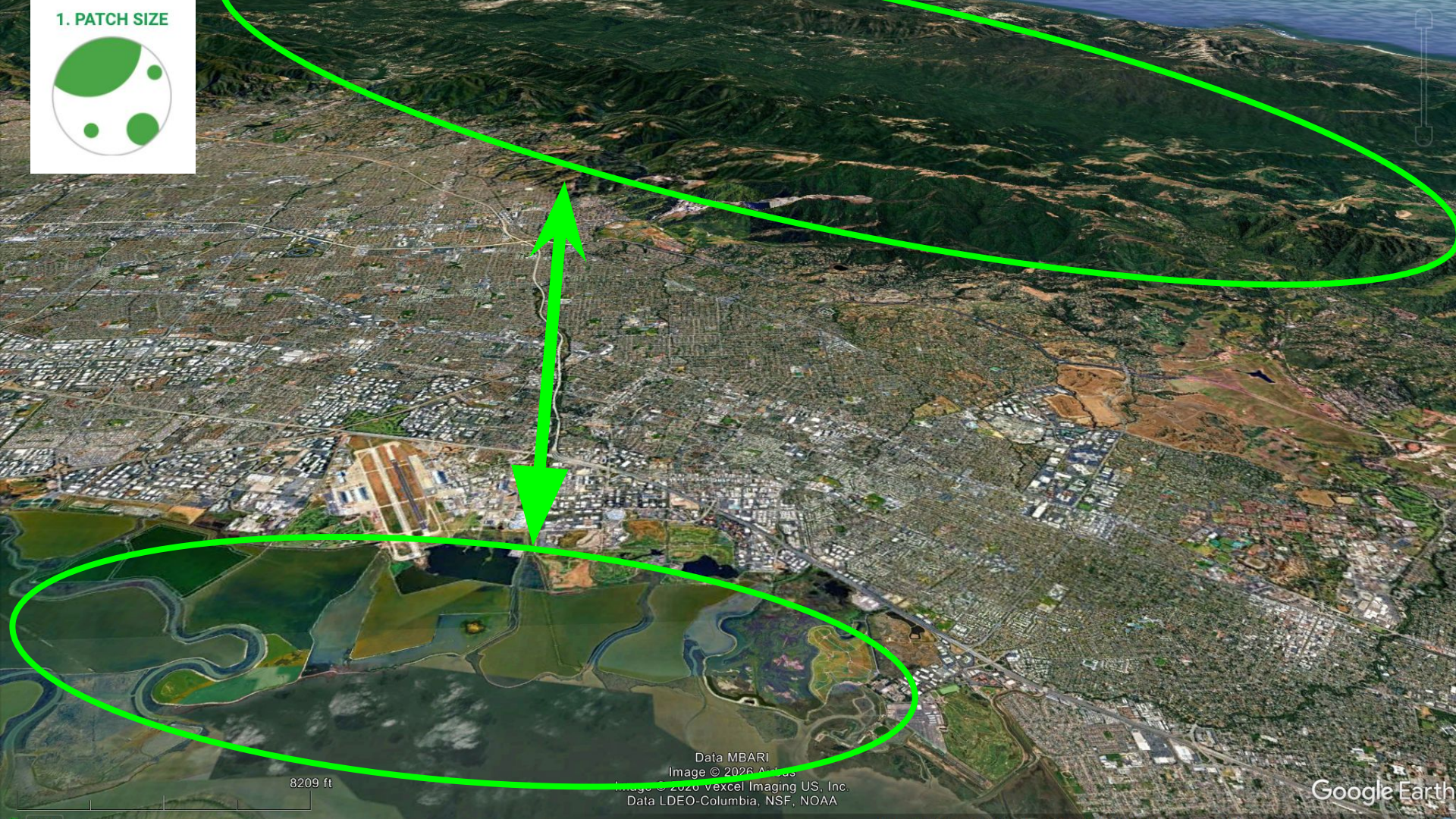

1897
tidal marsh
fan
channel terminus
vegetation in channel
T
A
sausal remnants
oaks
possible remnant distributary channel
Mountain View
1948
salt pond
channel terminus
2002
channel terminus
salt pond
A2W
AB1
A2E

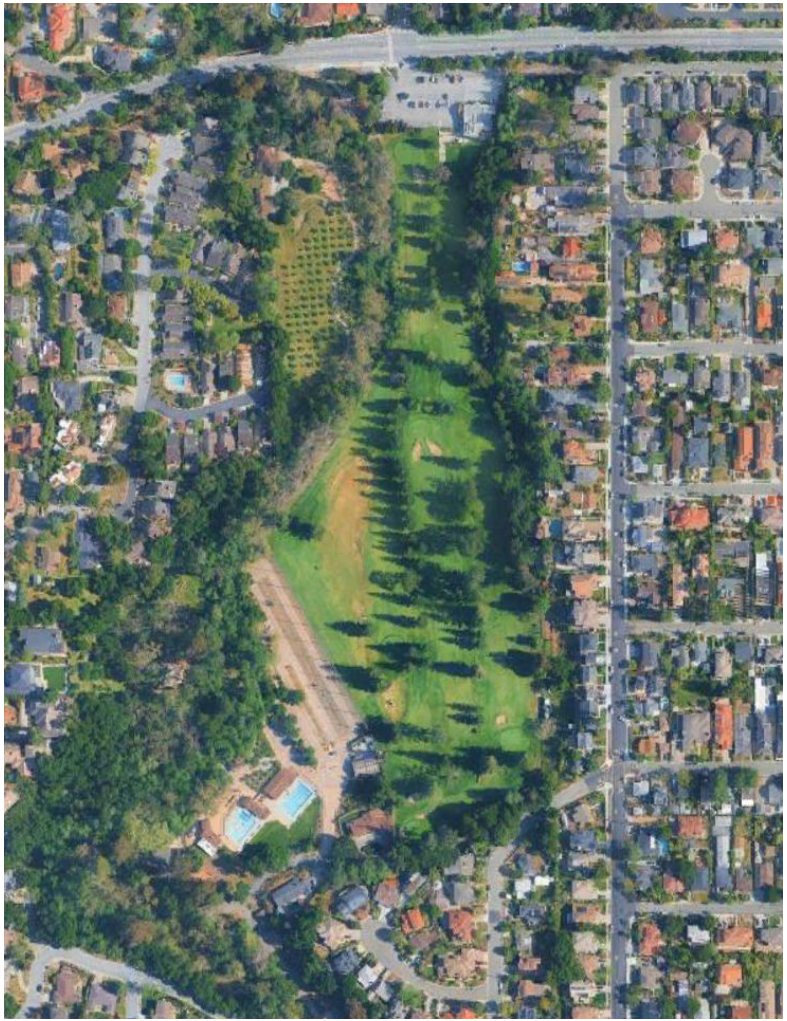

Data MBARI
Image © 2026 Airbus
Image © 2026 Vexcel Imaging US, Inc.
Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA
8209 ft
Google Earth

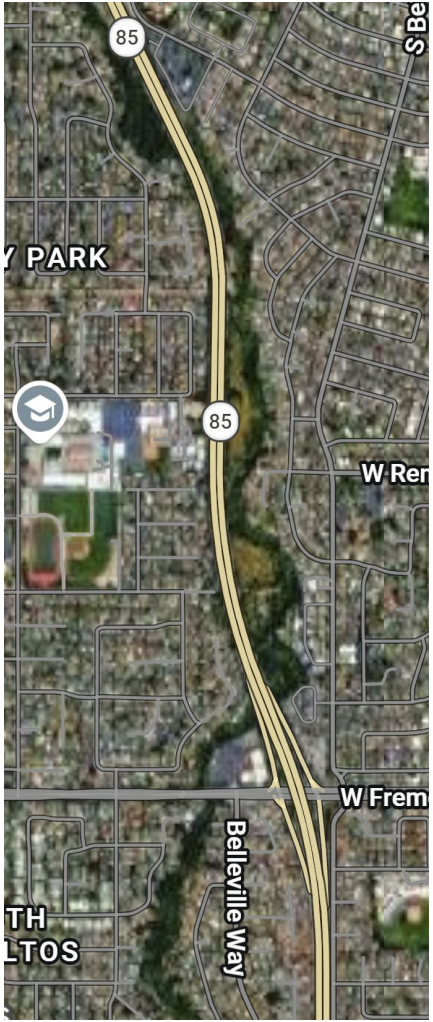




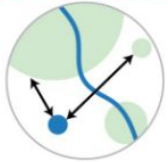
Spotswood et al. 2019 (Courtesy SFEI)


1. PATCH SIZE
8209 ft
Data MBARI
Image © 2026 Airbus
Image © 2026 Vexcel Imaging US, Inc.
Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA
Google Earth

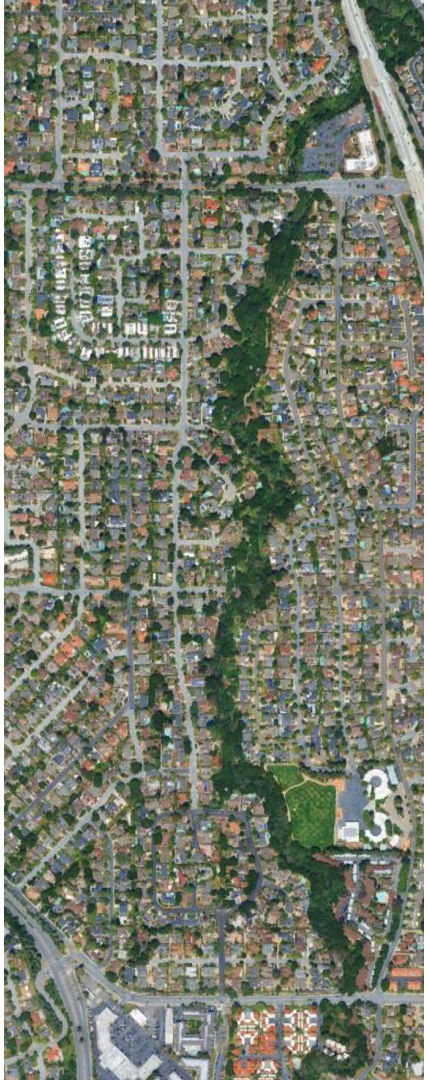


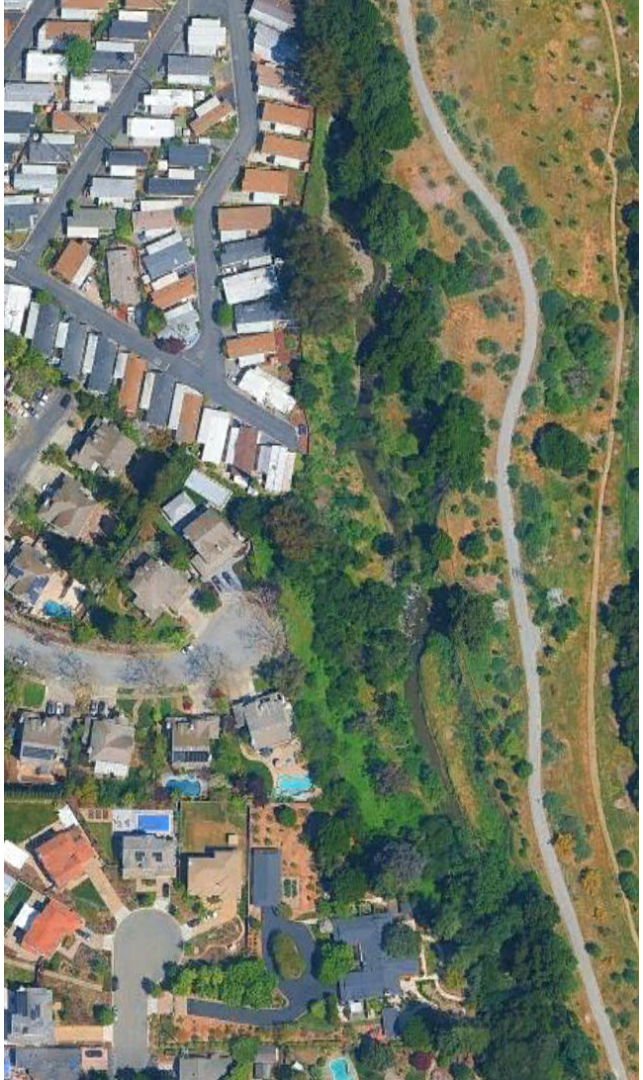

85
85
W Ren
W Frem
Belleville Way

2. CONNECTIONS

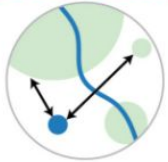


Terrestrial

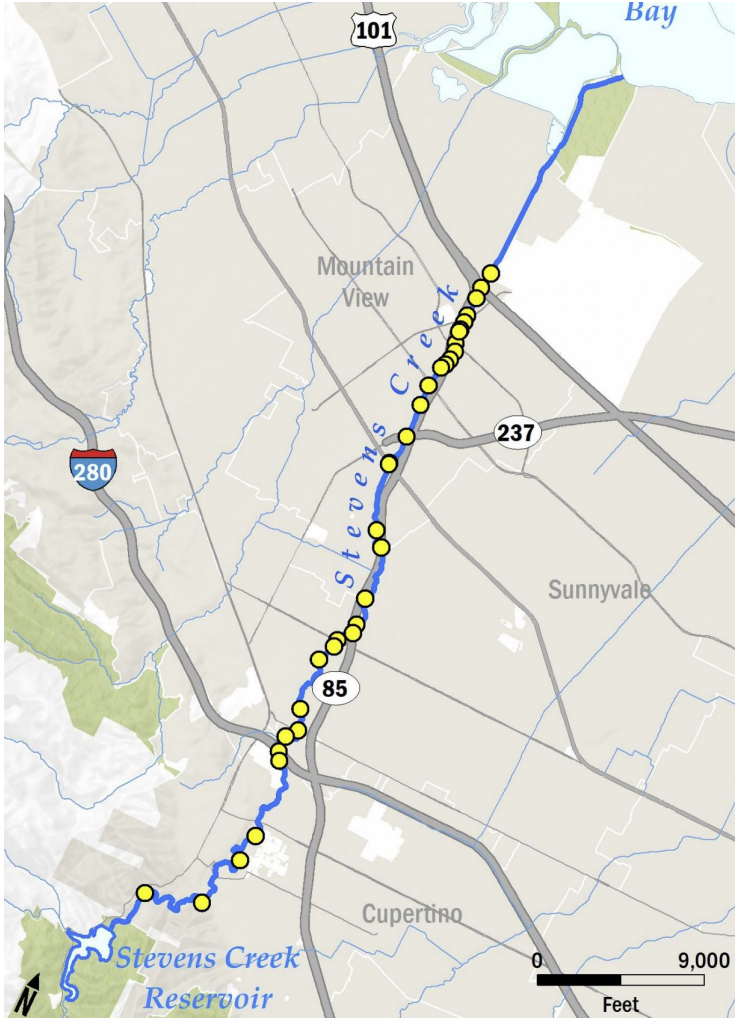




2. CONNECTIONS



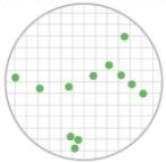
Aquatic

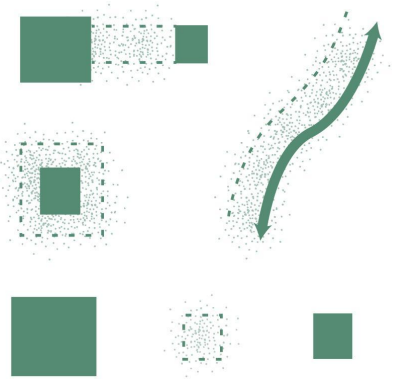


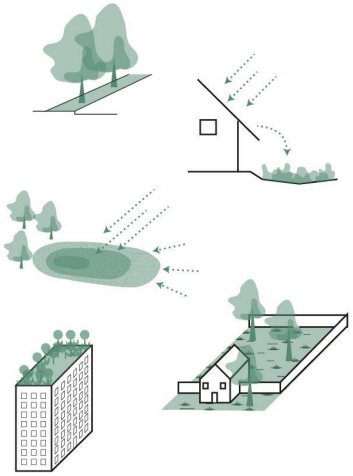
Photograph 3: Highway 101 culvert and chute

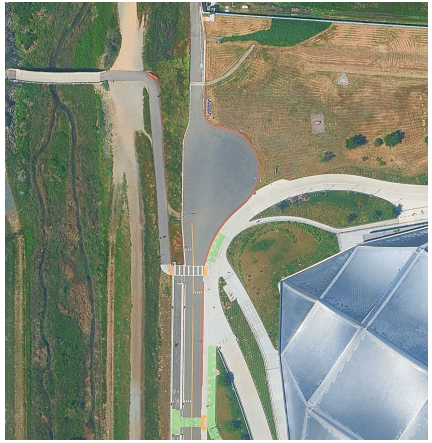
Photograph 4: Grade control structure at Vernon Avenue

3. MATRIX QUALITY

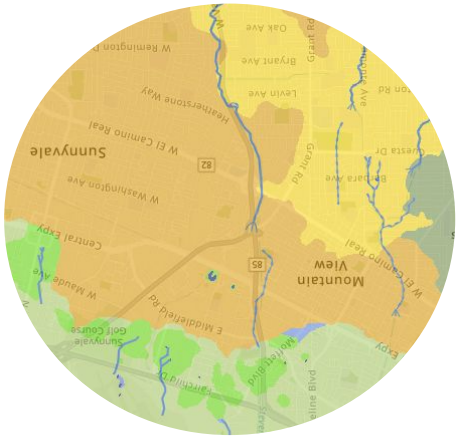


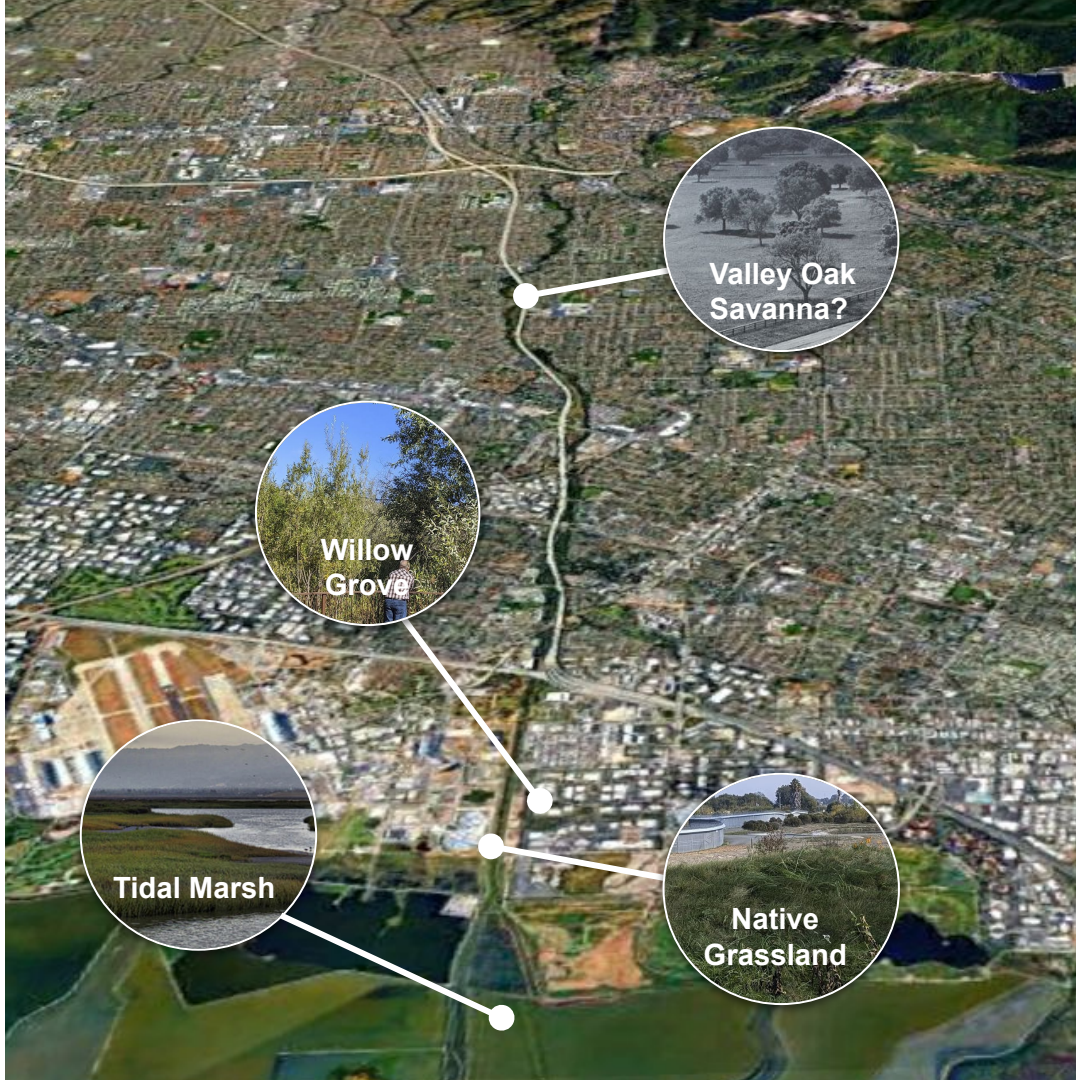






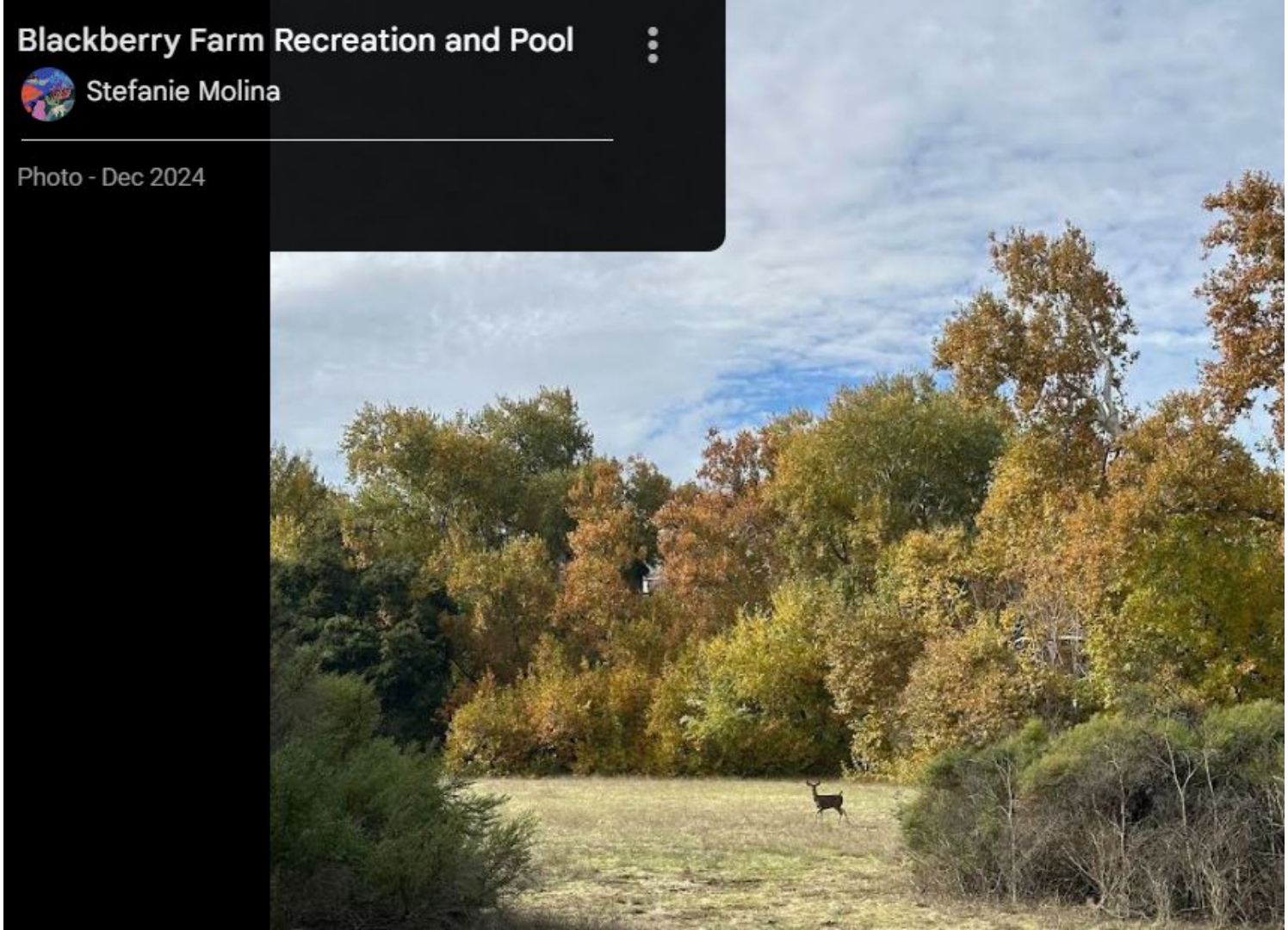
4. HABITAT DIVERSITY





4. HABITAT DIVERSITY

Riparian Corridor
- Tree diversity
- Understory vegetation



4. HABITAT DIVERSITY

Focal Wildlife Species

5. NATIVE VEGETATION

- City guidelines
- Neighborhood initiatives
- Backyards and front yards

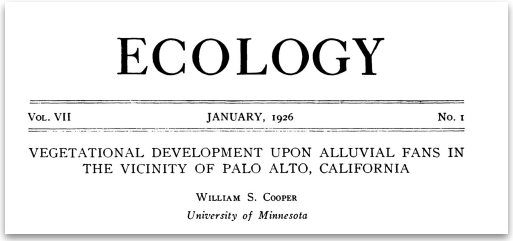
6. SPECIAL RESOURCES

- Fish ladders
- Snags and deadwood
- Nest boxes

7. MANAGEMENT

- Trail extension, benches, overlooks
- Sensitive lighting
- Bird safety


Schmiebel CC-BY-SA-3.0


ECOLOGY

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VEGETATIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPON ALLUVIAL FANS IN THE VICINITY OF PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

William S. Cooper

University of Minnesota

THANKS

Trish Mulvey
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Erica Spotswood
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Luisa Valiela
John Bourgeois
Kevin Sibley
Pat Showalter
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Steve Rottenborn
Andy Collison
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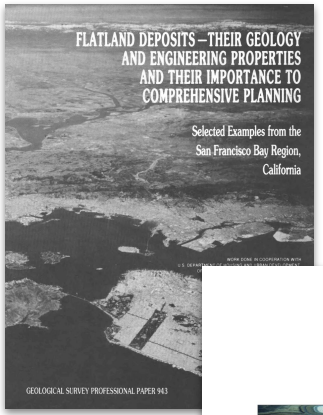

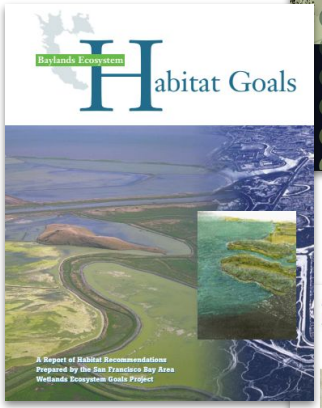

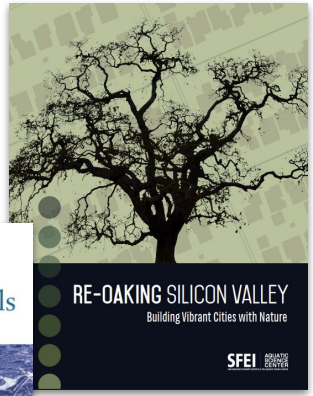

EPA, Google, Valley Water, POST, SVP2C