



Welcome!

**Gaviota Pass Highway 101 Wildlife Habitat Connectivity
Stakeholder Group – December 2, 2021**



Stay Tuned We Will Begin at 3:00 PM
~This Meeting Is Being Recorded~

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Meeting Agenda



Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome: Supervisor Hartmann
- Introductions: Stakeholder Outreach Group Participants
- Opportunity for Additional Stakeholder Participants

Expectations and desired outcomes

- Caltrans
- Stakeholders

Study Overview

- Technical Study Group
- Stakeholder Group

Stakeholder Engagement Process and Timeline

Open Discussion



~ **Welcome** ~

Santa Barbara County Supervisor
Joan Hartmann – District 3



one
COUNTY
one
FUTURE

Stakeholder Introductions

Staff Introductions

Today's Invitees

- Coastal Commission
- CA State Parks
- Coastal Ranches Conservancy
- Gaviota Coast Conservancy
- Santa Barbara County
- Adjoining Neighbors
- CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
- Coastal Band of Chumash Nation
- SBCAG
- Vista Del Mar Union School District
- Rancho Las Cruces
- Caltrans

Expectations and Desired Outcomes

Caltrans

- Facilitate and fund technical study
- Facilitate Stakeholder Group/ public outreach
- Advance the implementation of technical study recommendations

Stakeholders

- Community and local agency representatives
- Provide community input and support
- Advance the implementation of technical study recommendations

Study Overview

Technical Study Group

- A team of independent technical experts in consultation with ICF-Jones and Stokes, Inc.
- Study Design
- Technical Study Recommendations

Stakeholders

- Adjacent property owners, community, local and regulatory agency representatives
- Provide community input
- Advance the implementation of Technical Study Recommendations

Study Framework

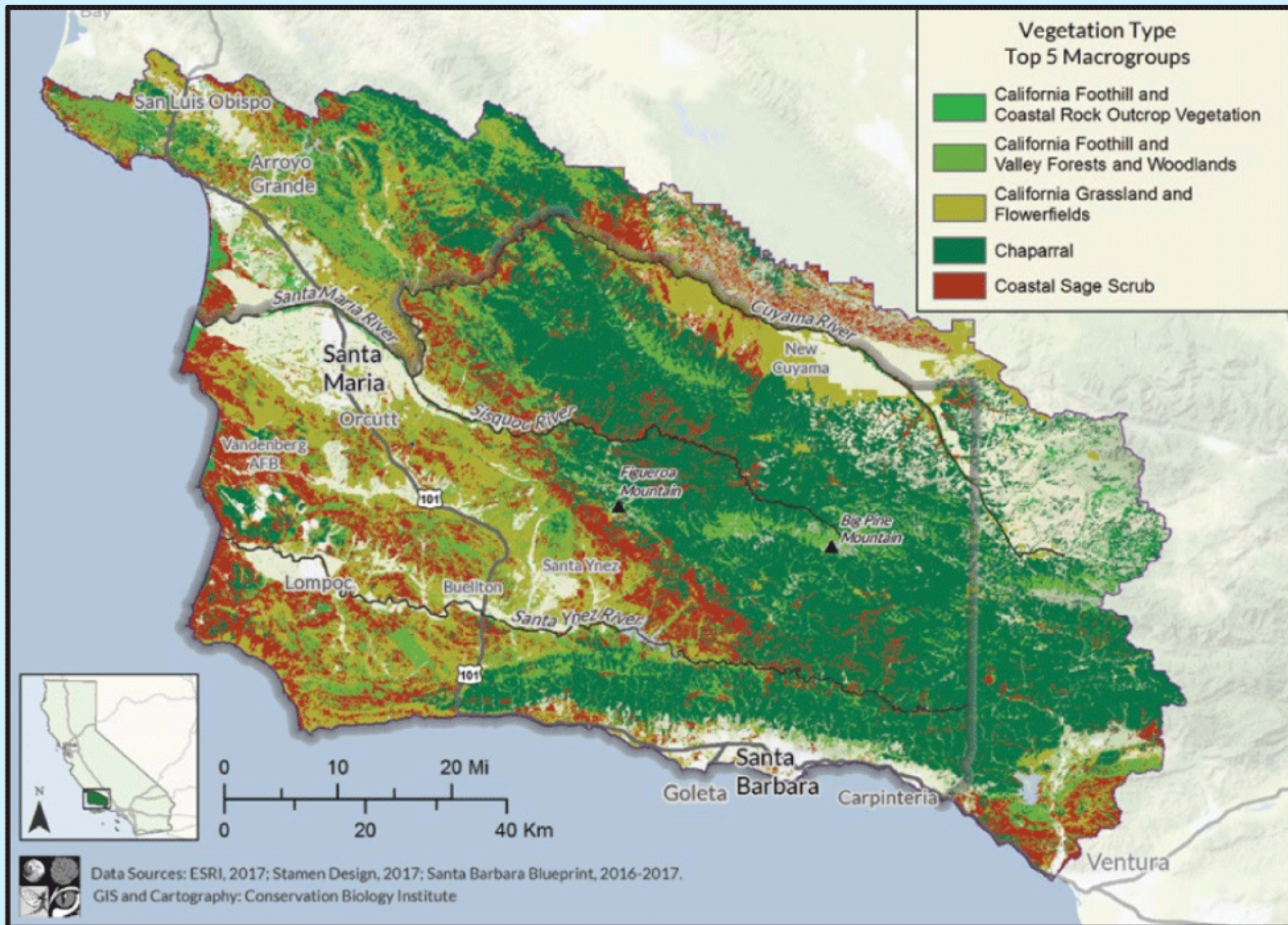
- Wildlife study to be conducted along the US 101 corridor at Gaviota Pass - from Nojoqui summit to Mariposa Reina. This is an area with observed high levels of roadkill, and that wildlife habitat connectivity models identify as a priority landscape linkage area.
- Study will analyze the spatial and temporal patterns of wildlife movements and roadkill occurrence along US 101 through the study area using systematic camera monitoring and roadkill surveys, along with assessments of existing infrastructure and surrounding land use.
- Data collection (camera monitoring and roadkill surveys) will be conducted over a 1-year period, beginning in January 2022.
- Caltrans is funding this study, but it is being conducted independently by consultant biologists and subject matter experts outside of Caltrans.
- The study approach will be consistent with other wildlife habitat connectivity studies and will help to determine how animals are using the landscape.
- Exact survey methodology currently being developed by ICF and will be shared at next stakeholder meeting.

Study Goals

Identify potential problem areas, as well as locations where wildlife are successfully crossing under the highway.

Provide a robust wildlife habitat connectivity assessment within the Gaviota Pass corridor.

Generate recommendations for approaches and/or opportunities to enhance safe wildlife passage in the corridor and reduce the risk of wildlife -vehicle collisions.



Study Area
Hwy 101
Santa Barbara Co.
Postmiles 45 to 51

PM 51



PM 45



Nojoqui Falls Park
Hiking, picnicking
& a waterfall

Gaviota Peak Trailhead

Gaviota State Park

Gaviota

Kashtayit
State Marine
Conservation
Area

Google



Late 1800s



U.S. HIGHWAY #101 OVER
GAVIOTA PASS, GAVIOTA, CALIFORNIA

F1150

1936



Today



Wildlife Movement Perspective

Study area includes numerous existing culverts. The culverts will be studied for any existing wildlife crossing opportunities under Hwy 101

Example below: 6 ft x 7 ft box culvert at Postmile 46.4





Hwy 101 SLO County Cuseta Grade

Stakeholder Engagement Process and Timeline

- Kick Off Meeting (December 2, 2021)
- Technical Study Design Discussion with ICF (Winter/Spring 2022)
- Technical Study Update (Summer 2022)
- Technical Study Results and Discussion of Implementation with ICF (Fall/Winter 2022)
- Implementation Strategy Meetings (Starting Fall/Winter 2022)

Open Discussion & Thank you

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<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5/district-5-current-projects>

