

# Upper Pajaro River Floodplain Conservation

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Climate Smart Actions for  
Natural Resources Managers Workshop

November 29, 2012



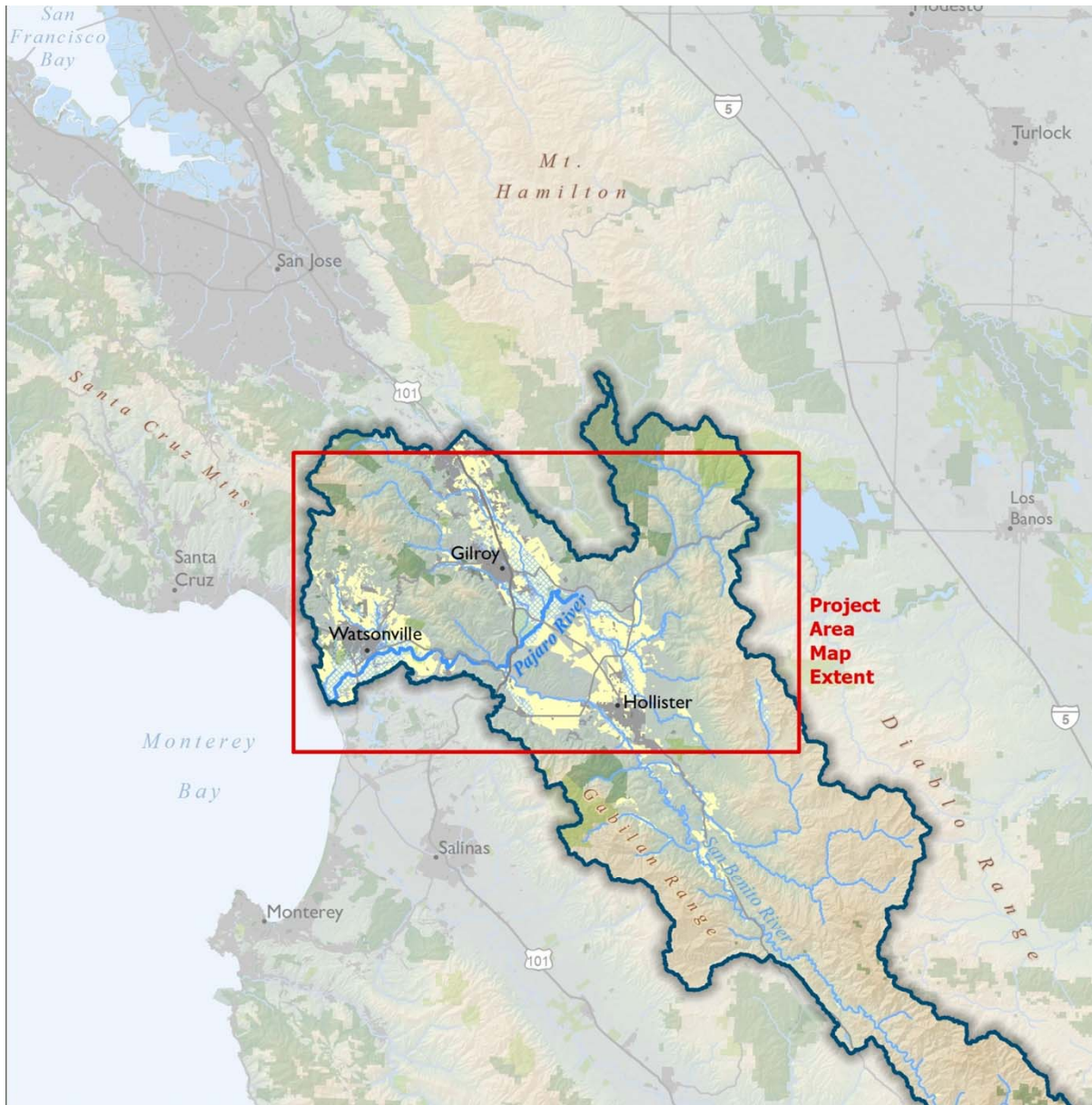
HCO ScoutGuard

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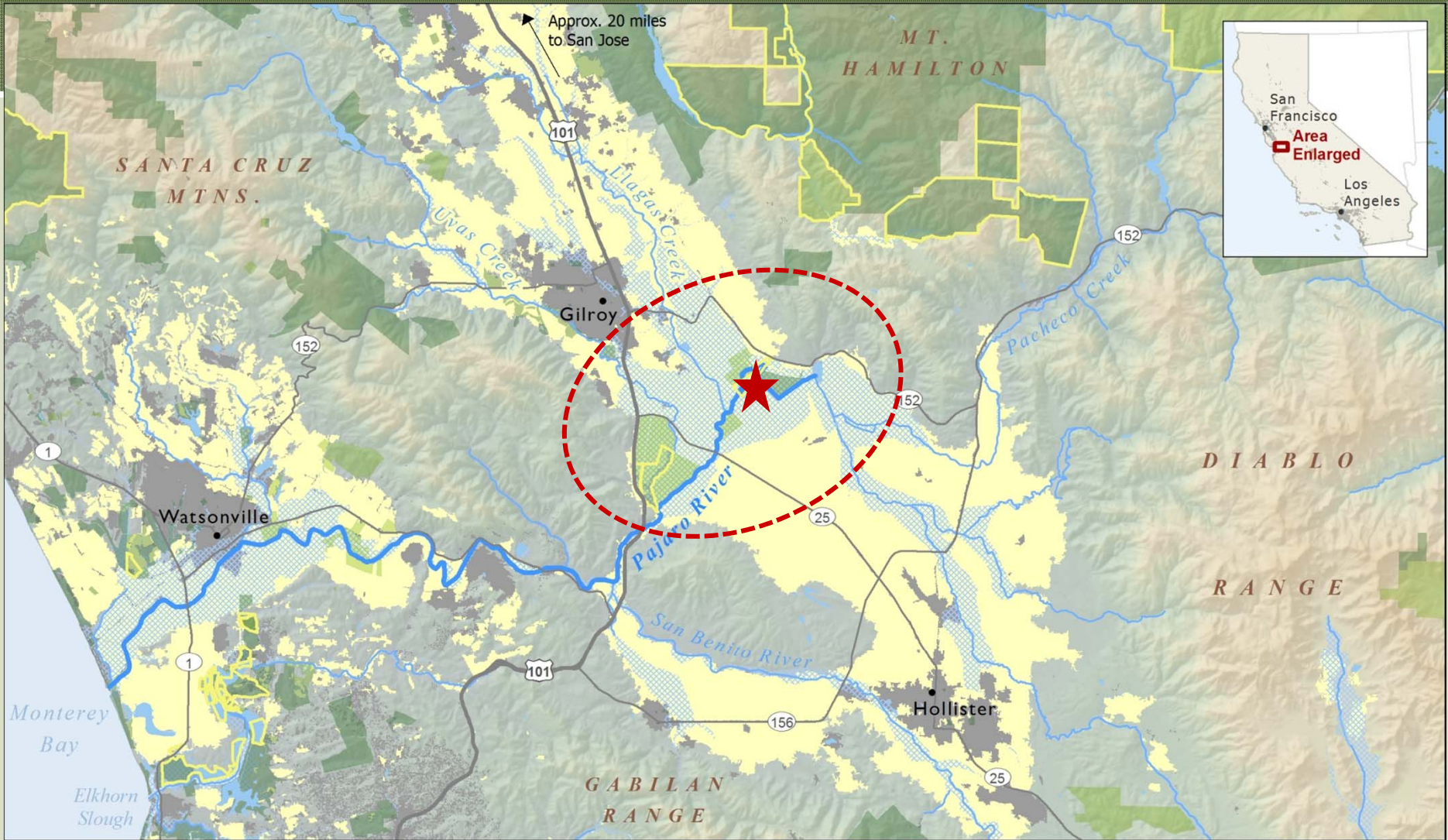


# Project Location: Regional

- Ecoregional planning => Mt. Hamilton & Upper Pajaro River
- > 300,000 ac protected
- Climate change assessment
- Need for habitat connectivity to ensure functional network across Central Coast



# Project Location: Local



TNC Real Estate Engagements (Current & Historic)

**Protected Areas**

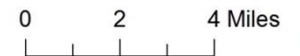
- Public and Private Protected Lands
- Conservation Easements

**Land Cover**

- Agricultural Land
- Urban or Built-up Land

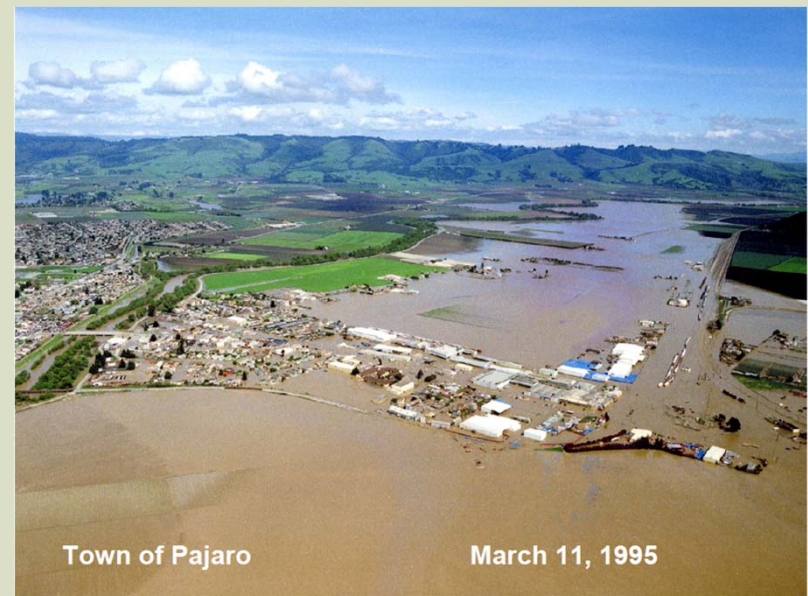
100 Year Floodplain

Major Streams



# Project Description and Goals

- ~10,000 acres floodplain
- Protect & enhance aquatic, terrestrial, and ag values through land conservation and habitat restoration
- Nature-based climate adaptation: Flood protection

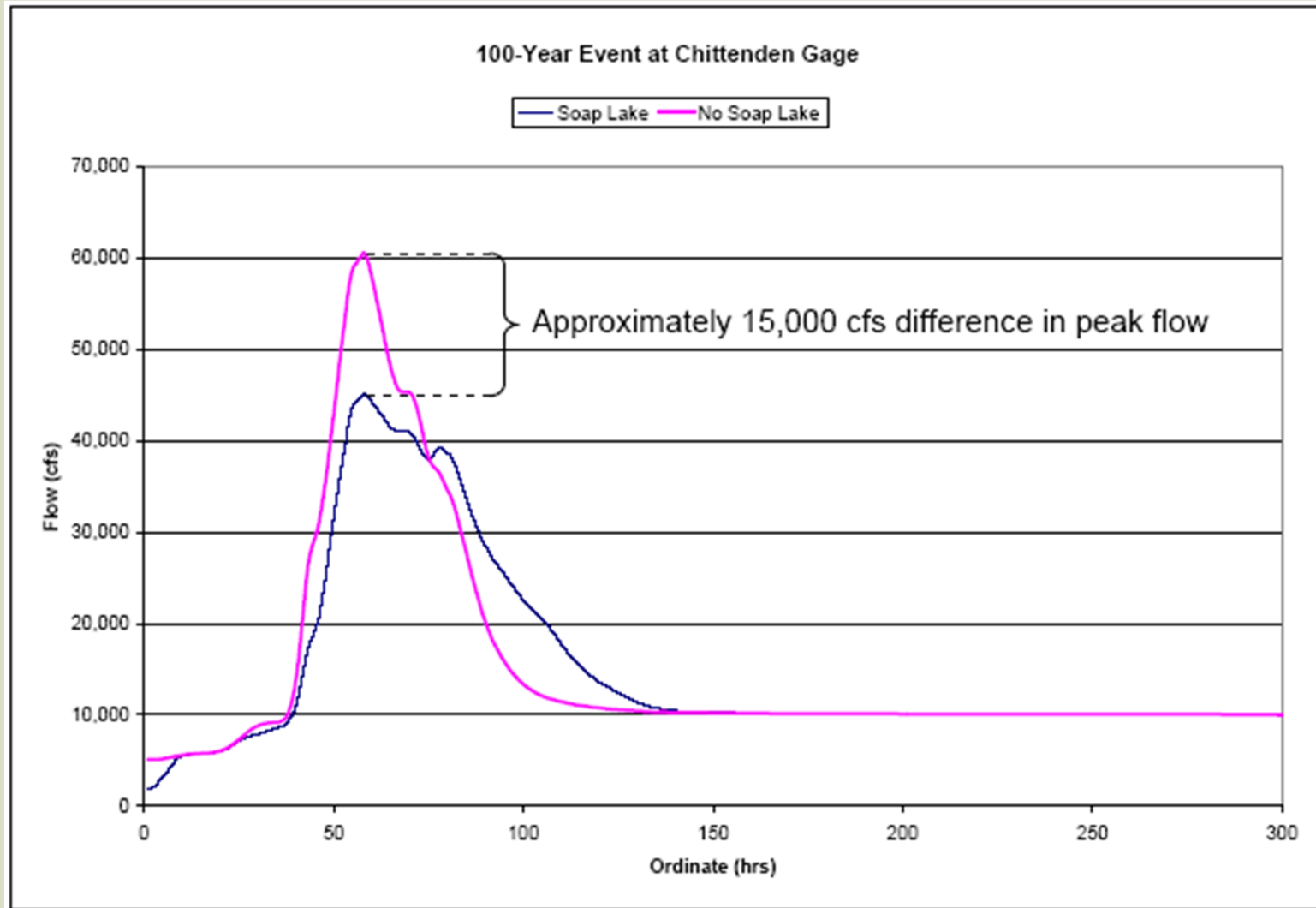


**Conservation = cost effective, multiple benefits**

# Pajaro River Flooding



# Flood Attenuation: Natural Protection for Lower Pajaro



From Pajaro River Watershed Flood Protection Plan(RMC)

# Lead agency and Partners

- Fully collaborative, all hands on deck, long term effort
- Regulatory and agency-driven watershed planning happening in parallel
  - *The Nature Conservancy – planning, research/monitoring, implementation.*
  - *Santa Clara Valley Water District*
  - *Pajaro Valley Water Management Authority and the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan partners*
  - *Natural Resources Conservation Service*
  - *Silicon Valley Land Trust*
  - *Santa Clara County Open Space*
  - *Living Landscape Initiative partners (POST, Save the Redwoods, Sempervirens, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, Moore Foundation, Resources Legacy Fund)*
  - *San Benito and Santa Cruz Resource Conservation Districts*
  - *PRBO Conservation Science*
  - *Watsonville Wetlands Watch*
  - *Wild Farm Alliance*
  - *HT Harvey, San Francisco Estuary Institute, PWA Assoc, Connectivity for Wildlife*





# Gonzales Property

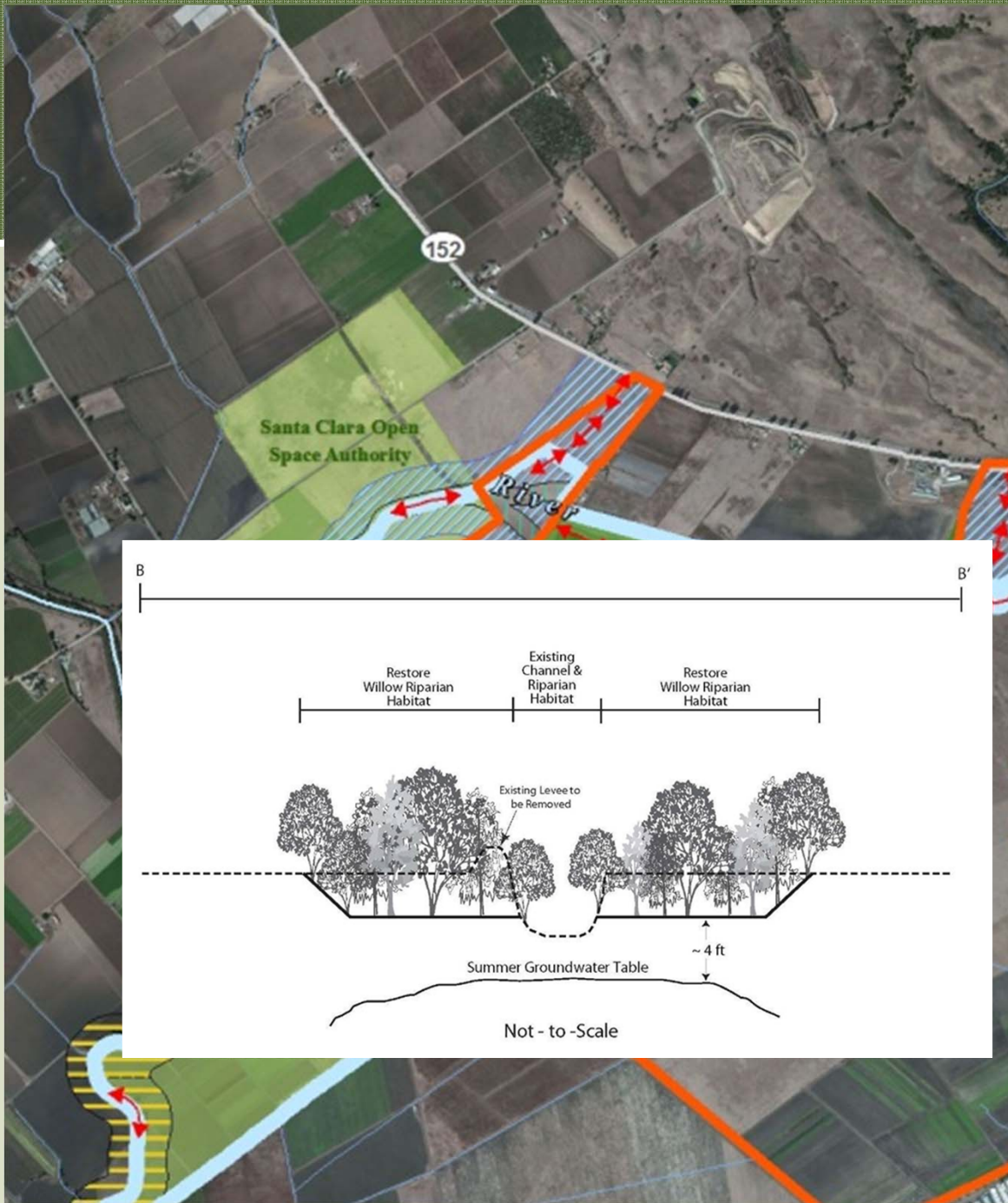


- Purchased 2012 by TNC with public and private \$
- Lease to local ranching family for cattle operation
- Plan to sell with easement
- Restoration planned for 2013-2016 over 10% of property and neighboring property

# Gonzales Property

Restoration goals:

- Riparian vegetation
- Freshwater/Alkali veg
- Breeding birds
- Wildlife presence
- Thermal refugia
- Community engagement



# Gonzales Property





## Monitoring:

- Breeding birds
- Wildlife (camera traps)
- Student engagement
- Thermal sampling
- Availability of water

# Wildlife monitoring





Bushnell  Wildlands1 50°F10°C 

08-07-2012 07:00:40

# Wildlife monitoring



Bushnell  Wildlands2 50°F10°C 

08-28-2012 05:32:01

# Wildlife monitoring



Bushnell



068°F



08-03-2012 15:17:47

# Wildlife monitoring



Bushnell  Hwy25PajaroR 70°F21°C 

10-30-2012 04:46:02

# Wildlife monitoring





Thank you and Questions?

