

Thomas, Kimberly

Attachment 2

From: [REDACTED]-working-group@googlegroups.com on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 6:53 PM
To: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] working-group@googlegroups.com'
Subject: Best Management Practices
Attachments: Wildlife Society Position Statement Feral & Free Ranging Cats.pdf

Best Practices:

1. "No person shall feed, cause to be fed, scatter or leave food, seed or other matter edible to any wildlife animal, including any bird or feral animal, including any feral cat, in any park or open space lands (including riparian creek corridors) or building located within a park or open space lands."
2. To protect endangered species and area of highest value to nesting birds, the feeding of feral cats shall be banned from Shoreline at Mountain View Park, Permanente Creek, and Stevens Creek.
3. Promote educational programs and materials that provide scientific information on feral cats and the negative effects on cats living outdoors. Educational programs or materials that provide misinformation should be excluded. A common example of misinformation is the idea that if a cat is fed that it will not kill birds and other wildlife. The scientific information proves that this is incorrect, and many of us who have owned a cat have witnessed this first hand.
4. Any cats that are being released from a shelter that will be outdoors with the potential to contact other cats or wildlife must first be tested for toxoplasmosis, feline leukemia, feline immunodeficiency virus, and feline panleukopenia before being released from a shelter. Only indoor cats can be released from an animal shelter without testing for these diseases. The continued practice of releasing feral cats back into the wild without any disease testing is a potentially significant environmental impacts to endangered species and native wildlife. Feral cats at feeding stations routinely are in contact with other cats and wildlife which allows for disease transmission.
5. Promote the adoption into indoor-only homes of eligible cats and the humane euthanasia of unadoptable cats to encourage the humane elimination of feral cat populations. Programs of trap/neuter/release cause significant environmental impacts to native wildlife and endangered species (when located in endangered species habitat areas). These feral cats continue to impact wildlife for the duration of their lives. Many consider trap/neuter/release program and managed feral cat colonies to be inhumane treatment of cats.

Thank you,
Joe Chavez
Certified Wildlife Biologist ®

--

Thomas, Kimberly

From: [REDACTED] working-group@googlegroups.com on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 8:22 AM
To: [REDACTED] working-group@googlegroups.com
Subject: RE: Feral Cat and Wildlife Stakeholders Best Practices

I would like to add a suggestion for Mountain View to consider hiring a professional licensed trapper to remove the remaining feral cats from Shoreline which would remove the current threat to wildlife within the sanctuary. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has professionals that can be hired or one of local Pest Control Companies which have extensive trapping experience.

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Best Practices: The Environment, Shoreline Park, The North Bayshore Precise Plan, and Stevens and Permanente Creeks

Carol Moholt, Member, Feral Cats & Wildlife Stakeholders Working Group, February 2015

It's a real challenge to mix wilderness areas with expanding urban areas. Mountain View is not alone; there are examples of similar efforts in almost every urban setting in the country.

Keeping such areas intact and vibrant while making them accessible to nearby residents is no simple task. This holds true whether we're caring for the hills that provide our "mountain view" or at the point where major city streets—such as Shoreline, Rengstorff, and San Antonio—end at the Bay.

The terminus where these streets come together at Shoreline Park has mixed purposes, meeting an urban city's recreation needs while being a quasi-wilderness area open to the public, and acting as a buffer between the Bay's edge and the developed areas next to it. The area has its problems, too: there are the golfers who kill some of our few burrowing owls, the noise and congestion at an Amphitheater rock concert, and the kids who run across the lawns near Shoreline Lake chasing wild birds at every chance.

The task given our Committee and City Staff was to determine if we also have a significant feral cat population preying on birds in the area and how to better protect its wildlife.

Recent research indicates there isn't a feral cat problem (see staff reports and other information from our Animal Control Agency partner). But we can improve our outreach to Mountain View residents about the importance of spay-neuter programs, keeping dogs on leashes and cats indoors, *and* better use Shoreline Park to represent the wilderness and wildlife, and educate our residents about it.

Here's a picture of Shoreline Park, right next to the Bay's wetlands and where kids are routinely seen chasing birds.



And, here's what lies just around the bend.



It's unrealistic to expect visitors to treat the area as environmentally sensitive, shown in this second image, when it looks like any other urban park, as shown in the first.

Re-landscape the area near Shoreline Lake

The current lawn-based area around Shoreline Lake is a good candidate for re-development and re-landscaping. People will better respect and protect wildlife if the physical setting promotes such. Here are a few ideas:

- Remove lawn and trees from the area pictured in the photo on page one and replace with natives or plants/trees from similar climate zones, e.g. Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.
- Reconfigure the paths for a more meandering approach and discovery elements located near benches and viewpoints.
- Remodel the boathouse area to better manage sales and rental items.
- Remove the lawn area to the south side of the Lakeside Café , or minimize it. Use some for a new building (see Best Practice #2 below).
- Remove and/or severely prune trees and shrubs in the area of the boathouse, Rengstorff House, and Michael's.
- The *Melaleuca linariifolia* along the main drive to this area is an excellent tree choice; it does not get too large, there are no branches for raptors to use as a perch, and as an Australian native, it is a good choice for this location.
- Re-landscape the Rengstorff House to be a model for water-wise conservation and appropriate plant choices.

Best Practice #1: Re-landscape the area near Shoreline Lake and the most heavily visited areas of Shoreline Park to better reflect this area as a ecologically sensitive, wildlife friendly area.

Develop a nature center near Shoreline Lake

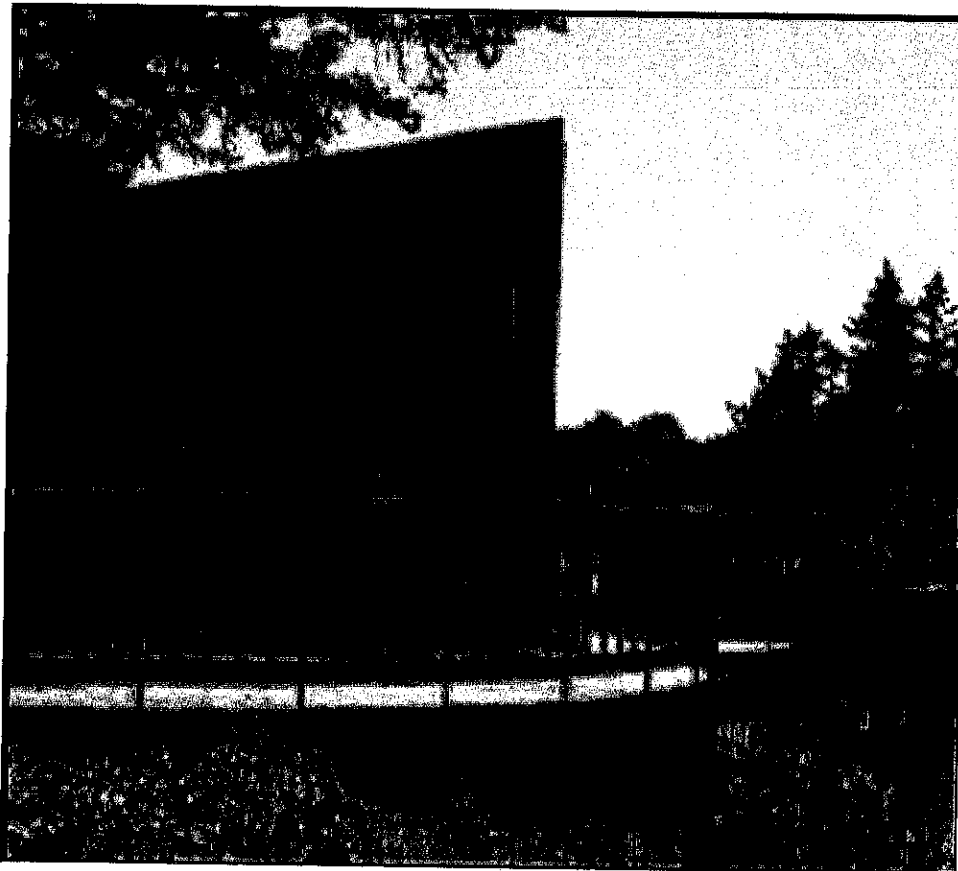
This heavily visited area is worthy of a nature center building. Such a facility could achieve significant goals:

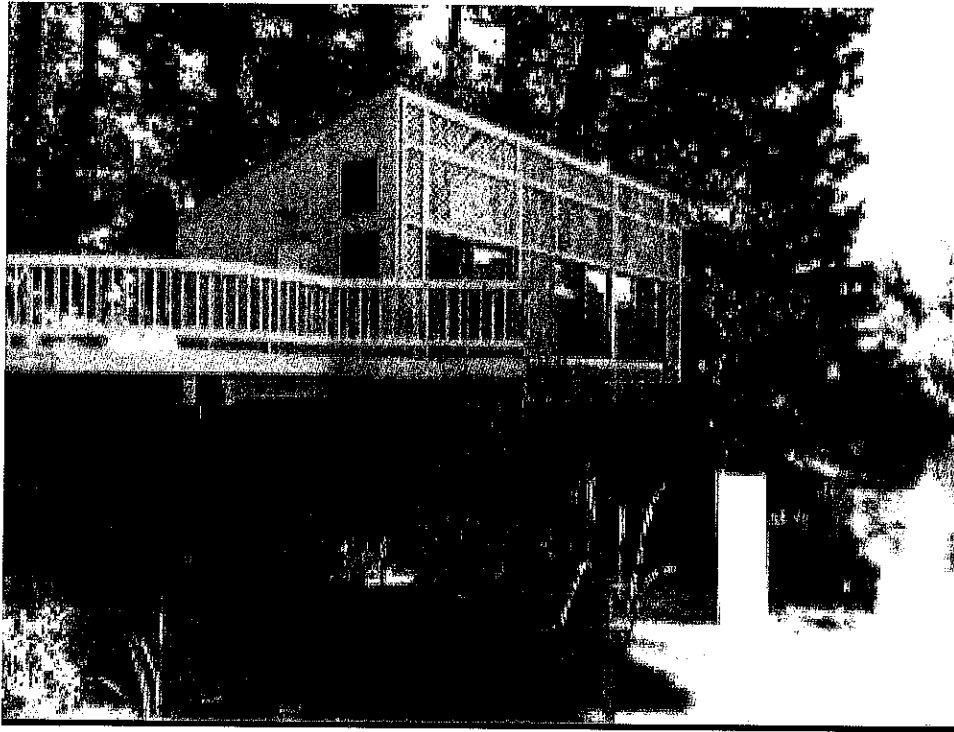
- Provide interpretive exhibits when the Park is open.
- Host classes on its deck and indoors.
- Be the focal point for interpretive signage around Shoreline Lake and nearby areas.
- Be the headquarters for ranger activities and interaction.
- Be easily accessible and meet all ADA requirements.

Below are two pictures of the David C. Daniels Nature Center at Skyline Ridge, part of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. It overlooks an alpine pond but the concept is similar to Shoreline Lake. You can see the deck is wide enough for classes and the front deck overlooks the lake sufficiently to draw people into the experience.

To view a slide show of the Center and the educational programs it provides, go to:
http://www.openspace.org/activities/david_c_daniels_nc.asp

Although this Working Group is not chartered to source funding options, using some of the funds set aside to improve and maintain Shoreline Park should be considered. Once a center is built, potential partners to offer programs could include the Audubon Society, the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm, and local wildlife, dog, and cat care and rescue groups.





Best Practice #2: Use land near Shoreline Lake to develop a nature center headquarters and add interpretive signage throughout this area of the Park. Seek funding to develop the center and support its educational activities.

Change tree planting and landscaping practices throughout Shoreline area

The North Bayshore Precise Plan EIR touched on the observation that raptors use tall trees at Shoreline as perches to scout prey. Such tall trees do not normally grow right along the Bay, so they are artificially attracting raptors who kill smaller birds and other wildlife.

The new North Bayshore Precise Plan requires drought-resistant landscaping and appropriate plant choices. The city should encourage and assist existing businesses to do the same.

Best Practice #3: Remove trees from City-controlled streets, especially those not native to a baylands environment and close to boundaries with Shoreline Park; encourage private land owners to do the same. Replace with more appropriate choices as needed.

Codify/enforce animal policies at Shoreline and neighboring jurisdictions

We must develop better signage at the park entrance about why dogs aren't allowed.

We need to sit down with Palo Alto, who allows leashed dogs on their adjoining Baylands Park, and attempt to negotiate one policy for the whole area regarding dog presence.

And finally, we need to train all employees and all contractors who provide services at the golf course, Michael's, Rengstorff House, and the Lakeside Café about cat feeding, safe cat trapping practices, and what they can do to care for feral cats in a humane manner.

Best Practice #4: Enforce the “no dogs” policy at Shoreline Park through better education and work with adjoining municipalities. Train staff at Shoreline how to best handle cats observed in Shoreline Park.

Respect private property rights in the North Bayshore area

As described above, Shoreline Park itself is a mixed-use area with commercial activities, an urban park, and wildlife-preserve elements. Although everyone has good intentions and is making the most of past binding decisions and economic factors (golf courses, a concert venue), the Park is not pristine as would be a true wildlife setting.

Some have assumed that business-only use of the North Bayshore Precise Plan would act as a buffer to the Park because businesses wouldn't add dogs and cats to the area and employees would vacate the area each evening. To attempt an overlay of no dogs or cats in that area makes no sense because private property rights supersede the City's right to legislate such, nor does it seem necessary given what we've learned about the size of the problem during the course of the Working Group's study.

Additionally, it doesn't seem appropriate to single out cats when we don't have a clear understanding of what other domestic and wild creatures live or travel through the North Bayshore Precise Plan area, nor what kind of problems they pose to wildlife. We know in general that skunks, possums, and raccoons are difficult to manage within a conservation area and may pose significant problems.

In the public hearing on February 3, 2015, Michael Gulasch, the Facilities/Plant Director at Intuit Corporation, stated that the animals he's observed on their property on Garcia Ave. near Terminal Point have been fox, geese, possums, raccoons, skunks, and ducks.

This 2/3/2015 hearing resulted in the City Council voting unanimously to allow new housing development in the North Bayshore Precise Plan area. There were also discussions of allowing mixed use commercial along with housing. This is a significant change in the City's land use policy towards this area.

Best Practice #5: Affirm the private property rights of the commercial, business, and housing owners and tenants in the North Bayshore Precise Plan area.

Stevens Creek and Permanente Creeks within North Bayshore

The North Bayshore Precise Plan discusses setbacks for these creeks that help ensure their riparian corridors can be developed and maintained. Within the Park, Stevens Creek is impacted by levees and related structures. Permanente Creek, which currently has little public access in the North Bayshore area, is being restored with the new Highway 101 overpass. Once complete, suggestions in this section apply to it as well.

City Council asked whether there was a feral cat problem along the creeks. The developed portions of the Stevens Creek Trail were studied and no cats were found, but the area is a significant opportunity for improving wildlife education.

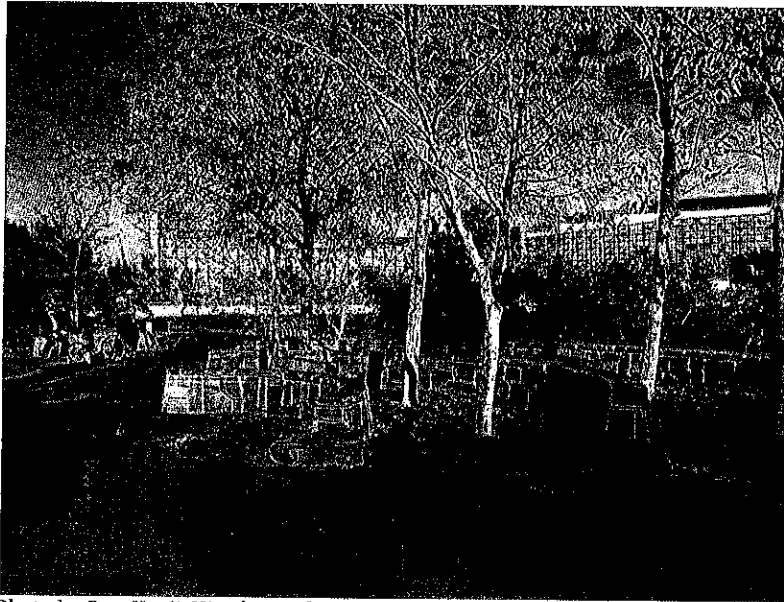


Photo by Ron Horii. His photos document the entire Stevens Creek Trail.
<http://rhorii.com/StevensCrkTrl/StevensCrkTrl.html>

The trail entrance at La Avenida, shown above, is an area where local groups such as Audubon Society and others can ramp up educational activities. It is also a perfect candidate for interactive, interpretive signage that discusses the concept of a riparian corridor, what it is, and why it is important.

Best Practice #6: Increase use of the trailhead at La Avenida in North Bayshore for wildlife study classes and walks. Upgrade the interpretive signage at that location.

Stevens Creek Trail from North Bayshore southward

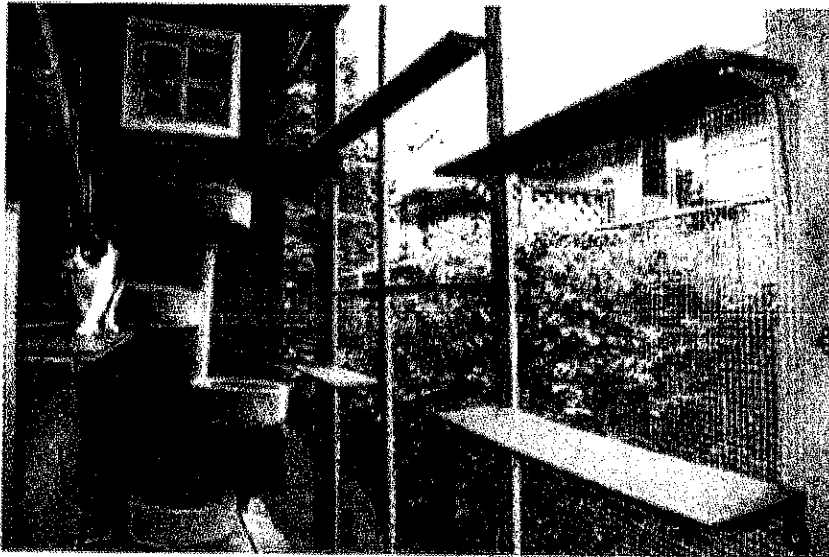
This area receives substantial use; seen below are a couple walking their leashed dog.



Council is interested in learning whether cats represent an impediment to the health of the riparian corridor along this Trail. Although no cats were recorded nor trapped in a study conducted by City Staff, it is assumed some cats frequent it, although some number are likely pets allowed to roam by their owners.

Cats allowed outdoors from their homes normally do not travel far in a given day; the City could pinpoint educational campaigns to people living close to the trail to keep their cats indoors.

- Informational flyers can be sent to targeted addresses along the trail, perhaps included with water bills, that promote spaying/neutering and keeping cats indoors.
- A major story can be placed in the official "The View" publication on the same subject.
- The concept of a "catio"—an area attached to a home that allows a cat outside access—is one to be promoted. Attached below is a photo from a tour showing such installations in Portland, Oregon. We could direct people to the online virtual tours from Portland or organize an actual tour of existing catios in Mountain View.



<http://feralcats.com/Catio.html> - for additional photos of creative catios.

In addition the City should consider prohibiting retractable dog leashes along the Stevens Creek Trail, so dogs stay on the paths.

The Stevens Creek Trail is increasingly a commute alternative, especially for school children. This opens up many educational opportunities.

- Programs could be developed to integrate environmental education about the riparian nature of the trail into local school curricula. This could be combined with Best Practice #6 above.
- Educating children about spaying and neutering kittens their family may adopt is an excellent method for reducing the number of unwanted cats in a community and along the Stevens Creek Trail riparian corridor.
- The Trail itself would benefit from more interactive signage, especially at access points. The Friends of the Stevens Creek Trail could join forces with the City to promote these learning spots.

Best Practice #7: Develop additional educational efforts to promote the health of the riparian corridor along the Stevens Creek Trail outside of Shoreline Park and the North Bayshore Precise Plan area.

- **Encourage cat owners living nearby to keep their cats indoors and not allow them to roam.**
- **Ensure that school children who use the Trail as a bike commute option learn more about the riparian corridor.**
- **Install interpretive (preferably interactive) signage about riparian corridors, especially at Trail entrance points.**

Best Practices Summary: The Environment, Shoreline Park, the North Bayshore Precise Plan, and Stevens and Permanente Creeks

Best Practice #1:

Re-landscape the area near Shoreline Lake and the most heavily visited areas of Shoreline Park to better reflect this area as an ecologically sensitive, wildlife friendly area.

Best Practice #2:

Use land near Shoreline Lake to develop a nature center headquarters and add interpretive signage throughout this area of the Park. Seek funding to develop the center and support its educational activities.

Best Practice #3:

Remove trees from City-controlled streets, especially those not native to a baylands environment and close to boundaries with Shoreline Park; encourage private land owners to do the same. Replace with more appropriate choices as needed.

Best Practice #4:

Enforce the "no dogs" policy at Shoreline Park through better education and work with adjoining municipalities. Train public and private staff at Shoreline how to best handle cats observed in Shoreline Park.

Best Practice #5:

Affirm the private property rights of the commercial, business, and housing owners and tenants in the North Bayshore Precise Plan area.

Best Practice #6:

Increase use of the Trailhead at La Avenida in North Bayshore for wildlife study classes and walks. Upgrade the interpretive signage at that location.

Best Practice #7:

Develop additional educational efforts to promote the health of the riparian corridor along the Stevens Creek Trail outside of Shoreline Park and the North Bayshore Precise Plan area.

- Encourage cat owners living nearby to keep their cats indoors and not allow them to roam.
- Ensure that school children who use the Trail as a bike commute option learn more about the riparian corridor.
- Install interpretive (preferably interactive) signage about riparian corridors, especially at Trail entrance points.

Thomas, Kimberly

From: [REDACTED] working-group@googlegroups.com on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 2:46 PM
To: [REDACTED] working-group@googlegroups.com
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Joe - will you accept an amendment to your BP #1?

You state:

1. "No person shall feed, cause to be fed, scatter or leave food, seed or other matter edible to any wildlife animal, including any bird or feral animal, including any feral cat, in any park or open space lands (including riparian creek corridors) or building located within a park or open space lands."

Would you be willing to split this into two, with the riparian corridor being separate. I can support it but not the other elements in your #1. Also I'd like to clarify the wording of "any bird or feral animal" as it relates to the riparian corridors. I'd like to change the wording to include dogs. My suggestion for one of the two would thus be:

1. "No person shall feed, cause to be fed, scatter or leave food, seed or other matter edible to any animal or bird on any riparian creek corridor in Mountain View. Nor shall construct any man-made habitat for such."

I don't know if this covers it or not but my intention is to make it clear that feeding of any/all animals and birds can't happen nor shall people construct any kind of shelter for such (such as are done as part of some homeless encampments) or along the creeks that back into back yards of private property and aren't accessible by trails or public access.

Please note that in one of my best practice suggestions I asked the City to consider banning retractable leashes for dogs walking on the paved trails along these corridors. These dogs rush off into areas off the trails constantly (plus are dangerous for anyone walking or biking as the dogs can trip up people easily.)

Regards,
Carol

PS _ I'm not sure if posting to the group will work so I'm copying your work email on this message. Sorry for the last minute response, I was in meetings earlier today and just now going through the group's email.

--

Thomas, Kimberly

From: [REDACTED] working-group@googlegroups.com on behalf of Thomas, Kimberly <Kimberly.Thomas@mountainview.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 11:54 AM
To: [REDACTED] working-group@googlegroups.com'
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Best Practices/Notes Updated from 1/9/15 from Shani Kleinhaus – Updated on 2/11/15 (Post to Google Group)

Best Practices/Notes Updated from 1/9/15 from Shani Kleinhaus – (Updated on 2/11/15)

- Do not allow roaming cats, or feeding stations at North Bayshore/ North of 101
- Implement monitoring and reporting for North Bayshore/shoreline
- Implement trapping/removal activities as needed at North Bayshore
- Test cats for diseases such as toxoplasmosis and do not impose diseased cats on the environment
- Do not allow the release of cats into sensitive environments, including creeks, or North of 101
- Outside of North Bayshore, require permit and monitor all locations of feeding stations and identification persons/ groups responsible for the stations or individual cats
- Report on number of cats surrendered to SVACA, number of cats rejected by SVACA, number of cats adopted, number of cats released to cat support groups

Posted by staff to the Google Group

Regards, Kimberly

Kimberly S. Thomas
Assistant to the City Manager, City of Mountain View
E-Mail: kimberly.thomas@mountainview.gov
Phone: (650) 903-6210
www.mountainview.gov



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Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority (SVACA) Best Practices Recom. (Google Group Post)

1 post by 1 author



Thomas, Kimberly

Feb 9



Other recipients: [REDACTED]

Best Practices received from Dan Soszynski, Executive Director, Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority:

1. **Maintain current practice** - Trap-Neuter-Return with a Shoreline relocation program to protect wildlife
2. **Establish an animal protection coalition**, - i.e., Hawaii Coalition for the Protection of Cats and Wildlife
3. **Collaborative Outreach/Education: nonprofits** - ("cat" and "wildlife" groups), City of Mountain View, and SVACA, i.e., Cats Safe at Home (Audubon Society of Portland) focusing on maintaining cats indoors, spay/neuter, and proper care
4. **Build on local low cost spay/neuter options**

Posted to Google Group by:

Kimberly S. Thomas

Assistant to the City Manager, City of Mountain View

E-Mail: kimberly.thomas@mountainview.gov

Phone: (650) 903-6210

www.mountainview.gov

Thomas, Kimberly

From: [REDACTED] working-group@googlegroups.com on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 3:20 PM
To: [REDACTED] working-group@googlegroups.com
Subject: Disease Concerns

I had originally forwarded this to Kimberly but it sounds like she's out of the office for the afternoon so I am posting it with the hope all will receive it.

1. Toxoplasmosis

In short, testing appears to be unreliable; a positive test does not indicate the animal is infectious and most cats who are infectious will test negative. <http://www.cpcvet.org/cpc-recommendations/toxoplasma>

SVACA is unaware of the County Public Health Department alerting the public of increased Toxoplasmosis concerns due to cats.

It is not the industry standard to test shelter cats for this disease.

As mentioned by others, the CDC appears to treat this more as a food borne illness than a threat to human health caused by cats. <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/toxoplasmosis/>

2. Feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency

Only felids can be infected. Can the city biologists clarify whether or not wild felids exist in the North Bayshore and/or Shoreline?

Neither disease is communicable to humans.

The diseases are found to be in 3% or less of cats in the US but can rise to 13-15% for 'high-risk' animals.

The industry trend has shifted to not test due to the fact that at least 97% will be found to be healthy. Limited resources can be used in far better ways than testing for a disease that it is highly unlikely to be present.

As we have stated at previous meetings, if SVACA suspects a feral may be infected, the cat will be tested before being released to rescue.

http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/health_resources/brochure_fiv.cfm
http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/health_resources/brochure_felv.cfm

3. Feline panleukopenia

Can infect raccoons as well as others like minks and ferrets but is not communicable to humans.

We discussed this disease with a veterinarian at the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, our wildlife rehabilitation partner, who stated he has not seen increased cases in the raccoons they've received. They care for over 4,000 birds and mammals from the South Bay including San Jose who has processed thousands of feral cats through their program.

SVACA cannot recall a panleukopenia case in our feral cats. Due to the severity of the disease, if we did receive one it would most likely not be eligible for release due to the level of care required to rehabilitate it.

4. Recent Code Review

Within the last year the Mountain View City Council reviewed potential cat regulation ordinances. Since there were no reported problems of rabies or any other diseases, they chose not to require additional regulations such as licensing and vaccinations. Lastly, the State of California does not require cat vaccinations, licensing, or disease testing.

Thomas, Kimberly

From: [REDACTED] working-group@googlegroups.com on behalf of Thomas, Kimberly <Kimberly.Thomas@mountainview.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 1:28 PM
To: [REDACTED] working-group@googlegroups.com
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Best Practices/Notes Updated from 1/9/15 from Alan Launer

From Alan Launer - Best Practices/Notes Updated from 1/9/15 - (updated and clarified 11 Feb 2015)

For North Bayshore area

- 1) No feral/homeless cats maintained in the North Bayshore area (= Mountain View north of 101), this includes no sanctioned release of cats (or other domestic/exotic animals) and no feeding or feeding stations
- 2) Regular monitoring of the area in order to determine the appropriate rates of trapping/removal activities (in order to meet the goal of having no feral/homeless cats in the area)
- 3) Clear method for the public to report sighting of feral/homeless cats in this area
- 4) Trapping/removal activities as needed
- 5) Unsanctioned release/abandonment of cats in this area, and elsewhere, should be strongly discouraged
 - a. Signage
 - b. Outreach
 - c. Penalties as necessary

General Policies

- 1) Reduce the number of abandoned cats
 - a. Low cost spay/neuter clinics
 - b. Education outreach
- 2) All animals passing through the various public and private groups need to be certified as healthy (or identified as sick or injured and dealt with accordingly)
- 3) Clear and transparent record keeping
- 4) Clarify the city's ordinance(s) on the release of animals, including cats, into the wild (and make sure the city's ordinances are compatible with State Fish and Wildlife code and federal statutes)

For other areas of Mountain View

- 1) Better understanding of the distribution and abundance of feral/homeless cats, including locations of feeding stations and identification persons/groups responsible for the stations or individual cats
- 2) Depending on further information there may be areas identified where feral/homeless cats are not to be maintained (in addition to the North Bayshore area) and/or there may need to be a license developed by the city to operate feral/homeless cat feeding stations

Posted by staff to Google Group

Regards, Kimberly

Kimberly S. Thomas
Assistant to the City Manager, City of Mountain View
E-Mail: kimberly.thomas@mountainview.gov
Phone: (650) 903-6210

Best Practices Recommendations
E. McLaughlin, Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge

Prepared for Mountain View's Feral Cat & Wildlife Stakeholder Working Group, February, 2015.



Feral cat and native grey fox near colony cat feeding station, vicinity of Charleston and Landings, 2014

Note to Fellow Stakeholders and City Officials: These are the CCCR recommendations compiled...thus far. Some additions are pending completion and hopefully provided to you before the 2/12/15 meeting. References listed here were posted with this document to the Google Group. Several references listed should be familiar as previously posted to the group from Anne Morkill, USFWS Manager of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

♦ Implement Good Neighbor Policies

A. Build an ordinance of mutual cooperation with adjoining, overlapping and internal jurisdictions that have existing restrictions on roaming cats in order to protect wildlife. In and adjoining Mountain View, locations with these restrictions include:

- Shoreline Park (City Code: No roaming-at-large, no release, no feeding)
- Stevens Creek, Permanente Creek: (SCVWD best practices: removal of cat feeding stations)
- NASA Ames/Moffett: (MIMP 2006: Remove, no feeding, no pet policy for new housing)
- Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge (Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Federal ESA authority: Remove, no feeding)
- Palo Alto Baylands: (City Ordinance: No feeding in City Parks and Open Space)

References by e-file name:

MV City Code-Shoreline Park
SCVWD Best Mgmt Practices Excerpt
NASA Ames MIMP Bio Mitigations 2006
Don Edwards NWR CCP Excerpt
Palo Alto Ordinance 5259-Feeding prohibition

B. Build an ordinance that respects individual property rights and existing City code on behalf of City residents, property owners, land managers, institutions and businesses when considering release of

feral cats. Knowing no boundary, feral cats may use or pass through property where their presence is not at all welcome. One study found that feral cats had roaming patterns covering ~80 to ~388 acres. In Mountain View, such ranges can include many properties of different ownership. A property owner can have good reasons for not wanting roaming cats present such as safety associated with equipment use, hygienic and/or appearance value for clientele, employees or renters, allergy sensitivity, odor from a cat-favored repeated mark/spray location, fecal contamination of home or school vegetable beds, as a threat to beloved backyard birds or to protect property value.

References by e-file name:

Abqjournal.com-One giant litter box 6-2-14

Range patterns of free-roaming cats_Horn_et_al2011_J_Wildlife_Management

◆ Replace “release” with “sanctuary” to avoid inflicting a hard and shortened life on feral cats

Require establishment of a program that will utilize and sustain sanctuaries where healthy feral cats can live out their lives without being returned to an existence of perpetual hazards. Free-roaming exposes cats to uncertain food sources, lack of safe shelter in weather of all kinds, persistence of exposure to numerous infectious diseases without the protection of routine vaccinations, exposure to poisons such as rodenticides and to untreated injury such as those inflicted by other cats, wildlife and vehicles.

For the City and its agents, a sanctuary transfer removes the loss of accountability that occurs when an unadoptable, feral cat is transferred to third parties with which it has no mitigating agreement or permit. If the City were to permit release of cats its responsibility would need to be established to require permitting and monitoring of permittees as regards to specific location, number of cats released or maintained in colonies, advance notice to property owners and for public comment re the application before permitting, disease and vector management of colonies and maintenance of hygienic sites and provision for public complaint.

It is significant that the organization PETA (People for Ethical Treatment of Animals) strongly objects to release of feral cats on a cat-welfare basis. It considers wildlife-welfare *equally* important i.e. that wildlife need protection from non-native, roaming cats.

Non-profit sanctuary programs already exist in California and other states, providing feral cats with a protected haven for colony-style outdoor-indoor living, regular feeding, vaccinations and veterinary care. The facilities often also provide adoption services for rescued cats. Daily care usually involves volunteers, working around cats that are known to be vaccinated and free of infectious disease. Some sanctuaries provide substantial education programs on the best practices of caring for cats including how cats-indoors (or in sanctuaries) cannot harm wildlife. This solution resolves the no-kill dilemma, protects wildlife and saves feral cats, perhaps born into it, from a brutal life if released.

References by e-file name:

Examples of Cat Sanctuaries Feb 2015

PETA Article Feral Cats_2015

PETA Brochure TNR Best Practices_2015

◊ Define North of Bayshore as a roaming-cat-free district.

North of Bayshore is, by far, the most wildlife-rich and -friendly area within Mountain View. That exists in good part due to its location by the Bay and with creeks cutting through it. At the same time, freeways create an "island" effect where wildlife can be at the greatest risk. In addition, actions of neighboring entities make it a jurisdictional island for roaming cats.

Studies have described isolated City settings as island-like, having uniquely high wildlife predation risks with the presence of roaming cat density that is constrained to the locale, concentrating hunting activity. In just such condensed roaming ranges, or "islands", Impromptu or feeding-encouraged cat colonies are documented as inflicting intensive damage to native and migratory wildlife populations.

In addition to the extensive numbers of birds killed, small mammals, lizards, frogs, butterflies, numerous other species and their eggs, nestlings, broods and litters are all at risk of cat predation. Included among them in North of Bayshore are the Federally-endangered species, Ridgeway's rail and the salt marsh harvest mouse, both known to use salt marsh habitats as found along lower Stevens Creek and sporadically elsewhere along the Bayward edge of the City. Cats don't know that killing those particular animals represents a "take" under the Federal Endangered Species Act. People do...or can learn. If a person releases a cat that kills an endangered species, who is legally responsible for the take? If a government entity permits cat release by ordinance or by informed inaction, is it responsible for cat takes of endangered species?

Protecting wildlife North of Bayshore from cat predation can be done by creating a district with specific prohibitions of roaming and feeding. It can adopt the cat control requirements in the NASA-Ames Mitigation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (MIMP) that apply to Moffett Field, including lands within Mountain View city limits. Those requirements were developed through consultation with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and are well-researched, best management practices for feral cats.

References by e-file name:

Critical Assessment of Claims Regarding Management of Feral Cats by Trap-Nueter-Return
The Wildlife Society-Ecological Impacts of Feral Cats Jan 2011
NASA Ames MIMP Bio Mitigations 2006

FERAL CAT AND WILDLIFE STAKEHOLDERS WORKING GROUP A JOINT REPORT FROM THE CAT REPRESENTATIVES

The City Council tasked Staff with creating an ad hoc group of feral cat and wildlife stakeholders to share ideas on how the City can better address feral cat populations and protect wildlife in Shoreline Park and North Bayshore.

An independent study, carefully documented in 44 bird-watching trips, from 2005 to 2014, between Charleston Road and Stierlin Court Road east of Shoreline Blvd., found only three free-roaming cats. (*Final North Bayshore Precise Plan*) *Environmental Impact Report, Section 6, Comment Letters, pp 310 to 327*
<http://www.mountainview.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=14499>

Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority (SVACA), the City's contracted animal control agency, reported that 149 cats were received at their shelter from Mt. View during 2014– a rate of two cats per thousand residents, compared to a county-wide figure of 7.45 per thousand. (*WeCARE, Santa Clara County 2014 Asilomar Report to Maddie's Fund*)

City staff, supervised by city biologists, counted cats in Shoreline Park and along Stevens Creek Trail from March through June 2014, using cameras, baited traps, and observation. Zero cats were found along Stevens Creek and rangers who patrol it daily reported never seeing any cats there. Fifteen to eighteen cats were counted inside Shoreline Park, of which 10 were kittens. These were quickly trapped and adopted, leaving 5-8 adult cats, most dumped near restaurants in the Park. (*John Marchant, verbal report.*)

All of these reports verify that Mountain View has very few community (feral) cats. This reflects the efforts and progress made during the past 25 years by private rescue groups, public agencies, and individual volunteers to reduce community cat populations and manage those that remain.

The overall goal, yet to be achieved, is to ensure that all cats in our City – and elsewhere – are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and have homes and people to care for them. This comes about through public awareness and education.

Recommendations to “ban” outdoor cats, stop their feeding in managed, neutered colonies, or trap and kill all cats in North Bayshore and Shoreline Park, are not only unnecessary and unproductive, but also unenforceable.

Shoreline Park and the riparian corridors along our creeks, especially Stevens Creek, are resources to be treasured. Improving public education about these areas and the wildlife they support is a goal we all share. Joint efforts between City agencies, including its animal control agency, SVACA, non-profit groups such as the Audubon Society, and local cat rescue and support groups can together ensure such education is effective.

AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES

Our goals have always been to ensure that every cat has a safe, loving home and to reduce the number of free-roaming cats. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services have already significantly reduced the numbers of cats entering our shelters as well as the number of community cats in Mountain View, particularly in the areas in question. An increase in these services, partnered with a comprehensive community education plan will expedite these results and reduce the number of free-roaming cats. We wish that there were a magical place where all unadoptable cats could go, but that is simply not true. The cost of land in California makes community cat sanctuaries not only impractical, but impossible. Cats in our public shelter system who are not adopted or returned to their homes are killed. This is a fact and one that the public no longer considers acceptable.

Trap-Kill has been the prevailing shelter community cat policy nationally for the last 100 years, and yet the numbers of homeless cats and shelter intake has continued to rise. By contrast, in Santa Clara County, and particularly in our own city, through public policy changes, innovative programs, and targeted funding, we have seen a significant decrease in cat intake in recent years because of accessible and affordable spay/neuter services for all cats. Unfixed cats breed. Fixed cats do not. Spaying and neutering **all** cats is supported and advocated by prominent local and national animal control agencies. (*Managing Community Cats – A Guide for Municipal Leaders. Humane Society of the U.S.*) This is the new face of animal control, practiced across the country, including in Philadelphia, Fairfax County, VA, Indianapolis, Dallas, and almost every City in our county. Efforts to outlaw public compassion will never succeed.

PUBLIC HEALTH

We are concerned about the position of certain wildlife organizations that free-roaming cats should be exterminated because they are a threat to public health. It is true that cats carry disease. So do most animals, including bats, raccoons, opossums, pigs, cattle, dogs, and birds. Community cats shun human contact, so exposure to zoonotic illnesses is significantly more likely to come from pets and a variety of other animals, domestic and wild.

Bats are the most commonly identified rabid animal in California. There has not been a single reported case of a cat having rabies in Santa Clara County since 2007. Not one. We think it is finally time to take the "rabies threat" off the table and look at the facts.

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HEALTHINFO/DISCOND/Pages/ReportedAnimalRabies.aspx>

More than 60 million men, women, and children in the U.S. carry the *Toxoplasma* parasite, but very few have symptoms because the immune system keeps the parasite from causing illness. Though cats do carry *Toxoplasma gondii*, there are far more significant sources of infection according to the Centers for Disease Control, the leading national public health institute of the United States. The most common sources of infection are eating undercooked, contaminated meat (especially pork, lamb, and venison); accidentally ingesting contaminated soil (e.g., not washing hands after gardening or eating unwashed fruits or vegetables).

http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/toxoplasmosis/gen_info/faqs.html

Scare tactics are attempts to rally people to extreme positions. Let's not do that here. Suggesting free roaming cat eradication is absurd. It's a bit like suggesting killing off all songbirds to eradicate West Nile virus. Far more residents of our County have been infected by WNV than any disease attributed to cats.

IN AN IDEAL WORLD

It is the desire of the cat representatives that every cat should have a loving and safe home. This is the goal towards which cat rescuers in the Mountain View area have been working for over 25 years. However, outdoor cats do exist. Estimates are that approximately half of the cats seen outside do have homes but are not kept strictly as indoor-only cats. "When [outdoor] cat populations are present, the choice is not between having cats or not having cats. The choice is between having a managed community cat population, or an unmanaged one," says Bryan Kortis, Program Manager, PetSmart Charities, Phoenix AZ. Any negative impact of community cats must be shared by residents who allow their cats outside. Community outreach is needed to educate Mountain View residents on the consequences of allowing their cats to roam freely and alternatives to doing so.

PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS

We adamantly object to even the slightest inference that people in cat rescue and community cat management are "anti-wildlife." We are deeply concerned with protecting the habitat of birds and other wildlife in our communities. Based on the low numbers of cats found inside Shoreline Park, with none along Stevens Creek, we do submit that cat predation is not a significant issue in these locations. No data has been presented to the Working Group that proves that the few free roaming cats in these areas significantly impact our wildlife populations. An examination of the situation does suggest other threats to wildlife from humans

(golfers are known to have caused the deaths of three burrowing owls), expansion of development, improper plantings, dogs, lawn chemicals, noise pollution, etc.

We agree that in order to protect wildlife and their habitats we need to educate residents and local businesses on ways to be responsible pet owners and community members without causing harm to what makes Mountain View so special. Community-based education and outreach that promotes responsible pet ownership and early spay/neuter can go a long way to address the impact of free-roaming cats, since unfixed owned cats are the source of community cats. However a much more comprehensive community education program, addressing the additional and substantial threats that humans and our actions pose to wildlife and wildlife habitats, is also necessary if our joint goal of wildlife preservation is to be achieved.

ACHIEVING OUR MUTUAL GOALS

We seek non-lethal solutions and collaboration in order to protect all of the animals living in our community. The Portland Audubon Society has, since the late 1990s, worked closely with the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon. Both want reduction in bird predation and the use of humane strategies to get there. We hope that the wildlife representatives here in Mountain View will consider a similar cooperative effort. Programs that focus on non-lethal means and involve the entire community can mobilize an army of compassionate, dedicated people who care about the cats, wildlife, and their neighborhoods.

Best Practices

In order to continue to reduce the already low numbers of free-roaming cats in Mountain View and protect our wildlife and their habitats, we urge the city to support the following best practices.

- 1) **A humane education campaign** in partnerships with our schools, youth organizations, Mountain View civic and community-based service organizations, to provide multilingual information on humane treatment of all animals in our community:
 - a. **Pets Safe and Inside Campaign:** Promote awareness of best pet practices to reduce the number of free-roaming cats through flyers, public service announcements (English, Spanish, Chinese), and social media to promote the safekeeping of pets indoors, away from traffic and wildlife habitats, i.e. the use of "Catio's" and cat-safe fencing to confine pet cats to porches and backyards.
 - b. **Spay/Neuter Education:** Multilingual flyers, psa's, workshops, local news and social media to promote the importance of early-age spay and neuter and information on available low-cost and free resources.
 - c. **Responsible Community Cat Management Workshops:** Hands-on training to promote best practices for caring for community cats, responsible feeding practices, and spay/neuter assistance programs.
 - d. **Youth Education Programs:** Opportunities to fulfill school community service requirements and Girl and Boy Scout community service badges to encourage volunteerism, animal care, and wildlife awareness.
 - e. **Wildlife Education & Preservation Campaign and Workshops** (in conjunction with City of Mountain Biologists and Parks & Recreation Staff):

- i. Campaign against abandoning animals in Shoreline Park and creek trails.
 - ii. No Dumping Signage that is "interactive," with a youth and educational focus.
 - iii. Educating residents on the detrimental effect that our choices and actions can have on wildlife in our community.
 - iv. Youth education and outreach experiences to teach our children about our very special wildlife and instill in them a desire to protect all life.
- 2) **Free and low-cost spay/neuter services.** The importance of affordable surgeries to keeping stray animals and shelter surrenders (and public cost) to a minimum cannot be overstated. Funding for these services is already in place.
 - a. Promote free and low cost spay/neuter services to all residents of Mountain View for all cats. Ensure that services remain accessible and affordable through existing funding, as well as increased funding through grants and donations, as needed.
 - b. Incentivize pet spaying and neutering through support from the Mountain View business community. For example, gift cards from local businesses or Mountain View-located chains to residents who have their animals fixed.
 - c. Targeted spay/neuter efforts. Continue to practice targeted spay/neuter, and adoption whenever possible, of community cats in sensitive areas and neighborhoods with higher concentrations.
- 3) **Continue current collaborative efforts** between rescue groups, individual volunteers, and animal control to reduce numbers of community cats throughout our city by homing kittens and adoptable cats, spaying and neutering the others. (Note: All trapping is done solely by volunteers, except within Shoreline Park.)

This is recognized nationwide as a best practice for managing community cat populations and is endorsed by Santa Clara County, Humane Society Silicon Valley, and nearly every national animal welfare organization such as the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

We the undersigned are deeply committed to the preservation of all life and everything that makes our community unique. We believe that through inclusive community education, we can work together to solve these very complex issues using methods that are non-lethal and supported by our citizens.

Carole Hyde
Palo Alto Humane Society Executive Director

Casey Leonardo
Mountain View Resident

Denise Uriarte
Town Cats Representative and Volunteer

Thomas, Kimberly

From: [REDACTED]s-working-group@googlegroups.com on behalf of
Thomas, Kimberly <Kimberly.Thomas@mountainview.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 12:12 PM
To: [REDACTED]s-working-group@googlegroups.com
Cc: 'Denise Uriarte'
Subject: RE: Burrowing Owls Content Provided by Denise Uriarte (Post to Google Group)

Burrowing Owls Content Provided by Denise Uriarte

Posted to the Google Group by Staff.

Regards, Kimberly

Kimberly S. Thomas
Assistant to the City Manager, City of Mountain View
E-Mail: kimberly.thomas@mountainview.gov
Phone: (650) 903-6210
www.mountainview.gov



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From: Denise Uriarte [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 7:08 AM
To: Thomas, Kimberly
Subject: Burrowing Owls

Kimberly ,
Please post the following information to the google group for me. I am unable to post !
Thx, Denise

Begin forwarded message:

From: Denise Uriarte [REDACTED]
Date: February 12, 2015 at 6:47:12 AM PST
To: "[REDACTED]s-working-group@googlegroups.com" <[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]s-working-group@googlegroups.com>
Subject: Burrowing Owls

Hey team -
Am reading the following article on burrowing owls.

Burrowing Owls - link:
<http://animals.pawnation.com/burrowing-owls-endangered-species-list-2760.html>

The article states that threats include Human Encroachment, Pesticides, the Circle of Life, and Climate Change.

Wasn't additional housing just approved for this area? This will only amount to additional human encroachment impacts to wildlife in the NSPP area.

The article also states that "burrowing owls make their nests in burrows dug by prairie dogs and ground squirrels". Thus ground squirrels play an important role in the burrowing owls survival.

My concern here is that I believe that the Santa Clara Water Valley District routinely traps & kills ground squirrels to prevent them from digging burrows in the levies and other areas.

I think this practice of killing ground squirrels (if it is indeed still occurring) should be looked into further to determine possible negative impact to the burrowing owls and their habitat.

Although I searched and searched, I was unable to find one cited example of a cat killing a burrowing owl, but I did find the article about the owls being killed by a person who placed a water bottle in their burrow.

With no real evidence that cats are harming the owls, and clear evidence the human encroachment is, I'm afraid we are barking up the wrong tree here and trying to solve a problem, that really does not exist.

My overall question is even if we trapped up and killed every outdoor cat we could find in mountain view (including people's pet cats), would that really guarantee the burrowing owl's survival, given all of the other challenges facing them?