



# Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan & Related Projects

*Spring 2023 Update*



Board of Directors Meeting

*March 23, 2023*





## Tonight's Presentation:

- Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan Update
  - Project Background
  - Public Engagement Approach
  - Phases & Milestones
- Related Projects Update
- Questions & Discussion



MONTEREY BAY

PACIFIC OCEAN

LOMA PRIETA

MT. UMUNHUM

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

SAN JOSE

SANTA TERESA HILLS

SAN JOSE

LAGUNA SECA

TULARE HILL

FISHER CREEK

COYOTE VALLEY

Monterey Road + Rail Corridor

COYOTE CREEK

US 101

DIABLO RANGE

Recreation & Public Health



Wildlife Connectivity



COYOTE VALLEY'S BENEFITS

Clean Water Supply



Agriculture



Flood Protection



Climate Resilience



City of Morgan Hill





Coyote Valley:  
2022: The Conserved Landscape Today





# Project Team



*Project Team Site Visit – April 2022*

## Managed By:



## Core Partners:



## Consultants:



## Special Advisors



**scansion**

## Partners/Advisors

- Santa Clara County Parks
- Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
- Valley Water
- Science Advisory Group
- ...and more.



# Plan Goals



**Enhance Wildlife  
Habitat & Ecological  
Connectivity**



**Sustainably Manage &  
Restore Water  
Resources**



**Improve Public Health  
via Access to Nature**



**Foster On-Going and  
Inclusive Community  
Engagement**



**Respect, Honor, Preserve, and  
Interpret Cultural Heritage &  
Historic Resources**



**Adapt to Changing  
Climate Conditions**



**Support Local  
Agriculture**



**Leverage Unique Landscape  
Features to Boost the Local  
Economy**



**Promote Equitable and  
Sustainable  
Transportation**



**Consider a Holistic Vision  
for the Entire Coyote  
Valley**





# Foster On-going and Inclusive Community Engagement



*Raise public awareness about Coyote Valley and its value and potential.*



*Create a shared vision for the future of Coyote Valley.*



*Grow a community of supporters who are engaged in the master plan process and beyond.*



*Prioritize communities historically underrepresented in the planning process through initiatives and programs that promote justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and access (JEDIA).*



*Learn from experience and work to strengthen connections between the Open Space Authority and the public.*





## Internal Stakeholders

*Project-site landholders who are involved in Master Plan approval, funding, or regulation of the CVCAMP.*

- Open Space Authority
- Peninsula Open Space Trust
- City of San Jose

## External Stakeholders

*Entities that have jurisdiction or oversight of project site and/or may be involved in the approval, funding, or regulation of the CVCAMP.*

- Partner Agencies
- Tribal Organizations/Governments
- Regulators
- Funders
- Elected Officials

## Community Audiences

*Groups that are invited and welcomed to participate in the planning process.*

- Local Community & Advocacy Groups
- Environmental Advocacy Groups
- Health, Wellness, & Public Access Advocacy Groups
- Agricultural Groups
- Youth/Educational Institutions
- Coyote Valley Neighbors
- Existing Tenants/Lessees



# Defining the Public's Level of Engagement

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION



	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

SOURCE: International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)



INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

INFORM

CONSULT

INVOLVE

COLLABORATE

EMPOWER

## Defining the General Public's Decision-Making Space

*...some examples:*



### Habitat Restoration Approaches



### Trail Routing

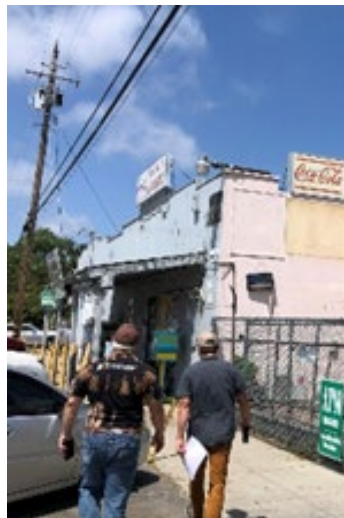
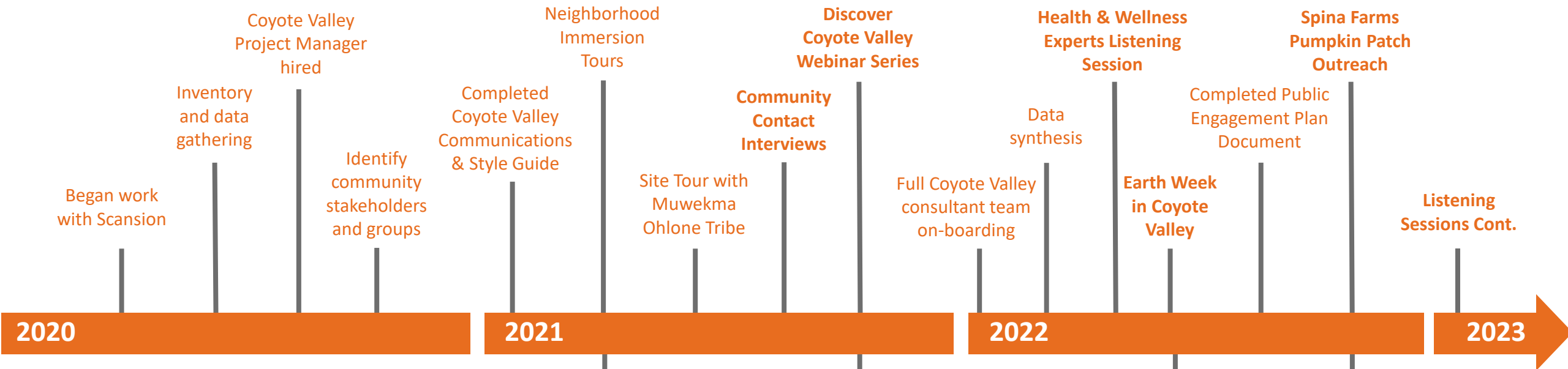


### Interpretive Features

Example Decision Space	Habitat Restoration Approaches	Trail Routing	Interpretive Features
Level of Engagement	"Inform"	"Consult"	"Involve"
Engagement Outcomes	Public is made aware of habitat restoration opportunities & constraints, kept informed of plans for restoration/management, and made aware of future opportunities to engage as volunteers	Where there is more than one viable option for trail routing (as defined by project team), public input influences which option(s) are advanced.	Public input shapes which features and topics are prioritized for interpretation.



# Preliminary Engagement Overview



Spring 2021 Neighborhood Immersion Tours



Fall 2021 Webinar Series



Earth Day 2022 at Spreckles Hill



Outreach booth at Spina Farms

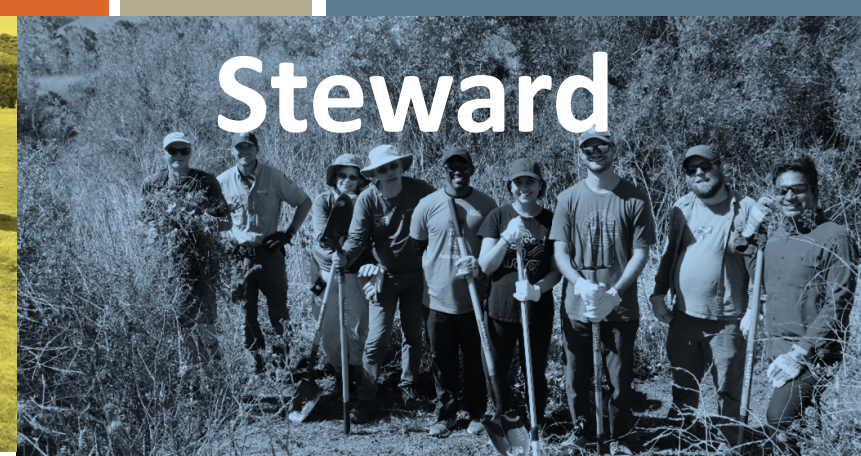




## Explore



## Envision



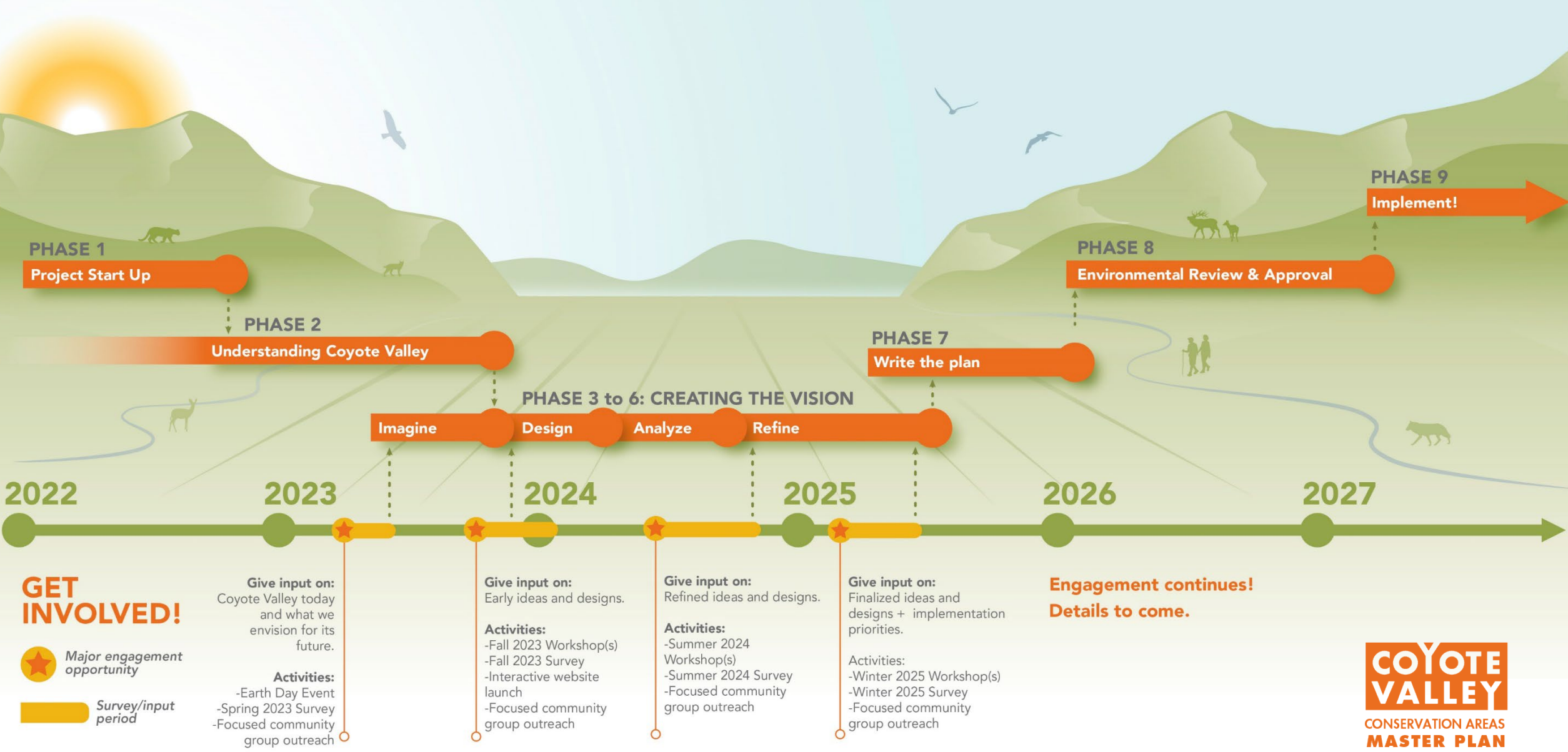
## Steward

# On-Going Engagement

- Staff informational presentations to community groups/orgs
- Updates via Authority communication tools
  - Coyote Valley email list serve (615 subscribers)
  - Coyote Valley website ([www.openspaceauthority.org/cvcamp](http://www.openspaceauthority.org/cvcamp))
  - Authority newsletter and social media
- CVCAMP content at Authority public education, interpretation, volunteer, and stewardship programs/events
- Partnerships with local museums/educational institutions
- Fun/Family Friendly Activities in Coyote Valley
- Coyote Valley neighbor meet-and-greet with project staff

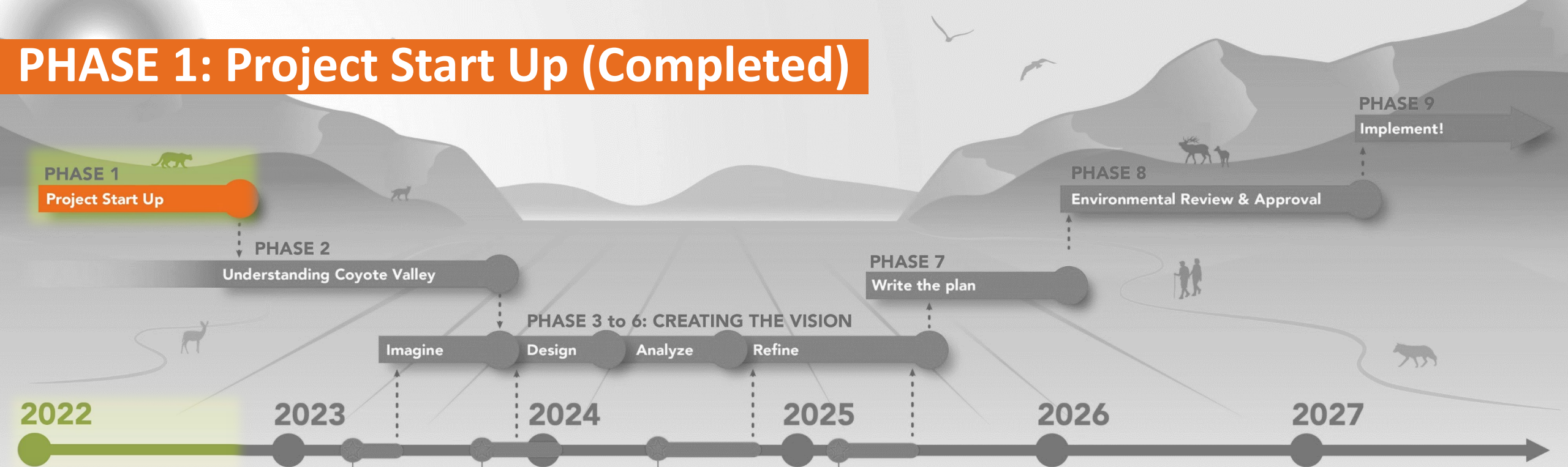


# COYOTE VALLEY CONSERVATION AREAS MASTER PLAN TIMELINE





# PHASE 1: Project Start Up (Completed)



## Key Milestones/Deliverables:

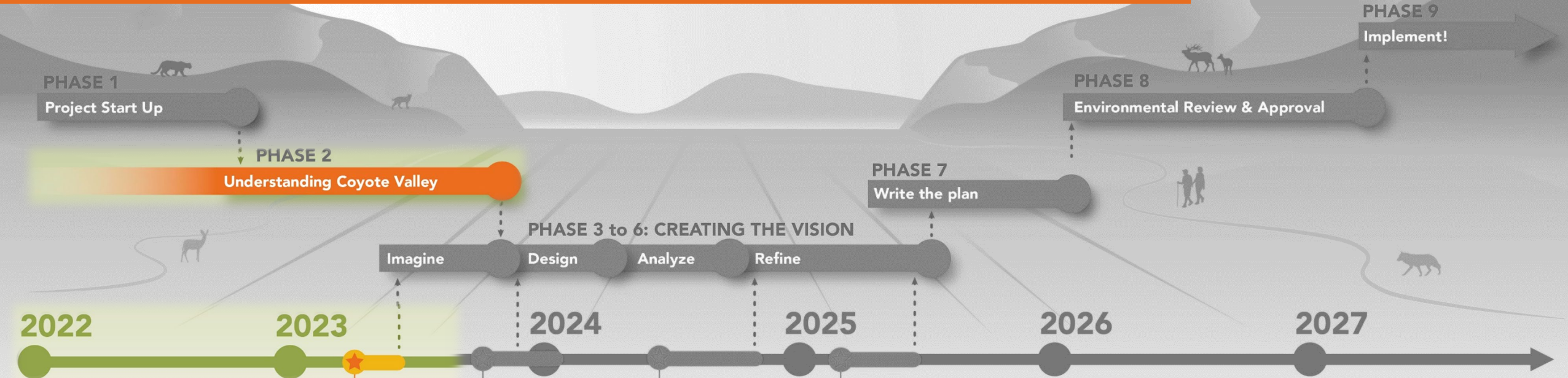
- Consultant Team Onboarding
- Project Scope/Schedule/Budget Refinement
- Public Engagement Plan
- Existing Reports/Data Review
- Data Gaps Analysis Memo

## Public Engagement:

- Staff + CAC immersion tours of equity-priority neighborhoods
- Informational interviews with community contacts
- Listening sessions with community representatives
- Began on-going engagement with local tribes



# PHASE 2: Understanding Coyote Valley (In-Progress)



## Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Existing Conditions Report summarizing:
  - Wildlife Survey Findings
  - Hydrological Studies of Fisher Creek & Laguna Seca
  - Existing & Projected Public Use/Access Patterns
  - Cultural Resource Locations, Transportation Conditions, Agricultural Use Feasibility...and more.

## Public Engagement:

- JEDIA-focused small group workshops conducted in partnership with community-based organizations
- Spring 2023 Community Survey
- Earth Day event (April 22, 2023)



# Phase 2 Scope: A Closer Look

## Site Assessments & Studies



- Wildlife Surveys
- Vegetation Mapping
- Road Ecology Study



- Fisher Creek Monitoring & Studies
- Hydrologic Model Development
- Hydraulic Model Development
- Eco-Hydrology Study



- On-Site Surveys & Assessments of Existing Users & Use Patterns at Nearby Open Spaces



- Climate Resiliency Framework



- Agricultural Project Feasibility Screening Tool



- Cultural Resources Overview Map



- Existing Traffic Conditions Assessment
- Parking Area & Visitor Assessment



- Community Focus Groups Findings
- Community Survey Results/Analysis



## Vision-Focused Tools/Deliverables



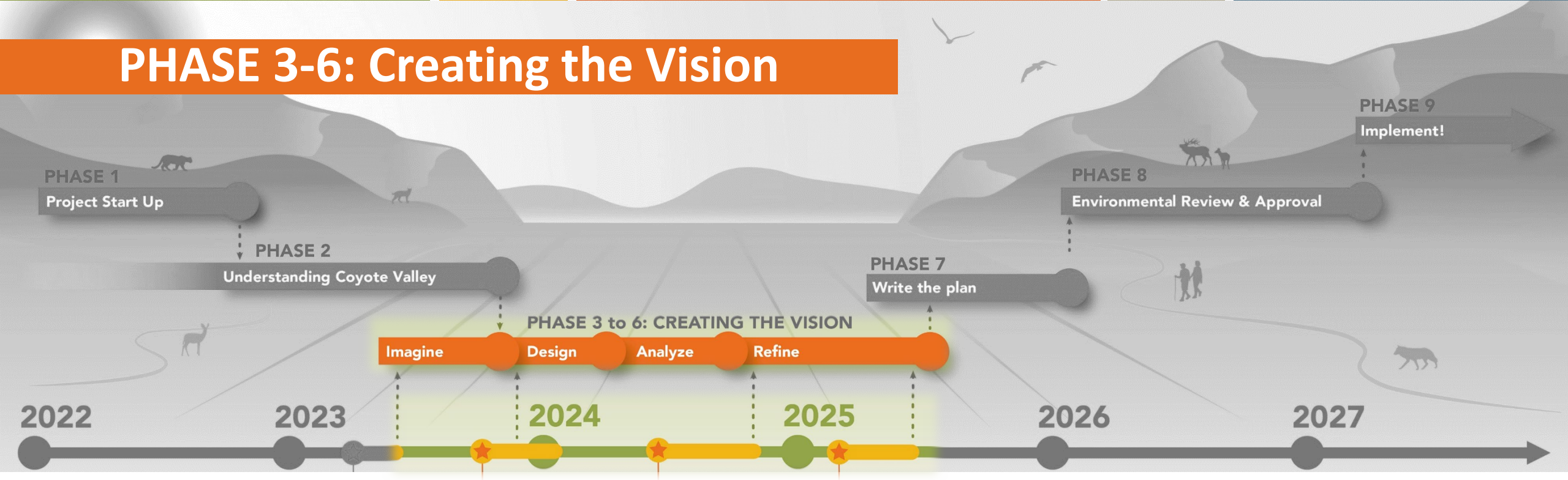
- Project Restoration/Use Objectives
- Decision Matrix Tool
- Existing Resources Interactive Map
- Existing Conditions Summary Report







# PHASE 3-6: Creating the Vision



## Key Milestones/Deliverables:

### “Imagine” in Fall 2023



### “Design/Analyze” in Summer 2024



### “Refine” in Winter 2025

- Restoration/Use Objectives
- Opportunities & Constraints Analysis
- Conceptual Visualizations of Restoration Scenarios

- Conceptual Alternative Plans & Visualizations
- Monitoring & Adaptive Management Framework
- CEQA Initial Study

- Preferred Concept Plan & Visualization
- Implementation Plan & Early Implementation Project Selection

## Public Engagement:

Three major rounds of engagement that include general public workshops, JEDIA-focused small group workshops, and community questionnaires.



# PHASE 7: Write the Plan



## Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Draft Master Plan Document

## Public Engagement:

Engagement activities for phases 7-9 will be planned in future, based on lessons learned from early engagement phases.



# PHASE 8: Environmental Review & Approval



## Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Environmental Review Documents
- Final Master Plan Document
- Permits/Approvals

## Public Engagement:

Engagement activities for phases 7-9 will be planned in future, based on lessons learned from early engagement phases.



# PHASE 9: Implement!



## Key Milestones/Deliverables:

- Design/Construction Documents for Early Implementation Projects

## Public Engagement:

Engagement activities for phases 7-9 will be planned in future, based on lessons learned from early engagement phases.





# Related Coyote Valley Project Updates





# Authority-Led Parallel Efforts in Coyote Valley

*Underway:*

- Spreckels Wetland Enhancement
- Fisher Creek Planting

*Currently in scope-development:*

- North Laguna Seca “Steppingstone” Project
- Tulare Meadows Groundwater Sustainability Study
- Palm Ave Agricultural Lease



# POST-Led Parallel Efforts in Coyote Valley

- Monterey Road Wildlife Crossing Feasibility Study
- North Coyote Valley Road Ecology Study
- Coyote Valley Climate Resilience Credits Program







## Other Related Plans & Projects:

- High Speed Rail
- CAISO Metcalf - San Jose B HVDC Project
- City of San Jose Coyote Corridor Study
- Coyote Creek Parkway Improvements
- Countywide Trails Master Plan Map Update



# Coyote Valley Related Project Geographies

*\*Boundaries are approximate*



Coyote Valley  
Conservation Areas  
Master Plan

Monterey Road Wildlife  
Crossing Feasibility Study  
(POST w/ Dudek Team)

CAISO Metcalf

Coyote Corridor Study  
(City of San Jose w/ Placeworks)

High Speed Rail

Coyote Creek  
Parkway Integrated Natural Resources  
Management Plan & Master Plan (County Parks)

Ogier Ponds Project  
(Valley Water)

★ Authority-Led Project & Study Locations





*Save the Date/Spread the Word:*

# Earth Day Celebration at Coyote Valley

*2022 Earth Day Celebration*



**When:** Saturday, April 22, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Spreckels Hill property, Coyote Valley

**What:**

- Family-friendly activities and crafts
- Self-guided and docent-led hikes
- CVCAMP information booth with interactive activities





# Questions & Discussion