



Presentation to LAFCO on  
Agricultural and Open Space  
Policies November 1, 2006

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# Who We Are

- Friends of the Swainson's Hawk is dedicated to the survival and recovery of the California Sacramento/Central Valley population of Swainson's Hawk. We want to see this population flourishing in our region for all generations to come. The California population numbers roughly 2,000 breeding pairs. Our region's Swainson's Hawk population numbers perhaps 800-1,000 pairs. It is concentrated in Yolo, Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties.



# Sacramento County SWH



Urban Encroachment  
on Nesting and  
Foraging Habitat  
Biological monitoring  
and feedback are  
critical.





Biologists are doing their part. We have to do our part to ensure that wildlife survives.

# Habitat Planning to Mitigate for Destruction



Only Natomas has an HCP. NBC reports:  
762 acres of SWH habitat are preserved.  
15,569 acres of SWH habitat are not preserved but assumed not to develop.

Grasslands are half of the preserved habitat and half of the unpreserved habitat in Natomas.

LAFCO proposed policy is incompatible with the NBHCP in that it devalues grazing lands.

NBHCP is unproven. Until NBHCP is proven to protect species harmed by City and Sutter County development in Natomas, no further development should be considered in this basin.



# Ag Conversion Wastes Public Infrastructure Dollars; Creates Conflicts

- There is abundant empty and underutilized land inside city limits and unincorporated suburbs. These lands are served now with very expensive light rail, urban arterials and freeways.
- **Enough infill opportunities exist to meet growth needs for decades. What is lacking is city policies to support infill development.**
- Building outside today's urban footprint creates conflicts with conservation and farming, including urban traffic using rural roads to escape congestion.



# 199 3 Open Space Strategy

The existing urban services boundary and city boundaries are based on 1993 assessment of critical resource conservation needs. Current mitigation ratios assume this boundary. Before changing this strategy, define a better countywide strategy.



# Before Considering SOI changes

- Require HCP adoption.
- Require “good neighbor policies” respecting rural uses, “right to farm”, buffering nature preserves and ag with public access open space, limiting access to rural roads.
- Require long term countywide program to target and acquire open space and conservation easements in addition to “mitigation lands.”
- Require cities to have infill incentive policies and procedures to ensure that infill development is aggressive and meets targeted growth needs.



Thank you.

