



SETTING

Early in the process, the Caldecott Corridor Committee identified a primary study area to focus its discussions and subsequent recommendations. Since the key concerns are the habitat linkage provided by the Corridor itself and the historically elevated fire risk of the area, the Committee drew the boundaries of the primary study area to concentrate on the north-south ridge between the east and west entrances of the Caldecott Tunnel from a point just south of Claremont Canyon (near the intersection of Fish Ranch Road, Grizzly Peak Blvd., and Claremont Avenue) to just north of Sibley Regional Preserve (near the intersection of Old Tunnel Road and Grizzly Peak Blvd) (see Figure 1a). The Committee also designated a secondary study area that was larger than the primary area in order to retain regional perspective (Figure 1b). The primary study area is approximately 529 acres, the secondary is about 2000 acres.

In general, the eastern slope of the ridge over the Caldecott Tunnel is less developed, contains more extensive and contiguous areas of natural vegetation, and has more open space, parkland, and agriculture than the western slope. The western slope, by contrast, is more developed, has more homes and private landowners, and has somewhat less natural vegetation, though significant belts of undeveloped land exist just east and just west of the Bay Forest subdivision. The eastern half of the study area falls primarily within unincorporated Contra Costa County, while the western portions are within Alameda County and incorporated areas of the City of Oakland. The secondary study area includes portions of the City of Berkeley and the sphere of influence for the City of Orinda, which extends to the western edge of Gateway Valley.