



IX.

CONCLUSION

The Caldecott Wildlife Corridor is a crucial ecological feature of central Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, connecting the undeveloped hill areas which are otherwise surrounded by the cities and towns on the shores of the Bay and in the larger inland valleys. Ensuring that the ridge over the Caldecott Tunnel continues to function as a wildlife corridor is important not only to the long-term survival of a number of plants and animals, and not only to protecting a native ecosystem, but also to preserving quality of life for many Bay Area residents who value the region's unique integration of city and wilderness. Managing such a blend of uses can be a challenge, particularly in an area such as this which has a long history of fire in the wildland/urban interface, including perhaps the worst urban wildfire in U.S. history. The threat of future destructive wildfires must be minimized. Likewise, resource planning for wildlife and wildfire must also protect the individual interests of the diverse landowners in the area.

Though these goals may appear contradictory, it is the general conclusion of the Caldecott Corridor Committee that simultaneously preserving the wildlife corridor, reducing the fire threat, and protecting property interests is both possible and necessary. The actions outlined in this plan provide a means of achieving this outcome.