

**CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT
PUBLIC DRAFT REVIEW
ALAB Comments – March 2, 2009**

INTRODUCTION

General comment: throughout element, substitute *conserve* for “protect” and “preserve”. Conserve reinforces the goal of the Element, and links all policies, etc to the “Conservation and Open Space Element”. Additionally, all existing and recommended references to Agriculture Element policies should be included in the final document and the COSE glossary should direct readers to Appendix J: Production Agriculture Determination for a definition of Production Agriculture.

Page 1.8 General comment: stronger reference is needed to inform and link reader to all other Elements also apply. Add a section to expand the “How to Read the Element” section to further inform the reader how this element applies and how the reader would know what other Elements also apply to their property. An example is page 1-19 of the current Agriculture and Open Space Element.

Add:

HOW THIS ELEMENT APPLIES TO PROPERTY

In order to find out how this plan applies to a particular property or area of the county, follow these steps:

(adds steps, similar to page 1-19 of the current Agriculture and Open Space Element, reference to other land use designations would need to be added.)

Page 1.9 Add: bullet below “For example, the:”

- *Agriculture Element addresses the protection of agricultural resources by identifying areas of the county with productive farms, ranches and soils and establishes goals, policies and implementation measures that will enable their long-term stability and productivity.*

Page 1.14 OPEN SPACE RESOURCES:

General comment: This section seems to blend the concepts of open space and agriculture. Stronger reference is needed to inform and link reader to all other Elements also apply. In this case, reference to AGP 26 – AGP 35 is needed. A more inclusive differentiation of Elements can be found in the paragraph below D-4 of page 3-25 of the current Agriculture and Open Space Element.

Add: *Open space lands described in this Element are resources or features of the landscape with unique or sensitive habitat for plants and animals; recreational opportunities; distinctive scenic values; hazards that threaten public health and safety; or archeological or historical sites. Because open space resources do not observe man-made boundaries, they occur on both public and private lands. Therefore, the following goals and policies in this Element refer to the treatment of open space resources on public lands and on private non-agricultural lands. Agricultural Element policies AGP 26-Agp 35 deal with the treatment of open space resources on agricultural lands.*

Page 1.14 OPEN SPACE RESOURCES:

Delete: The open space chapter addresses issues of special importance to open space and other resources, ~~such as agriculture.~~

SOIL RESOURCES:

Add: The soils in SLO are vital for nourishing the various vegetative habitats and are essential for the production of food and fiber and ornamental plants.