



EARTH
ISLAND

KELLY CREEK PROTECTION PROJECT

Responses to Questions Raised About the Scott Ranch Project

Red-Legged Frogs

How will the California red-legged frog and other wildlife species be protected?

The portion of Scott Ranch south of Kelly Creek contains excellent habitat for the threatened California red-legged frog in the region, and the frogs are known to breed in the stock pond. By protecting Kelly Creek and the land surrounding it, particularly all of the site to the south, this habitat will be permanently preserved – providing an irreplaceable haven for this species and others that rely on a healthy riparian and aquatic environment. Our park development plan will additionally improve this habitat through planting native understory and canopy vegetation, excluding livestock from the stock pond and creek, repairing erosion, and restoring creek tributaries.

The southern portion of Scott Ranch is the northern end of a critical red-legged frog habitat unit defined by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that extends 2,230 acres south all the way into Marin County and calls for special consideration for management of the habitat. When USFWS defines a critical habitat, it does not mean that no human entry or human-made structures are permitted. There are already many homes, ranches, and roads within this habitat unit.

While the red line on the project maps shows the northern edge of this large habitat area, in discussions with state and federal resource agencies, they confirmed that the most valuable habitat is south of Kelly Creek. Notwithstanding the location of the red line, the RDEIR treats the *entire* property as red-legged habitat and provides detailed mitigation measures to protect red-legged frogs. In addition, KCPP and Davidon have been working, and will continue to work, with the state and federal resource agencies to best protect the frogs throughout the development process.

Were new surveys conducted for the red-legged frog?

Both the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have confirmed that no additional red-legged frog surveys need be conducted. Conducting such surveys can actually harm the red-legged frogs. Instead, the RDEIR assumes that the frogs could be anywhere on the Scott Ranch and includes measures to reduce to an insignificant level the impacts the new homes and park improvements might cause.

Were former biological reports updated for the RDEIR?

Prior to preparation of the RDEIR, biologists, including the City's biological consultant, reviewed the biological reports prepared for earlier iterations of the project and visited Scott Ranch to determine if the prior biological studies still accurately described the biological resources on the property. They confirmed that the early reports were still accurate. Thus, the RDEIR appropriately relied on those reports in its analysis of biological impacts.