

# PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY MEETING MAY 8, 2014



SONOMA COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION  
AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

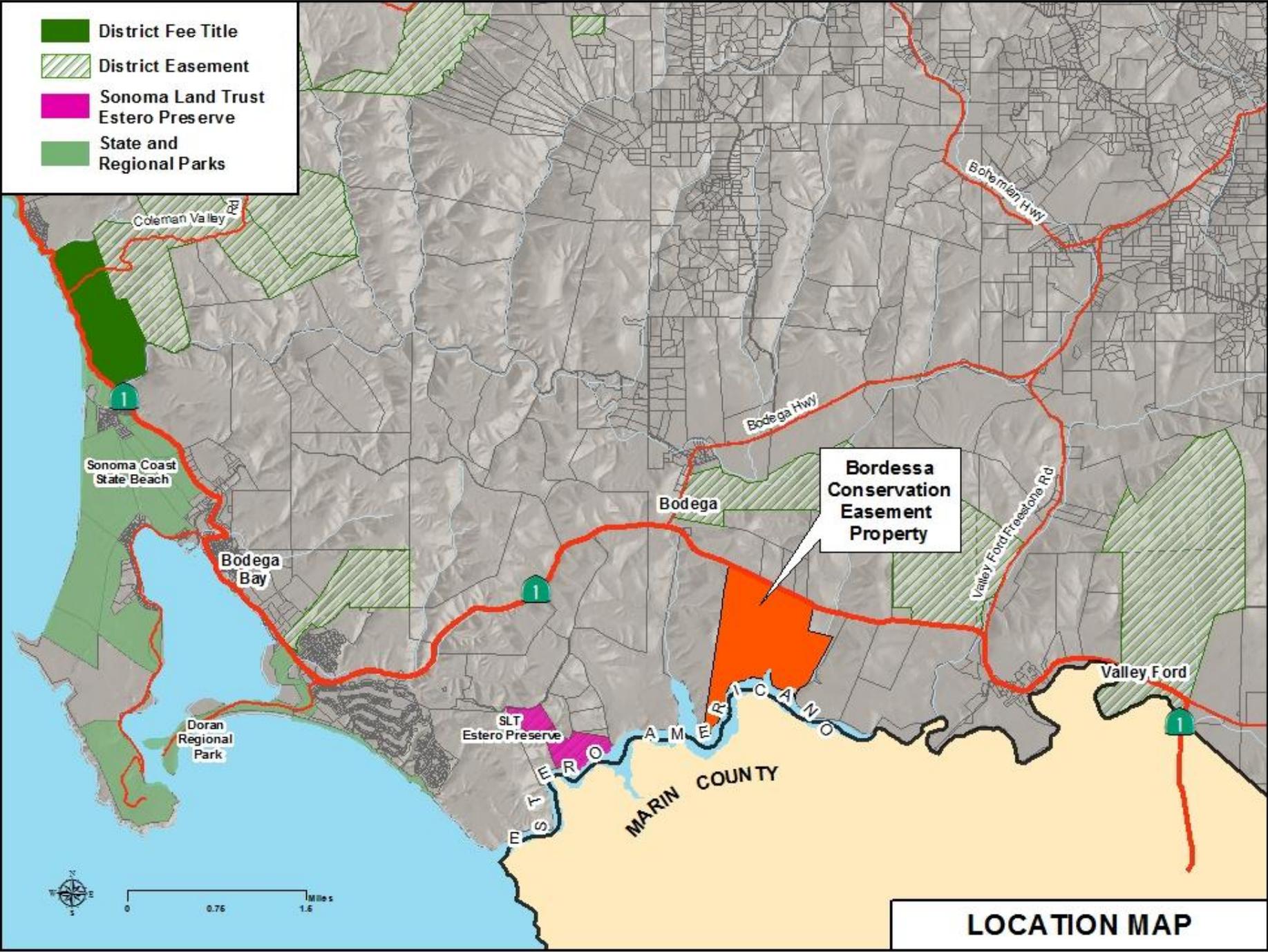


# Today's Meeting



- Purpose and Background – Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
- Trail Planning Process Update – Regional Parks
- Gather Input from the Community

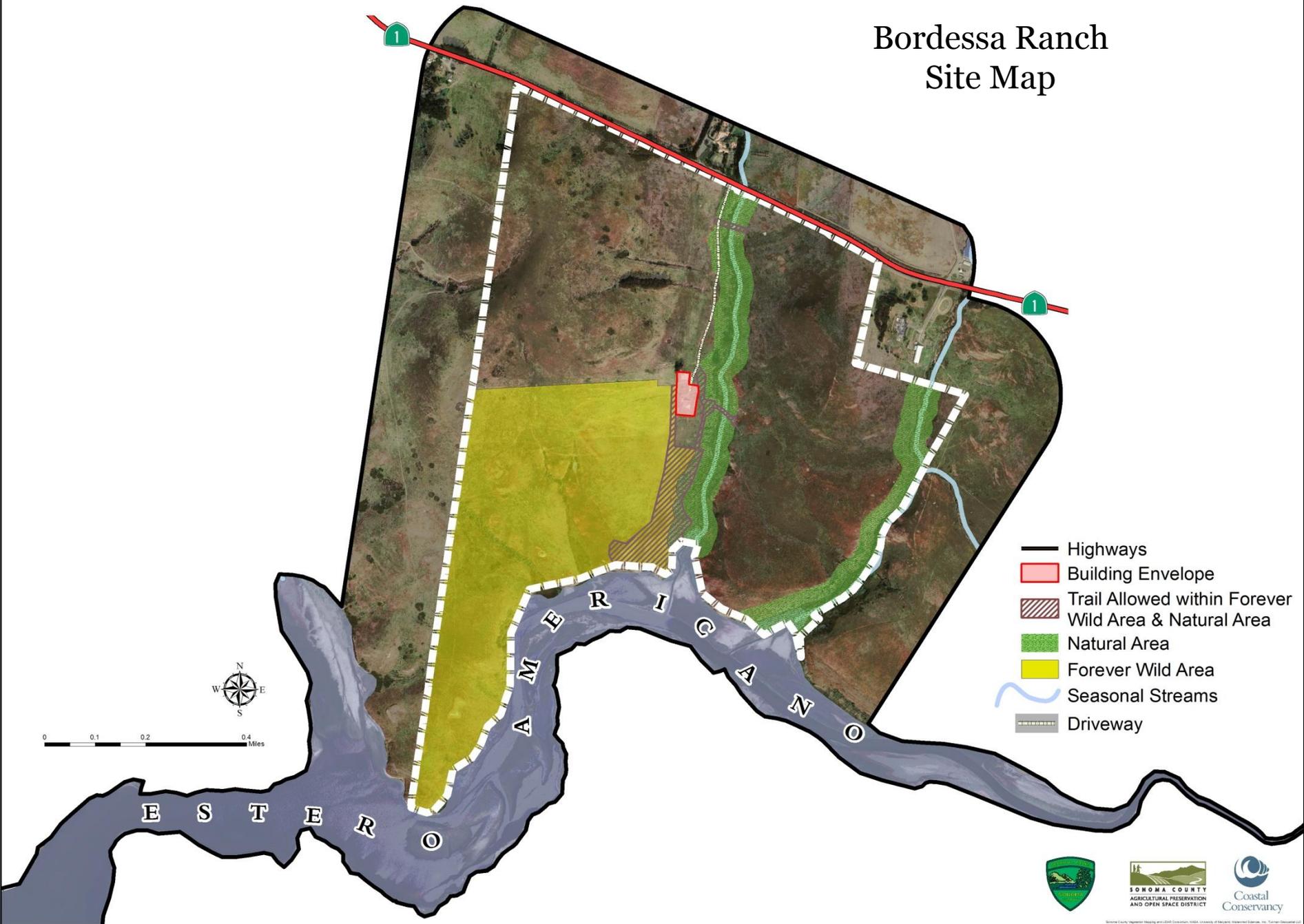
- District Fee Title
- District Easement
- Sonoma Land Trust Estero Preserve
- State and Regional Parks



**Bordessa  
Conservation  
Easement  
Property**

**LOCATION MAP**

# Bordessa Ranch Site Map



- Highways
- Building Envelope
- Trail Allowed within Forever Wild Area & Natural Area
- Natural Area
- Forever Wild Area
- Seasonal Streams
- Driveway



0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles



# Background: Conservation Easement & Public Trail



- 2010 District approached by the Bordessas about purchasing a Conservation Easement over property and including a public access trail.
  
- 2012 District prevented imminent subdivision of ranch through purchase of Conservation Easement for \$1.5 million
  - \$850,000 District sales tax revenues
  - \$650,000 Coastal Conservancy grant (requires public trail)

# Background: Conservation Easement



## ➤ Conservation Easement Description

- Keeps entire 495 acre ranch intact
- Promotes ongoing agricultural use on majority of property
- Protects important natural habitats (Forever Wild and Natural Areas)
- Requires development of Rangeland Management Plan (in process)
- Building Envelopes (2-acre agricultural, 1-acre residential)

## ➤ Conservation Values

- Natural Resources
- Habitat Connectivity
- Open Space and Scenic Values
- Agricultural Resources
- Recreation and Education

# Background: Trail Easement



## ➤ Trail Easement

- District acquired trail easement same time as Conservation Easement
- Provides public access for low intensity outdoor recreational and educational purposes
- Includes 2 staging areas, up to 5 miles of trail corridors (50-ft wide)
- Must not adversely impact natural resources and agricultural uses

## ➤ Location of Staging Areas and Trail Corridor

- Grant of \$50,000 from Coastal Conservancy to Regional Parks to develop a Public Access Plan for trails and staging areas
- Performing CEQA environmental review as part of process of designating locations of existing Trail Easement
- District to designate and survey precise locations of staging areas and trail corridors consistent with public access plan

# Trail Planning

## Project Goals

### ➤ Public Access to Estero Americano

- Historically Limited Access
- Nine Mile Coastal Estuary
- Unique Landscape
- Beautiful Vistas



# Trail Planning

## Project Goals

- Properly Manage for Compatible Use
  - Public Recreation
  - Sensitive Natural Resources
  - Grazing with an approved Rangeland Management Plan



# Trail Planning

## Project Goals

### ➤ Passive Recreation

- Hiking
- Birding
- Kayak & Canoe Access
- Picnicking
- Docent Led Tours
- Scientific Research & Observation



# Design Opportunities and Constraints



- Two Public Use Parking Areas
  - Area not to exceed 1.5-acres combined
  - One near Hwy 1 and one near building envelope
  
- Pedestrian Only Trail Corridors
  - Commence at each of the two parking areas
  - Not to exceed 5-miles in length combined
  
- Shared Use by Property Owner and Public
  - Hwy 1 entrance gate
  - Access road
  - Pedestrian use of existing ranch bridge

# **SITE ASSESSMENT**

Cultural Resource

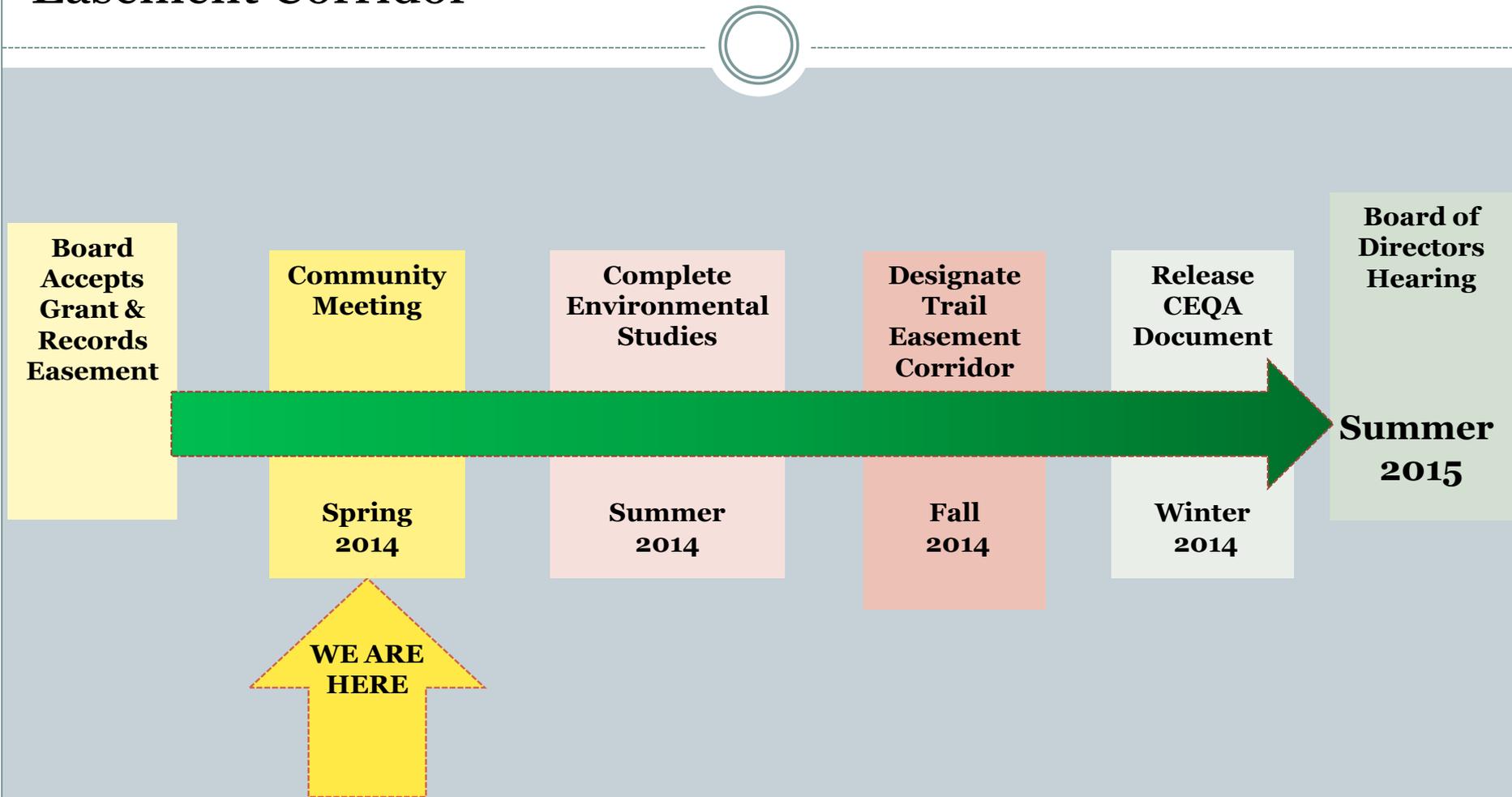
Access

Biology



- Cultural Resources Study
  - Tom Origer and Associates Study, April, 2014
- Access
  - Traffic study, to be completed
- Biology
  - Studies to date
    - Bird Species Study, February, 2012
  - Studies in process
    - California Red-legged Frog
    - Wetlands / Rare Plants

# Estimated Timeline for Designating Location of Trail Easement Corridor



# Community Input





**THANK YOU**