

# Monitoring No-Discing Ordinance in San Jose

*Dave Cook*

*Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society*

# The Ordinance

- **San Jose Municipal Code restricts any discing, plowing, or breaking soil on any property greater than two acres**
- **Enforcement of this ordinance is reactive**
- **Fines were \$25 until summer 2009, \$2500 thereafter**

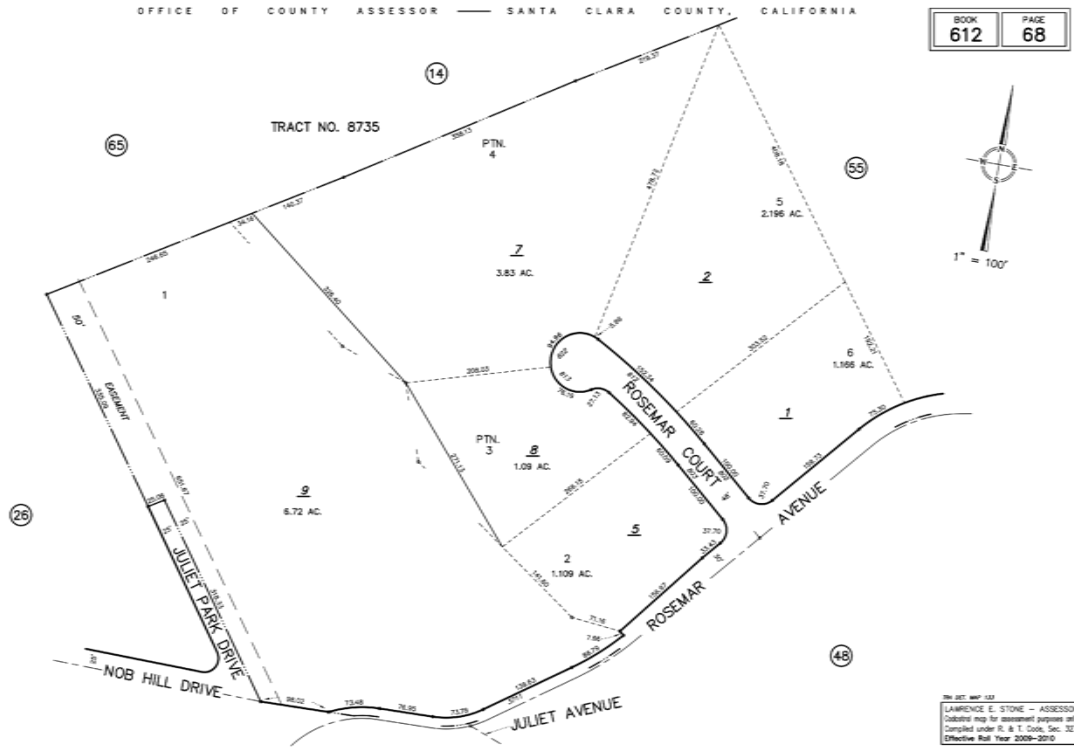
# Monitoring Discing In San Jose

- **Met with Planning and Code Enforcement, asked about nine properties mentioned by Jack Barclay**
- **Received a list of 384 undeveloped properties in the city – list originated from the city’s weed abatement program**
- **List included addresses and APNs (Assessor Parcel Numbers) for the properties**

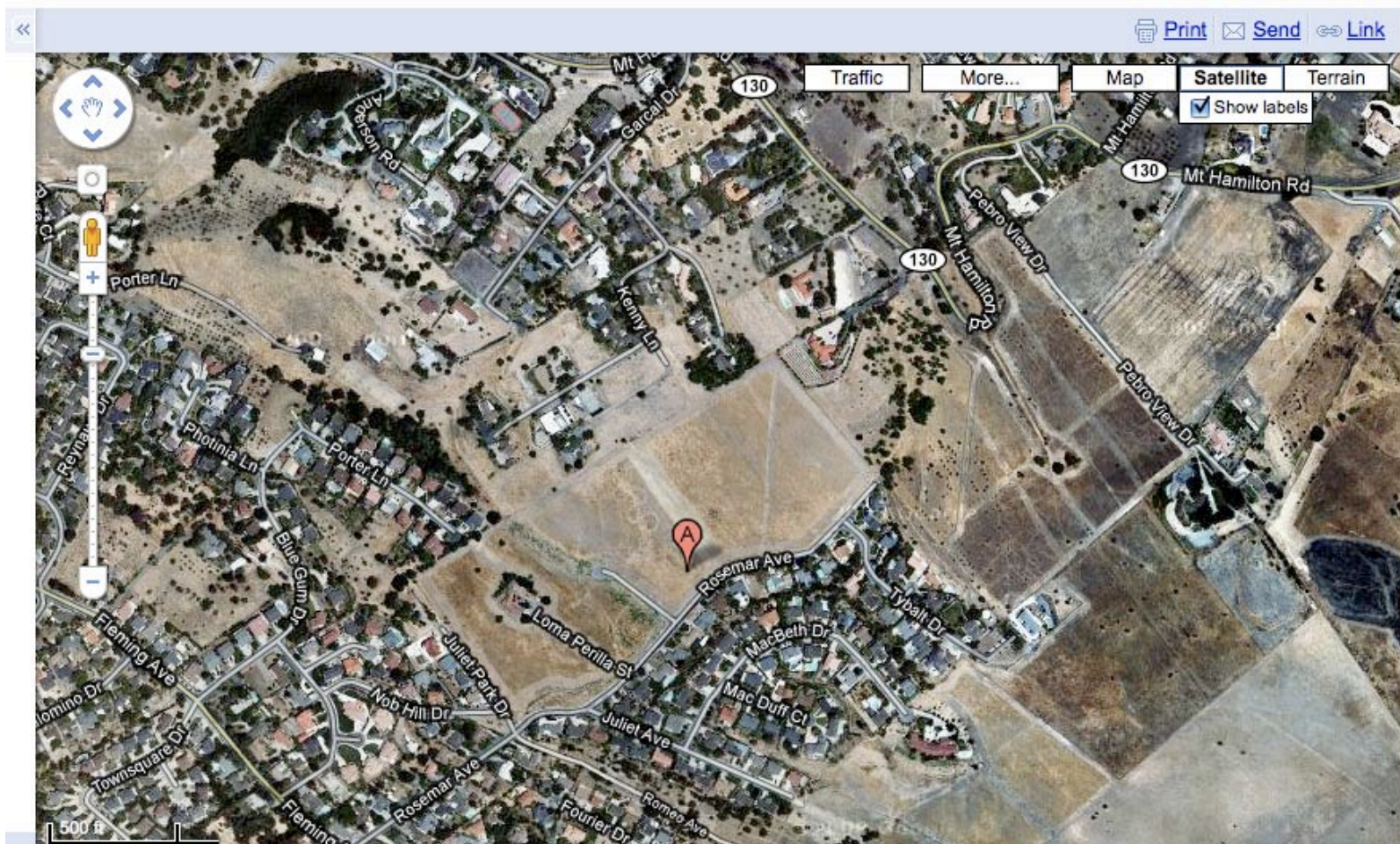
# APN and Address

- Each parcel of land in the city has an address and an APN – usually we can use either one to discover the other
- Knowing an APN allows us to find the size of the property
- Knowing the address allows us to get a view of the property on Google maps – assess habitat
- Knowing that there were/are BUOW on a property allows us to “flag” addresses and APNs for monitoring

# Parcel Maps



# Google Map



# Site Visit – Disced Property



# Reporting Code Violations

- **Provided city with APNs, Maps, Photos (evidence of discing)**
- **Registered letter, copy superiors**
- **Resulted in warning letters to violators**

# Monitoring

- **We continue to monitor for repeated violations or new violations:**
  - **Four field monitors**
  - **Monitor monthly Feb - Sept**

# Uses for Methodology

- Find where the owls are NOW
- “Flag” parcel APNs
- Monitor zoning, planning and code enforcement (weed abatement, Discing)  
to best use this tool