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SOLANO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

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PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREA (PCA) PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Solano Transportation Authority

One Harbor Center, Suite 130

Suisun City, CA 94585

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>STAFF PERSON</u>
1. SELF INTRODUCTIONS (9:00.-9:05 a.m.)	Group
2. PRESENTATIONS (9:05-9:40 a.m.)	
A. NCTPA’s PCA Program	NCTPA
B. Solano Land Trust – Past, Present, Future	Solano Land Trust
3. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO DISCUSSION (9:40-10:00 a.m.)	
A. Update on Consultant Selection Pg. 1	Drew Hart, STA
B. Recent Funding Activity Pg. 3	Drew Hart, STA
C. Priority Conservation Area (PCA) Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting Notes 04-23-14 Pg. 5	Drew Hart, STA

STA PCA PAC MEMBERS

<u>Matt Walsh</u> Solano County	<u>Dave Feinstein</u> Solano County Planning Directors	<u>Matt Tuggle</u> Technical Advisory Committee	<u>Vacant</u> ABAG or MTC	<u>Derrick Lum</u> Solano Farm Bureau	<u>Ron Lanza</u> Suisun Valley Growers
<u>Russ Lester</u> Agricultural Product Grower	<u>Craig Leathers</u> Large Post-Harvest Agricultural Processor	<u>Kathy Hoffman</u> Bay Area Ridge Trail	<u>Nicole Byrd</u> Solano Land Trust	<u>Bob Berman</u> Solano Open Space	<u>Vacant</u> Resource Conservation Districts
<u>Vacant</u> Agricultural Product Grower	<u>Shane McAfee</u> Greater Vallejo Recreation District	<u>Vacant</u> Solano Irrigation District	<u>Vacant</u> Department of Water Resources	<u>Vacant</u> Bicycle Advisory Committee	

**4. INFORMATION ITEMS – DISCUSSION
(10:00-10:30 a.m.)**

A. November Meeting Action Items

Drew Hart, STA

**B. ABAG Update of PCA Guidelines
Pg. 11**

Robert Macaulay, STA

**5. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS & FUTURE
AGENDA TOPICS
(10:30-11:00 a.m.)**

Group

6. ADJOURNMENT



DATE: May 28, 2014
TO: STA PCA Stakeholders Committee
FROM: Drew Hart, Associate Planner
RE: Update on Consultant Selection

Background:

On March 13, 2013, the STA Board approved \$1.175 million fund allocation for the County of Solano for the Suisun Valley Farm to Market Phase 1 Project and \$75,000 for the STA to develop a Solano PCA Assessment and Implementation Plan to refine the project opportunities within each PCA as well as identify any new PCA projects. On September 11, 2013, the STA Board unanimously approved the STA staff recommendation to establish a PCA stakeholders group, issue a Request for Proposal for the PCA Assessment and Implementation Plan, and authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with selected consultant for an amount not-to-exceed \$75,000.

Discussion:

STA staff received one proposal from a consulting firm to assist in the PCA Assessment and Implementation Plan. Staff members are currently reviewing this proposal and will further update the committee as the process advances.

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DATE: May 29, 2014
TO: STA PCA Stakeholders Committee
FROM: Drew Hart, Associate Planner
RE: Recent Funding Activity

Background:

Beginning this year, the State of California is consolidating multiple state and federal funding programs into one program. The Active Transportation Program (ATP) aims to promote the following objectives:

- Increase the proportion of biking and walking trips
- Increase safety and mobility for non-motorized users
- Advance the efforts of regional agencies to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals
- Enhance public health, including the reduction of childhood obesity through the use of projects eligible for Safe Routes to Schools Program funding
- Ensure disadvantaged communities fully share in program benefits (25% of program)
- Provide a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of active transportation users

Approximately \$120M will be available annually for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 (total \$360M). Applicants in our county will have two rounds of funding in which they can apply:

- Statewide competition: 50% (\$180M) – Applications were due May 21, 2014
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs): 40% (\$144M, of which \$30M will be available to MTC) – Applications due July 24, 2014

Discussion:

STA Board has approved a letter of support to the project applicants were both competitive and already designated as a Tier I Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Priority Project or Safe Routes to School Project. The following projects meet these criteria and are located in areas that influence existing or potential PCAs:

- Solano County Suisun Valley Farm to Market
- Solano County Vacaville-Dixon Bike Route

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The following is a compilation of the comments made from the PCA Stakeholders committee “Kick-Off” Meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2014:

- Introductions
 - Bob Berman announced that the Tri-City & County Cooperative Planning Group has been changed to Solano Open Space.
- Drew Hart presented purpose of Priority Conservation Area (PCA) Assessment and Implementation Plan.
- Question from Bob Berman: Is there a definition of what a PCA is?
- Robert Macaulay presented the history of Conservation Areas in Solano County.
- SB 375: Regional agencies such as MTC and ABAG need to work hard to reduce the air emissions of greenhouse gases. The bill mainly talks about doing urban development in urban areas. It said that the MTC needs to look at financial incentives for the maintenance of open space and resource production areas. It looked at preserving agriculture and farm lands and said transportation funds should be spent in these areas. When MTC adopted their current Regional or nine county Transportation Plan, they put in \$5 million dollars in to a pilot program split between the four North Bay counties; Sonoma, Marin, Napa and Solano.
- The Federal funds must be used for transportation resources. Examples of using the funds, improve a roadway to a parking lot for a trail system that goes into the open space. On the agricultural side, the Suisun Valley could have a series of bikeways that go around the Suisun Valley area. Solano and Yolo counties summits held have stated that post harvest processing is very important.
- Has the \$5 million been allocated? Part of the funds has been programmed for the Suisun Valley Project in Suisun Valley through the county. The smaller part has been programmed for this study.
- One Bay Area Plan that was adopted in July 2013 has an update process to update the plan.

- Nicole Byrd commented that the Solano Land Trust was involved early on. Solano Land Trust is now actively involved in trying to use transportation money to buy open space adjacent to Lynch Canyon, a very long drawn out process. Nicole stated the Solano Land Trust needs to look at the areas in Solano County and focus more on transportation, infrastructure and parking lots. She feels Rockville Hills project would be a good project to add. The ag area in the northeast needs to be looked at and identified. If processing is a part of it, is there a potential processing area?
- Matt Walsh commented that in 2007 when the PCAs were planned transportation was not a link at that time. He stated that some of the areas such as B and the boundaries to C on the map could be re-looked at. In the B area Matt stated it's probably all BLM land. Letter C on the map Rockville Trails Estates does fall within the general accepted boundary of Western Hills. He feels the boundary of Suisun Valley is off. Since 2007 there has been very little definition of what a PCA is. ABAG and MTC definitely want to have an agricultural link, an agricultural economy link, an infrastructure link, in addition to purchase of open space.
- Ron Lanza stated he is very biased to his area, Suisun Valley. He is very involved, concerned and excited. He feels the Suisun Valley Strategic plan that he was involved in was very well done. He further stated he feels the bike paths will be a huge asset to the Suisun Valley area. His concerns with cyclists in the area are sharing the road with ag equipment and crop spraying. Ron mentioned the busiest traffic area in Suisun Valley is by Suisun Valley Elementary.
- Craig Leathers commented that Campbell's has been placed in the north east ag zone. A lot of their crops come in from the Dixon Ridge area. The area is populated by bicyclists from the Davis area. There has been an ongoing discussion for several years in the Ag Advisory Committee meetings trying to find solutions to having ag and the bicycle community overlapping. Campbell's major concern with transportation development is the Pedrick overpass and the Pedrick Pass interchange. It is a main artery for farmers to move equipment over I-80. Pedrick Road is in very poor condition. Is it a county road or a city road?

- Russ Lester commented about getting back to look at the Dixon Ridge Specific Plan. Preservation of the large scale ag in that area so we can supply Campbell's with tomatoes. He stated there was a recent hit and run cyclist fatality in the area, the Ag Advisory Committee's biggest fear has happened. Situations such as moving equipment or product and encountering cyclists can be very dangerous. His biggest fear is the interaction with the cyclist may become more violent or antagonistic. The ag community is feeling the effect of the fatality. They have been cited because a group of cyclists got sprayed by one of their helicopters spraying crops. Concerned they won't be able to do the necessary practices to stay in business. The interface between ag and ag tourism is a struggle. What do we do to make it safe? What do we do to make sure we can continue to move product. Pedrick Road is a major road to get equipment and product from one side of the freeway or the other. He has advocated expanding Putah Creek Road to add bike lanes.
- Craig Leathers noted there is no maintenance of the existing bike lanes so the cyclists ride out on the road.
- Russ Lester commented that the cyclists need to honor the law and law enforcement need to enforce it. Bicycles run stop signs and are almost hit. Stevenson Bridge, the County is in the process of rehabbing the bridge. It has a very poor approach, more importantly; it's treated as a pedestrian bridge and is very narrow. A number of us have been advocating is to keep Stevenson Bridge as a pedestrian bridge but to construct downstream an actual improved widened modern bridge that can handle the weight of the trucks, the width of our equipment, etc. The north east area of Putah Creek Road, Pedrick Road corridor is important to the entire northeast Solano agricultural complex for the growers, harvesters and the processors.
- Harry Englebright commented about the General Plan update. When the update was done they identified ten agricultural areas and they each have their own needs and issues. Look at the General Plan and the ten agricultural areas, they each have priorities of some sort and they all will

have their own unique transportation issues. In terms of trails, the route of the Ridge Trail throughout Solano County there is certainly staging issues in Rockville Hills preserve that Nicole mentioned. In Hiddenbrooke which is in the process of being developed by the City of Vallejo and GVRD which would be a key staging area to the Tri-City & County open space area and the Ridge Trail. There's also a plan for Tri-City & County. The Bay Trail should be recognized. It not only connects to the Ridge Trail but also to the present project called the Vine Trail, which goes from Vallejo ferry terminal to Calistoga. The bike issues definitely need to be addressed.

- Harry Englebright reviewed the PCA map. He commented that the boundary of the Tri-City needs to be clarified. You've also included part of the north east quadrant of Vallejo, I think that's fine.

He would agree in terms of the hills which is shown now in C is Vallejo Lakes property. The City of Vallejo has been exploring the potential sale of some or all of the property to the water system. He would agree to adding Rockville Trails as part as that and Suisun Valley needs to be expanded. In area A you've also included part of the Rolling Hills open space area which is technically not part of the Vacaville/Fairfield greenbelt, Solano greenbelt. I would look at the agricultural areas that have been identified in the General Plan.

- Bob Berman commented that D is not the Tri-City County area. That is land that is already owned by the Land Trust.
- Derrick Lum commented about the cyclists and whether or not they should be policed like automobiles. He noted one of his ranches is in front of Rancho Solano and quite often he encounters cyclists breaking the law running the stop sign. Rancho Solano was built with the intention that residents would use Oliver Road but instead they're using Abernathy. When he is riding in his tractor on Abernathy, cars are cutting him off to get around him because they're late for work. Another area I encounter problems with autos is by Suisun Valley Elementary. Can ag and the public mix with all of the traffic? Can the public drive to the Suisun Amtrak station and then be transported to Suisun Valley alleviating the number of vehicles being driven. He believe

our area is poised well for the people of the Bay Area to enjoy this. We must all share in the pot of money and work together to make it right.

- Bob Berman stated looking at the bigger picture, he agrees with Harry, we need to look at the Countywide General Plan and begin to designate what areas need to be protected, water shed lands, water shed properties, the delta and the east county. There are other areas other than the ag areas that need protection. One thing that is unique about Solano County is the separation between cities. Looking at the map is clear coordination with Napa County. Two of the PCAs go into Napa County both B and C. The Land Trust is already experiencing working with Napa, Lynch Canyon. Lynch Canyon backs up to Newell property which Napa is looking at opening up this property. I think there is something unique to be able to hike in to Solano County from Napa County and vice versa. We need to be coordinating with our Napa County neighbors.
- Russ Lester commented about the Rio Vista Montezuma Hills area and their problems with cyclists, tourism and Highway 12 going through and splitting their operations as well as the delta issues.
- Future Items: Presentation on Suisun Valley. The valley has a lot of the elements we've talked about; ag, county focus plan, bicycles, investments
- Update on the consultant
- How the plan should deal with the bicycle/agricultural interface

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DATE: May 29, 2014
TO: STA PCA Stakeholders Committee
FROM: Robert Macaulay, Planning Director
RE: ABAG Update of PCA Guidelines

Background:

Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) were created by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) in 2007. The process of proposing, defining and receiving designation for PCAs was not rigorously defined at that time, and no funding was available for PCA projects.

Discussion:

As part of the development and adoption of Plan Bay Area, the Sustainable Community Strategy for the 9 Bay Area counties, funding for projects and planning for PCAs was made available. ABAG has concluded that the criteria for PCAs is due for an update, and has begun that process.

On April 2, 2014, ABAG released preliminary updated guidelines (Attachment A) for PCAs, including more detailed definitions and examples of each type of PCA. These guidelines have not yet been adopted by ABAG, and will undergo at least one more public review. Solano Transportation Authority (STA) staff submitted comments on the draft guidelines, and received an initial response from ABAG staff. The comments and response are included as Attachment B.

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ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS



Date: April 2, 2014
 To: Regional Planning Committee
 From: Laura Thompson and Mark Shorett ABAG staff
 Subject: **Priority Conservation Area Program Update**

Summary

Staff is requesting that the RPC recommend that the Executive Board adopt an updated application process and criteria for Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs). This memo and its attachments provide context for the proposed update and introduces new application guidelines and criteria.

Background

The Priority Conservation Area (PCA) program was initiated in 2007 to identify Bay Area open spaces that: 1) provide regionally significant agricultural, natural resource, scenic, recreational, and/or ecological values and ecosystem functions; 2) are in urgent need of protection due to pressure from urban development or other factors; and 3) supported by local consensus. The PCAs were established at the same time as the locally nominated Priority Development Areas (PDAs) through the FOCUS program. Together, the PDAs and PCAs have informed the development of Plan Bay Area and implementation initiatives such as the One Bay Area Grant (OBAG).

The PCA program helped spur collaboration between local governments, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations to nominate more than 100 PCAs. Nominations were reviewed by staff, regional committees, and local governments. The ABAG Executive Board adopted the first set of PCAs on July 17, 2008.

The first PCA projects were funded in 2013 and 2014 through OBAG. OBAG provided \$5 million in funding for a competitive program in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties managed by the Coastal Conservancy. Another \$5 million in OBAG funding was divided between the North Bay county Congestion Management Agencies—each of which managed its own program.

During meetings in 2012 and 2013, the ABAG Regional Planning Committee and Executive Board requested that staff revise the PCA program to provide greater specificity about the qualities and function of different types of PCAs—using an approach more in line with the Place Types utilized to categorize PDAs. In addition, RPC and Executive Board members stressed the importance of urban parks and green spaces. This feedback was formalized in Plan Bay Area, which directs staff to update the program to define the role of different kinds of PCAs and ensure that local jurisdictions are consulted on updates to individual PCAs.

PCA Program Update

As part of the broader Plan Bay Area Implementation effort, over the past six months ABAG staff worked with local jurisdictions, the ABAG administrative committee and stakeholders to develop a proposed PCA program update. The update addresses the Open Space and Farmland implementation area. The attachments to this memo provide more detailed guidelines for PCA nominations, review and adoption. These are summarized below.

Updated PCA Application Process and Requirements (Attachment 2)

The proposed application process requires that PCA nominations include:

- 1) An adopted resolution of support from the jurisdiction(s) in which it is located
- 2) A map and text describing the general area and boundaries of the PCA
- 3) Selection of one or more of the PCA designations described below and text and supporting text and data
- 4) Discussion of the regional and local importance of the PCA

Following feedback from the RPC, staff will provide a revised application form for adoption by the Executive Board and sample resolution to assist applicants.

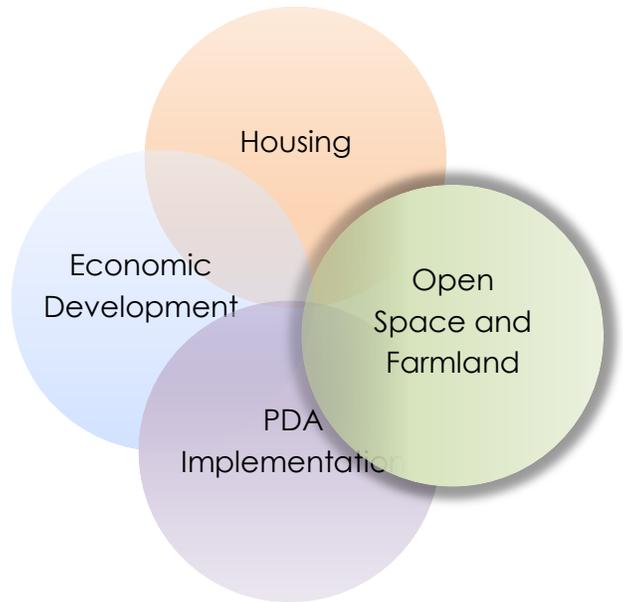
Sponsors of both existing and proposed PCAs are required to complete the application. Sponsors of existing PCAs can reference original applications to meet the first, second, and fourth requirements.

PCA Designations and Criteria (Attachment 3)

The update introduces four categories to recognize the role of different kinds of PCAs in supporting the vitality of the region's natural systems, rural economy and human health:

- **Natural Landscapes**—areas critical to the functioning of wildlife and plant habitats, aquatic ecosystems and the region's water supply and quality. Examples: wetland restoration, riparian corridor protection.
- **Agricultural Lands**—farmland, grazing land and timberland that support the region's agricultural economy and provide additional benefits such as habitat protection and carbon capture. Example: conservation easements.
- **Urban Greening**—existing and potential green spaces in cities that improve community health, capture carbon emissions, address stormwater, and enhance the public realm.

Figure 1. **Plan Bay Area Implementation Focus Areas**



Example: urban portion of riparian corridors, potential sites for parks and community gardens.

- **Regional Recreation**—existing and potential regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities. Examples: regional trail networks, areas for potential regional park expansion.

Benefits and potential co-benefits are identified for each designation (i.e. wildlife and plant habitat, agricultural economy). Applicants are required to discuss how the PCA provides these benefits—referencing data and maps. ABAG will provide resources (e.g. maps, databases, etc) to assist applicants in this process, drawing upon data published by federal and state sources as well as scientific research.

Timeline for New and Updated PCA Applications

April 2014: PCA Program update—including Application Process and PCA Designations—recommended by the RPC to the Executive Board for adoption.

May 2014: PCA Program update adopted by Executive Board.

June 1, 2014: Beginning of PCA application period. New and existing PCAs must submit application. Existing PCAs can reference portions of previous PCA applications (i.e. adopted resolution of support by local jurisdiction) to meet relevant requirements.

May 30, 2015: Deadline for PCA applications. Existing PCA designations will be removed if no application has been filed.

June 2015: Following staff review, RPC recommends PCA nominations to the Executive Board for adoption

July 2015: Executive Board adopts PCA nominations recommended for adoption by the RPC.

Future funding sources

The PCA update does not address funding. However, the designations are designed to position PCAs for both cross-cutting and targeted funding sources. For example, an urban greening and a regional recreation project might be eligible for different sources of targeted grant funding, but both may be eligible for a broad funding source supporting projects that improve public health while creating green space.

Attachments

Attachment 1: PCA Program Overview

Attachment 2: Updated PCA Application Process and Requirements

Attachment 3: Proposed PCA Designations

ATTACHMENT 1: OVERVIEW OF CURRENT PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS

Overview of Current Priority Conservation Areas

There are currently 101 Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) throughout the Bay Area. The PCAs were nominated by jurisdictions, park and open space districts and non-profit organizations. The first 98 were adopted by the ABAG Executive Board in 2008 and three additional PCAs adopted earlier in December 2013 as part of applications for One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) funding.

The intent of the PCA program is to identify Bay Area open spaces that: 1) provide regionally significant agricultural, natural resource, scenic, recreational, and/or ecological values and ecosystem functions; and 2) are in urgent need of protection due to pressure from urban development or other factors; 3) and are supported by local consensus. The PCAs are envisioned as a framework for directing future regional funding for acquiring open space and conservation easements.

Most PCAs were nominated by local jurisdictions, park districts, or open space districts. A handful were nominated by non-profit organizations such as land trusts. The majority are natural resource or regional recreation areas, with a smaller number of agricultural areas and urban greenways and riparian corridors.

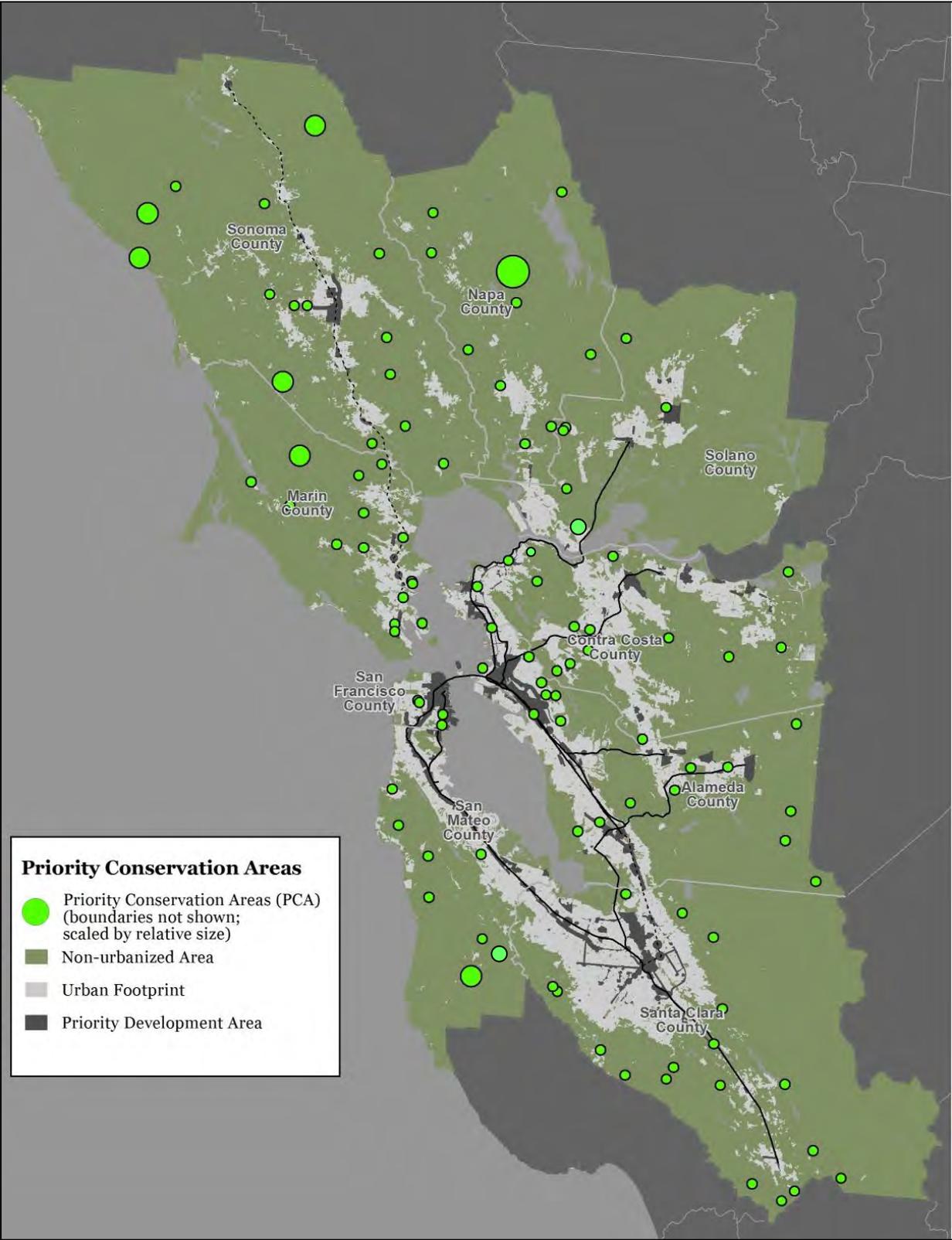
Map 1 shows PCAs throughout the region. The size of the dots representing each PCA reflects its relative size in acres. Table 1 shows the distribution of PCAs by County.

Table 1. Distribution of PCAs by County

County	Number of PCAs
Alameda	16
Contra Costa	13
Marin	14
Napa	9
San Francisco	4
San Mateo	7
Santa Clara	17
Solano	5
Sonoma	14
Multi-County	2
Total	101

ATTACHMENT 1: OVERVIEW OF CURRENT PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS

Map 1. Bay Area Priority Conservation Areas



ATTACHMENT 2: PCA APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

Updated PCA Nomination Process and Requirements

This attachment outlines the steps required for Priority Conservation Area nominations. Following adoption by the RPC, staff will formalize this proposed process into an updated application form for adoption by the Executive Board. The form will be posted to the ABAG website and disseminated to local jurisdictions and stakeholders.

1. Complete Application Form

Each applicant must complete a full application including the following sections:

Area Information

- Proposed Name
- Description
- Location (include map and text description)
- Acreage

Sponsor(s)

- Lead jurisdiction/district/organization and staff contact
- Partner jurisdiction(s)/district(s)/organization(s) and staff contact

Eligibility

- Adopted resolution from City Council or Board of Supervisors of jurisdiction in which PCA is located
- PCA Type Designation
 - Selected Designation (Natural Resource Lands, Agricultural Lands, Urban Greening, or Regional Recreation)
 - Text, data and/or maps demonstrating how the PCA will provide the primary benefit of the relevant designation, as well as any additional co-benefits (*as determined by applicant*)

Attachments

- Copy of adopted City Council or Board of Supervisors resolution of support
- If any, support letters from partner agencies and organizations (*not required*)
- If any, additional data, mapping, supportive local policies or other materials documenting eligibility (*not required*)

2. Submit application to ABAG staff for review

Applicants must submit the completed application to ABAG staff for review. Relevant staff will be posted on the ABAG website and noted on the application form. Staff will contact the applicants with any questions or requests for additional information.

3. PCA Adoption

After confirming eligibility, staff will submit a recommendation to the ABAG Executive Board to adopt the PCA.

ATTACHMENT 2: PCA APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

Clarifications

- **Land Use Control.** Adoption of a PCA does not change the zoning, general plan designation, or other land use designation of the geographic area encompassed by the PCA. Local jurisdictions retain full control over land use decisions. ABAG does not have authority over land use.
- **Eligible Applicants.** Non-profit organizations, park districts, open space districts, and other entities can submit a PCA application as long as it includes an adopted resolution from the City Council or Board of Supervisors in which the PCA is located.
- **Removing or Modifying PCAs.** Jurisdictions seeking to remove an existing PCA do not need to take any action other than choosing not to submit a new application for that PCA.

ATTACHMENT 3: PROPOSED PCA DESIGNATIONS

Priority Conservation Area Designations

This attachment introduces four Priority Conservation Area (PCA) designations and a set of measurable benefits provided by the PCAs.

Designations describe the primary function of a PCA. In some cases, PCAs with different designations include the same geographic area. For example, a riparian corridor designated as a Natural Landscape PCA may cross an Agricultural Lands PCA and Regional Recreation PCA.

Benefits describe specific types of habitats, health outcomes, and other objectives that the designated PCAs support. Each benefit is accompanied by at least one criterion as well as data sources for evaluating whether or not the PCA meets the criterion. Many PCAs will provide additional benefits beyond the primary ones listed for its designation. These are captured as co-benefits. Proposed PCAs are not required to list co-benefits, but these help describe its full impact.

Table 1. Summary of Priority Conservation Area Designations

PCA Designation	Primary Benefit(s)	Potential Co-Benefits	Examples
Natural Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrestrial (Land) Ecosystems • Aquatic Ecosystems • Water Supply and Quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate and Resilience • Compact Growth • Recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical habitat areas • Wetlands targeted for restoration • Riparian Corridors • Watershed land protection
Agricultural Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Resources • Agricultural Economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Habitat • Water Supply and Quality • Recreation • Climate and Resilience • Compact Growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland or grazing land • Timberlands
Urban Greening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health • Recreation • Climate and Resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Habitat • Water Supply and Quality • Recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential “edible park” sites (park + community garden) • Urban forest areas • Urban portion of riparian corridor

ATTACHMENT 3: PROPOSED PCA DESIGNATIONS

Regional Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Habitat • Water Supply and Quality • Climate and Resilience • Community Health • Compact Growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional trail network • Potential regional park sites
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Table 2: Priority Conservation Area Benefits and Criteria

Benefit	Criteria Required and (<i>Optional</i>)	Data Sources for Evaluation
Terrestrial (Land) Ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Essential, 2. Important, 3. Fragmented, or 4. For Further Consideration; or • Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage • (<i>Protects Other Critical Habitat</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Lands Network (CLN) http://www.bayarealands.org/explorer/
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USFWS Critical Habitat Portal http://ecos.fws.gov/crithab/ • Locally identified data
Aquatic (Water) Ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals; or • Protects subtidal Habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals; or • Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN • (<i>Protects Other Important Features</i>) e.g. <i>Nationally Important Marine Features</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EcoAtlas http://www.ecoatlas.org/regions/coregion/bay-delta • Conservation Lands Network (CLN) http://www.bayarealands.org/explorer/ • Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration
Water Supply and Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect urban water supply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reservoir Catchment Area ○ Aquifer recharge zone ○ Critical stream ○ Priority stream; or • Support watershed health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenbelt Mapper http://www.greenbelt.org/greenbelt-mapper/ • USFWS Critical Habitat Portal http://ecos.fws.gov/crithab/
Agricultural Resources and Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Farmland identified in Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program ○ Grazing Lands identified in FMMP • Supportive of local or state agricultural policy • Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands • Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenbelt Mapper, CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program http://www.greenbelt.org/greenbelt-mapper/ • General Plans/Other Land Use Plans • Greenbelt Mapper http://www.greenbelt.org/greenbelt-mapper/ • Local Data

ATTACHMENT 3: PROPOSED PCA DESIGNATIONS

Table 2: Priority Conservation Area Benefits and Criteria

Benefit	Criteria Required and (<i>Optional</i>)	Data Sources for Evaluation
Community Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to neighborhood parks in areas with high park need • Increase/complete urban tree canopy • Increase urban tree cover in areas expected to experience urban heat island effect • Supports Local Climate Action Plan/Greening Plan Goals related to Urban Greening • Increase tree canopy, food access, and/or park access in Community of Concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ParkScore® Index http://parkscore.tpl.org/ • Local Data/Analysis • Local Data (e.g. tree inventories) • Heat Island Effect Source • Local Climate Action Plans • MTC Communities of Concern http://geocommons.com/maps/118675
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Regional Trails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bay Trail ○ Ridge Trail • Acreage of regional park added • (<i>Local data sources</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenbelt Mapper http://www.greenbelt.org/greenbelt-mapper/
Climate and Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and/or Increase Areas with Carbon storage potential; or • Address Hazard Risk in Open Spaces (earthquake, flood, sea level rise) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenbelt Mapper http://www.greenbelt.org/greenbelt-mapper/ • Conservation Lands Network (CLN) http://www.bayarealands.org/explorer/ • ABAG Earthquake Mapping Update http://quake.abag.ca.gov/projects/earthquake-mapping-update/ • NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map http://www.csc.noaa.gov/slr/viewer/#
Compact Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces; • <i>Support stable urban edges</i>; or • Support adopted open space policy protection measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenbelt Mapper http://www.greenbelt.org/greenbelt-mapper/ • Greenbelt Mapper http://www.greenbelt.org/greenbelt-mapper/ • Local General Plans

Natural Landscapes

Description

Areas critical to the functioning of wildlife and plant habitats, aquatic ecosystems and the region's water supply and quality.

Primary Benefits

Terrestrial (Land) Ecosystems, Aquatic (Water) Ecosystems, Water Supply and Quality

Potential Co-Benefits

Climate and Resilience, Compact growth, recreation

Examples

Critical habitat areas, wetlands targeted for restoration, riparian corridors, watershed land protection

Resources

Conservation Lands Network

<http://www.bayarealands.org/explorer/>

US Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal

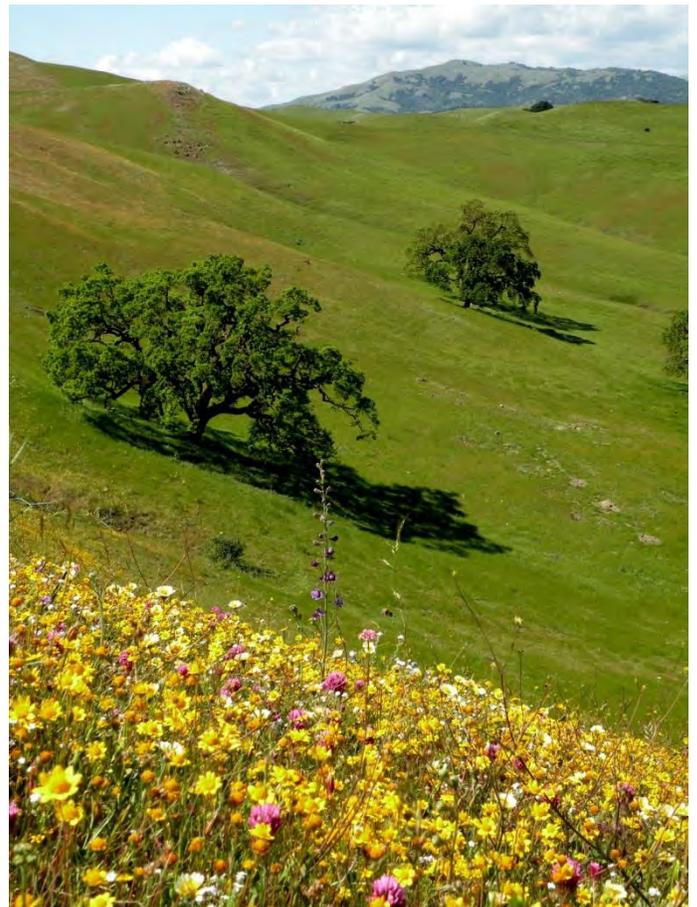
<http://ecos.fws.gov/crithab/>

EcoAtlas

<http://www.ecoatlas.org/regions/ecoregion/bay-delta>

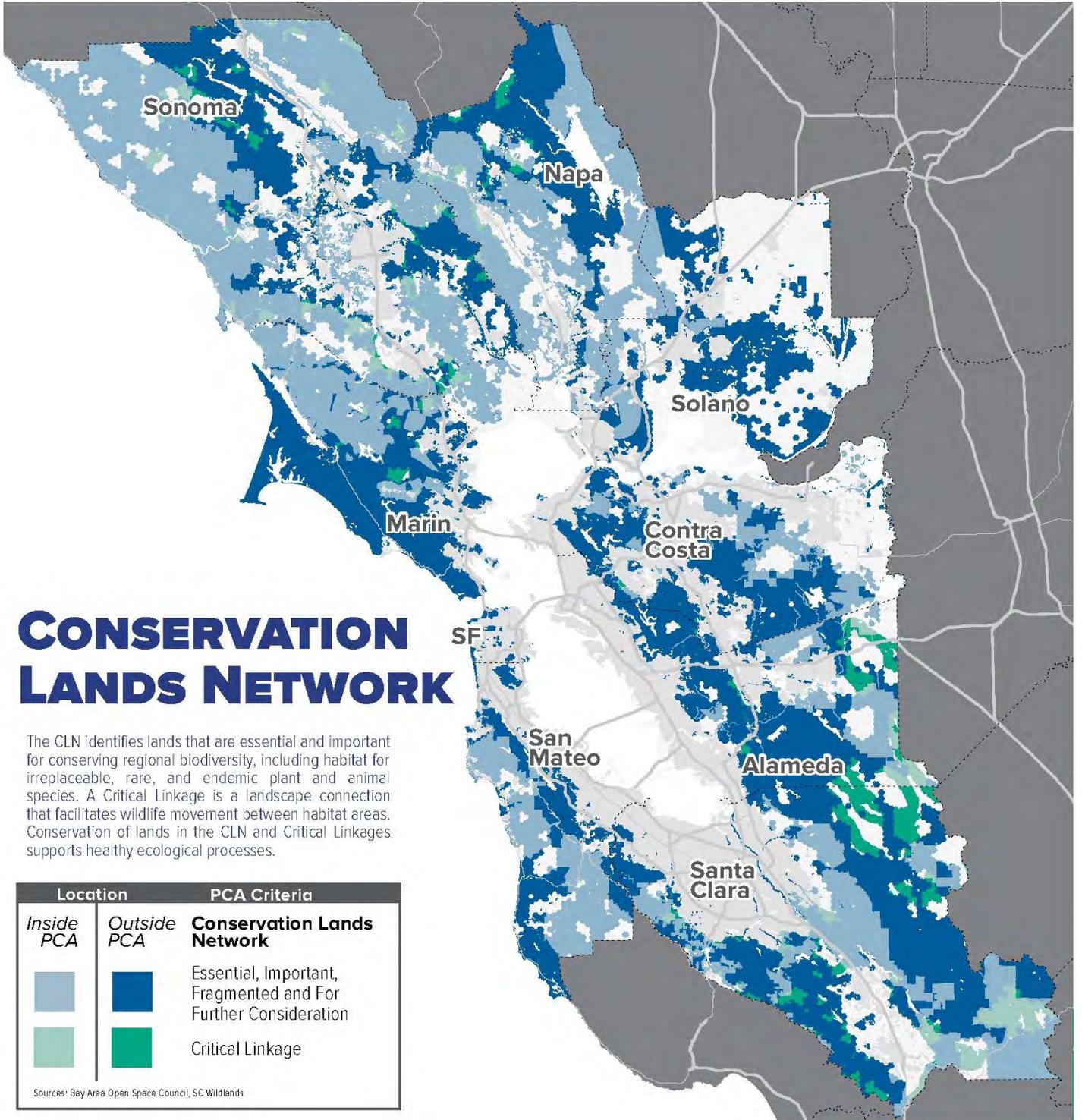


Oak Woodland and Pond, Sunol



Uplands Watershed with Wildflower Field, San Mateo County

Evaluation Resource: Conservation Lands Network



Agricultural Lands

Description

Farmland, grazing land and timberland that support the region's agricultural economy and provide additional benefits such as habitat protection and carbon capture.

Primary Benefits

Agricultural Resources, Agricultural Economy

Potential Co-Benefits

Wildlife habitat, water supply and quality, recreation, climate and resilience, compact growth

Examples

Farmland, grazing land, timberlands

Resources

Greenbelt Mapper

<http://www.greenbelt.org/greenbelt-mapper/>

Local General Plans

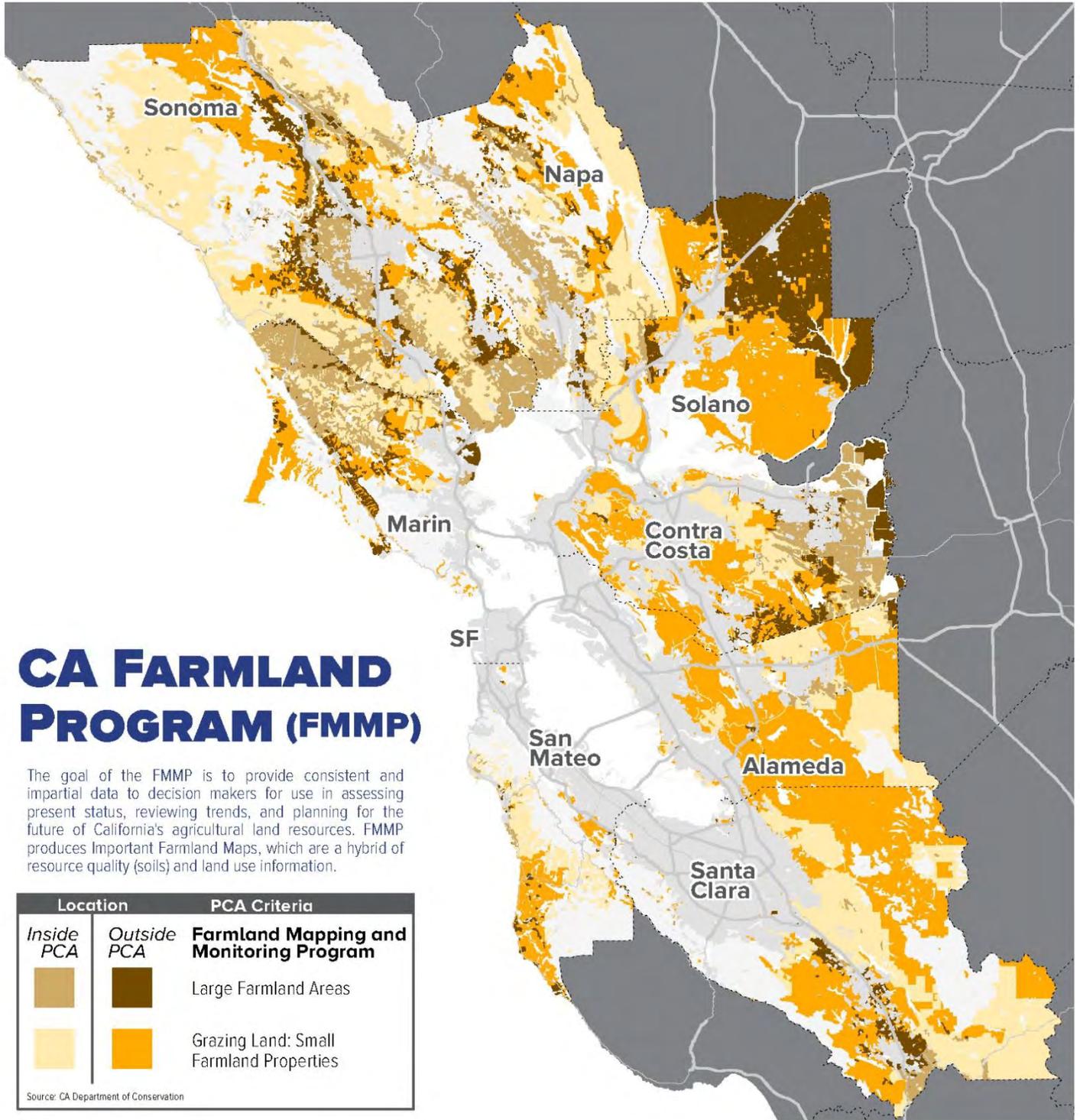


Grazing Land, Sunol



Chiala Farms, Morgan Hill

Evaluation Resource: CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program



Urban Greening

Description

Existing and potential green spaces in cities that improve community health, capture carbon emissions, address stormwater, and enhance the public realm.

Primary Benefits

Community Health, Recreation, Climate and Resilience

Potential Co-Benefits

Water supply and quality, wildlife habitat, recreation

Examples

Urban portion of riparian corridors, potential sites for parks and community gardens, urban forest and green street networks

Resources

ParkScore Index

<http://parkscore.tpl.org/>

Local Climate Action and Urban Greening Plans



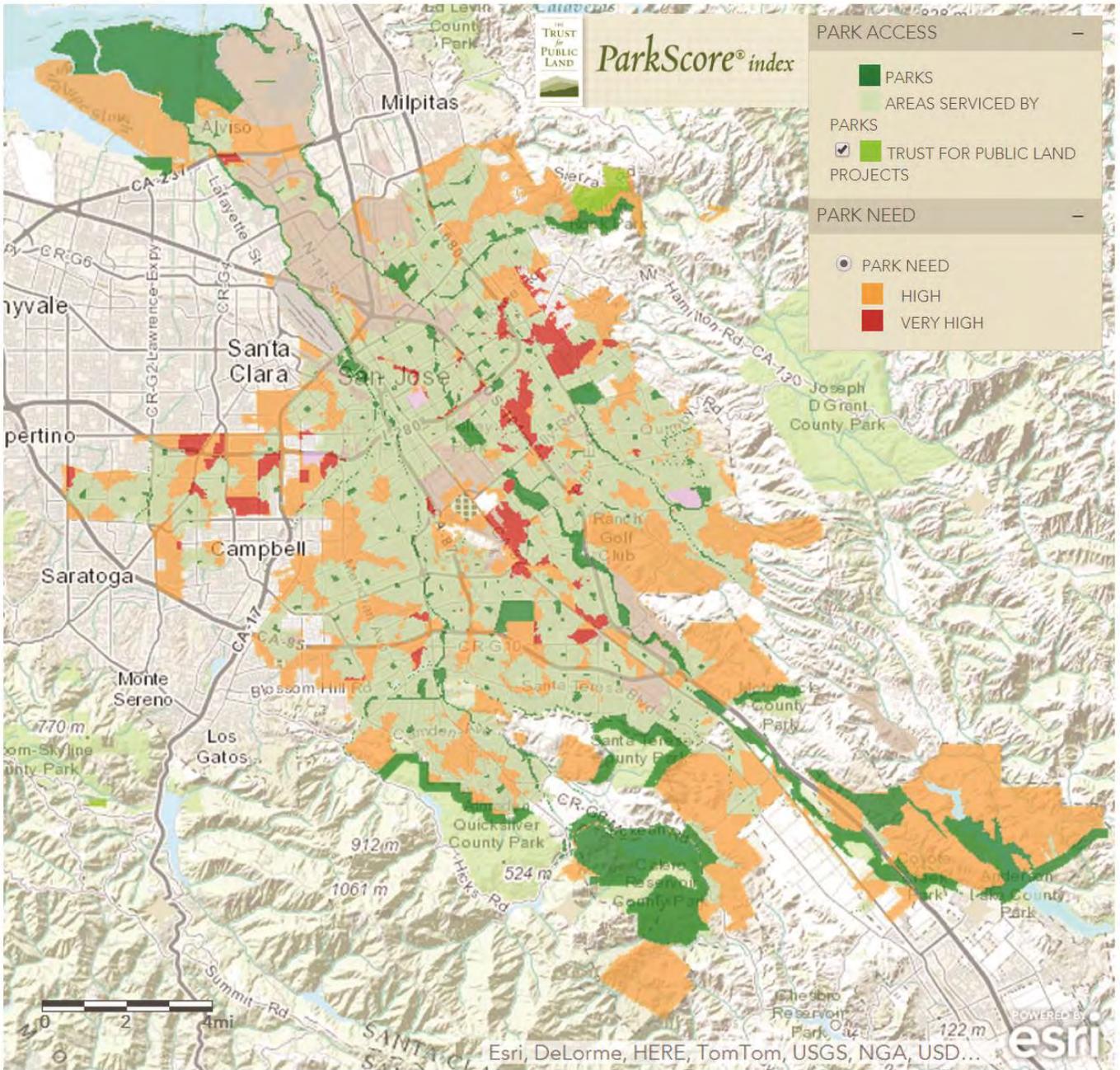
Urban Forest Expansion
San Francisco



7th Street Mural, Garden and Play Area
People's Grocery, Oakland

Evaluation Resource: Trust for Public Land Park Score Index

Park Need in San Jose Trust for Public Land



Regional Recreation

Description

Existing and potential regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

Primary Benefit

Recreation

Potential Co-Benefits

Wildlife habitat, water supply and quality, climate and resilience, community health, compact growth

Examples

Regional trail networks, areas for potential regional park expansion.

Resources

Greenbelt Mapper (Regional Trails)

<http://www.greenbelt.org/greenbelt-mapper/>

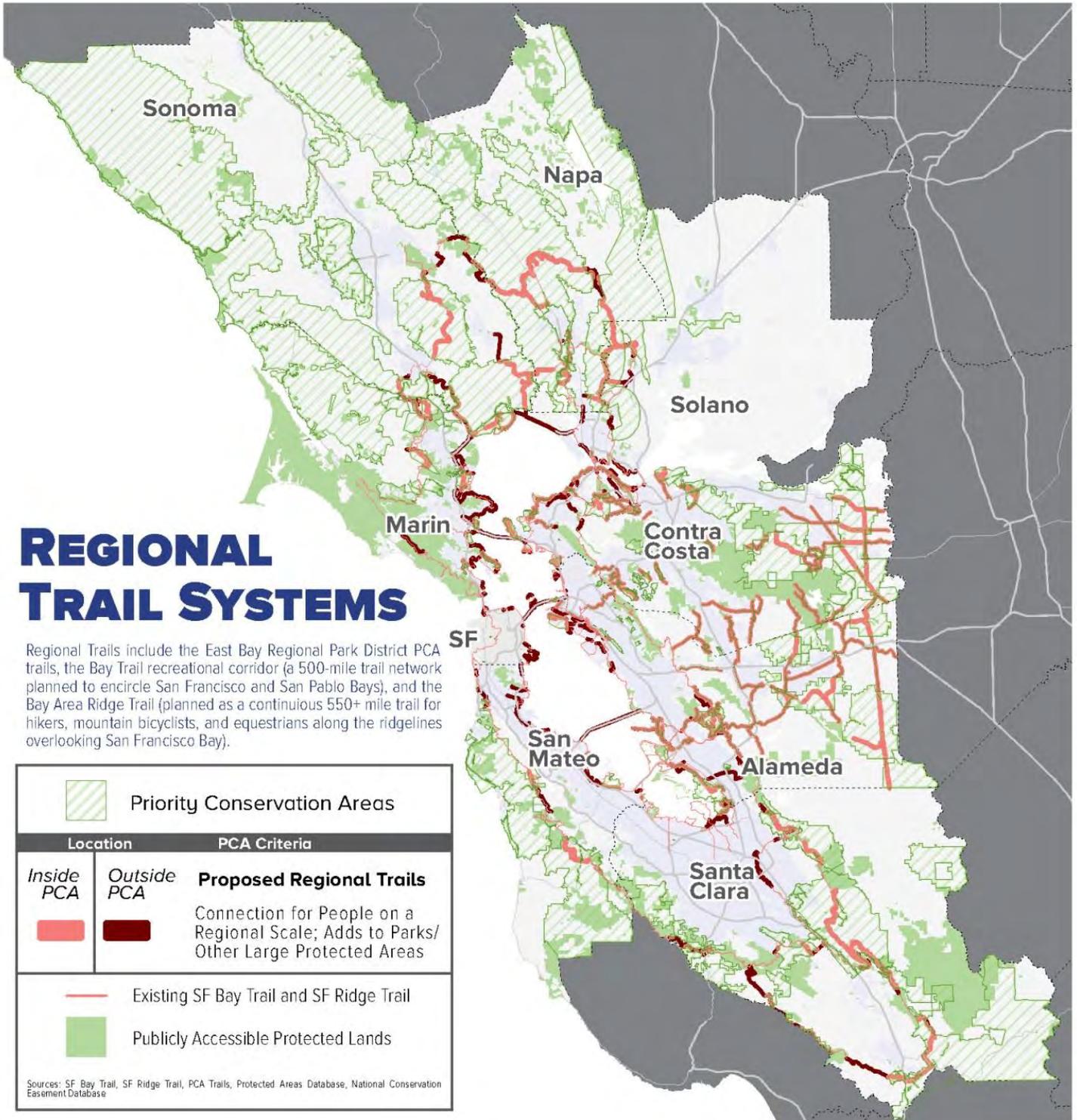


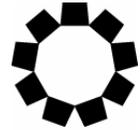
Bay Trail, Tiburon



Bay Area Water Trail

Evaluation Tool: Existing and Proposed Regional Trail Network (Greenbelt Mapper)





ABAG

Date: April 2, 2014
To: Regional Planning Committee
From: Laura Thompson and Mark Shorett, ABAG staff
Subject: Revisions to Priority Conservation Area Criteria

Requested Action

- Recommend the proposed PCA Program Update to the ABAG Executive Board for adoption, including each of the following: a) Application process and requirements; b) PCA designations and criteria; and c) timeline for new and updated applications

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STA E-Mail from Robert Macaulay, STA to Mark Shorett, ABAG:

Mark, I am basing my comments off of the April 2, 2014 ABAG Regional Planning Committee packet and its discussion of the proposed PCA guidelines.

- One overarching comment is to note that the PA program was initiated before SB 375, and therefore did not incorporate that bill's language or viewpoints into its content. In contrast, the PCA pilot program that is a part of OBAG was a specific response to the SB 37 language regarding financial incentives for the preservation of agricultural and open space areas. It is appropriate for both PDA and PCA guidelines to explicitly reference and tie in to this foundational piece of state legislation.
- This also means that the primary purpose of PCAs shifts away from those lands possibly at risk of development to those that provide for the long-term sequestration of carbon in open space areas and the local production of large volumes of food that do not require long-distance transportation before reaching markets.
- In addition, I appreciate the general statement that reaffirms that PCAs do not change any of the land use regulations that apply to the areas within the PCA boundaries.
- The PCA application requirements, including the local resolution of support, detailed mapping and specific place type, is an excellent addition to the PCA program. It adds a level of specificity that has been lacking, to the detriment of the program. It also furthers the goal of increasing the commonality between PDA and PCA programs.
- PCA Designations - These specific designations are also a needed aspect. However, designation 3 - Urban Greening - should not be included in the PCA program. PCAs are large scale areas of farmland and open space, rather than urban areas. SB 375's definition of farmlands, for example, covers areas outside of city limits. CMAs have the ability to use STP and CMAQ funding for projects supporting open space. The PCA program should remain focused on large-scale, non-urban open space and farmland areas.
- Table 1's description of PCA place type names, benefits and examples is a helpful tool in identifying what designation(s) a particular PCA should seek.
- I am concerned about the use of the Greenbelt Mapper tool and its incorporation into the PCA document. The tool is produced by an advocacy group that has, both in the past and present, not accurately characterized lands within Solano County.

ABAG E-Mail Reply from Mark Shorett to Robert Macaulay

Thanks Bob. As soon as it's ready, I will pass along the staff report for the next meeting, which attempts to address many of your points. In particular, we are trying to better address the relationship between funding and the designations. One of the goals of setting up the designations is to create a framework that captures the continuum of natural systems in the region (including urban greening--which is applicable to a number of previously adopted PCAs), positioning each designation for different types of funding sources with their own criteria. For example, the OBAG PCA funding (as you indicated) targeted preservation of agricultural and open space areas (and was most directly applicable to the Regional Recreation, Natural Landscapes, and Agricultural Lands PCA designations), while Proposition 84 funding (which may be renewed) included funding targeted at projects that would fall into the Urban Greening designation.