Solano Priority Conservation Area

Assessment and Implementation Plan

Solano Transportation Authority

Draft

June 2016

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1. Introduction

The development of Priority Conservation Areas (PCA) in Solano County—funded through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) Program—aligns transportation priorities with Plan Bay Area's land use and housing goals and in doing so, positions Solano County jurisdictions for future funding.

The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) created the PCA Public Advisory Committee (PCA PAC)—a stakeholder-based planning process—to identify project opportunities that enhance the County's already rich agricultural heritage, recreation options, and open space areas, and to identify potential new areas based on PCA Guidelines established by the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Solano County has a long-standing commitment to land conservation. The importance of agriculture and open space to Solano communities has historic roots and is entrenched in the daily lives of residents and workers. As early as the 1950s, Solano County participated in and spearheaded various efforts to ensure the continued protection and viability of its local environment, natural resources, and farmland. The Solano County General Plan affirms that approximately 70 percent of unincorporated land in the county is agricultural (329,000 acres), and 20 percent is comprised of undeveloped natural resources, such as marsh, watershed, or conservation areas.

The PCA guidelines set forth by ABAG provide an excellent avenue to build on conservation efforts in Solano County. By utilizing conservation analysis framed by ABAG guidelines and funding tools associated with One Bay Area, Solano County can position itself to easily fold new areas into its existing conservation structure.

Note that establishing a PCA does not change the zoning, general plan designation, or other land use controls or voter initiatives applicable to the geographic area encompassed by the PCA. Local jurisdictions retain full control over land use decisions, and the designation of PCAs may open up a variety of funding avenues for improvement and preservation projects in the identified areas.

Recommendations

The PCA PAC recommended nine areas as appropriate for designation as PCAs. This includes five previously adopted PCAs, plus four new areas which the PCA PAC recommended for adoption. The recommendations are based on conformity with the ABAG PCA guidelines criteria, the significance of the area, and identifiable projects with a high potential for future funding options. Although the PCA PAC recommended four new PCA designations, a land use authority, like a city or county, must be the nominee. At this time, no land use authority chose to nominate additional PCAs, therefore they will be studied and reconsidered at a future time.

The following is a list of the Priority Conservation Areas and potential projects (detailed descriptions in the section Conclusions and Next Steps) identified by the PCA PAC:

1. **Blue Ridge Hills | Adopted July 2008**
   The Blue Ridge Hills is an established PCA, and is part of the Vaca Mountain range bordered by the cities of Vacaville and Fairfield. It meets designation criteria under the Natural Landscapes and Agricultural Lands categories.
   Project: To be determined by forthcoming area specific plan

2. **Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill | Adopted July 2008**
   The boundaries of this existing PCA were adjusted with the recently adopted Fairfield Train Station Specific Plan. It was established to provide recreational opportunities and act as a community separator and buffer

between agricultural and urban areas in Solano County. The Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill PCA meets designation criteria under the Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, and Urban Greening (Compact Growth) categories.
Project: None identified at this time

3. **Suisun Valley | Adopted December 2013**
The Suisun Valley PCA was established in 2013 by Solano County. The PCA boundaries correspond to the adopted Suisun Valley Strategic Plan (2008). Solano County is continuing a history of strong protections for the important agricultural land in Suisun Valley and the important access it requires for economic vitality. Similar recent attempts across the country have been coined "farm-to-market." For Solano, this is not a new trend, but a continuation of a longstanding practice. The Suisun Valley PCA meets designation criteria under all four categories: Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, Regional Recreation, and Urban Greening (Compact Growth).
Project: Farm to Market Project

4. **Western Hills | Adopted July 2008**
The Western Hills PCA was established in 2007 by Solano County. The current planning effort modified the boundaries of the original PCA to match the boundaries of the Solano County General Plan Western Hills Agricultural Region, and to incorporate a portion of the proposed Bay Area Ridge Trail located north of Vallejo. The Western Hills region is primarily grazing land due to the steep slopes and soil types in the region. The Western Hills PCA meets designation criteria under the Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, and Regional Recreation categories.
Project: Rockville Trails Parking Lot and Staging Area and Potential Connection with Rockville Hills

5. **Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area | Adopted July 2008**
The Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area PCA was established in 2007 by Solano County. This PCA includes the Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area (Cooperative Planning Area) established in 1994 by the Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Group, now called Solano Open Space. The current planning effort modified the original PCA boundaries to match the boundaries of the Cooperative Planning Area. The Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area PCA meets designation criteria under the Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, and Regional Recreation categories.
Projects: Lynch Canyon Expansion and Trails; and Vallejo Swett Trails and Bay Area Ridge Trail Expansion

The following is a list of potential Priority Conservation Areas as identified by the committee for future consideration. Consistent with the above list, potential projects (detailed descriptions in the section Conclusions and Next Steps) are listed which were identified by the PCA PAC:

6. **Putah Creek | Potential Future Designation**
This potential PCA includes rolling farmland, wooded hillsides, and canyons along the Putah Creek watershed. The Putah Creek area is an important agricultural center for the community and contains some of the most valuable agricultural land in the county. The Putah Creek area qualifies for PCA designation under the criteria for Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, and Regional Recreation categories.
Projects: Putah Creek Road; Stevenson Bridge Improvements

7. **Dixon Agricultural Service Area | Potential Future Designation**

This proposed PCA covers a portion of the Dixon Ridge Agricultural Region identified in the County General Plan. It includes mostly flat, low-lying farmland used for field crops and several large-scale agricultural processing facilities. The area has multiple businesses that sell goods directly to the market including a produce market, pumpkin patch and corn maze. This area also includes land that supports the larger watershed. The Dixon Agricultural Service Area qualifies for PCA designation under the criteria for Natural Landscapes and Agricultural Lands categories.
Project: Pedrick Road Overcrossing

8. **Mare Island | Potential Future Designation**
   Mare Island is the oldest arsenal in the Pacific, and was closed on April 1, 1996. The Island is now protected under multiple layers of historical and environmental conservation. Over two-thirds of the area is either wetlands or inactive dredge pond, and nine percent has been designated for parks and recreational use. The Mare Island area qualifies for PCA designation under the criteria for Natural Landscapes, Regional Recreation, and Urban Greening categories.
   Project: None identified at this time

9. **Elmira | Potential Future Designation**
   Elmira is part of a distinct agricultural area to the south of Dixon and east of Vacaville. The Elmira area qualifies for PCA designation under the criteria for Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, and Urban Greening (Compact Growth) categories.

After each focus area and its benefits were identified, PMC prepared summary reports for each proposed PCA, consisting of a description of the area and its location, the criteria benefits it exhibits, and associated maps. The summary reports are presented in **Appendix 1**. These reports are formatted as PCA applications in order to streamline future submittal to ABAG or other grantor agencies.

The projects listed above are profiled in **Appendix 2**. As OBAG funding and funding from other sources becomes available to support these projects, STA will coordinate with lead agencies to use the information collected within this report to support grant applications.

2. Background

Conservation History

Land conservation has a long history in Solano County. The establishment of Resource Conservation Districts in Solano County was the first formal declaration of the importance of conservation. The Dixon Resource Conservation District was first created in 1952, the Solano Resource Conservation District was established four years later in 1956, and the Suisun Resource Conservation District was established in 1977. The districts were created by the State under the Public Resources Code, and their respective boards are comprised of local appointed or elected officials and citizens. Each of the three districts has a slightly different focus and approach to conservation within their respective geographic boundaries, but all work closely with other conservation and natural resource organizations, local governments, and landowners to accomplish their goals.

The adoption of acts and plans has also been a predominant shaping force for protection and conservation in Solano County. The Suisun Marsh Protection Act was adopted in 1974 to preserve the marsh from residential, commercial, and industrial development. It also directed the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to prepare a protection plan to preserve the resources and habitat of the marsh. In 1980, the County's General Plan Land Use and Circulation Element set forth the initial groundwork for urban growth without encroaching on essential agricultural lands. City-centered growth was emphasized and rural and suburban development could only be located in non-essential marginal agricultural lands. The White Slough Specific Plan was adopted in 1991. This plan laid out a long-range guide to the conservation, use, and management of White Slough.

Proposition A, passed in 1984, was one of the most influential actions to preserve open space in Solano County. It restricted urban development to the cities and disallowed leapfrog development and sprawl outside of municipal boundaries to preserve agricultural lands and open space between cities and enable agricultural industries in the county to flourish. Proposition A was set to expire in 1995; however, in 1994, the Solano County Board of Supervisors adopted the Orderly Growth Initiative, extending protections of Proposition A through 2010, and amending the General Plan to restrict development densities and to require voter approval of any proposed re-designation of agricultural or open space land use areas. The Orderly Growth Initiative was amended and readopted in 2008 under Measure T and now extends through 2028.

In addition to efforts directly undertaken by the County to preserve the natural environment, a number of other organizations support and facilitate land preservation, agriculture, and natural resource conservation. Solano Land Trust has been protecting natural and agricultural land since 1986, and holds or maintains multiple areas around the county, including 22,270 acres held in permanent protection. The Solano Land Trust also purchases conservation easements. It purchased land for the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge which was then transferred to the State.

In May of 1992, the Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo, and the County of Solano formed the Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Group, now called Solano Open Space, following the cooperative initiation of the Vallejo-Benicia-Fairfield Open Space Planning Study, which analyzed aspects of open space preservation and development in the area located between the cities ("Cooperative Planning Area"). Solano Open Space, composed of one elected official from each of the four agencies, is responsible for preparing, adopting, funding, and implementing a Regional Park and Open Space Preservation Plan in the Cooperative Planning Area.

In 2013, Solano County established a "farmbudsman" position. The farmbudsman acts as a liaison between agricultural businesses in Solano and Yolo County and the local governments. The farmbudsman aids agriculturalists to understand, obtain, and comply with required permits and standards, and facilitates projects and other agricultural endeavors. Since the farmbudsman position was established, the counties have seen significant increases in agriculture project approvals and jobs.

The Solano County General Plan of 2008 represents the most current and overarching effort to support conservation and agriculture within the county. Community pride and concern regarding preservation of open space land is woven throughout the General Plan, and is touched upon in multiple chapters. The Resources Chapter relates the importance of specific and area plans to continue guiding conservation efforts in designated regions, and reaffirms the desire to keep open spaces between the cities intact as community separators through multiple existing greenbelts and the Natural Resource and Agricultural Reserve Overlays.

Priority Conservation Area Program

The Priority Conservation Area program was initiated in 2007 by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) 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 region's long-range planning document – Plan Bay Area – as well as 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 in 2008. No resolution of support from the sponsoring agency was required, nor did the boundaries have to be well-defined. Additionally, no funding was attached to these designations. The ABAG Executive Board adopted the first set of PCAs on July 17, 2008. In December of 2013 the ABAG Executive Board adopted three additional PCA designations.

As shown in **Figure 1**, the PCAs in Solano County were established in 2008 and 2013 in five generalized locations:

- Blue Ridge Hills
- Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt
- Suisun Valley
- Western Hills
- Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area

Not shown on the map are the regional PCA designations created by ABAG including the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Both trail systems have alignments in Solano County.

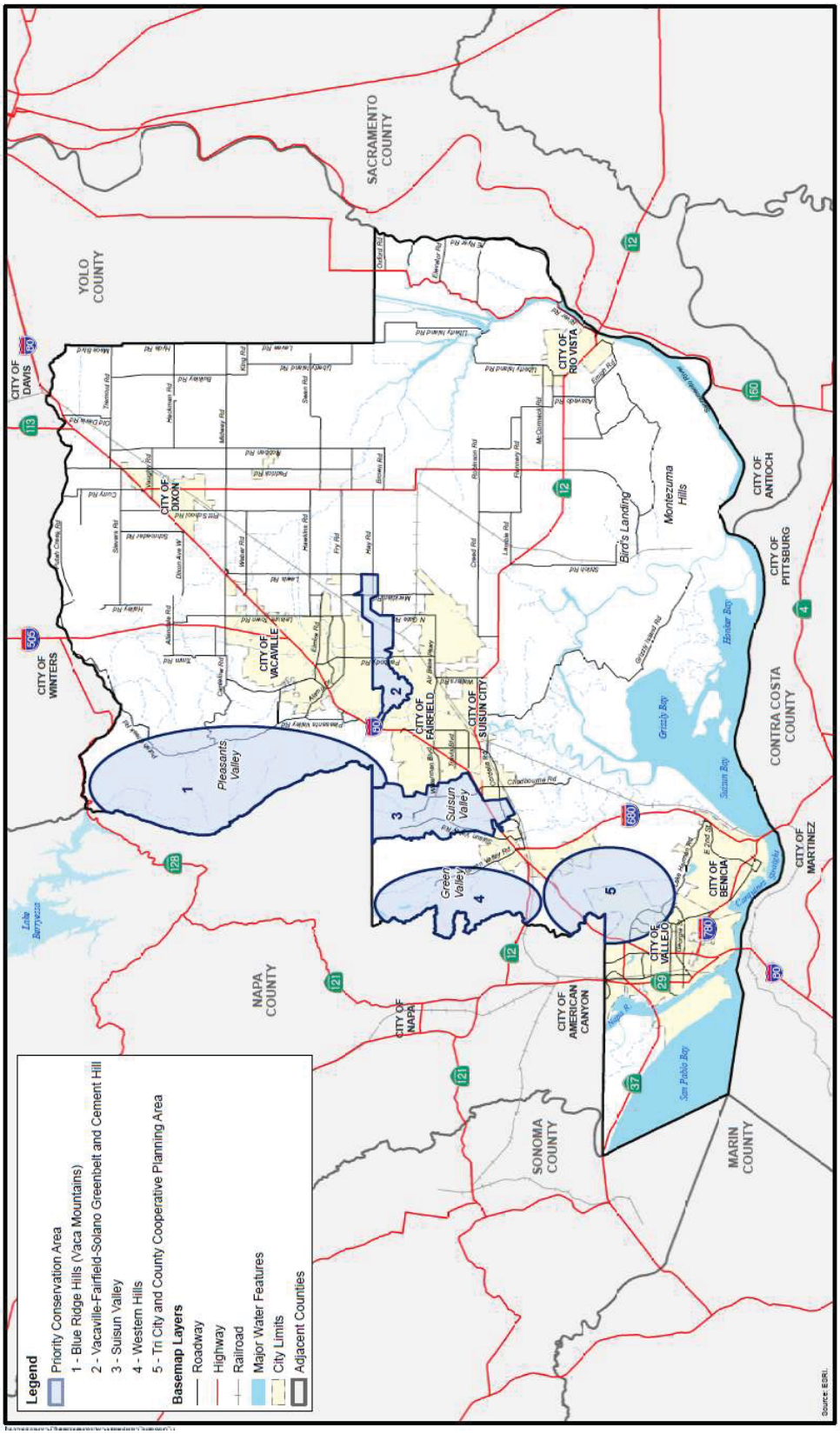

FIGURE 1: EXISTING SOLANO COUNTY PCAS

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PLAN BAY AREA

Plan Bay Area was approved in 2013 by the ABAG and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). It directs transportation and land use decisions through 2040 in the nine bay area counties. Plan Bay Area creates a regional, long-range plan that fulfills the requirements of California Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for strategic growth and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Plan Bay Area serves as the SCS for the nine-county bay area region. As a part of this directive, jurisdictions were given the opportunity to submit applications to MTC to designate both Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs). These areas act in a complementing fashion to encourage where growth ought to occur in the region and where open space should be preserved. To aid local jurisdictions in implementing Plan Bay Area, ABAG and MTC offer the One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) for qualifying planning and project efforts.

An SCS is a required part of a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in California, and works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light-duty trucks through sustainable transportation, land-use, and housing plans. MTC and ABAG must adopt an SCS that meets the greenhouse gas reduction goals set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). For the San Francisco Bay Area region, per capita GHG reduction goals are set at 10% by 2020 and 16% by 2035.

One of the most significant ways to achieve Plan Bay Area goals is through community designs emphasizing complete communities that provide homes, jobs, entertainment, and all other facets of daily life. Through a more compact method of development, Plan Bay Area aims to improve transit, reduce traffic, and create more walkable, affordable, and healthier cities, which in turn reduce transportation-based greenhouse gas emissions. This can be accomplished in part by establishing PDAs, which provide incentives to promote complete community growth in the future.

PCAs complement PDAs within the Plan Bay Area planning structure. A PCA is considered an important resource to the region, providing agricultural, scenic, or recreational value, or preserving essential natural resources. Together, PCAs and PDAs provide opportunity for development and growth while also preserving open spaces and agricultural lands and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Because the overarching goal of Plan Bay Area is to focus development around public transit centers and to reduce vehicle miles traveled, the local Transportation Authorities, including STA, work with cities and counties to identify areas that meet applicable guidelines and could apply for PDA and PCA status.

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 area boundaries, qualities, and function of different types of PCAs—using an approach more in line with the Place Types utilized to categorize PDAs. The update required applicants to define with greater specificity the role and quality of different kinds of PCAs. These updates, adopted in July 2014, provided greater structure to the program.

Under the new guidelines, PCAs must qualify under at least one of the four designations describing the primary function of the PCA:

- Natural Landscape: areas critical to the functioning of wildlife and plant habitats, aquatic ecosystems and the region's water supply and quality.
- 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.

- Regional Recreation: existing and potential regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.
- Urban Greening: existing and potential green spaces in cities that increase habitat connectivity, improve community health, capture carbon emissions, and address stormwater.

In addition, potential PCAs must meet criteria for habitat, health, and other benefits to be granted PCA status.

ONE BAY AREA GRANT

The first PCA projects were funded in 2013 and 2014 through One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) Pilot Program. 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.

As one of the North Bay counties, STA managed the $1.25 million. STA established the goal for this pilot funding cycle is to demonstrate to MTC and ABAG that Solano County has ideal projects that correspond with the intention of PCAs and to advocate for a permanent funding program for these types of activities. To achieve this goal, STA took a two part approach:

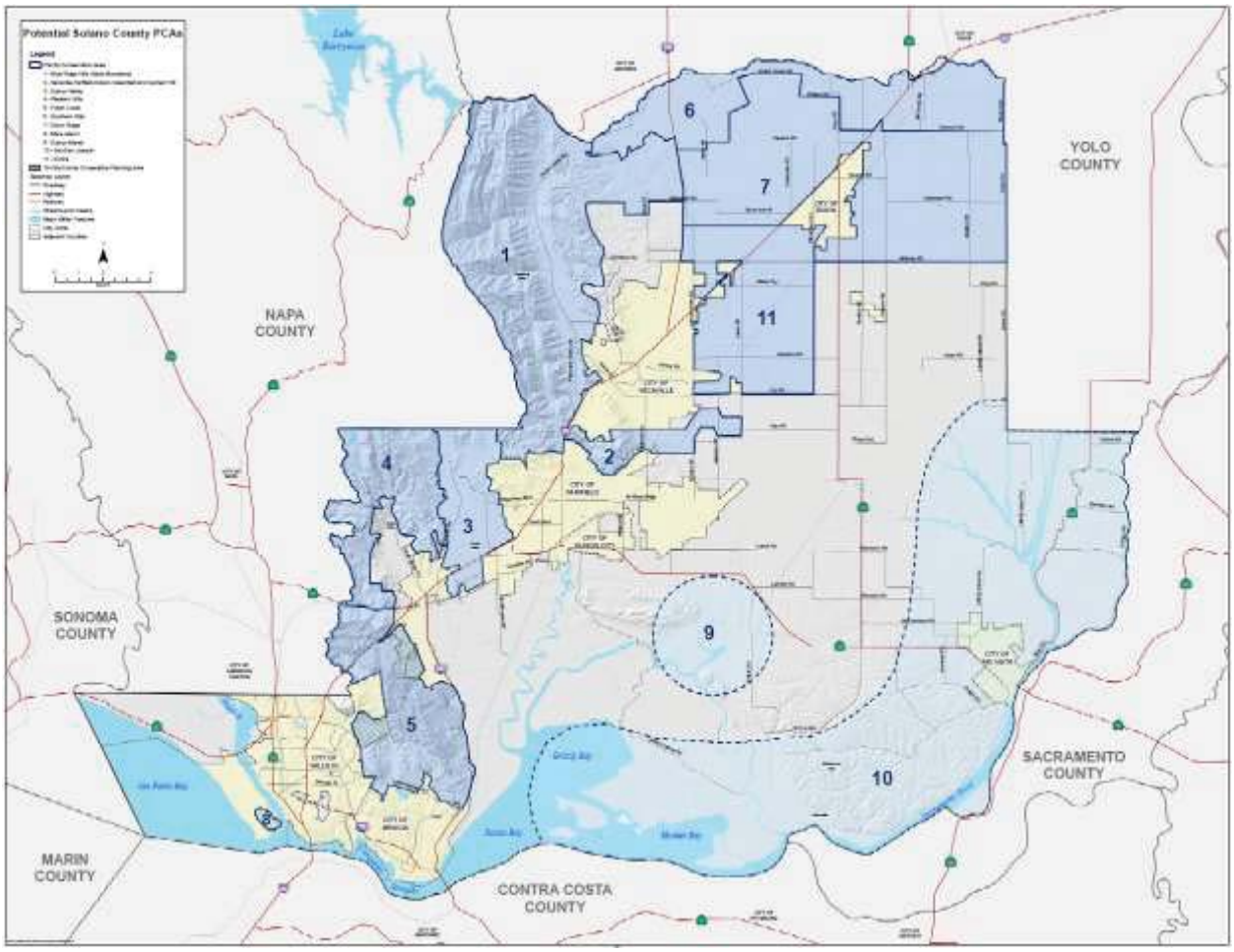
1. Initiate a Farm to Market/ Agriculture Preservation Capital Improvement Project; and
2. Develop a Priority Conservation Area Assessment Plan.

STA partnered with the County of Solano to identify an ideal capital improvement project for the PCA funding within the Suisun Valley. Solano County previously adopted a Strategic Plan for Suisun Valley to provide a vision and plan for the long-term agricultural and tourism viability of the valley. The Strategic Plan was adopted by the County Supervisors on February 1, 2011 as a follow up to their General Plan Update completed in 2008. STA recommended $1.175 million for the County to construct improvements identified in the Plan. The Suisun Valley Farm to Market Phase 1 project involves construction of bicycle and pedestrian improvements at Mankas Corner, Rockville Road, Abernathy Road and Ledgewood Road and a staging area. STA contracted with PMC (now Michael Baker International) to inventory and assess potential conservation areas including agricultural lands, natural landscapes, and regional recreation areas, and determine their eligibility for PCA status under the updated guidelines. PMC utilized planning documents from participating agencies, GIS data, and other relevant information to assist this process. STA also convened the PCA PAC to provide input and direction on the areas relative to both the ABAG criteria and potential community support. The main focus of the PCA PAC was to evaluate lands for their benefits and potential for future projects and funding, and to designate areas best suited for PCA status in the near and long term.

Over a six month period, the PCA PAC, PMC staff, and STA staff (the "Project Team") worked in an iterative process to assess the conservation benefits of various lands using the ABAG PCA Guidelines. This process, stakeholder engagement, and the technical approach are further discussed in the Methods section of this report [page 15].

Through this process, the Project Team identified eleven focus areas which could qualify for PCA status under the new ABAG PCA Guidelines. These included the existing PCAs identified in 2007 and 2013 and several new areas. **Figure 2** shows the boundaries of the nine areas selected, as well as two "hot spots" that were analyzed for future conservation efforts. A description of each potential PCA and qualifying designations based on ABAG criteria is included in the Analysis Results section [page 18] of this report.

FIGURE 2: AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR PCA CRITERIA ANALYSIS



During the potential PCA identification process, the Project Team also identified potential infrastructure and conservation projects within the areas. The potential projects can improve or protect the established benefits under each designation. Priority projects were established using stakeholder input and considering the level of potential benefit to the PCA. For each priority project concept, the Project Team identified next steps for planning and implementation. The priority projects selection process and results are described in the Opportunity Areas and Future Projects section of this report.

PCA GUIDELINES AS A CONSERVATION TOOL

Solano County uses a number of existing methods to protect or enhance open space and prevent urban encroachment into surrounding areas. The PCA program update provides an opportunity for STA to outline with greater specificity areas that provide agricultural, natural resource, scenic, recreation, or ecological value within Solano County and its seven cities. It encourages stakeholders to work together to establish a common vision of conservation priorities within Solano County. The PCA Assessment and Implementation Plan will ensure that valuable spaces within the county are identified, have clear planning boundaries, and have identified infrastructure improvements within the PCAs and surrounding areas. Identifying priority project concepts and next steps through this process enables STA to assist local agencies to pursue additional grant funding through OBAG and other sources.

Establishing a PCA does not change the zoning, general plan designation, or other land use. Though local jurisdictions retain full control over land use decisions, PCA designations may open up a variety of funding avenues for improvement and preservation projects in the identified areas.

Available Conservation Funding Options

A variety of available conservation funding sources can aid ongoing conservation improvements in the county. **Table 1** lists the sources and eligible activities for conservation grants that may be pursued in the future for the projects and priorities outlined in this Plan.

Table 1: Conservation Funding Sources

	Agency/Organization	Program	Eligible Activities
	Department of Conservation	California Farmland Conservancy Program (CFCP)	Acquiring easements
			Policy and technical assistance projects
	Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	Financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands
	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFG)	Ecosystem Restoration on Agricultural Lands	Restoring habitat and improving water quality
		Riparian Program	Protecting riparian habitat
	The Nature Conservancy	Conservation Easements	Establishing easements to help maintain working ranches
	Metropolitan Transportation Commission	OneBayArea Grant Program	Aiding counties' progress toward land use and housing policies that support the Sustainable Communities Strategy, housing allocation through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation process, and provides flexibility in investments for transportation categories
Cap and Trade Auction Proceeds	Strategic Growth Council	Sustainable Agriculture Lands Conservation (SALC) Program	Planning and permanent protection of farm and ranch lands via conservation easements
	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Wetlands and Watershed Restoration	Delta and coastal wetland restoration
			Mountain meadow restoration
			Water use efficiency in wetlands

Process

In September 2014, STA began a planning process to apply the ABAG PCA Guidelines to Solano County lands to further assess conservation benefits, affirm existing PCAs, and identify new areas and associated projects for future grant funding.

To aid Solano County jurisdictions in efforts to locally implement Plan Bay Area, ABAG and MTC granted $1.25 million to the Solano Transportation Authority STA in 2014 through OBAG. Of this funding, a portion was allocated to

planning efforts that identify project opportunities which enhance the County's already rich agricultural heritage, recreation options, and open space areas. This entails a stakeholder-driven evaluation process to refine existing areas of conservation interest, and to identify new ones using the new ABAG PCA Guidelines. To accomplish this, STA, in conjunction with local stakeholders, refined five existing designated PCAs using recently released ABAG PCA Guidelines. This process is meant to position STA and the County to apply for a variety of funding sources in the future to efficiently implement projects that advance countywide conservation priorities.

STA convened the PCA PAC (also referred to as "the Committee"), a group of stakeholders including city and county staff, regional recreation and open space community groups, the Solano Land Trust, and agriculture interests in the county.

The full list of PCA PAC member participants are shown in **Table 2.**

TABLE 2: STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTED IN THE PCA PAC, LISTED BY CATEGORY

Category	Stakeholders
City, County and Regional Agencies	1. Solano County 2. Solano County Planning Directors 3. Solano County Technical Advisory Committee 4. Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
Resource Agencies	5. Greater Vallejo Recreation District 6. Solano Irrigation District 7. Department of Water Resources (Suisun Marsh Program)
Community and Business Organizations	**Agriculture** 8. Solano Farm Bureau 9. Suisun Valley Growers 10. Agricultural Product Grower 11. Large Post-Harvest Agricultural Processor
	Conservation 12. Bay Area Ridge Trail 13. Solano Land Trust 14. Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Group 15. Resource Conservation Districts

STA staff, PMC staff, and PCA PAC members formed a Project Team and through a series of team meetings, initially identified lands considered a community priority for conservation. The Project Team then completed a technical analysis of these areas to determine their benefits within the four possible PCA designations to streamline future conservation and funding efforts.

3. METHODS

To analyze and prioritize existing and potential PCAs in the county, the Project Team commenced a data-driven planning process identifying potential PCAs and outlining a conservation framework consistent with the general plans of Solano County and the individual cities. At the time this data-driven process started, the Project Team began with the five designated PCAs in Solano County, with imprecise boundaries established and approved by the Board of Supervisors and ABAG in 2007. Using findings based on ABAG conservation criteria, the PCA PAC selected focus areas to be analyzed including the five previously adopted PCAs. Suggested areas were ratified by spatial data. Those areas which qualified under ABAG's guidelines, the Project Team refined area boundaries, identified supporting benefits, and suggested possible future projects that advance the conservation objectives of the PCAs and may be eligible for future grants through OBAG and other sources.

The first portion of the project comprised of determining which areas in the County to focus efforts on, and where the boundaries for those areas should lie. This was accomplished by discussing community concerns and evaluating the various benefits of agricultural and open space lands. These areas contain important natural and/or agricultural resources, and are valued by communities within the county. Using the ABAG PCA Guidelines as an outline, PMC prepared a matrix for each focus area identifying each area's benefits to the ecosystem, community, and agricultural economy.

Each selected area was categorized as one or more of the following types of PCA using the ABAG criteria:

- Natural Landscape: areas critical to the functioning of wildlife and plant habitats, aquatic ecosystems and the region's water supply and quality.
- 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.
- Regional Recreation: existing and potential regional parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.
- Urban Greening: existing and potential green spaces in cities that increase habitat connectivity, improve community health, capture carbon emissions, and address stormwater.

These were further broken down into sub-categories identified in the ABAG criteria to document the precise benefits of each area.

PCA PAC MEETINGS

The PCA PAC convened six times during this planning process. At the beginning of the process, Solano County jurisdictions had a total of five designated PCAs, with imprecise boundaries established and approved by the Solano County Board of Supervisors and ABAG in 2007. The PCA PAC meetings were to work with STA staff and PMC to identify key conservation areas, establish boundaries, and evaluate the benefits of these areas in an iterative discussion and evaluation process using the ABAG PCA Guidelines. Meeting notes and map results are provided in **Appendix 3**.

November 5, 2014

At this initial meeting, STA staff provided the Committee with an overview of the process they envisioned, including intended timeline and outcomes. The Committee was then asked, in light of this initial understanding of criteria, to identify areas that should be evaluated using the Guidelines, including existing PCAs and any new areas that may be appropriate. Following discussion, the PCA PAC selected eight general land areas for analysis, consisting of the five existing PCAs and three additional areas. In addition to these analysis areas, PCA PAC members recognized the Suisun Marsh and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as important biological resource areas within Solano County. Although these areas are already protected under state and federal laws, the PCA PAC directed PMC to also assess two biological "hot spot" areas within the Suisun Marsh and within the Delta as potential PCAs, bringing the total number of areas to be assessed to ten.

December 4, 2014

STA and PMC staff presented the draft boundaries and analysis results for the 10 selected areas at the previous meeting, including the qualifying PCA designations under the ABAG PCA Guidelines. The PCA PAC then provided direction to revise many of the key area boundaries, and suggested additional data resources that could be used to evaluate the PCAs under the benefit criteria established within the Guidelines. In addition, the PCA PAC requested analysis for an additional area east of Vacaville, and requested clarification regarding interpretation of the ABAG guidelines from ABAG staff.

January 27, 2014

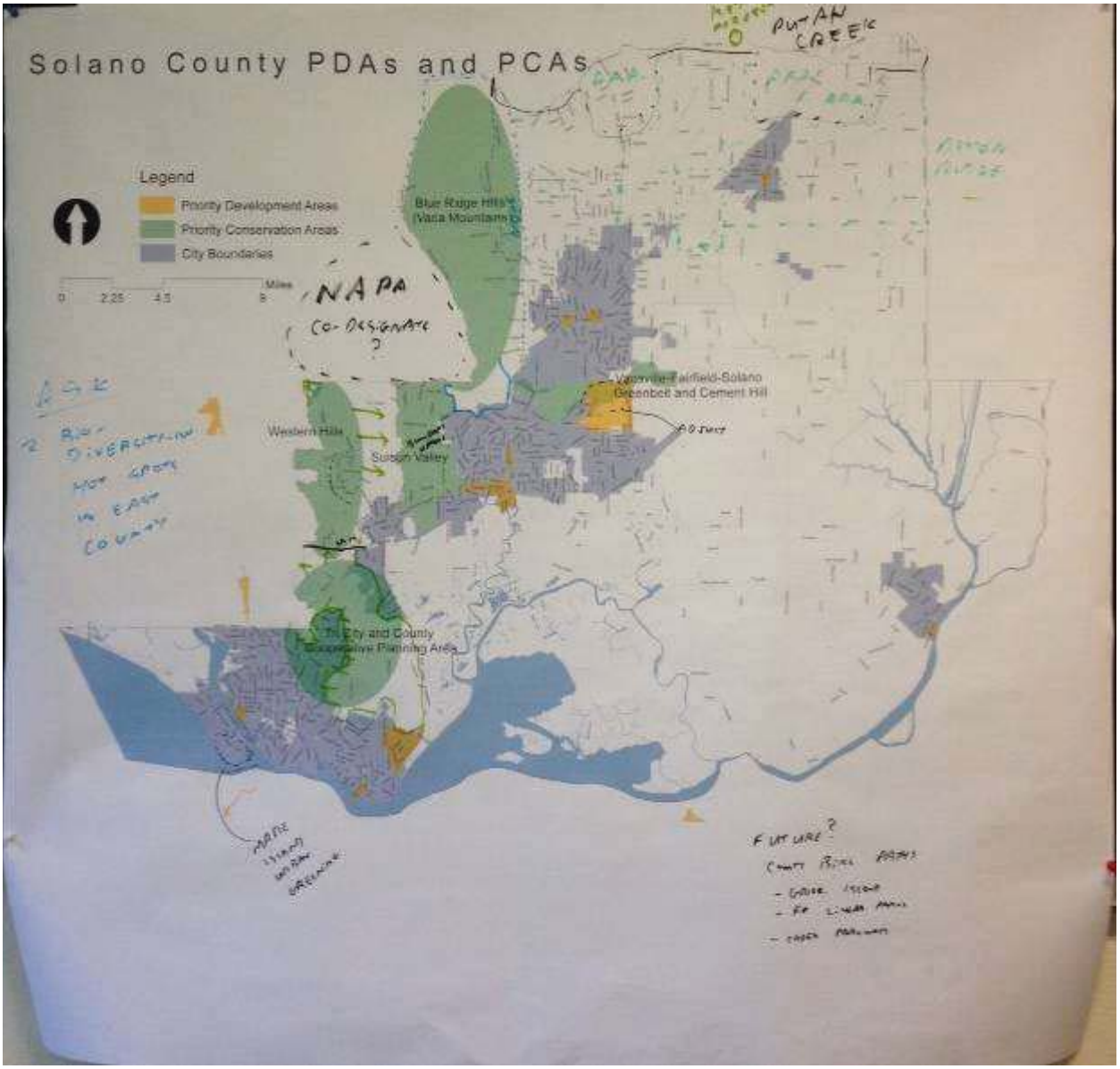
STA and PMC staff presented revised boundaries and analysis incorporating new criteria data sources and changes based on clarified guidelines provided by ABAG staff. The PCA PAC then recommended that the appropriate agency move forward with the ABAG application process for nine potential PCAs. The PCA PAC also recommended each of the nine PCA applications be submitted under all the designations for which they could qualify based on the ABAG PCA Guidelines.

PCA Benefit Criteria Assessment

Mapping

PMC used the criteria and recommended data sources provided in the ABAG PCA Guidelines, PCA PAC input, and local planning documents (e.g., local jurisdictions' General Plans) to evaluate each of the areas identified by the PCA PAC. ABAG-recommended sources included Greenbelt Alliance mapping files, the Conservation Lands Network, the US Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat Portal, and the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. PMC used these information sources to create GIS mapping layers that were overlaid with the proposed boundaries of each key area. The map and boundaries were altered by the Project Team based on discussions in PCA PAC meetings. **Figure 3** below is an example of the working boundary map.

FIGURE 3: WORKING BOUNDARY MAP



EVALUATION MATRIX

To compile and organize findings, PMC developed an analysis matrix for each of the identified focus areas. The matrix lists the four possible PCA designations, identifies potential benefits, and documents the criteria necessary to qualify under each designation should PCA status be sought. Using the mapping sources described above, PMC determined which criteria were met for each potential PCA. Each area's benefits were compared against 26 separate criteria. The results were recorded in the matrix, along with a short discussion of how each determination was made. The matrix and mapping layers were provided to the PCA PAC for comments and feedback, and updated based on stakeholder determination of local consensus.

Figure 4 below shows a sample from the evaluation matrix. The full matrix including evaluation results is provided as **Appendix 4.**

FIGURE 4: SAMPLE EVALUATION MATRIX USED TO ASSESS QUALIFYING BENEFIT CRITERIA FOR POTENTIAL PCAS

Southern Hills						
Designation	Primary Benefit	Criteria	ABAG Sources	Does this area meet the criteria?	Source	Discussion & Recommendations
Natural Landscape	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	1) Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN): •Essential •Important •Fragmented •Further consideration, OR	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Yes	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Areas within the boundaries are identified as Essential, Important, Fragmented, or Areas for Further Consideration. The majority of the area within the boundaries of this potential PCA meets the criteria.
		2) Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No Bay Area Critical Linkage in the County
		Optional: Other Critical Habitat	☐ USFWS Critical Habitat Portal ☐ Locally identified data	Yes	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, areas within this potential PCA are identified as critical habitat for California red-legged frog
	Aquatic Ecosystems	1) Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals, OR	☐ EcoAtlas	No	☐ EcoAtlas	No wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA
		2) Protects subtidal habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals, OR	☐ EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	Subtidal habitat does not exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA
		3) Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN, OR	☐ Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	☐ Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No streams identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN exist within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other Important Features (e.g., NW, Imp. Marine Features)	Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration	N/A	N/A	N/A

4. ANALYSIS RESULTS

The matrix was used in conjunction with mapping to analyze the qualifying designations and benefits of each PCA, and determine how well each PCA fits the ABAG PCA criteria. Each area was assessed based on its contribution to the primary benefits listed below. Analyzing the areas in this manner helps to identify the priorities in Solano.

The discussion below is categorized primarily by the PCA designations outlined by ABAG: Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Land, Regional Recreation, and Urban Greening. Within each designation are listed each potential PCA which qualify with the primary benefit and which criteria support that claim. For the official ABAG criteria tables, see **Appendix 5**.

NATURAL LANDSCAPES

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

Potential Primary Benefits: Terrestrial (land) 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

Areas that Qualify: Blue Ridge Hills, Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill, Suisun Valley, Western Hills, Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area, Putah Creek, Dixon Agricultural Service Area, Mare Island

Table 3: Summary of Potential PCAs: Natural Landscapes Criteria

Qualifying Potential PCA	Primary Benefit Achieved	Criteria Support
Blue Ridge Hills	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	• Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN) o Essential o Important o Fragmented o Further consideration
	Aquatic Ecosystems	• Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN
	Water Supply & Quality	• Protects urban water supply o Reservoir Catchment Area o Aquifer recharge zone o Critical stream o Priority stream
Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	• Protects land within CLN o Essential o Important o Fragmented o Further consideration • Other critical habitat
	Aquatic Ecosystems	• Other important features *(critical habitat)*
	Water Supply & Quality	• Supports watershed health
Suisun Valley	Aquatic Ecosystems	• Protects subtidal habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals
	Water Supply & Quality	• Protects urban water supply o Reservoir Catchment Area o Aquifer recharge zone o Critical stream o Priority stream
Western Hills	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	• Protects land within CLN o Essential o Important o Fragmented o Further consideration • Other critical habitat
	Aquatic Ecosystems	• Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN
	Water Supply & Quality	• Protects urban water supply o Reservoir Catchment Area o Aquifer recharge zone o Critical stream o Priority stream • Supports watershed health
Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	• Protects land within CLN o Essential o Important o Fragmented o Further consideration • Other critical habitat
	Water Supply & Quality	• Supports watershed health

Qualifying Potential PCA	Primary Benefit Achieved	Criteria Support
Putah Creek	Aquatic Ecosystems	• Other important features *(special-status fish and wildlife habitat)*
	Water Supply & Quality	• Protects urban water supply o Reservoir Catchment Area o Aquifer recharge zone o Critical stream o Priority stream • Supports watershed health
Dixon Agricultural Service Area	Aquatic Ecosystems	• Other important features *(critical habitat for Delta smelt)*
	Water Supply & Quality	• Supports watershed health
Mare Island	Aquatic Ecosystems	• Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals
	Water Supply & Quality	• Supports watershed health
Elmira	Water Supply & Quality	• Supports watershed health

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.

Potential Primary Benefits: Agricultural resources, agricultural economy

Potential Co-Benefits: Wildlife habitat, water supply and quality, recreation, climate and resilience, compact growth

Examples: Farmland or grazing land, timberlands

Areas that Qualify: Blue Ridge Hills, Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill, Suisun Valley, Western Hills, Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area, Putah Creek, Dixon Agricultural Service Area, Elmira

Table 4: Summary of Potential PCAs: Agricultural Lands Criteria

Qualifying Potential PCA	Primary Benefit Achieved	Level of Criteria Support
Blue Ridge Hills	Agricultural Resources/Economy	• Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production o Farmland identified in Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) o Grazing Lands identified in FMMP • Supportive of local or state agricultural policy • Completed contiguous area of farm or grazing lands • Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture
Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill	Agricultural Resources/Economy	• Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production o Farmland identified in FMMP o Grazing Lands identified in FMMP • Supportive of local or state agricultural policy • Completed contiguous area of farm or grazing lands • Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture

Qualifying Potential PCA	Primary Benefit Achieved	Level of Criteria Support
Suisun Valley	Agricultural Resources/Economy	• Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production o Farmland identified in FMMP o Grazing Lands identified in FMMP • Supportive of local or state agricultural policy • Completed contiguous area of farm or grazing lands • Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture
Western Hills	Agricultural Resources/Economy	• Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production o Farmland identified in FMMP o Grazing Lands identified in FMMP • Supportive of local or state agricultural policy • Completed contiguous area of farm or grazing lands
Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area	Agricultural Resources/Economy	• Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production o Farmland identified in FMMP o Grazing Lands identified in FMMP • Supportive of local or state agricultural policy • Completed contiguous area of farm or grazing lands • Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture
Putah Creek	Agricultural Resources/Economy	• Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production o Farmland identified in FMMP o Grazing Lands identified in FMMP • Supportive of local or state agricultural policy • Completed contiguous area of farm or grazing lands • Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture
Dixon Agricultural Service Area	Agricultural Resources/Economy	• Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production o Farmland identified in FMMP o Grazing Lands identified in FMMP • Supportive of local or state agricultural policy • Completed contiguous area of farm or grazing lands • Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture
Elmira	Agricultural Resources/Economy	• Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production o Farmland identified in FMMP o Grazing Lands identified in FMMP • Supportive of local or state agricultural policy • Completed contiguous area of farm or grazing lands • Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture

Regional Recreation

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

Potential Primary Benefits: Recreation

Potential Co-Benefits: Wildlife habitat, water supply and quality, climate and resilience, community health, compact growth

Examples: Regional trail network, potential regional park sites

Areas that Qualify: Western Hills, Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area, Putah Creek, Mare Island

Table 5: Summary of Potential PCAs: Regional Recreation Criteria

Qualifying Potential PCA	Primary Benefit Achieved	Level of Criteria Support
Western Hills	Recreation	• Proposed regional trails o Bay Trail o Ridge Trail • Acreage of regional park added
Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area	Recreation	• Proposed regional trails o Bay Trail o Ridge Trail • Other local data sources (Regional parkland recreation is included in the shared goals of the cities and counties within the Tri-City CPA, which entered into a JPA.)
Putah Creek	Recreation	• Other local data sources (The Putah Creek Wildlife Area is designated as recreational use Type C, which allows fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, and bird watching. Putah Creek Road is used heavily by recreational bicyclists and is listed on several recommended recreational bike loops listed by the Yolo County Visitors Bureau.)
Mare Island	Recreation	• Acreage of regional park added

Urban Greening

Description: Existing and potential green spaces in cities that increase habitat connectivity, improve community health, capture carbon emissions, and address stormwater. In addition to urban green spaces, urban greening can also be fulfilled by spaces that encourage compact growth, such as greenbelts.

Potential Primary Benefits: Community health, recreation, climate and resilience

Potential Co-Benefits: Wildlife habitat, water supply and quality, recreation

Examples: Potential "edible park" sites (park + community garden), urban forest areas, compact growth land planning, riparian corridor

Areas that Qualify: Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill, Suisun Valley, Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area, Mare Island, Elmira

TABLE 6: SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL PCAS: URBAN GREENING CRITERIA

Qualifying Potential PCA	Primary Benefit Achieved	Level of Criteria Support
Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill	Compact Growth	• Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces • Supports stable urban edges • Supports adopted open space policy protection measures
Suisun Valley	Compact Growth	• Supports stable urban edges
Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area	Compact Growth	• Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces • Supports stable urban edges • Supports adopted open space policy protection measures
Mare Island	Climate and Resilience	• Addresses hazard risk in open spaces (earthquake, etc.)
Elmira	Compact Growth	• Supports stable urban edges

EVALUATION AND PRIORITIZATION

In developing the PCA Guidelines, it was ABAG's intent to provide local communities some latitude in how to use the PCA designation tool to achieve both regional and local conservation goals. The Project Team recognized that the value of conservation areas can serve one of several possible functions, requiring somewhat different approaches and making the flexibility of the PCA guidelines a valuable tool for evaluation.

The ABAG PCA Guidelines facilitate evaluation of land under the specific benefits of natural landscapes, agricultural lands, regional recreation, or urban greening served by areas throughout the county. Analysis results established that much of the land within potential PCAs demonstrates benefits under more than one designation. An example is the large swaths of the eastern county that make up the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Delta and the Suisun Marsh, which serve numerous biological and watershed related conservation goals. However, these and other lands are protected federally and locally as part a of the larger conservation framework that has been developed over several decades in Solano County.

PCAs may also serve to target areas that are especially important for One Bay Area planning efforts. In this approach, PCAs function more like their counterpart PDAs, narrowing the focus for investments by OBAG and other local, regional, and state agencies to areas that would benefit most from project investments.

The Project Team sought to strike a balance between 'casting a wide net' over all lands that demonstrate benefits under the established conservation designations, and targeting areas that would benefit most from projects and funding. The "hot spots" in the San Joaquin Valley Delta and Suisun Marsh were evaluated and determined to be of high conservation value; however, strong protections already exist for these areas, and no clear projects exist for which to apply funding. For these reasons, they were not selected for application of PCA designation in this round.

The PCA PAC concluded that the remaining nine areas meet the criteria of the ABAG PCA Guidelines as determined by the analysis and have high local value. The PCA PAC also determined that while there may not be short-term priority improvement projects in all of the areas, potential long-term projects to improve conservation benefits existed for all areas. In keeping with the approach of 'casting a wide net' and protecting long-term conservation values for the entire county, the Project Team moved forward nine recommended PCA applications. The designations, benefits, and qualifying criteria of these nine areas are discussed in the Analysis Results section below. The nine areas were presented to lead agencies for potential sponsorship of PCA applications.

PCAs Recommended by the Committee

Figure 5 shows the nine areas the PCA PAC recommended that Solano County or other sponsoring jurisdictions, including the City of Fairfield, move forward with for application to ABAG as PCAs. Descriptions of each potential PCA are provided below.

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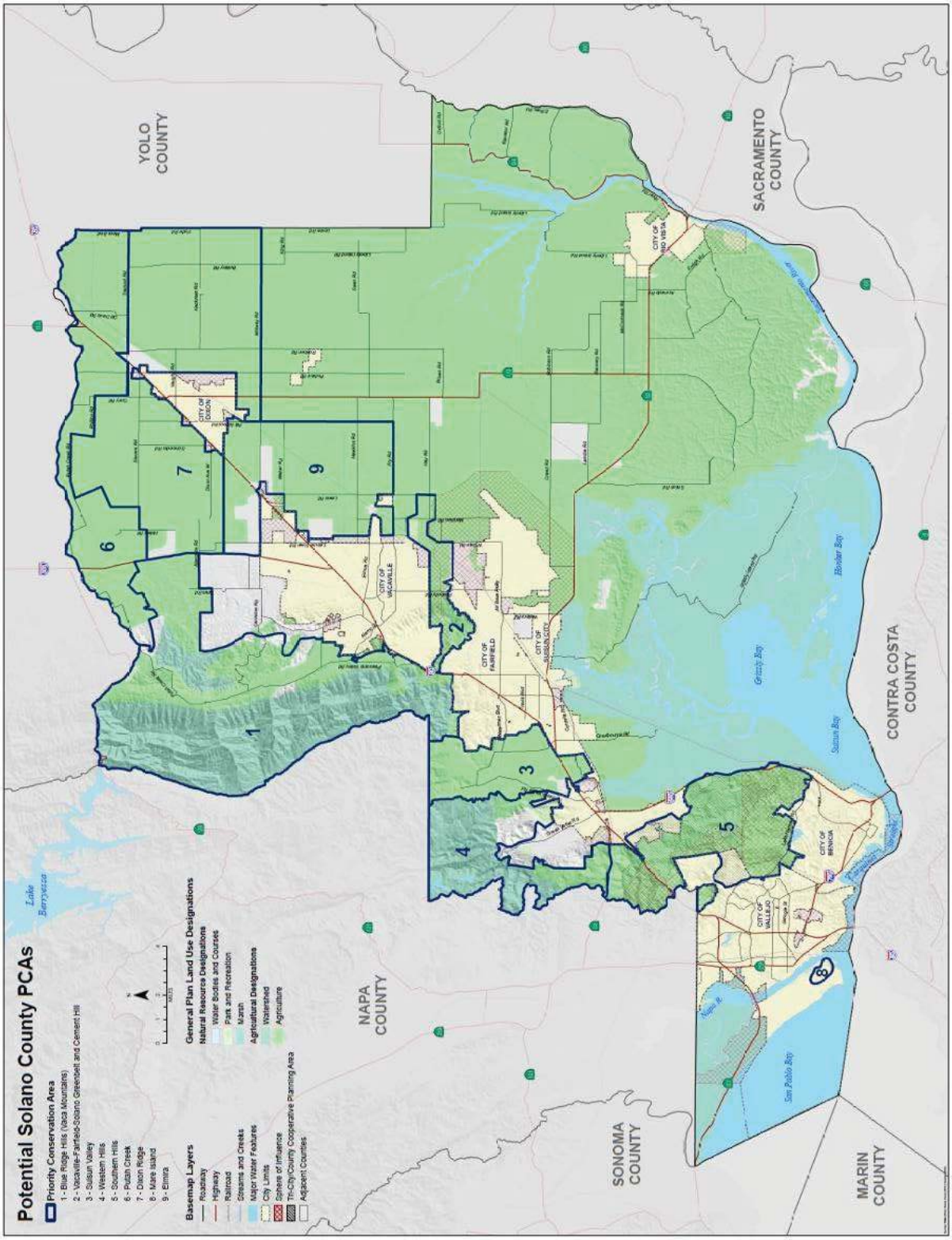
FIGURE 5: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED PCAS



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1. Blue Ridge Hills

The Blue Ridge Hills PCA includes the Vaca Mountain Range with Blue Ridge forming the backbone of the range. The Blue Ridge Hills area includes the Vaca Mountains, Putah Creek State Wildlife Area, as well as three Agricultural Regions established by the Solano County General Plan: Pleasants Valley, Vaca Valley, and Lagoon Valley. This Agriculture Region is one of the most diverse agricultural regions in the county and has been identified as appropriate for general uses including agricultural production and facilities to support the sale of produce and tourist services that are ancillary to agricultural production.

The mountain range begins at the Suisun Marsh and trends northward for 17.5 miles, ending at Putah Creek Canyon. The Blue Ridge Hills PCA was established in 2008 by Solano County.

The Blue Ridge Hills PCA qualifies under the Natural Landscapes and Agricultural Lands designations.

2. Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill

The Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill PCA was established in 2008 by Solano County and the City of Fairfield. The Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt PCA boundaries mirrors those of the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt (Greenbelt) established by the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt Authority in 1994 and modified in 2011. The Greenbelt forms an open space buffer between Vacaville and Fairfield in Solano County. It was established to provide recreational opportunities and act as a community separator and buffer between agricultural and urban areas in Solano County.

Solano County General Plan land use designations present within the PCA include Agriculture and Parks and Recreation. The PCA includes land designated as Grazing Land, Prime Farmland, and Unique Farmland by the California Department of Conservation FMMP. Several parcels within the PCA boundaries are enrolled in Williamson Act contracts. The Solano County General Plan includes the area in the PCA within the Jepson Prairie agricultural region, which covers an area of approximately 52,943 acres used primarily for grazing cattle and sheep.

The current planning effort refines the original PCA boundaries to correspond to the recently adopted Fairfield Train Station Specific Plan adopted by the City of Fairfield. The PCA is located adjacent to the City of Vacaville and City of Fairfield. The northern boundary of the PCA follows the Vacaville city limits and the boundary of the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt; the eastern boundary of the PCA follows the boundary of the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt; the southern boundary of the proposed PCA follows

the Fairfield city limits and the boundary of the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt; and the western boundary of the PCA follows Interstate 80.

The Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill PCA qualifies for designation under the Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, and Urban Greening (Compact Growth) categories.

3. Suisun Valley

The Suisun Valley PCA was established in 2013 by Solano County. Suisun Valley has been viable agricultural land for over 100 years. Its rich soil and climatic conditions make it ideal for the production of the wine grapes, small grains, and fruits that extends across 92 percent of the land. Suisun Valley land that is not used directly for agricultural production is used to support agriculture. No fallow land exists in the valley. Wine production and agricultural tourism draw visitors from the surrounding areas.

Suisun Valley is an alluvial fan that drains from the northern highlands south to the Suisun Marsh. Portions of the valley are critical to the health of the surrounding watershed. The valley is surrounded by urban areas on three sides, and land prices and market value opportunities are relatively high. Tourism is an increasingly important economic draw. These factors and proximity to developed areas within the City of Fairfield combine to place immense development pressure on the land.

Solano County has protected Suisun Valley from development in many ways and intends to continue doing so. In 2011, the County adopted a Strategic Plan for Suisun Valley supporting ongoing agricultural production, economic flexibility, and infrastructure investments to support an expanding tourist economy. More recently, STA and the County used OBAG funding to provide pedestrian improvements at Mankas Corner that were prioritized within the Strategic Plan.

The current planning effort refines the original PCA boundaries to correspond to the adopted Suisun Valley Strategic Plan. The Suisun Valley PCA is bordered on the south and east by the City of Fairfield, to the north by Napa County, and to the east by Green Valley. It is located between the Vaca Mountains to the east and the Mt. George Range to the west.

The Suisun Valley PCA qualifies for designation under all four categories: Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, Regional Recreation, and Urban Greening (Compact Growth).

4. Western Hills

The Western Hills PCA was established in 2008 by Solano County. The current planning effort modifies the boundaries of the original PCA to match the boundaries of the Solano County General Plan Western Hills Agricultural Region, and to incorporate a portion of the proposed Bay Ridge Trail located north of Vallejo. The PCA encompasses the hilly region north of Green Valley, including Green Valley Creek, several small reservoirs, and Rockville Hills Regional Park. A discontiguous section of the PCA is located directly north of the City of Vallejo. It encompasses a one-half mile buffer surrounding an all-purpose trail that extends north into Napa County that makes up a portion of the Bay Ridge Trail network. The Bay Ridge Trail is a network of hiking, cycling, and equestrian trails along ridgelines overlooking the San Francisco Bay, which are planned to connect to ultimately form 550 miles of continuous trail.

The Western Hills agricultural region, which encompasses the entire PCA, covers areas in the northwestern and southwestern regions of Solano County, including the area in the PCA in the southwestern region. The Western Hills region provides for agricultural production in the county and is characterized by grasslands, oak woodlands, and mountain plateaus. Agricultural production in the Western Hills region is limited primarily to grazing because of the steep slopes and soil types in the region.

The Western Hills PCA qualifies for designation under the Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, and Regional Recreation categories.

5. Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area

The Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area PCA was established in 2008 by Solano County. This PCA includes the Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area (Cooperative Planning Area) established in 1994 by the Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Group, now called Solano Open Space which consists of a joint powers authority including the County of Solano and the Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo. The Cooperative Planning Group was responsible for preparing the Tri-City and County Cooperative Plan for Agriculture and Open Space Preservation (Cooperative Plan). The Cooperative Plan sets forth objectives, policies, and guidelines for the preservation of agricultural and open space land in Solano County between Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo. The Cooperative Planning Group and Cooperative Plan were established in response to concerns of encroaching urban development into the hills of the Cooperative Planning Area. The 10,000-acre Cooperative Planning Area includes land used for agricultural, open space, and recreational purposes.

The PCA boundaries align with those of the Cooperative Planning Area. The Solano County General Plan Land Use diagram identifies the area in the proposed PCA with an Agriculture land use designation. The PCA is in the Western Hills agricultural region identified in the County General Plan. The Western Hills region provides for agricultural production in the County and is characterized by grasslands, oak woodlands, and mountain plateaus. Agricultural production in the Western Hills region is limited primarily to grazing because of the steep slopes and soil types in the region.

The Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area PCA qualifies for designation under the Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, and Regional Recreation categories.

[The following PCAs are not currently adopted but have been identified through this planning process as logical candidates that qualify under ABAG guidelines and provide benefits to the region.]

6. Putah Creek

The Putah Creek PCA is a new potential PCA that could be submitted by Solano County. This potential PCA is an area of rolling farmland, wooded hillsides, and canyons along the Putah Creek watershed. Much of the land here is characterized as Prime or Unique Farmland by the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) and is an important agricultural center for the community. The PCA is identified as part of two agricultural regions—Dixon Ridge and Winters—within the Solano County General Plan. Agricultural production in the area includes field crops such as alfalfa and orchard crops such as walnuts and plums. This area contains some of the most valuable agricultural land in the county.

Small portions of the potential PCA, primarily steep slopes and canyons, contain natural habitat resources, including cottonwood riparian, blue oak woodland, and chamise chaparral natural communities. A few of the species supported by these habitats are California towhee, Bullock's oriole, and black-headed grosbeak. This area is also heavily used for recreation; Putah Creek Road and other scenic roadways are popular routes for recreational bikers traveling between Davis and Winters.

The potential PCA is located along the northern border of Solano County. Its proposed bounds on the west, south, and east are primarily established watershed land boundaries and various rural arterial roads including (from west to east) Lake Solano, Putah Creek Road, Phillips Road, and I-80.

The Putah Creek PCA would qualify for designation under the Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, and Regional Recreation categories.

7. **Dixon Agricultural Service Area**

The Dixon Agricultural Service Area PCA is a potential PCA that could be submitted by Solano County. This proposed PCA consists of an area of Solano County that covers a portion of the Dixon Ridge Agricultural Region identified in the County General Plan. The proposed PCA and surrounding area consists of mostly flat, low-lying farmland used for field crops such as tomatoes, alfalfa, and safflowers. Several large-scale agricultural processing facilities are also located within the potential PCA. The proposed boundaries encompass a few merchants which sell goods or services directly to the consumer such as produce markets, pumpkin patches, and other seasonal attractions. Other than the Suisun Valley PCA, this would be the only other PCA which provides a Farm-to-Market experience.

The recommended PCA is located in northeast Solano County. Its proposed area is an L-shaped swath of land which hugs Dixon to the northeast, staying clear of Dixon's municipal boundaries and spheres of influence.

The Dixon Agricultural Service Area PCA is proposed for designation under the Natural Landscapes and Agricultural Lands categories.

8. Mare Island

The Mare Island PCA is a new PCA proposal that could be submitted by the City of Vallejo. Mare Island was founded as a Navy shipyard prior to the Civil War, making it the oldest arsenal in the Pacific. On April 1, 1996 the base was closed, and the process of environmental cleanup and transference of ownership began.

The Island is now protected under multiple layers of historical and environmental conservation. It includes sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places, sites listed on the California Register of Historical Resources, and it is designated as a California State Historic Landmark and a Historic District by the City of Vallejo. It has conservation easements and preserved park areas, and includes wetlands with habitat value for rare and endangered communities. The proposed PCA is part of the City of Vallejo Mare Island Specific Plan Area, 78 percent of which is either wetlands or inactive dredge pond areas restricted to open space, conservation, and managed wetland uses. Nine percent of the area has been designated for parks and recreational use.

The proposed PCA is located on the southeast portion of Mare Island, encompassing the Mare Island Golf Course and surrounding regional area. The Mare Island PCA is proposed for designation under the Natural Landscapes, Regional Recreation, and Urban Greening categories.

9. Elmira

The Elmira PCA is a new PCA proposal that could be submitted by Solano County. Elmira is part of a distinct agricultural area to the south of Dixon and the east of Vacaville. The Elmira proposed PCA is east of the City of Vacaville, bounded on the north by the southern boundary of the City of Dixon to the north, Pitt School Road to the east, Fry Road to the south, and the City of Vacaville boundary to the east.

The Elmira PCA is proposed for designation under the Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, and Urban Greening (Compact Growth) categories.

OPPORTUNITY AREAS AND POTENTIAL PROJECTS

After identifying potential PCAs, the Committee was asked to consider their various interests and needs for open space to identify potential projects within the PCAs or providing access to PCAs that could potentially be built through OBAG grant funding. Committee members identified a range of project ideas, which were compared to existing County priority project lists. This resulted in a list of six priority project ideas were fleshed out into project concepts as discussed below. The full list of project ideas is documented in the April 16th meeting notes located in Appendix 3.

The following projects have been identified for the current and future PCAs:

- Suisun Valley Farm to Market
- Pedrick Road Overcrossing
- Putah Creek Road
- Rockville Hills Connection and Staging Area
- Stevenson Bridge Improvements
- Lynch Canyon Expansion and Vallejo Swett Trails and Area Ridge Trail Expansion

To best utilize the available funding and resources, the five projects listed below have been chosen as highest priority.

Suisun Valley Farm to Market

Suisun Valley sits directly west of the greater part of City of Fairfield and East of Green Valley on the north side of I-80. This project consists of constructing a staging area with bicycle and pedestrian improvements including adding Class II bicycle facilities on Rockville Road, Suisun Valley Rd, Mankas Corner Rd, Abernathy Rd, and Ledgewood Rd. The improvements are based on outcomes which are outlined in the Suisun Valley Strategic Plan (2008).

Pedrick Road Overcrossing

The Pedrick Road overcrossing is located at the intersection of Pedrick Road and Interstate 80. This overcrossing is currently too narrow to allow for safe and convenient access by agricultural vehicles during high traffic times, and there are few other north-south crossing options available. The proposed project would widen Pedrick Road and the overpass in both directions to provide for a shoulder lane and wider turning radii, allowing better accommodation of large, slow-moving agricultural equipment.

Putah Creek Road

The Putah Creek Road project addresses a nine-mile section of Putah Creek Road between Interstate 505 and Stevenson Bridge Road. The area surrounding the road is an important agricultural center for the community, and the road is used heavily by agricultural machinery and the transportation of farm goods. It is also a favorite route for recreational bicyclists between the cities of Winters and Davis, and for vehicles towing boats to Lake Berryessa. The

project would provide a separated off-street bike path along the south side of Putah Creek. This would divert bike traffic from the narrow and heavily used road, providing for a safe and scenic trail for bicyclists while helping to preserve Putah Creek Road for agricultural vehicle travel.

Rockville Trails Parking Lot and Staging Area and Potential Connection with Rockville Hills

The 1,500-acre Rockville Trails Preserve is owned by the Solano Land Trust. Trails are planned for hiking, biking, and equestrian use, but there is no staging area currently available for trail access. There is a parking area available at the Rockville Hills Parks roughly 0.3 miles from the Rockville Trail Preserve. The proposed project includes the possibility for two separate stages. The first stage is the construction of a new staging area for the Rockville Trails Preserve, including vehicle parking. The staging area would provide connection to trails, as well as a payment kiosk and informational signage. The optional second stage is the creation of an all-purpose trail connection and controlled intersection across Rockville Road to connect the Rockville Hills Park parking area to the Rockville Trails Preserve.

Stevenson Bridge Improvements

Stevenson Bridge is a 20-foot-wide concrete rainbow arch bridge that spans Putah Creek on Stevenson Bridge Road. The bridge is a local icon, as well as being identified by the State of California as eligible for the National Register for Historical Places. Roughly 800 vehicles pass over the bridge daily, as well as bicyclists and agricultural equipment. However, the bridge is in poor condition. The proposed project is to build a new two-lane bridge and road connection to Stevenson Bridge Road over Putah Creek for vehicle traffic, while retrofitting and repurposing the current bridge for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Signage would also be installed to direct all modes of traffic to the appropriate crossing location.

Lynch Canyon Expansion and Trails and Vallejo Swett Trails and Bay Area Ridge Trail Expansion

South of Lynch Canyon Open Space and west of I-80 near the American Canyon exit, a piece of land impedes access to Lynch Canyon and the Hiddenbrooke Trail. The project would consist of a partnership with the Solano Land Trust to acquire this land from the County and create access points, complete with staging areas, to Lynch Canyon and the completion for a public access plan which covers the expanded Lynch Canyon. Environmental study would also be completed on the Vallejo Swett property, adjacent to Hiddenbrooke, and construction of trails, including a portion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

5. Conclusion and Next Steps

The ABAG PCA process allowed for a structured way to analyze the most beneficial and supported regions of the county for access and conservation projects. It also provided a means and reason to identify the top priorities for preservation and funding so that resources can be allocated most effectively. The data collected can also serve as a useful resource for future undertakings by jurisdictions in the county.

This plan will be used by STA staff to guide decisions about future investments in PCAs.

After identifying potential PCAs, the Committee was asked to consider their various interests and needs for open space to identify potential projects within the PCAs or providing access to PCAs that could potentially receive funding through OBAG funding. Committee members identified a range of project ideas. Those projects not captured in an existing Specific Plan (i.e. Suisun Valley Specific Plan) nor a future Specific Plan (i.e. Pleasants Valley Road Specific Plan) were then vetted by Solano County Staff to create a priority project list. This resulted in a list of three priority project ideas. Project concepts are discussed below. The full list of project ideas is documented in the April 16th meeting notes located in Appendix 3.

The following projects have been identified for the current or future PCAs:

Projects within Existing PCAs	
1	**Farm to Market Project – Suisun Valley PCA** Improve public access to Suisun Valley by providing pedestrian enhancements, signage, lighting, shoulders on roads to accommodate higher bike volumes, staging areas More details in the Suisun Valley Specific Plan
2	**Rockville Trails Preserve Staging Area and Trail Connections – Western Hills PCA** New Parking Lot and Staging Area at Rockville Trails Preserve. Multiuse trail connections from Rockville Hills Parking across Rockville Rd to Rockville Trails Preserve. More details on the Project Information Sheet
3a	**Lynch Canyon Expansion and Trails – Tri-City and County Open Space PCA** Public access plan for expanded Lynch Canyon, construction of staging area and access points More details on the Project Information Sheet
3b	**Vallejo Swett Trails and Bay Area Ridge Trail Expansion – Tri-City and County Open Space PCA** Environmental study, trail construction and access points More details on the Project Information Sheet

Suisun Valley Farm to Market

Suisun Valley sits directly west of the greater part of City of Fairfield and East of Green Valley on the north side of I-80. This project consists of constructing a staging area with bicycle and pedestrian improvements including adding Class II bicycle facilities on Rockville Road, Suisun Valley Rd, Mankas Corner Rd, Abernathy Rd, and Ledgewood Rd. The improvements are based on outcomes which are outlined in the Suisun Valley Strategic Plan (2008).

Rockville Trails Parking Lot and Staging Area and Potential Connection with Rockville Hills

The 1,500-acre Rockville Trails Preserve is owned by the Solano Land Trust. Trails are planned for hiking, biking, and equestrian use, but there is no staging area currently available for trail access. There is a parking area available at the Rockville Hills Parks roughly 0.3 miles from the Rockville Trail Preserve. The proposed project includes the possibility for two separate stages. The first stage is the construction of a new staging area for the Rockville Trails Preserve, including vehicle parking. The staging area would provide a connection to trails, as well as a payment kiosk and informational signage. The optional second stage is the creation of an all-purpose trail connection and controlled intersection across Rockville Road to connect the Rockville Hills Park parking area to the Rockville Trails Preserve.

Lynch Canyon Expansion and Trails and Vallejo Swett Trails and Bay Area Ridge Trail Expansion

South of Lynch Canyon Open Space and west of I-80 near the American Canyon exit, a piece of land impedes access to Lynch Canyon and the Hiddenbrooke Trail. The project would consist of a partnership with the Solano Land Trust to acquire this land from the County and create access points, complete with staging areas, to Lynch Canyon and the completion for a public access plan which covers the expanded Lynch Canyon. Environmental study would also be completed on the Vallejo Swett property, adjacent to Hiddenbrooke, and construction of trails, including a portion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

The PCA committee identified other projects that currently do not lie within existing PCAs. These projects are important to the open space and agriculture community in Solano. To receive PCA funding, it would be necessary to apply for PCA designation upon next opportunity under ABAG guidelines. Putah Creek PCA and Dixon Agricultural Service Area PCA were recommended by the PCA Committee and refined by Solano County Staff. Designation of these two PCA would open up funding opportunities for the three projects below.

Projects within Future PCAs	
1	**Pedrick Rd Overcrossing – Dixon Agricultural Area (future PCA)**

	More details on the Project Information Sheet
2	**Putah Creek Rd – Putah Creek (future PCA)** More details on the Project Information Sheet
3	**Stevenson Bridge Improvements – Putah Creek (future PCA)** More details on the Project Information Sheet

Pedrick Road Overcrossing

The Pedrick Road overcrossing is located at the intersection of Pedrick Road and Interstate 80. This overcrossing is currently too narrow to allow for safe and convenient access by agricultural vehicles during high traffic times, and there are few other north-south crossing options available. The proposed project would widen Pedrick Road and the overpass in both directions to provide for a shoulder lane and wider turning radii, allowing better accommodation of large, slow-moving agricultural equipment.

Putah Creek Road

The Putah Creek Road project addresses a nine-mile section of Putah Creek Road between Interstate 505 and Stevenson Bridge Road. The area surrounding the road is an important agricultural center for the community, and the road is used heavily by agricultural machinery and the transportation of farm goods. It is also a favorite route for recreational bicyclists between the cities of Winters and Davis, and for vehicles towing boats to Lake Berryessa. The project would provide a separated off-street bike path along the south side of Putah Creek. This would divert bike traffic from the narrow and heavily used road, providing for a safe and scenic trail for bicyclists while helping to preserve Putah Creek Road for agricultural vehicle travel.

Stevenson Bridge Improvements

Stevenson Bridge is a 20-foot-wide concrete rainbow arch bridge that spans Putah Creek on Stevenson Bridge Road. The bridge is a local icon, as well as being identified by the State of California as eligible for the National Register for Historical Places. Roughly 800 vehicles pass over the bridge daily, as well as bicyclists and agricultural equipment. However, the bridge is in poor condition. The proposed project is to build a new two-lane bridge and road connection to Stevenson Bridge Road over Putah Creek for vehicle traffic, while retrofitting and repurposing the current bridge for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Signage would also be installed to direct all modes of traffic to the appropriate crossing location.

Stakeholder Partners

Partner agencies play critical roles in preserving and providing access to open space. The following lists contain the top priorities of some of these partner agencies, but is not meant to be a comprehensive list. It is also worth noting that any project on these lists will require coordination with land use authority agencies and possibly other state or federal conservation agencies.

Ridge Trail - Priorities
Vallejo Bluffs **Half-mile paved trail in Vallejo**
Rockville Hills Staging Area and Trail Connections **(see project sheet)**
Green Valley Rd Crossing at S. Westlake Dr **Pedestrian crosswalk safely connecting Ridge Trail segments**
Lynch Canyon and Hiddenbrooke Trail Access Points **Provide staging area and access points**
Military East in Benicia

Bike and pedestrian infrastructure is needed to accommodate users of the designated portions of the Ridge Trail on Military East.

Solano Land Trust - Priorities
Rockville Trails Staging Area and Trail Connections **(see project sheet)**
Lynch Canyon Expansion; and Trails and Vallejo Swett Trails and Bay Area Ridge Trail Expansion **Planning, environmental study, staging area, access points, trail development**

Greater Vallejo Recreation District
McIntyre Ranch Improvements **Improve McIntyre Ranch amenities to create a stronger draw to the public**

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Yolo County Visitors Bureau. http://visityolo.com/

7. Appendices

Appendix 1: PCA Profiles

Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt

County of Solano

Part 1: Area Information

Proposed Name: Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt

Description: The proposed Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt Priority Conservation Area (PCA) covers some of the same land as the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt (Greenbelt) established by the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt Authority in 1994 and modified in 2011. The Greenbelt is an open space between Vacaville and Fairfield in Solano County which was established to provide recreational opportunities and act as a community separator and a buffer between agricultural and urban areas in Solano County.

Solano County General Plan land use designations in the proposed PCA include Agriculture and Parks and Recreation. The proposed PCA includes land designated as Grazing Land, Prime Farmland, and Unique Farmland by the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) provided by the California Department of Conservation. Parcels of land within the boundaries of the proposed PCA are enrolled in Williamson Act contracts. The Solano County General Plan includes the area in the proposed PCA in the Jepson Prairie agricultural region, which covers an area of approximately 52,943 acres and is used primarily for grazing cattle and sheep.

Location (include map and text description): The proposed PCA is located adjacent to Vacaville and Fairfield in Solano County and has similar boundaries to the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt Agreement established by the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt Authority in 1994, which was revised in 2011. The northern boundary of the proposed PCA follows the Vacaville city limits and the southern boundary of the Cypress Lakes Golf Course; the eastern boundary of the proposed PCA follows the boundary of the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt; the southern boundary of the proposed PCA follows the Fairfield city limits and the boundary of the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt; and the western boundary of the proposed PCA follows Interstate 80. **Figure 1** illustrates the location of the proposed PCA in Solano County.

Total Acreage: 4,069 acres

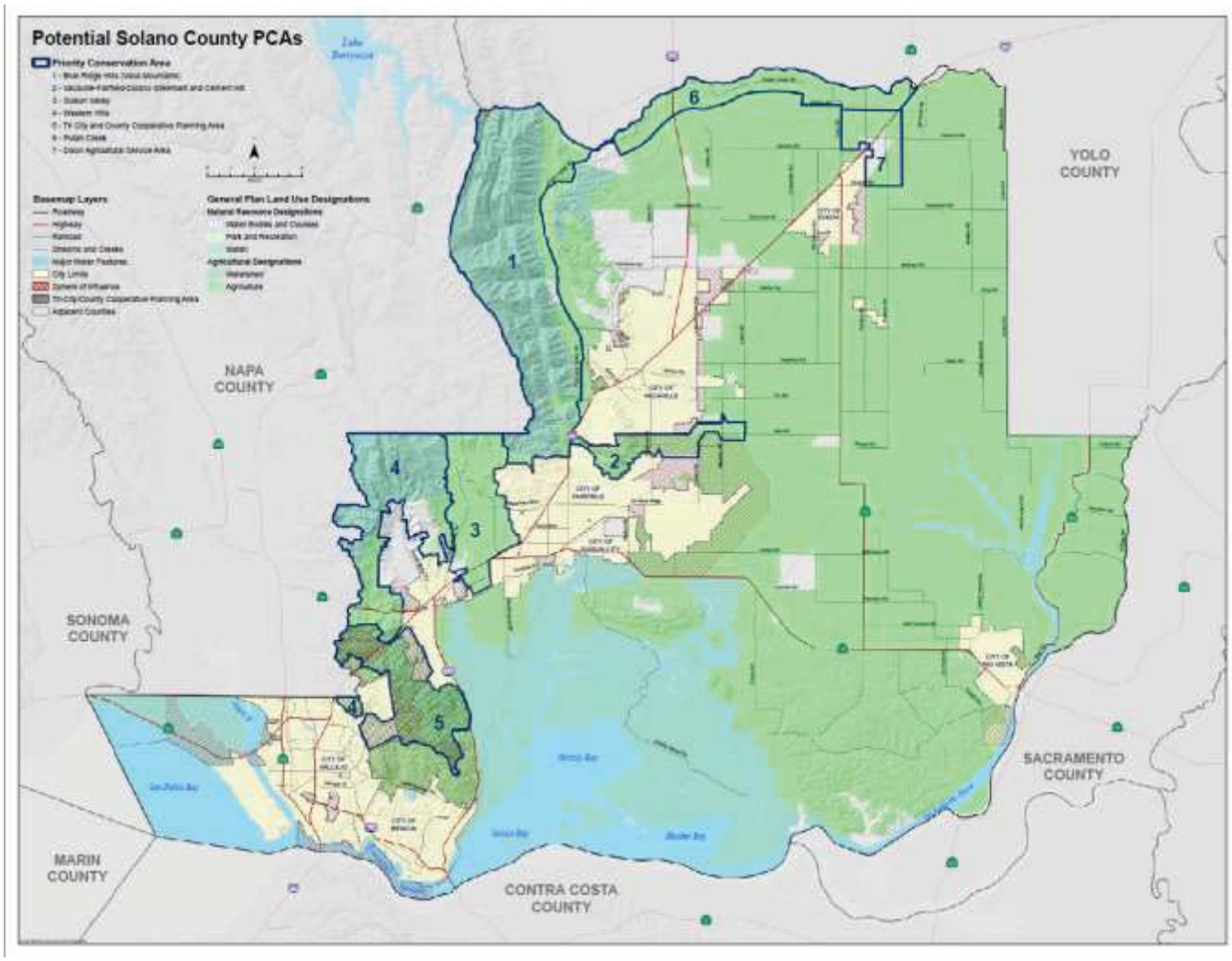


Figure 1: Regional Location and Conservation Framework (Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt PCA is labeled #2)

Part 2: Sponsor(s)

Lead Nominating Agency/Organization:

Staff Person:

Address:

Phone Number(s):

E-mail address:

Partnering Agency(ies)/Organization(s):

Part 3: Designation

Selected Designation

X	Natural Landscapes
X	Agricultural Lands
X	Urban Greening
	Regional Recreation

Part 4: Benefits

Primary Benefit(s)

The characteristics of the proposed Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt PCA allow the proposed PCA to qualify under multiple designations. **Table 1** summarizes the benefits that the proposed Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt PCA would provide as a Priority Conservation Area.

Table 1: Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt PCA Benefits

Designations	Primary Benefits Achieved	Criteria Met
Natural Landscapes	Terrestrial Ecosystems	✓ Protects land within the Conservation Lands Network ✓ Protects critical habitat
	Aquatic Ecosystems	✓ Protects important aquatic ecosystem features
	Water Supply & Quality	✓ Supports watershed health
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources & Economy	✓ Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production ✓ Supports local and state agricultural policies ✓ Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands ✓ Supports production on soil with reduced

		environmental impacts from agriculture
Urban Greening	Compact Growth	✓ Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces ✓ Supports stable urban edges ✓ Supports adopted open space policy protection measures

Part 5: Attachments

1. Adopted resolution by Board of Supervisors
2. Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt PCA benefits discussion
3. Supported General Plan policies
4. Solano County Agricultural Regions Map (AG-4)
5. Solano County Farmland Conversion Chart
6. Letters of support from partner agencies or organizations
    a. Suggestions: V-F-S Greenbelt Authority. Cities of Vacaville and Fairfield.

Attachment 1: Board of Supervisors Resolution

Insert resolution when completed.

Attachment 2: Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt PCA Benefits Discussion

Natural Landscapes

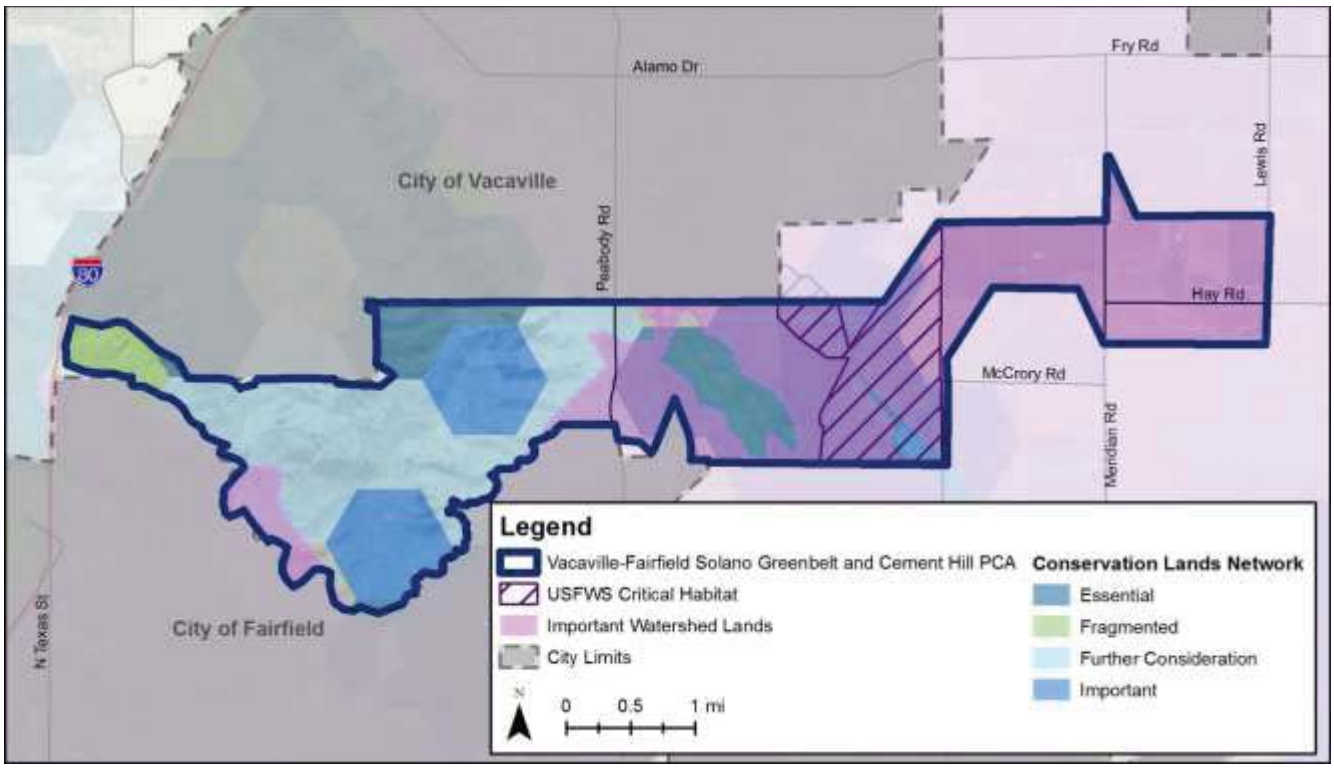


Figure 2: Natural Landscapes Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

Terrestrial Ecosystems

The proposed PCA includes land in the Conservation Lands Network (CLN), which is identified as Essential to conservation goals, Important to conservation goals, Fragmented land, and areas for Further Consideration. Of these four categories, the proposed PCA contains mostly Essential land, Important land, and areas for Further Consideration (see **Figure 2**). A portion of land in the proposed PCA is designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as critical habitat for Contra Costa goldfields (federally endangered), vernal pool fairy shrimp (federally threatened), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (federally endangered).

Aquatic Ecosystems

The proposed PCA provides protections for aquatic ecosystems with the potential for occurrences of federally threatened and endangered species. Critical habitat is designated by the USFWS for Contra Costa goldfields (federally endangered), vernal pool fairy shrimp (federally threatened), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (federally endangered) within the boundaries of the proposed PCA.

Water Supply and Quality

Greenbelt Mapper identifies areas of land within the boundaries of the potential PCA as in a high use groundwater basin. Greenbelt Mapper characterizes these areas as important watershed lands, which are areas of land important for a healthy functioning watershed and include areas that allow groundwater infiltration and underground water storage.

Potential Co-Benefits: Compact Growth

Agricultural Lands

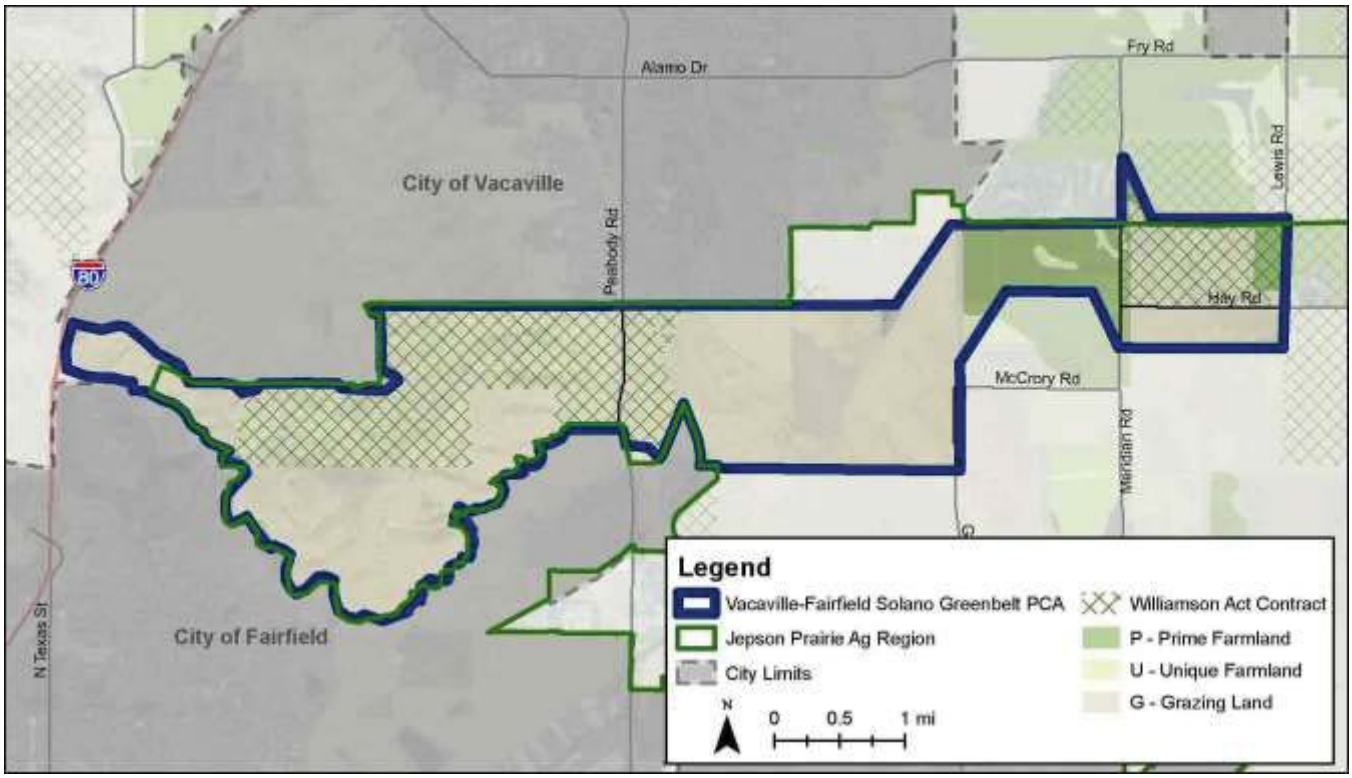


Figure 3: Agricultural Lands Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

Agricultural Resources and Economy

The Solano County General Plan designates land within the proposed PCA boundaries as Agriculture land use. The proposed PCA is in the Jepson Prairie agricultural region designated in the Solano County General Plan (see **Figure 3**). This agricultural region provides for agricultural production in the county, which primarily consists of grazing cattle and sheep. Solano County's Orderly Growth Initiative protects agricultural lands in the county by restricting redesignation of land designated for agricultural on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Map. Refer to **Attachment 3** for a list of agricultural policies supported by the area in the proposed PCA. The Solano County Important Farmland Map for 2012 provided by the FMMP of the California Department of Conservation identifies Grazing Land, Prime Farmland, and Unique Farmland within the boundaries of the proposed PCA. The majority of land in the proposed PCA is identified as Grazing Land. Areas of grazing land in the proposed PCA are protected by Williamson Act contracts for non-prime agricultural land and non-renewal Williamson Act contracts. The land in the proposed PCA completes a contiguous area of grazing and farm lands east and west of the proposed PCA boundaries. The land in the proposed PCA is considered to support production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture based on the combination of agricultural characteristics and benefits the land proposed as part of the PCA.

Potential Co-Benefits: Wildlife Habitat, Water Supply and Quality, and Compact Growth

Urban Greening

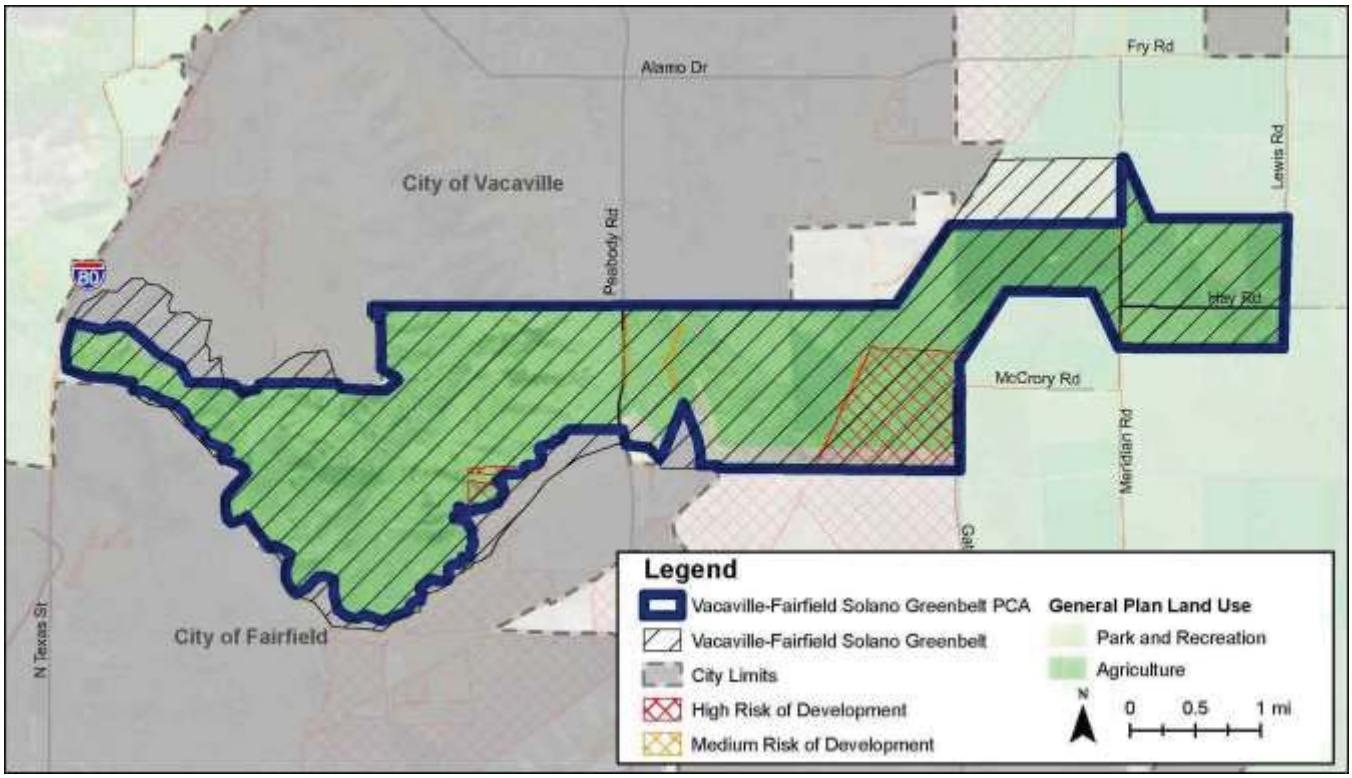


Figure 4: Urban Greening (Compact Growth) Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

Compact Growth

Greenbelt Mapper provides three categories—low, medium, and high—to indicate the level of risk for which areas of land are subject to development. Low risk indicates lands that are not likely to be developed in the next 10 to 30 years; medium risk indicates lands that are likely to be developed in the next 10 to 30 years; and high risk indicates lands that are likely to be developed in the next 10 years. The majority of land within the boundaries of the proposed PCA is identified as low risk, with smaller areas identified as medium and high risk (see **Figure 4**). The medium and high risk areas are generally located along the city limits of Fairfield and Vacaville.

The Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt is an open space between Vacaville and Fairfield in Solano County which was established to provide recreational opportunities and act as a community separator and buffer between agricultural and urban areas. The proposed PCA supports stable urban edges, as it follows the city limits of the cities of Vacaville and Fairfield and covers almost the entire Greenbelt area, which was established as a permanent open space greenbelt, serving as a community separator and an ultimate limit line for urban growth.

Potential Co-Benefits: Wildlife Habitat, Water Supply and Quality

Attachment 3: Supporting General Plan Policies

The following Solano County General Plan policies and implementation programs support designation of the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt as a PCA.

Natural Landscapes

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-1:
Protect and enhance the county's natural habitats and diverse plant and animal communities, particularly occurrences of special-status species, wetlands, sensitive natural communities, and habitat connections.

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-3:
Focus conservation and protection efforts on high-priority habitat areas depicted in Figure RS-1 [of the Solano County General Plan].

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 3.C:
The County shall work to protect identified recreational sites and natural resource areas.

Resources Chapter Implementation Program RS.I-11:
Together with landowners, land trusts, and agencies, explore habitat preservation alternatives such as:

- voluntary acquisition of development rights or conservation easements;
- developing mitigation banks, especially within Resource Conservation Overlay areas;
- providing outreach to landowners within the Resource Conservation Overlay regarding benefits of conservation easements;
- promoting agricultural practices compatible with habitat protection;
- allowing income-generating uses on agricultural lands that can support farmers who protect habitat lands; and
- promoting eco-tourism to generate revenues to support habitat protection and keep agriculture viable.

Agricultural Lands

Land Use Chapter Policy LU.P-1:
Collaborate with cities to guide development to the county's urban centers and promote sustainable development patterns.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-3:
Encourage consolidation of the fragmented pattern of agricultural preserves and contracts established under the Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) and the retention of agricultural preserves and contracts in agricultural, watershed, and marshland areas.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-16:
Minimize potential conflicts between agricultural and residential uses by encouraging the use of urban-agricultural buffers within city municipal service areas between residential uses and agricultural lands.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-23:
Support recreation and open space activities that are complementary and secondary to the primary agricultural activities on the land.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-26:

Acknowledge the 10 agricultural regions and address them in unique ways that support the maintenance and expansion of profitable agricultural production.

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-61:
Retain rural character in areas between cities by promoting agricultural uses within community separators.

Agriculture Chapter Implementation Program AG.I-5:
Work with cities to establish appropriate urban-agricultural buffers where new residential uses within municipal service areas may conflict with agricultural uses. Urban-agricultural buffers shall be an appropriate size to meet desired objectives, but in no case less than 300 feet in width. The buffer should occur on developing parcels located within municipal service areas to the extent feasible; be managed by the landowner, developer, homeowner's association, or a special purpose district; and favor protection of the maximum amount of farmable land.

Resources Chapter Implementation Program RS.I-11:
Together with landowners, land trusts, and agencies, explore habitat preservation alternatives such as:

- voluntary acquisition of development rights or conservation easements;
- developing mitigation banks, especially within Resource Conservation Overlay areas;
- providing outreach to landowners within the Resource Conservation Overlay regarding benefits of conservation easements;
- promoting agricultural practices compatible with habitat protection;
- allowing income-generating uses on agricultural lands that can support farmers who protect habitat lands; and
- promoting eco-tourism to generate revenues to support habitat protection and keep agriculture viable.

Urban Greening (Compact Growth)

Land Use Chapter Policy LU.P-1:
Collaborate with cities to guide development to the county's urban centers and promote sustainable development patterns.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-3:
Encourage consolidation of the fragmented pattern of agricultural preserves and contracts established under the Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) and the retention of agricultural preserves and contracts in agricultural, watershed, and marshland areas.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-23:
Support recreation and open space activities that are complementary and secondary to the primary agricultural activities on the land.

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-60:
Work with cities to maintain open space separators around cities to preserve their identity and character.

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-61:
Retain rural character in areas between cities by promoting agricultural uses within community separators.

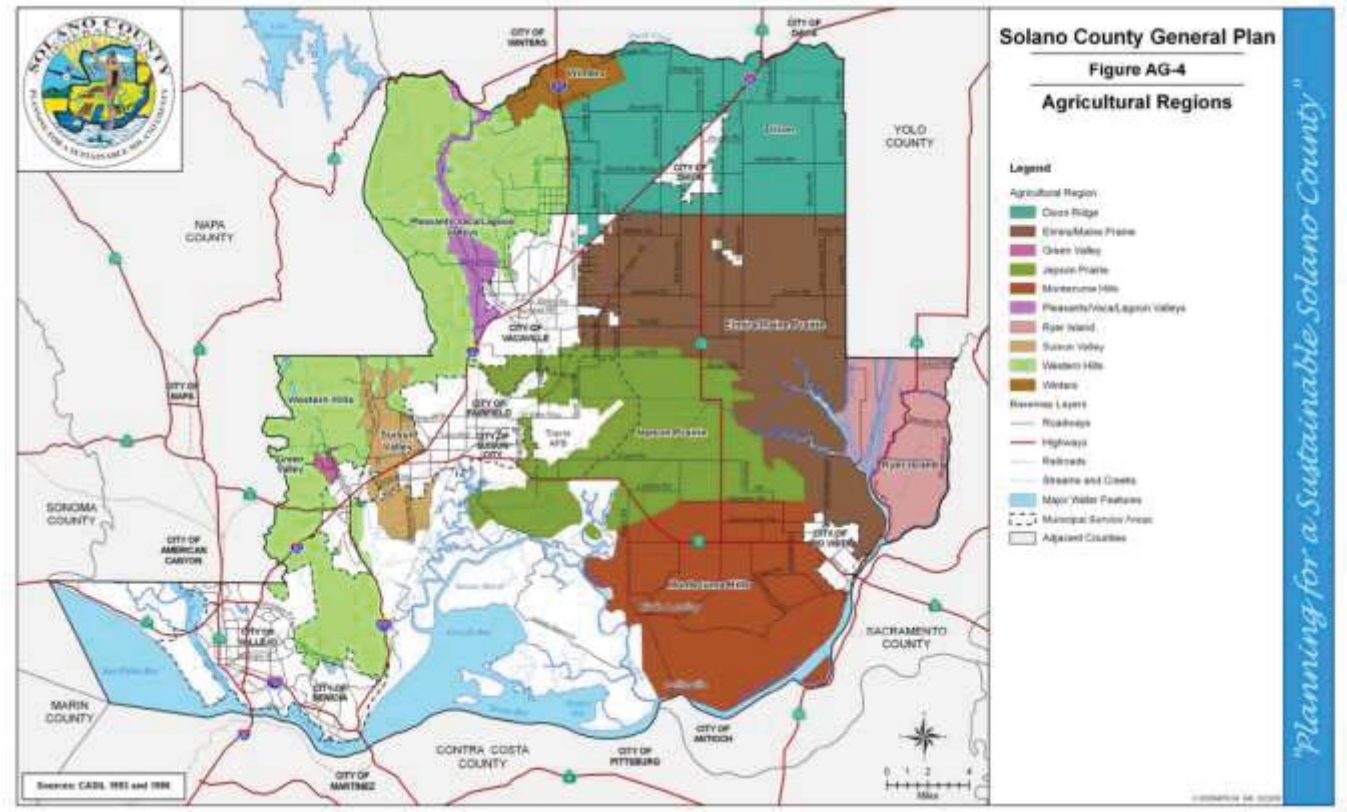
Public Facilities and Services Chapter Policy PF.P-7:

Coordinate with the cities to strongly encourage compact urban development within city urban growth areas to avoid unnecessary extension or reconstruction of roads, water mains, and services and to reduce the need for increased school, police, fire, and other public facilities and services.

Resources Chapter Implementation Program RS.I-65:
Participate with cities and special districts in establishing agreements that delineate community separators. Support agreements that are already in place. Existing agreements and programs include the Tri City/County Agriculture and Open Space program, Vacaville-Fairfield Greenbelt, Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt, Dixon-Davis Greenbelt, and Vallejo-Benicia Separator.

Attachment 4: Solano County Agricultural Regions Map

The proposed Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt PCA is located within one of ten agricultural regions identified in the Solano County General Plan, as shown in Figure AG-4 in the Agriculture Element of the General Plan (provided below for reference). Specifically, the proposed Vacaville-Fairfield Solano Greenbelt PCA is located within the boundaries of the County's Jepson Prairie Agricultural Region.



Attachment 5: Solano County Farmland Conversion Chart

Table AG-2 presents the changes in Solano County land use from 1984 to 2006 according to 2006 FMMP data. Negative change indicates loss of area, and positive change indicates gain in area. While changes in survey methodology account for some change in mapped land uses, the majority of loss of Important Farmlands is due to conversion to urban or low-density development. A total of 18,672 acres of Important Farmland became Urban and Built-up Land or Other Land between 1984 and 2006.

Table AG-2
Farmland Conversion (1984–2006)

FMMP Land Use	Acres		Change 1984-2006	
	1984	2006	Acres	Percent
Prime Farmland	152,140	139,459	-12,681	-8.3%
Statewide Importance	12,613	7,159	-5,454	-43.2%
Unique Farmland	16,102	11,031	-5,072	-31.5%
Grazing Land	220,008	202,702	-17,306	-7.9%
Urban and Built-up Land	40,145	58,590	+18,445	+45.9%
Water (over 40 acres)	50,579	49,717	-863	-1.7%
Other land	90,430	113,360	+22,930	+25.4%

Attachment 6: Letters of Support

Letters supporting designation of the Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt PCA as a Priority Conservation Area from the following organizations are provided on the following pages:

a. Solano Grown
b. Solano Resource Conservation District
c. Solano Land Trust
d. City of Fairfield

Insert letters on following pages

Suisun Valley

County of Solano

Part 1: Area Information

Proposed Name: Suisun Valley

Description: Suisun Valley has been viable agricultural land for over 100 years. Its rich soil and climatic conditions make it ideal for the production of the wine grapes, small grains, and fruits that extends across 92% of the land. Suisun Valley land that is not used directly for agricultural production is used to support agriculture. No fallow land exists in the valley. Wine production and agricultural tourism draw visitors from the surrounding areas.

Suisun Valley is an alluvial fan that drains from the northern highlands south to the Suisun Marsh. Portions of the valley are critical to the health of the surrounding watershed. The valley is surrounded by urban areas on three sides, and land prices and market value opportunities are relatively high. Tourism is an increasingly important economic draw. These factors combine to put immense development pressure on the land.

Solano County has protected the land from development in many ways and intends to continue doing so. In 2011, the County adopted a Strategic Plan for Suisun Valley supporting ongoing agricultural production, economic flexibility, and infrastructure investments to support an expanding tourist economy.

Location (include map and text description): Suisun Valley is bordered on the south and east by Fairfield, to the north by Napa County, and to the east by Green Valley. It is located between the Vaca Mountains to the east and the Mt. George Range to the west (see **Figure 1**).

Total Acreage: 9,148 acres

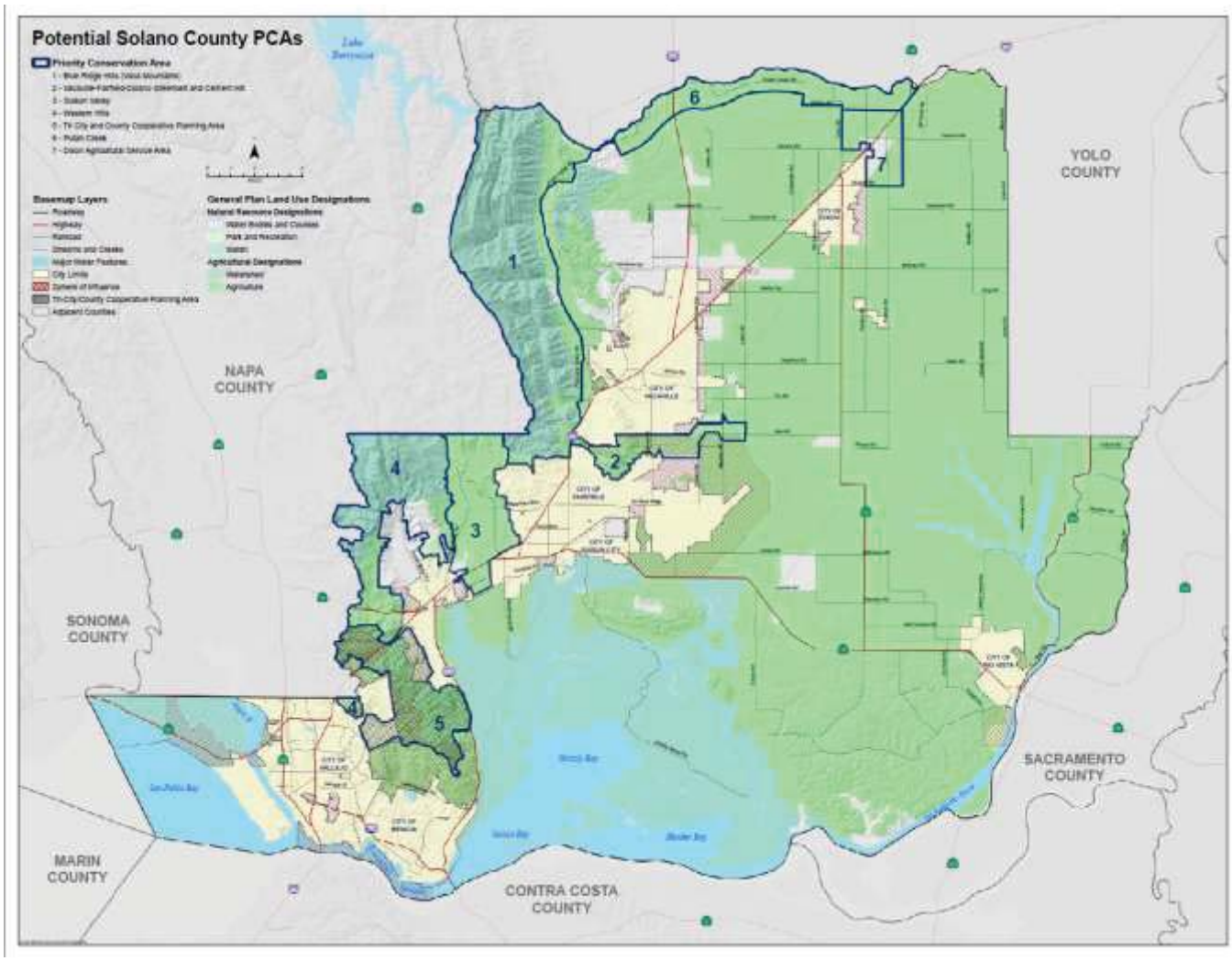


Figure 1: Regional Location and Conservation Framework (Suisun Valley PCA is labeled #3)

Part 2: Sponsor(s)

Lead Nominating Agency/Organization: Solano County

Staff Person: Matt Walsh

Address: Solano County Department of Resource Management; 675 Texas Street, Ste. 5500; Fairfield, CA 94533

Phone Number(s): (707) 784-3168

E-mail address: mwalsh@solanocounty.com

Partnering Agency(ies)/Organization(s): Solano County Transportation Authority

Part 3: Designation

Selected Designation
(Select one or more designation for the proposed PCA)

X	Natural Landscapes
X	Agricultural Lands
X	Urban Greening (Compact Growth)
	Regional Recreation

Part 4: Benefits

Primary Benefit(s)

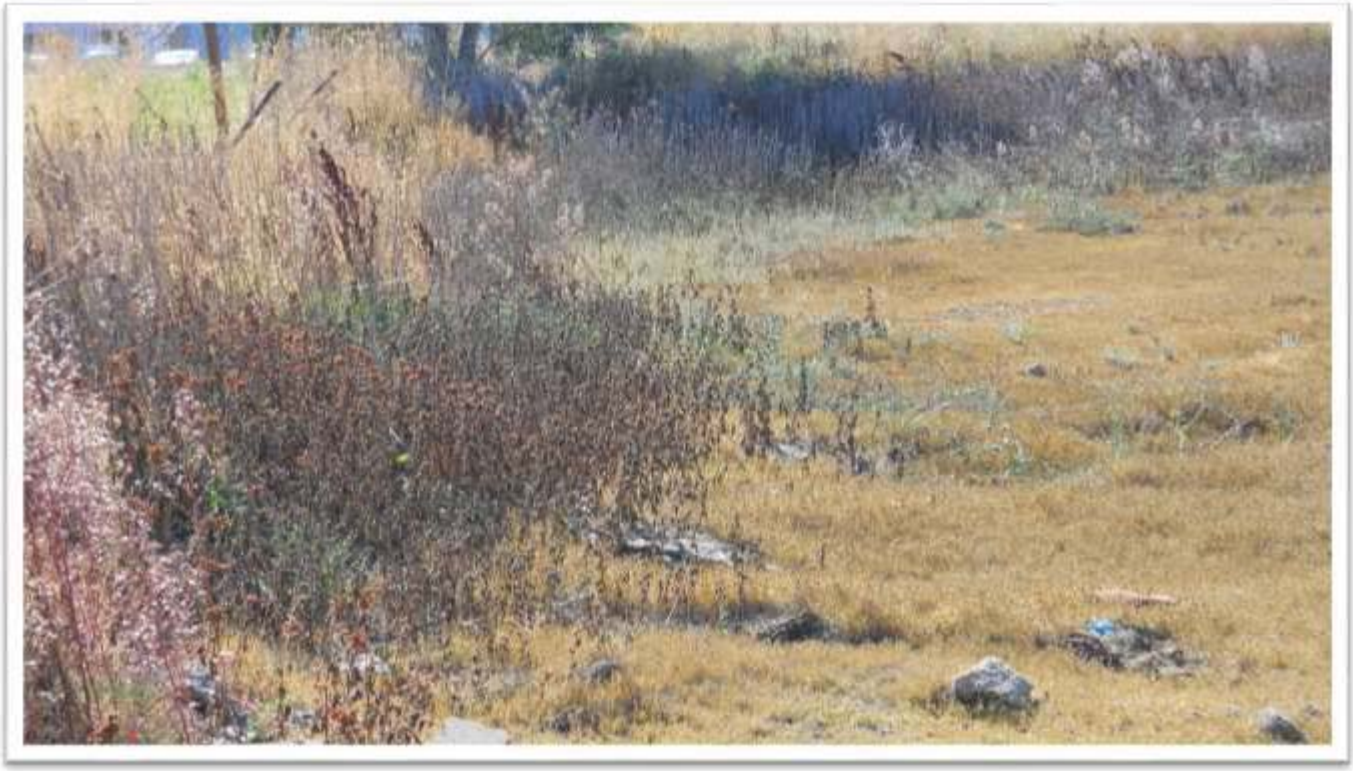
(Select one or more benefits and co-benefits for the proposed PCA)

Table 1 summarizes the primary conservation benefits of the proposed Suisun Valley PCA.

Table 1: Suisun Valley PCA Benefits

Designations	Primary Benefits Achieved	Criteria Met
Natural Landscapes	Aquatic Ecosystems	✓ Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN
	Water Supply & Quality	✓ Protects urban water supply ✓ Supports watershed health
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources & Economy	✓ Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production ✓ Supports local and state agricultural policies ✓ Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands ✓ Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture
Urban Greening	Compact Growth*	✓ Support stable urban edges

* Note: For several Solano County PCAs, the Urban Greening designation is applied to community separators to promote compact growth within urban areas in incorporated cities.



Part 5: Attachments

1. Adopted resolution by the Board of Supervisors
2. Suisun Valley PCA Benefits Discussion
3. Supporting General Plan Policies
4. Solano County Agricultural Regions Map (General Plan Figure AG-4)
5. Solano County Farmland Conversion Chart
6. Letters of support from partner agencies or organizations
    a. Solano Grown
    b. Solano Resource Conservation District
    c. Solano Land Trust
    d. City of Fairfield

Attachment 1: Board of Supervisors Resolution

Insert resolution when completed.

Attachment 2: Suisun Valley PCA Benefits Discussion

Natural Landscapes

The proposed Suisun Valley PCA provides protection for aquatic ecosystems and watersheds in Putah Creek and the surrounding riparian zone (see **Figure 2**). Suisun Creek and Green Valley Creek, which run through the proposed PCA, are identified as Priority 1 and Priority 2 streams, respectively, and as stream conservation targets by the Conservation Lands Network. The area surrounding these priority streams has a moderate recharge rate of 5 to 7 inches per year. Portions of the valley are considered important watershed lands that are important for a healthy functioning watershed.

Potential Co-Benefits: Recreation

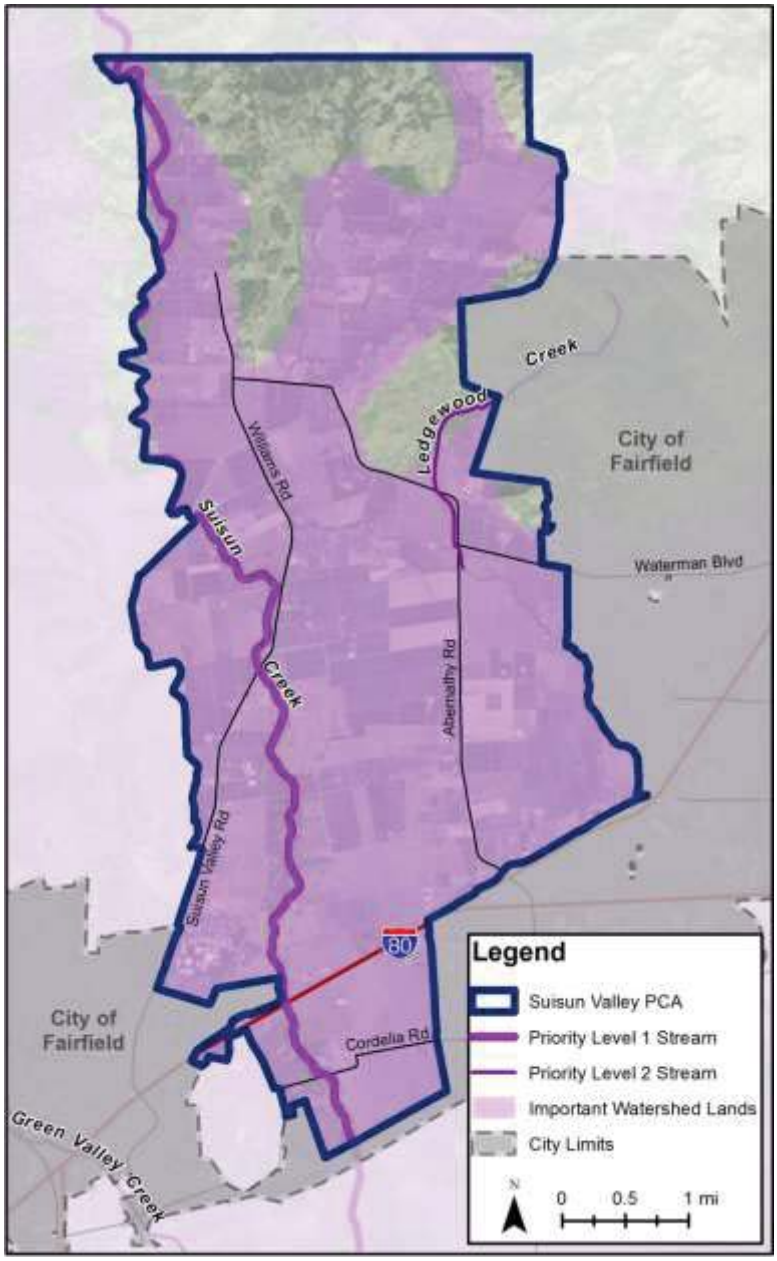


Figure 2: Natural Landscapes Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

Agricultural Lands

Suisun Valley contains agricultural land classified by the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) as Prime, Unique, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, in addition to Grazing Land (See **Figure 3**). This proposed PCA would complete areas of farm or grazing lands protected by either Williamson Act contracts or local measures or propositions prohibiting conversion of farmland. Suisun Valley is designated for Agriculture and includes several Neighborhood Agricultural/Tourist Centers on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram.

Potential Co-Benefits: Recreation, Urban Greening (Compact Growth)

Figure 3: Agricultural Lands Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

Urban Greening (Compact Growth)

While the majority of the proposed Suisun Valley PCA is identified as low risk for development, there are areas identified as medium and high risk land by the Greenbelt Mapper (See **Figure 4**). These areas correspond to the Neighborhood Agricultural/Tourist Center designations on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram and described within the Suisun Valley Strategic Plan. The proposed PCA follows portions of the Fairfield city limits to the east, south, and west, providing boundaries for these urban areas.

Potential Co-Benefits: Recreation, Wildlife Habitat

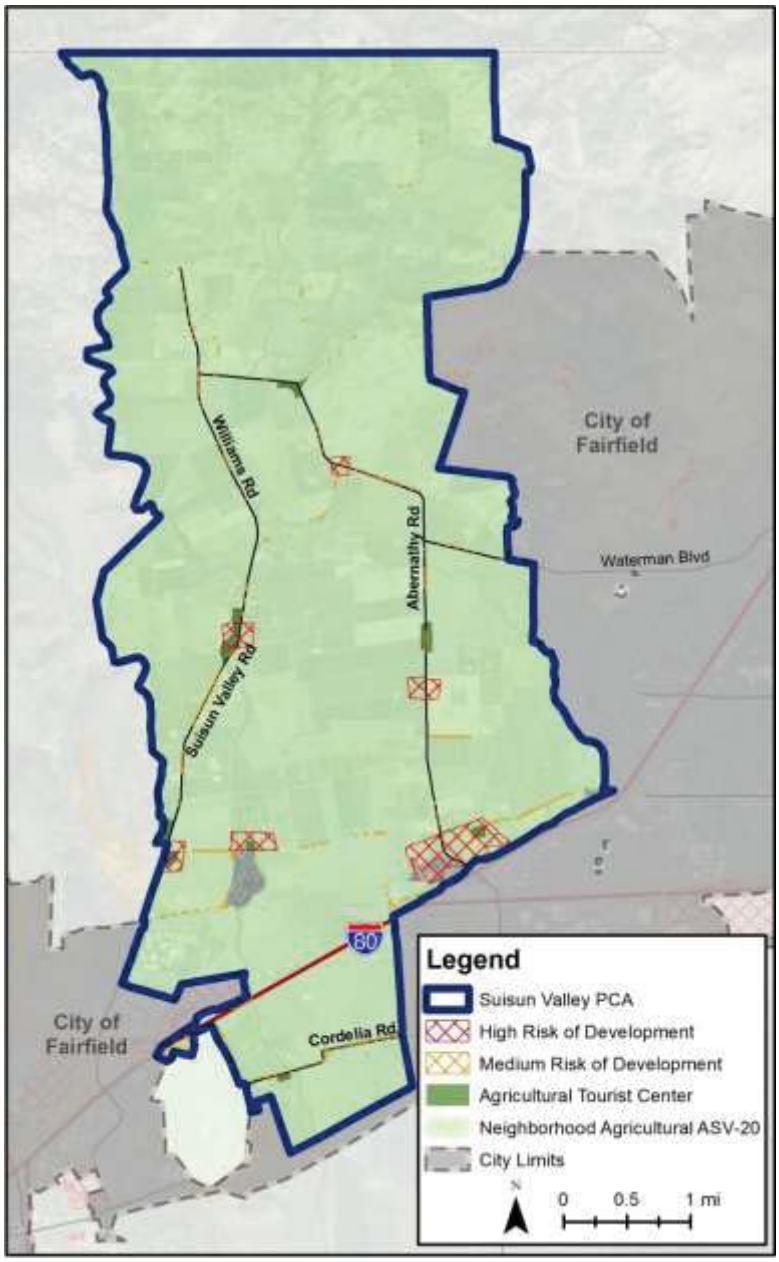


Figure 4: Urban Greening (Compact Growth) Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

Attachment 3: Supporting General Plan Policies

The following Solano County General Plan policies and implementation programs support designation of Suisun Valley as a Priority Conservation Area.

Natural Landscapes

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-1:
Protect and enhance the county's natural habitats and diverse plant and animal communities, particularly occurrences of special-status species, wetlands, sensitive natural communities and habitat connections.
Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-68: Protect existing open spaces, natural habitats, floodplains, and wetland areas that serve as groundwater recharge areas.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 3.C:
The County shall work to protect identified recreational sites and natural resource areas. *Resources Chapter Implementation Program RS.I-11:*
Together with landowners, land trusts, and agencies, explore habitat preservation alternatives such as:

- voluntary acquisition of development rights or conservation easements;
- developing mitigation banks, especially within Resource Conservation Overlay areas;
- providing outreach to landowners within the Resource Conservation Overlay regarding benefits of conservation easements;
- promoting agricultural practices compatible with habitat protection;
- allowing income-generating uses on agricultural lands that can support farmers who protect habitat lands; and
- promoting eco-tourism to generate revenues to support habitat protection and keep agriculture viable.

Agricultural Lands

Land Use Chapter Policy LU.P-1:
Collaborate with cities to guide development to the county's urban centers and promote sustainable development patterns.

Land Use Chapter Policy SS.P-9:
Preserve agricultural production as the principal use of the Valley's farmlands.

Land Use Chapter Policy SS.P-11:
Ensure that future development fits the scale of the [Suisun] Valley's rural and agricultural context.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-3:
Encourage consolidation of the fragmented pattern of agricultural preserves and contracts established under the Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) and the retention of agricultural preserves and contracts in agricultural, watershed, and marshland areas.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-16:
Minimize potential conflicts between agricultural and residential uses by encouraging the use of urban-agricultural buffers within city municipal service areas between residential uses and agricultural lands.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-23:

Support recreation and open space activities that are complimentary and secondary to the primary agricultural activities on the land.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-26:
Acknowledge the 10 agricultural regions and address then in unique ways that support the maintenance and expansion of profitable agricultural production.

Resources Chapter Implementation Program RS.I-11:
Together with landowners, land trusts, and agencies, explore habitat preservation alternatives such as:

- voluntary acquisition of development rights or conservation easements;
- developing mitigation banks, especially within Resource Conservation Overlay areas;
- providing outreach to landowners within the Resource Conservation Overlay regarding benefits of conservation easements;
- promoting agricultural practices compatible with habitat protection;
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- promoting eco-tourism to generate revenues to support habitat protection and keep agriculture viable.

Urban Greening (Compact Growth)

Land Use Chapter Policy SS.P-11:
Ensure that future development fits the scale of the [Suisun] Valley's rural and agricultural context.

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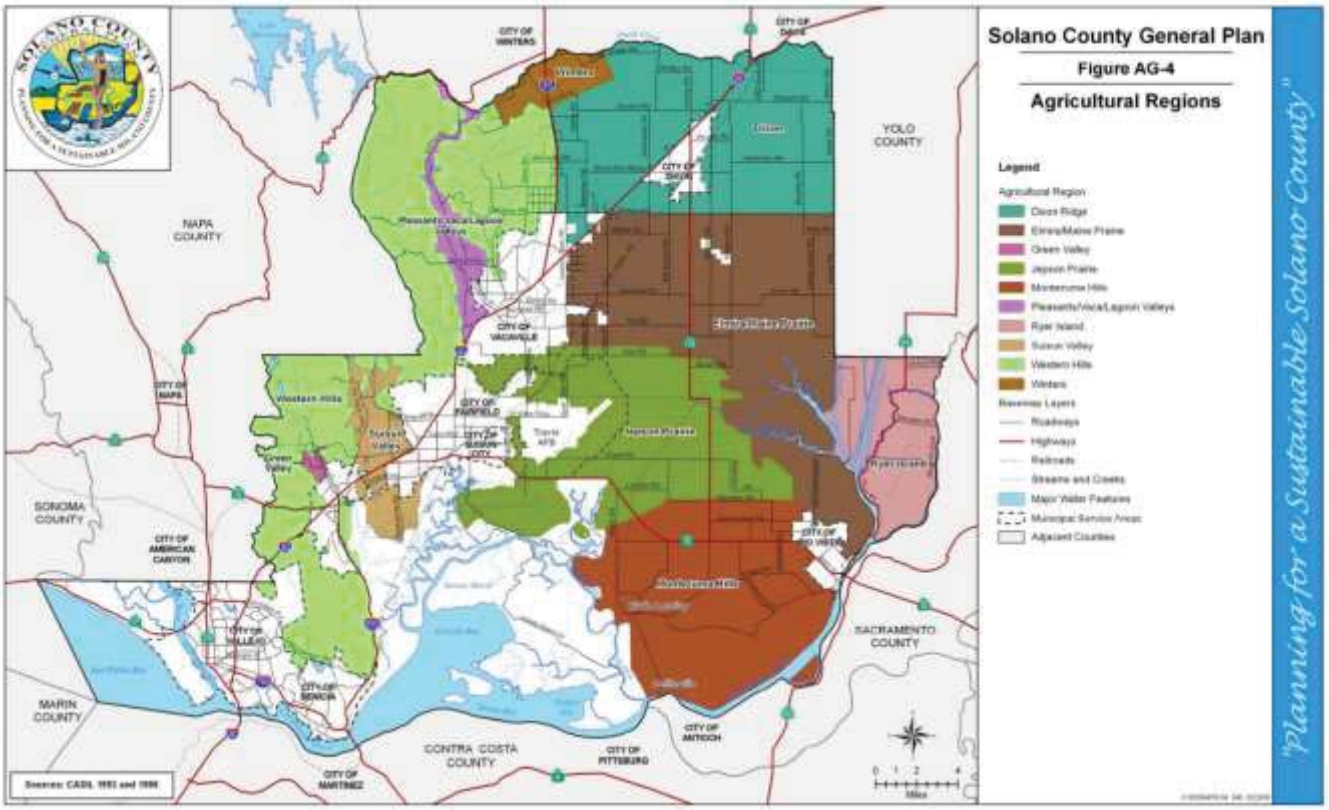
Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-23:
Support recreation and open space activities that are complimentary and secondary to the primary agricultural activities on the land.

Public Facilities and Services Chapter Policy PF.P-7:
Coordinate with the cities to strongly encourage compact urban development within city urban growth areas to avoid unnecessary extension or reconstruction of roads, water mains, and services and to reduce the need for increased school, police, fire, and other public facilities and services.

Attachment 4: Solano County Agricultural Regions Map

Suisun Valley is designated as one of ten Agricultural Regions in the Solano County General Plan, as shown in Figure AG-4 of the plan (provided below for reference). Pursuant to this designation, the County adopted a Strategic Plan for Suisun Valley in 2011.



Attachment 5: Solano County Farmland Conversion Chart

Table AG-2 presents the changes in Solano County land use from 1984 to 2006 according to 2006 FMMP data. Negative change indicates loss of area, and positive change indicates gain in area. While changes in survey methodology account for some change in mapped land uses, the majority of loss of Important Farmlands is due to conversion to urban or low-density development. A total of 18,672 acres of Important Farmland became Urban and Built-up Land or Other Land between 1984 and 2006.

Table AG-2
Farmland Conversion (1984–2006)

FMMP Land Use	Acres		Change 1984-2006	
	1984	2006	Acres	Percent
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Urban and Built-up Land	40,145	58,590	+18,445	+45.9%
Water (over 40 acres)	50,579	49,717	-863	-1.7%
Other land	90,430	113,360	+22,930	+25.4%

Attachment 6: Letters of Support

Letters supporting designation of Suisun Valley as a Priority Conservation Area from the following organizations are provided on the following pages:

a. Solano Grown
b. Solano Resource Conservation District
c. Solano Land Trust
d. City of Fairfield

Insert letters on following pages

Attachment 6: Letters of Support

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b. Solano Resource Conservation District
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d. City of Fairfield

Insert letters on following pages

Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area

County of Solano

Part 1: Area Information

Proposed Name: Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area

Description: The proposed Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area Priority Conservation Area (PCA) includes the Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area (Cooperative Planning Area) established in 1994 by the Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Group (Cooperative Planning Group), which consists of and was created by a joint powers agreement entered into by Solano County and the Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo. It was responsible for preparing a plan to protect regional park, open space, and agricultural land. The Tri-City and County Cooperative Plan for Agriculture and Open Space Preservation (Cooperative Plan) sets forth objectives, policies, and guidelines for the preservation of agricultural and open space land in Solano County between Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo. The Cooperative Planning Group and Cooperative Plan were established in response to concerns of encroaching urban development into the hills of the Cooperative Planning Area. The 10,000-acre Cooperative Planning Area includes land used for agricultural, open space, and recreational purposes.

The Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram identifies the area in the proposed PCA with an Agriculture land use designation. The proposed PCA is in the Western Hills agricultural region, as shown on the Solano County Agricultural Regions figure of the County's General Plan. The Western Hills agricultural region covers areas in the northwestern and southwestern regions of Solano County, including the area in the proposed PCA in the southwestern region. The Western Hills region provides for agricultural production in the county and is characterized by grasslands, oak woodlands, and mountain plateaus. Agricultural production in the Western Hills region is limited primarily to grazing because of the steep slopes and soil types in the region.

Location: The proposed PCA includes the Cooperative Planning Area and is located adjacent to Fairfield, Vallejo, and Benicia in Solano County and the Solano/Napa County line. The proposed PCA includes areas within the city limits of Fairfield and Vallejo where those areas are also in the Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area. The boundaries are consistent with the Cooperative Planning Area. **Figure 1** provides a diagram of the location of the proposed Cooperative Planning Area PCA.

Total Acreage: 10,598 acres

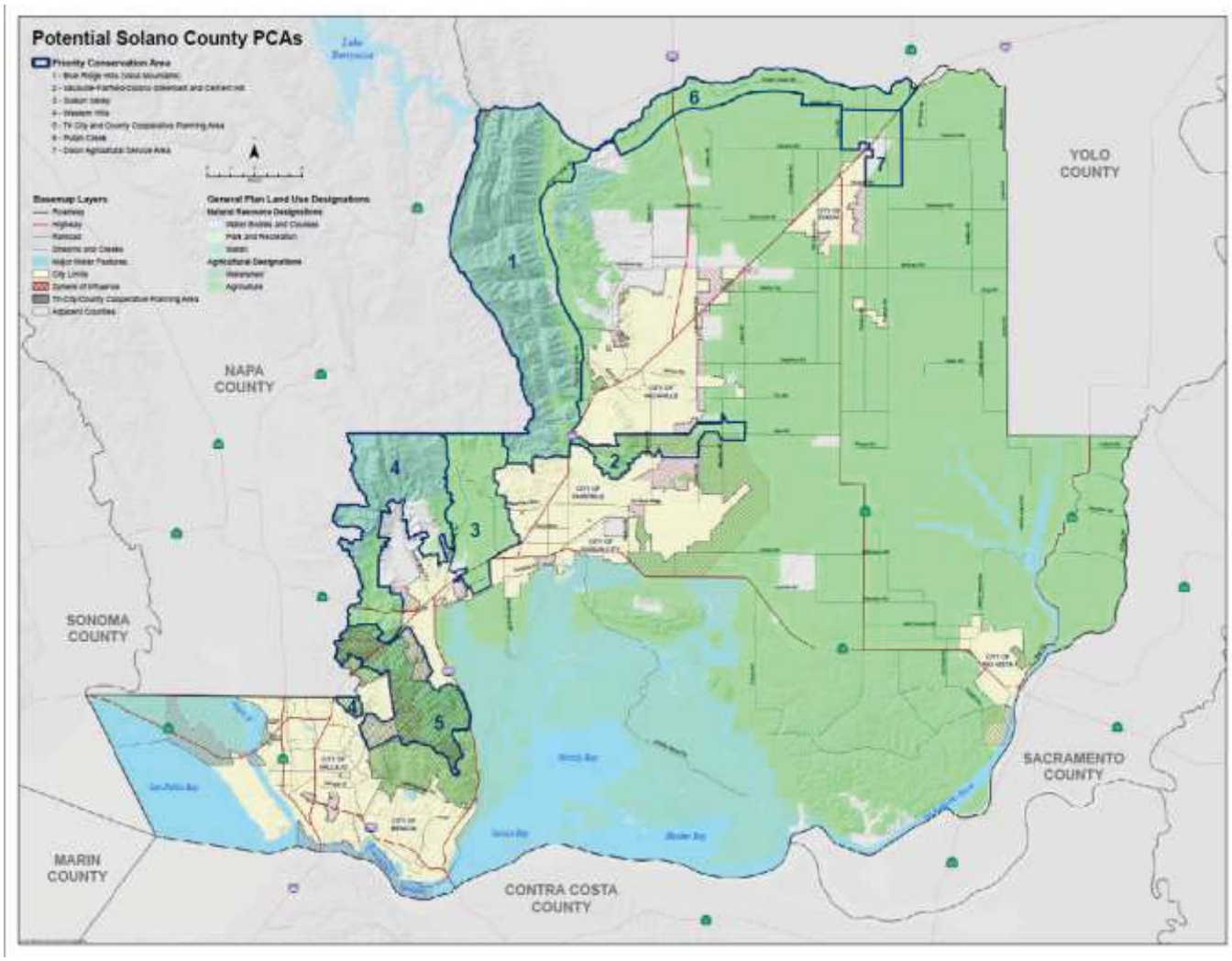


Figure 1: Regional Location and Conservation Framework (Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area PCA is labeled # 5)

Part 2: Sponsor(s)

Lead Nominating Agency/Organization: Solano County

Staff Person:

Address:

Phone Number(s):

E-mail address:

Partnering Agency(ies)/Organization(s): Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Group? Vallejo? Benicia? Fairfield?

Part 3: Designation

Selected Designation

X	Natural Landscapes
X	Agricultural Lands
X	Urban Greening
X	Regional Recreation

Part 4: Benefits

Primary Benefits

(Select one or more benefits and co-benefits for the proposed PCA)

The characteristics of the proposed Cooperative Planning Area PCA allow the proposed PCA to qualify under multiple designations. **Table 1** summarizes the benefits the proposed Cooperative Planning Area PCA would provide as a Priority Conservation Area.

Table 1: Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area PCA Benefits

Designations	Primary Benefits Achieved	Criteria Met
Natural Landscapes	Terrestrial Ecosystems	✓ Protects land within the Conservation Lands Network ✓ Protects critical habitat
	Water Supply & Quality	✓ Supports watershed health
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources & Economy	✓ Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production ✓ Supports local and state agricultural policies ✓ Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands ✓ Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture
Regional Recreation	Recreation	✓ Includes segments of proposed regional trails ✓ Supports regional parkland recreation
Urban Greening	Compact Growth	✓ Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces ✓ Supports stable urban edges ✓ Supports adopted open space policy protection measures

Part 5: Attachments

1. Adopted resolution by the Board of Supervisors
2. Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area PCA benefits discussion
3. Supported General Plan policies

4. Solano County Agricultural Regions Map (AG-4)
5. Solano County Farmland Conversion Chart
6. Letters of support from partner agencies or organizations.
    a. Suggestions: Cooperative Planning Group, Cities of Vallejo, Fairfield, and Benicia, Agricultural Industry Group.

Attachment 1: Board of Supervisors Resolution

Insert resolution when completed.

Attachment 2: Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area PCA

Benefits Discussion

Natural Landscapes

Terrestrial Ecosystems

The proposed PCA includes land in the Conservation Lands Network (CLN), which is identified as Essential to conservation goals, Important to conservation goals, Fragmented land, and areas for Further Consideration. Within the boundaries of the proposed PCA, Essential land is the most common, and almost all the land within the boundaries is identified as one of the four CLN land classifications. Critical habitat includes areas that are essential for the conservation of threatened and endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act. The majority of land within the boundaries of the proposed PCA is also designated as critical habitat for the California red-legged frog, which is a federally threatened species and a California species of special concern.

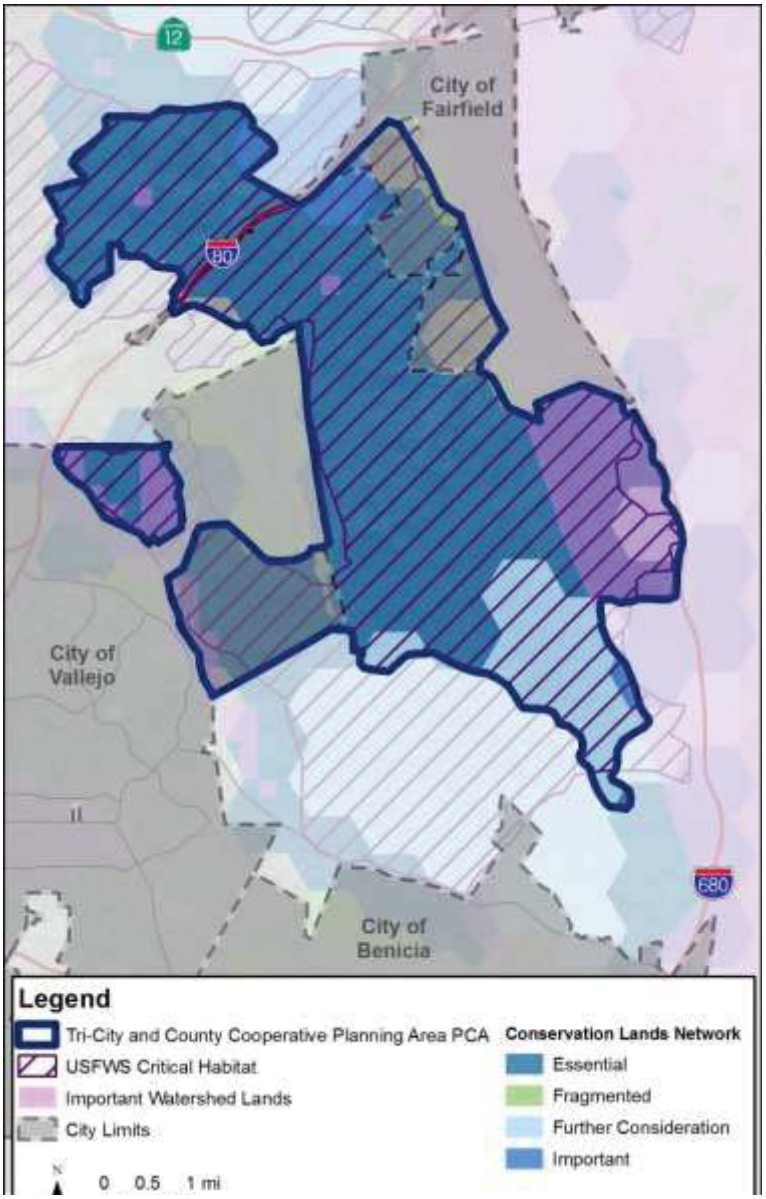


Figure 2: Natural Landscapes Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

Water Supply and Quality

Greenbelt Mapper identifies areas of land within the boundaries of the potential PCA as in a high use groundwater basin and as having a moderate level of water infiltration. Greenbelt Mapper characterizes these areas as important watershed lands, which are important for a healthy functioning watershed and include areas that allow groundwater infiltration and underground water storage.

Potential Co-Benefits: Compact Growth and Recreation

Agricultural Lands

Agricultural Resources and Economy

The Solano County General Plan designates the land use within the proposed PCA boundaries as Agriculture (see **Figure 3**). The proposed PCA is in the Western Hills agricultural region designated in the Solano County General Plan. This agricultural region provides for agricultural production in the county, which primarily consists of grazing. Solano County's Orderly Growth Initiative protects agricultural lands in the county by restricting redesignation of land designated for agricultural on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Map. Refer to **Attachment 3** for a list of agricultural policies supported by the area in the proposed PCA. The Solano County Important Farmland Map for 2012 provided by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Department of Conservation identifies the majority of land within the boundaries of the proposed PCA as Grazing Land, with relatively small portions of land identified as Urban/Built-Up Land and Other Land. Areas of grazing land in the proposed PCA are protected by Williamson Act contracts for non-prime agricultural land.

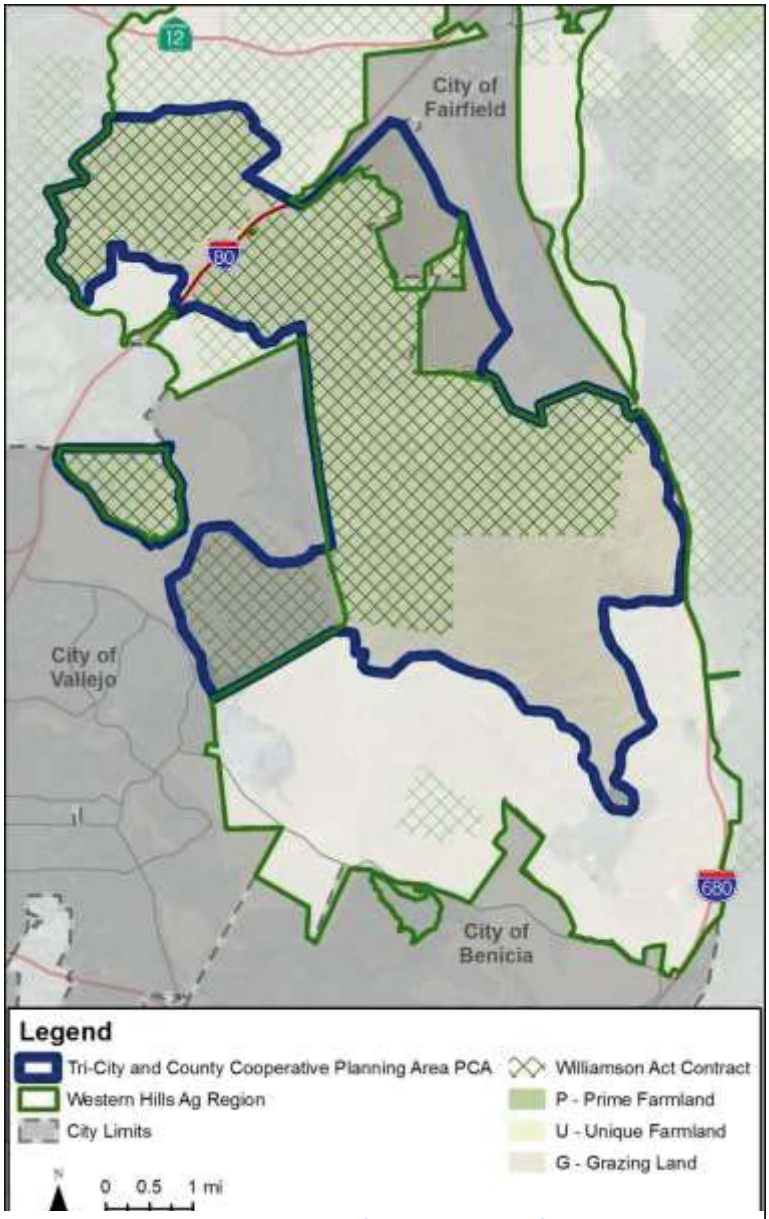


Figure 3: Agricultural Lands Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

The land in the proposed PCA is considered to support production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture based on the combination of agricultural benefits the land provides. Additionally, agricultural land in the Cooperative Planning Area is heritage farming land with existing irrigation, water runoff infrastructure, stable soils, and an established policy structure for preservation of agriculture, which ensures sustainable agricultural production that limits environmental impacts.

Potential Co-Benefits: Wildlife Habitat, Water Supply and Quality, Recreation, and Compact Growth

Regional Recreation

Recreation

The Bay Area Ridge Trail is a planned trail network of more than 550 miles of multiuse trails throughout the Bay Area, of which approximately 350 miles are complete and open for use. The trail offers hiking, cycling, and equestrian recreation opportunities. The existing and planned segments of the trail connect parks and open spaces throughout the Bay Area region. A proposed segment is located within the proposed PCA boundaries running north to south located generally between Columbus Parkway and St. Johns Mine Road and between St. Johns Mine Road and Highgate Road (see **Figure 4**). The proposed trail segment is within the Vallejo city limits and would connect Hiddenbrooke Trail with Blue Rock Springs Park.

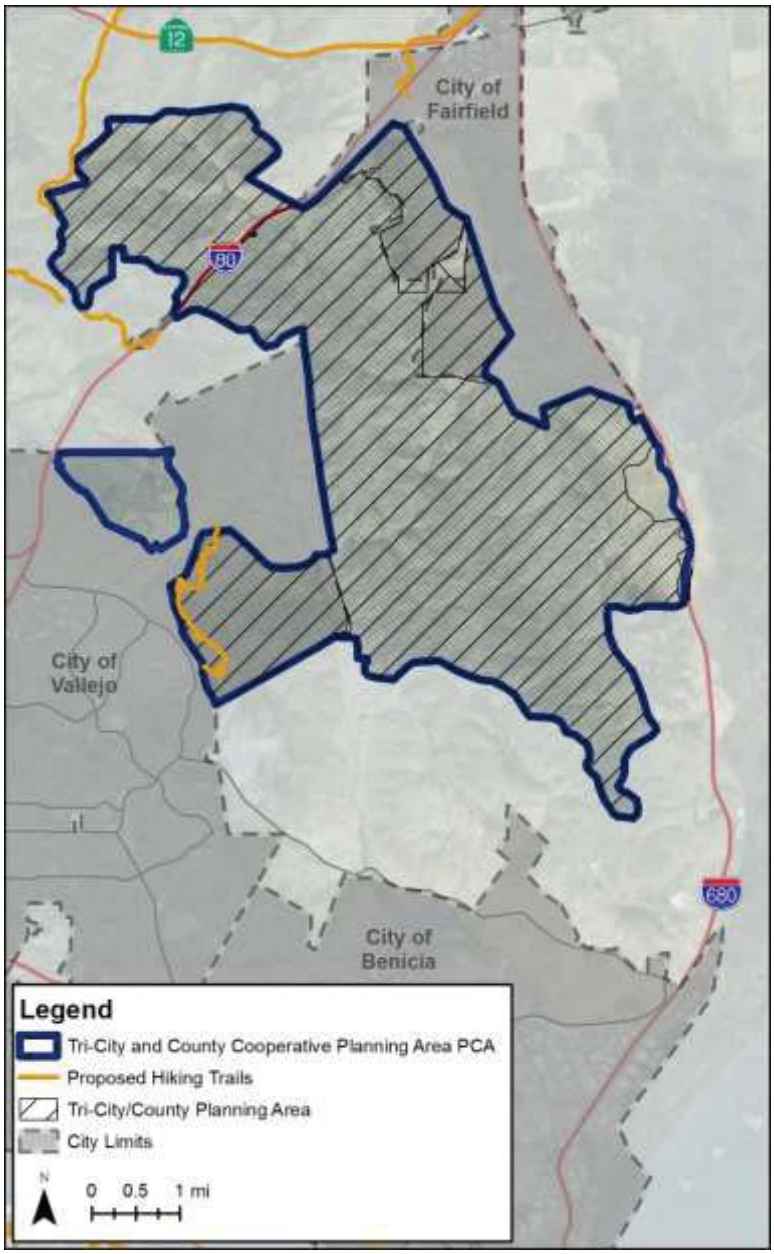


Figure 4: Regional Recreation Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

The Cooperative Plan sets forth policies and guidelines that establish a framework to provide for existing and projected needs for compatible regional recreational opportunities in the county. The Cooperative Planning Area contains six areas for potential recreational use—Lynch Canyon, Creekside, King Ranch, Lopes Road Valley, Paddy Creek Valley, and McIntyre Ranch/Orchard—which in total cover approximately 960 acres. In addition to the recreation areas, a 35-mile regional trail system is identified in the Cooperative Plan, which would connect the six potential recreation areas to existing and planned trail systems and recreation areas outside of the Cooperative Planning Area.

Potential Co-Benefits: Wildlife Habitat, Community Health, and Compact Growth

Urban Greening

Compact Growth

Greenbelt Mapper provides three categories—low, medium, and high—to indicate the level of risk for which areas of land are subject to development. Low risk indicates lands that are not likely to be developed in the next 10 to 30 years; medium risk indicates lands that are likely to be developed in the next 10 to 30 years; and high risk indicates lands that are likely to be developed in the next 10 years. The majority of land within the boundaries of the proposed PCA is identified as low risk, with smaller areas identified as medium and high risk. The medium and high risk areas are generally located along and within the city limits of Vallejo, Benicia, and Fairfield.

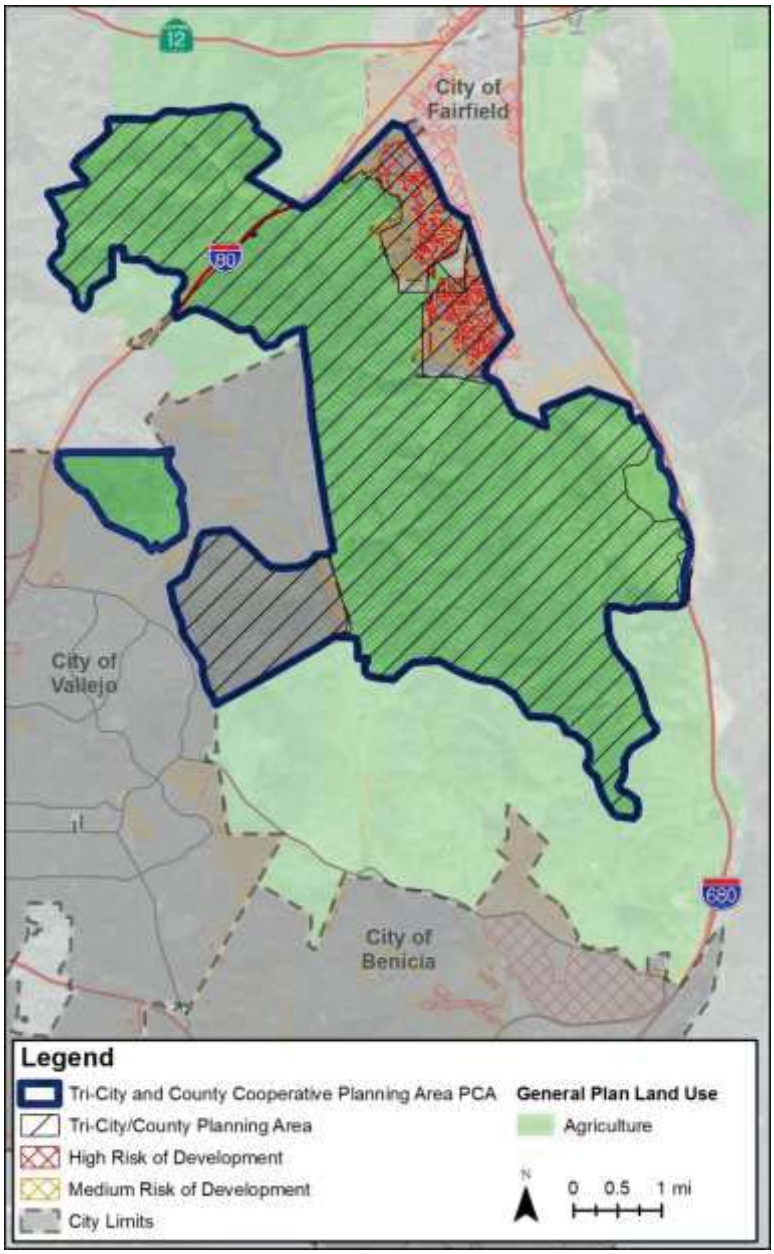


Figure 5: Urban Greening (Compact Growth) Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

The Cooperative Plan identifies objectives and policies for the preservation of open space in the potential PCA. The Permanent Open Space Use and Boundary Policy Map figure in the Cooperative Plan designates an area to be preserved for permanent open space, which allows several open space uses including preservation of natural resources, managed production of resources, outdoor recreation, and public health and safety. The proposed PCA supports stable urban edges, as the boundaries of the proposed PCA follow the city limits of Vallejo, Benicia, and Fairfield, extend into the city limits of Vallejo and Fairfield for relatively small areas of the proposed PCA, and include portions of the Vallejo and Benicia spheres of influence.

Potential Co-Benefits: Wildlife Habitat, Water Supply and Quality, and Recreation

Attachment 3: Supporting General Plan Policies

The following Solano County General Plan policies and implementation programs support designation of the proposed Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area as a Priority Conservation Area.

Natural Landscapes

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-1:
Protect and enhance the county's natural habitats and diverse plant and animal communities, particularly occurrences of special-status species, wetlands, sensitive natural communities, and habitat connections.

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-3:
Focus conservation and protection efforts on high-priority habitat areas depicted in Figure RS-1 [of the Solano County General Plan].

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 3.C:
The County shall work to protect identified recreational sites and natural resource areas.

Resources Chapter Implementation Program RS.I-11:
Together with landowners, land trusts, and agencies, explore habitat preservation alternatives such as:

- voluntary acquisition of development rights or conservation easements;
- developing mitigation banks, especially within Resource Conservation Overlay areas;
- providing outreach to landowners within the Resource Conservation Overlay regarding benefits of conservation easements;
- promoting agricultural practices compatible with habitat protection;
- allowing income-generating uses on agricultural lands that can support farmers who protect habitat lands; and
- promoting eco-tourism to generate revenues to support habitat protection and keep agriculture viable.

Agricultural Lands

Land Use Chapter Policy LU.P-1:
Collaborate with cities to guide development to the county's urban centers and promote sustainable development patterns.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-3:
Encourage consolidation of the fragmented pattern of agricultural preserves and contracts established under the Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) and the retention of agricultural preserves and contracts in agricultural, watershed, and marshland areas.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-16:
Minimize potential conflicts between agricultural and residential uses by encouraging the use of urban-agricultural buffers within city municipal service areas between residential uses and agricultural lands.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-23:
Support recreation and open space activities that are complementary and secondary to the primary agricultural activities on the land.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-26:

Acknowledge the 10 agricultural regions and address them in unique ways that support the maintenance and expansion of profitable agricultural production.

Agriculture Chapter Implementation Program - AG.I-5:
Work with cities to establish appropriate urban-agricultural buffers where new residential uses within municipal service areas may conflict with agricultural uses. Urban-agricultural buffers shall be an appropriate size to meet desired objectives, but in no case less than 300 feet in width. The buffer should occur on developing parcels located within municipal service areas to the extent feasible; be managed by the landowner, developer, homeowner's association, or a special purpose district; and favor protection of the maximum amount of farmable land.

Resources Chapter Implementation Program RS.I-11:
Together with landowners, land trusts, and agencies, explore habitat preservation alternatives such as:

- voluntary acquisition of development rights or conservation easements;
- developing mitigation banks, especially within Resource Conservation Overlay areas;
- providing outreach to landowners within the Resource Conservation Overlay regarding benefits of conservation easements;
- promoting agricultural practices compatible with habitat protection;
- allowing income-generating uses on agricultural lands that can support farmers who protect habitat lands; and
- promoting eco-tourism to generate revenues to support habitat protection and keep agriculture viable.

Regional Recreation

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-23:
Support recreation and open space activities that are complementary and secondary to the primary agricultural activities on the land.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 1.A:
The County shall work with and assist local agencies and districts in identifying and protecting significant regional recreation resources.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 1.B:
The County shall work with local agencies and districts in identifying regional recreation needs, and coordinating and supporting plans and programs to address those needs.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 1.C:
The County shall encourage and support other public agencies and private groups in the development of regional recreation facilities that are consistent with the Park and Recreation Element objectives.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 1.D:
The County shall support and advocate proposals that advance County recreation goals and objectives to other agencies that may provide funding and assistance.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 2.B:
The County shall actively participate in the planning of projects that have regional recreation benefits.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 3.C:
The County shall work to protect identified recreational sites and natural resource areas.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 5.B:
The County shall support passive and active recreational uses that are compatible with the primary resources of the land.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 7.B:
The County shall encourage development of linkages (such as riding, hiking and biking trails) between population centers and regional recreation facilities. Any trail system which links parklands cannot conflict with agriculture and other land uses.

Agriculture Chapter Implementation Program AG.I-13:
Support recreation and open space activities that are complementary and secondary to agricultural activities on the land. Encourage agriculturists to incorporate compatible recreational and educational activities that provide visitor-oriented opportunities into agricultural land in appropriate areas, minimizing the adverse impact on agriculture.

Resources Chapter Implementation Program RS.I-36:
Coordinate with cities, regional organizations, and neighboring counties to prepare a countywide trails plan to complete countywide and regional trail systems. Theses include pedestrian, bike, and equestrian trails; the regional Bay Area Ridge Trail; and Bay Trail.

Urban Greening (Compact Growth)

Land Use Chapter Policy LU.P-1:
Collaborate with cities to guide development to the county's urban centers and promote sustainable development patterns.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-3:
Encourage consolidation of the fragmented pattern of agricultural preserves and contracts established under the Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) and the retention of agricultural preserves and contracts in agricultural, watershed, and marshland areas.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-23:
Support recreation and open space activities that are complementary and secondary to the primary agricultural activities on the land.

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-60:
Work with cities to maintain open space separators around cities to preserve their identity and character.

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-61:
Retain rural character in areas between cities by promoting agricultural uses within community separators.

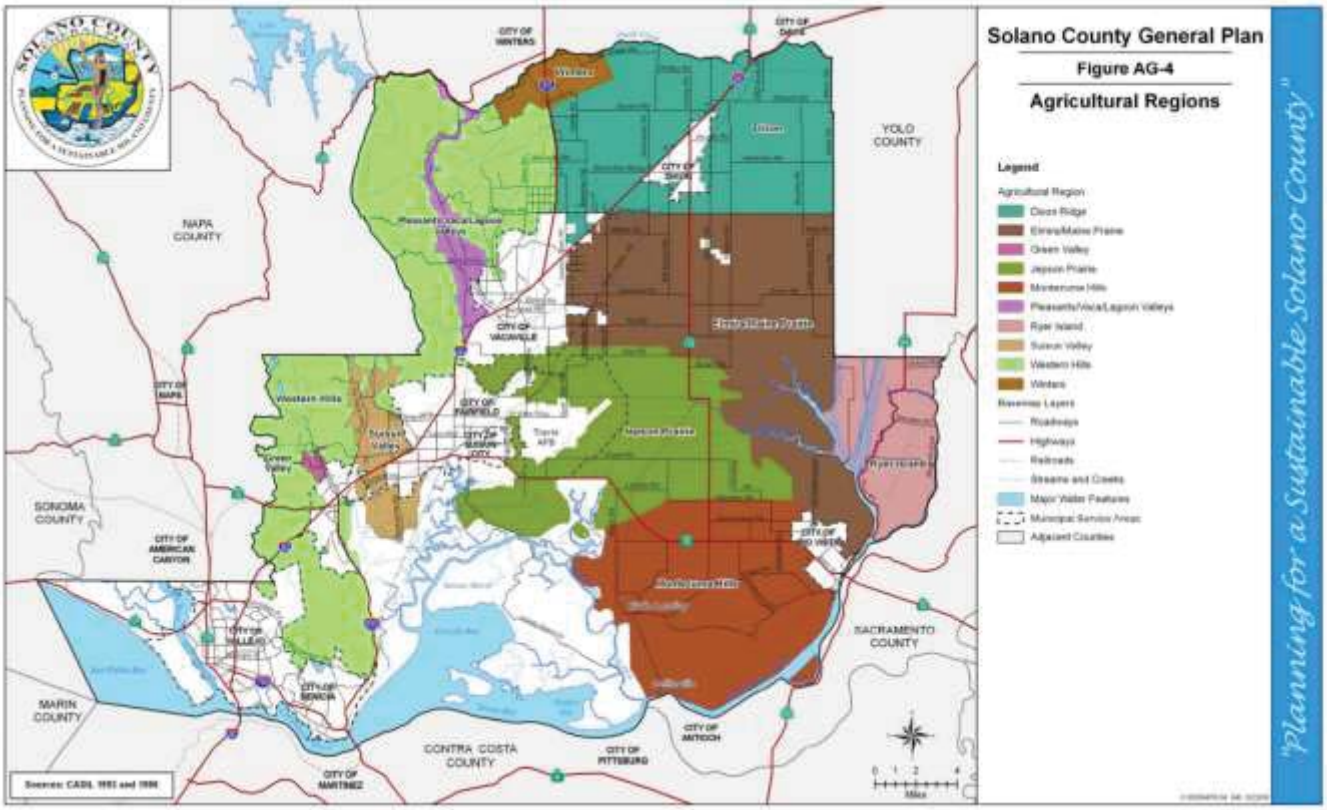
Public Facilities and Services Chapter Policy PF.P-7:
Coordinate with the cities to strongly encourage compact urban development within city urban growth areas to avoid unnecessary extension or reconstruction of roads, water mains, and services and to reduce the need for increased school, police, fire, and other public facilities and services.

Resources Chapter Implementation Program RS.I-65:
Participate with cities and special districts in establishing agreements that delineate community separators. Support agreements that are already in place. Existing agreements and programs include the Tri-City/County

Agriculture and Open Space program, Vacaville-Fairfield Greenbelt, Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt, Dixon-Davis Greenbelt, and Vallejo-Benicia Separator.

Attachment 4: Solano County Agricultural Regions Map

The proposed Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area PCA is located within one of ten agricultural regions identified in the Solano County General Plan, as shown in Figure AG-4 in the Agriculture Element of the General Plan (provided below for reference). Specifically, the proposed Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area PCA is located within the boundaries of the county's Western Hills Agricultural Region. The figure below shows the location of the Western Hills Agricultural Region.



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Attachment 6: Letters of Support

Letters supporting designation of the Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Area as a Priority Conservation Area from the following organizations are provided on the following pages:

a. Solano Grown
b. Solano Resource Conservation District
c. Solano Land Trust
d. City of Fairfield

Insert letters on following pages

Putah Creek

County of Solano

Part 1: Area Information

Proposed Name: Putah Creek

Description: The Putah Creek Priority Conservation Area (PCA) is an 8,173-acre area of rolling farmland, wooded hillsides, and canyons along the Putah Creek watershed. Much of the land here is characterized as Prime or Unique Farmland by the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) and is an important agricultural center for the community. The PCA is identified as part of two agricultural regions—Dixon Ridge and Winters—by the Solano County General Plan. Agricultural production in the area includes field crops such as alfalfa and orchard crops such as walnuts and plums, and contains some of the most valuable agricultural land in the county.

Small portions of the proposed PCA, primarily steep slopes and canyons, contain natural habitat resources, including cottonwood riparian, blue oak woodland, and chamise chaparral natural communities. A few of the species supported by these habitats are California towhee, Bullock's oriole, and black-headed grosbeak. This area is also well loved for recreation; Putah Creek Road and other scenic roadways are popular routes for recreational bikers between Davis and Winters.

Location (include map and text description): The proposed PCA is located along the northern border of Solano County. Its proposed bounds on the west is Olive School Lane and on the south by a half-mile buffer south of Putah Creek Road, extended to the east and west boundaries. The eastern boundary is formed by State Highway 80 (see **Figure 1**).

Total Acreage: 8,173 acres

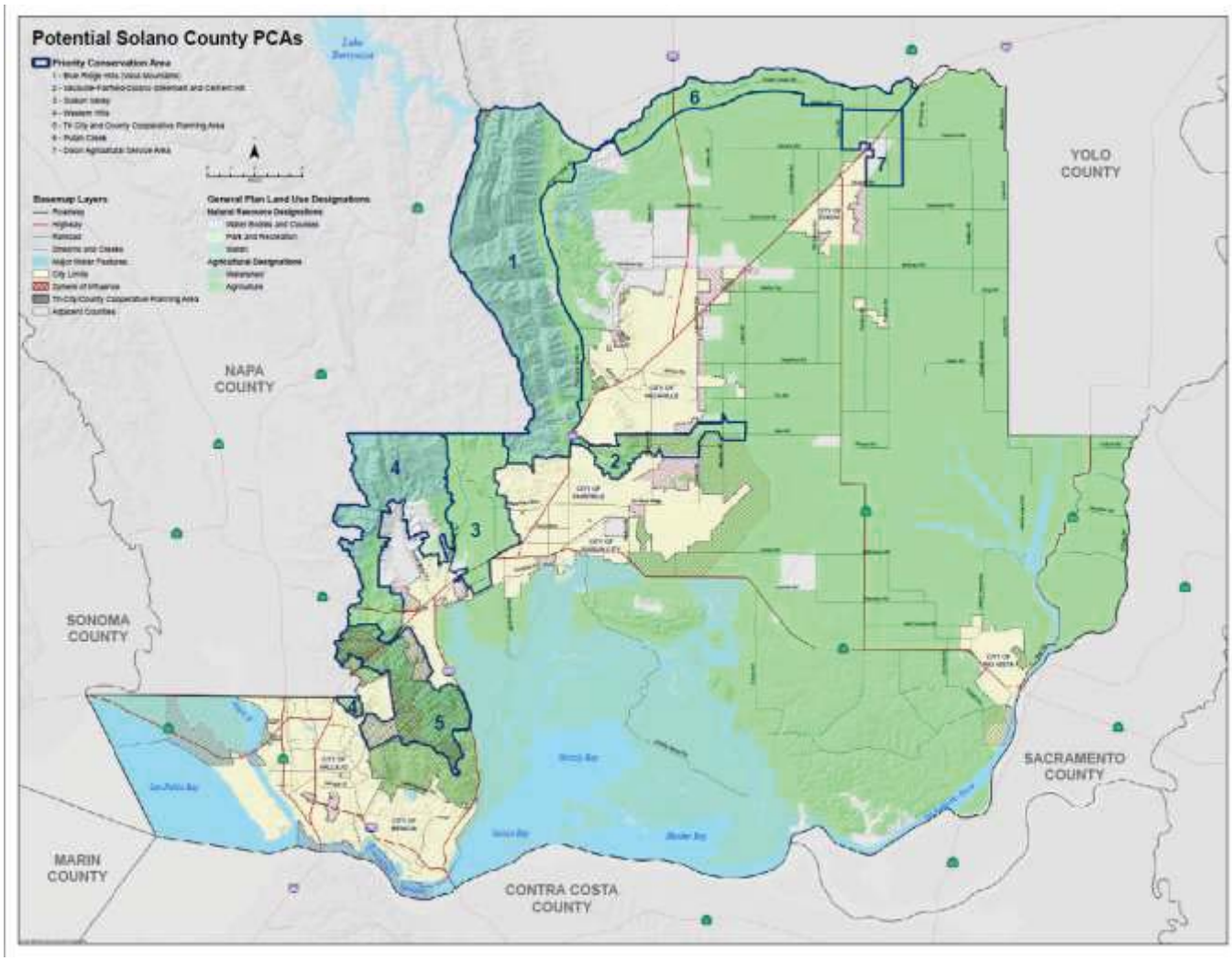

Figure 1: Regional Location and Conservation Framework (Putah Creek PCA is labeled #6)

Part 2: Sponsor(s)

Lead Nominating Agency/Organization: Solano County

Staff Person: Andrew Hart, Robert Macaulay

Address: One Harbor Center, Suite 130, Suisun City, CA 94585

Phone Number(s): (707) 399-3214

E-mail address: ahart@sta-snci.com

Partnering Agency(ies)/Organization(s):

Part 3: Designations

Selected Designation
(Select one or more designation for the proposed PCA)

X	Natural Landscapes
X	Agricultural Lands
	Urban Greening
X	Regional Recreation

Part 4: Benefits

Primary Benefit(s)
(Select one or more benefits and co-benefits for the proposed PCA)

Table 1 summarizes the conservation benefits of the proposed Putah Creek area being designated as a Priority Conservation Area.

Table 1: Putah Creek PCA Benefits

Designations	Primary Benefits Achieved	Criteria Met
Natural Landscapes	Aquatic Ecosystems	✓ Critical habitat for special-status fish and wildlife within/near Putah Creek
	Water Supply & Quality	✓ Protects urban water supply ✓ Supports watershed health
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources & Economy	✓ Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production ✓ Supports local and state agricultural policies ✓ Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands ✓ Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture
Regional Recreation	Recreation	✓ Includes heavily used recreational bike paths and roadways

Part 5: Attachments

1. Adopted resolution by the Board of Supervisors
2. Putah Creek PCA benefits discussion
3. Supported General Plan policies
4. Solano-Yolo BikeLinks Map
5. Solano County Agricultural Regions Map (AG-4)
6. Letters of support from partner agencies or organizations
    a. Suggestions: City of Winters, City of Davis, Davis Bike Club

Attachment 1: Board of Supervisors Resolution

Insert resolution when completed.

Attachment 2: Putah Creek PCA Benefits Discussion

Natural Landscapes

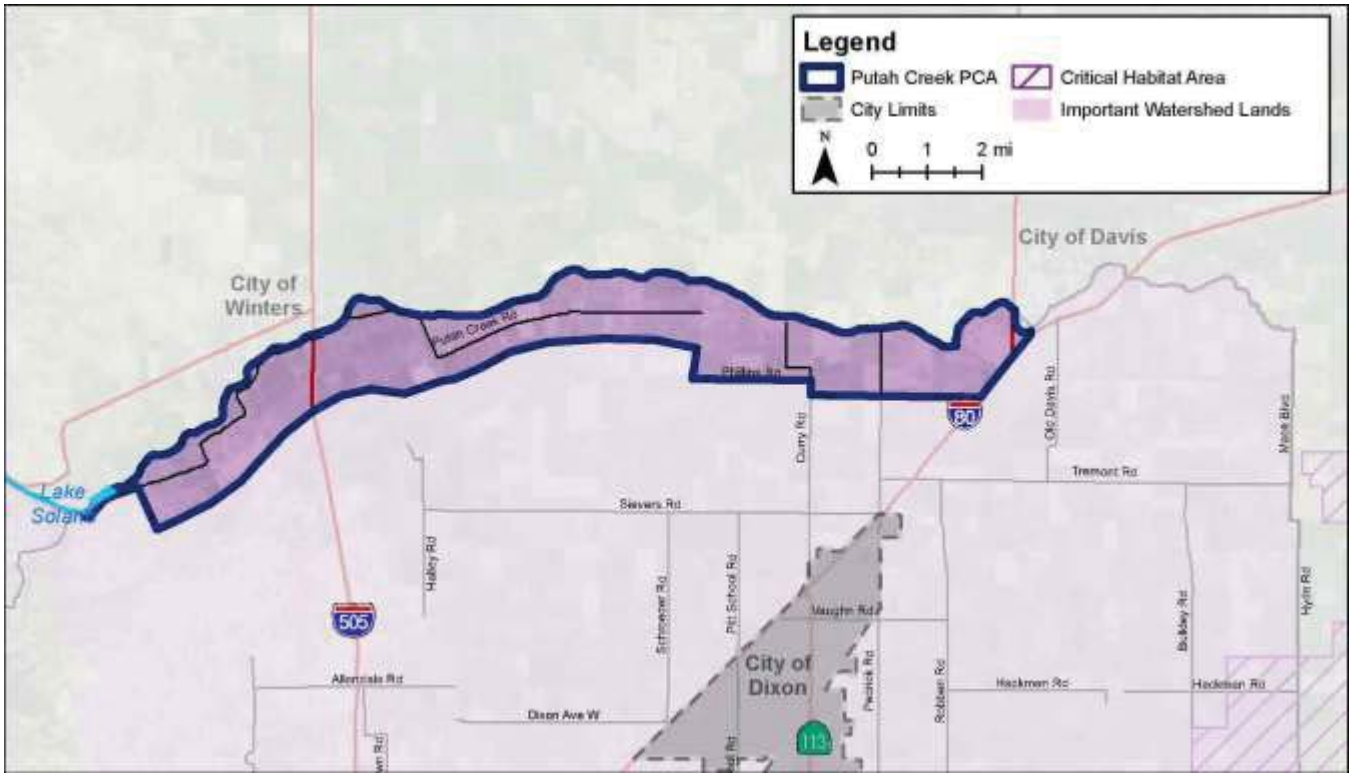

Figure 2: Natural Landscapes Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

Aquatic Ecosystems

The proposed Putah Creek PCA provides protection for aquatic ecosystems and watershed in Putah Creek and the surrounding riparian zone (see **Figure 2**). Putah Creek itself provides a valuable aquatic ecosystem, which is potential habitat for several special-status fish and wildlife species. The Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration indicates that steelhead, chinook salmon, western pond turtle, California red-legged frog, and giant garter snake, among others, have been known to occur in the creek. Lake Solano, located at the northwest edge of the proposed PCA, is a reservoir catchment area as identified by the Greenbelt Mapper.

Water Supply and Quality

According to the Greenbelt Mapper, the lands identified for this PCA are important watershed land, which is land that is important for a healthy functioning watershed, allowing groundwater infiltration and underground water storage.

Potential Co-Benefits: Recreation, Climate, and Resilience

Agricultural Lands

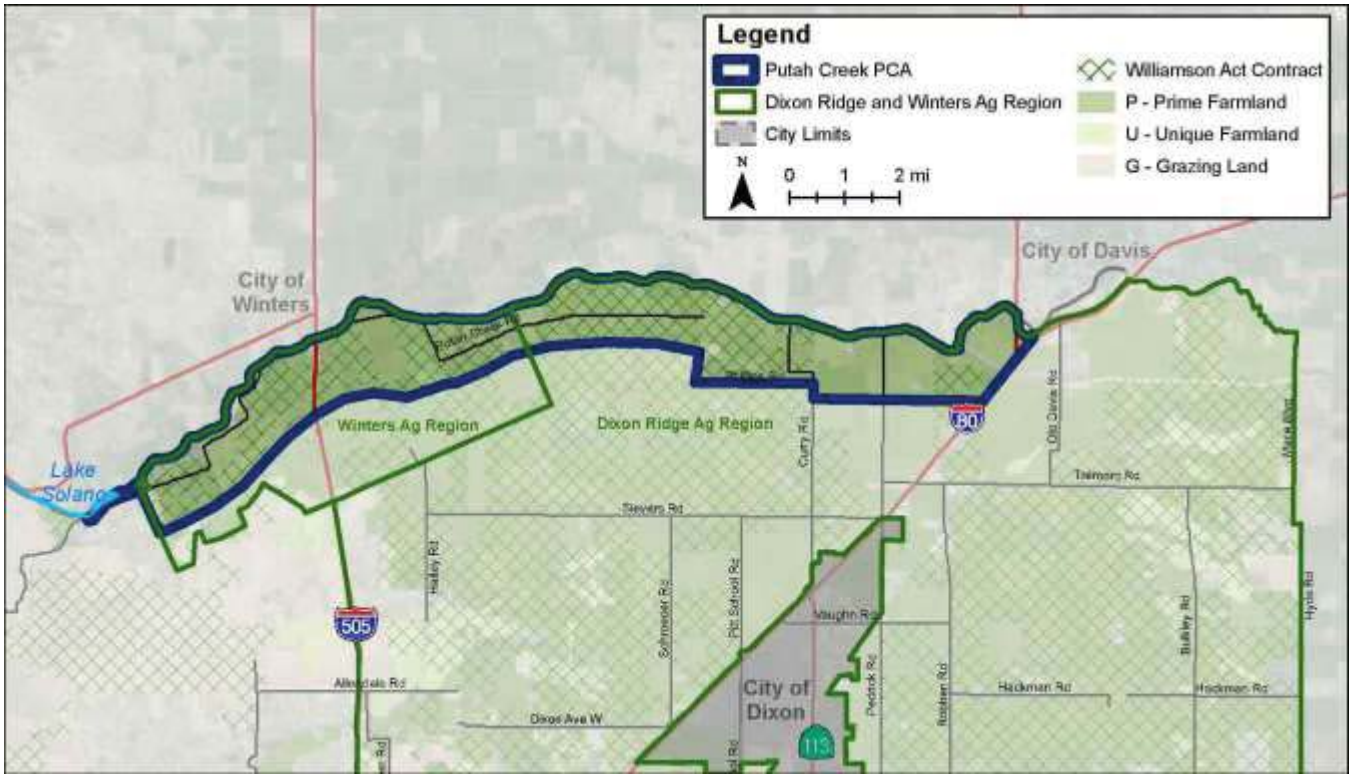

Figure 3: Agricultural Lands Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

Agricultural Resources and Economy

The proposed PCA is almost entirely Prime or Unique Farmland according to the California FMMP and the Solano County Important Farmland Map. The potential PCA is identified with an Agriculture designation on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram. The proposed PCA is partially located in two agricultural regions (see **Attachment 5**). The Solano County General Plan Agriculture Element establishes the area's importance for agricultural production, processing, and services, including tourism services. Local agricultural processing is especially important in this region, which experiences strong pressure toward urbanization due to its location on Interstate 505 and Bay Area commuters' interest in purchasing orchard land for rural residences.

Designating this area as a PCA would also help complete contiguous areas of farm or grazing lands protected by Williamson Act contracts or propositions (including the Orderly Growth Initiative [Prop A] in Solano County), which prohibit conversion of farmland. Along with parts of Suisun Valley, this area is the most valuable agricultural land in the county.

Potential Co-Benefits: Recreation, Climate, and Resilience

Regional Recreation

Figure 4: Regional Recreation Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

Recreation

Putah Creek Road and other lower traffic roadways, such as Sievers Road, generally connecting Davis to Winters are used heavily by recreational bicyclists. The route is on several recommended recreational bike loops listed by the Yolo County Visitors Bureau as well as on the Solano-Yolo County BikeLinks Map (see **Attachment 4).**

Recreational bikers access Lake Solano County Park, the Putah Creek Wildlife Area, and Lake Berryessa using these routes. Many also stop along the way to visit local farm stands and farmers markets, which benefit the area's agriculture and tourism industries.

Potential Co-Benefits: Community Health, Climate, and Resilience

Attachment 3: Supporting General Plan Policies

The following Solano County General Plan policies and implementation programs support designation of the proposed Putah Creek area as a Priority Conservation Area.

Natural Landscapes

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-1:
Protect and enhance the county's natural habitats and diverse plant and animal communities, particularly occurrences of special-status species, wetlands, sensitive natural communities, and habitat connections.

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-3:
Focus conservation and protection efforts on high-priority habitat areas depicted in Figure RS-1 [of the Solano County General Plan].

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-42:
Encourage the use of existing natural and human-made corridors such as creeks, railroad rights of way, and corridors when creating future bike path and trail alignments.

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-65:
Require the protection of natural water courses.

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-68:
Protect existing open spaces, natural habitats, floodplains, and wetland areas that serve as groundwater recharge areas.

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-70:
Protect land surrounding valuable water sources, evaluate watersheds, and preserve open space lands to protect and improve groundwater quality, reduce polluted surface runoff, and minimize erosion.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 3.C:
The County shall work to protect identified recreational sites and natural resource areas.

Resources Chapter Implementation Program RS.I-11:
Together with landowners, land trusts, and agencies, explore habitat preservation alternatives such as:

- voluntary acquisition of development rights or conservation easements;
- developing mitigation banks, especially within Resource Conservation Overlay areas;
- providing outreach to landowners within the Resource Conservation Overlay regarding benefits of conservation easements;
- promoting agricultural practices compatible with habitat protection;
- allowing income-generating uses on agricultural lands that can support farmers who protect habitat lands; and
- promoting eco-tourism to generate revenues to support habitat protection and keep agriculture viable.

Agricultural Lands

Land Use Chapter Policy LU.P-1:
Collaborate with cities to guide development to the county's urban centers and promote sustainable development patterns.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-3:
Encourage consolidation of the fragmented pattern of agricultural preserves and contracts established under the Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) and the retention of agricultural preserves and contracts in agricultural, watershed, and marshland areas.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-16:
Minimize potential conflicts between agricultural and residential uses by encouraging the use of urban-agricultural buffers within city municipal service areas between residential uses and agricultural lands.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-23:
Support recreation and open space activities that are complimentary and secondary to the primary agricultural activities on the land.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-26:
Acknowledge the 10 agricultural regions and address them in unique ways that support the maintenance and expansion of profitable agricultural production.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-28:
Recognize that agriculture is to be the predominant land use in the Dixon Ridge, Elmira and Maine Prairie, Montezuma Hills, Ryer Island, and Winters regions. These are agricultural areas where preservation efforts should be focused and conflicting land uses avoided.

Resources Chapter Implementation Program RS.I-11:
Together with landowners, land trusts, and agencies, explore habitat preservation alternatives such as:

- voluntary acquisition of development rights or conservation easements;
- developing mitigation banks, especially within Resource Conservation Overlay areas;
- providing outreach to landowners within the Resource Conservation Overlay regarding benefits of conservation easements;
- promoting agricultural practices compatible with habitat protection;
- allowing income-generating uses on agricultural lands that can support farmers who protect habitat lands; and
- promoting eco-tourism to generate revenues to support habitat protection and keep agriculture viable.

Regional Recreation

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-23:
Support recreation and open space activities that are complementary and secondary to the primary agricultural activities on the land.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 1.A:
The County shall work with and assist local agencies and districts in identifying and protecting significant regional recreation resources.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 1.B:
The County shall work with local agencies and districts in identifying regional recreation needs, and coordinating and supporting plans and programs to address those needs.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 1.C:
The County shall encourage and support other public agencies and private groups in the development of regional recreation facilities that are consistent with the Park and Recreation Element objectives.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 1.D:
The County shall support and advocate proposals that advance County recreation goals and objectives to other agencies that may provide funding and assistance.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 2.B:
The County shall actively participate in the planning of projects that have regional recreation benefits.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 3.C:
The County shall work to protect identified recreational sites and natural resource areas.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 5.B:
The County shall support passive and active recreational uses that are compatible with the primary resources of the land.

Agriculture Chapter Implementation Program AG.I-13:
Support recreation and open space activities that are complementary and secondary to agricultural activities on the land. Encourage agriculturists to incorporate compatible recreational and educational activities that provide visitor-oriented opportunities into agricultural land in appropriate areas, minimizing the adverse impact on agriculture.

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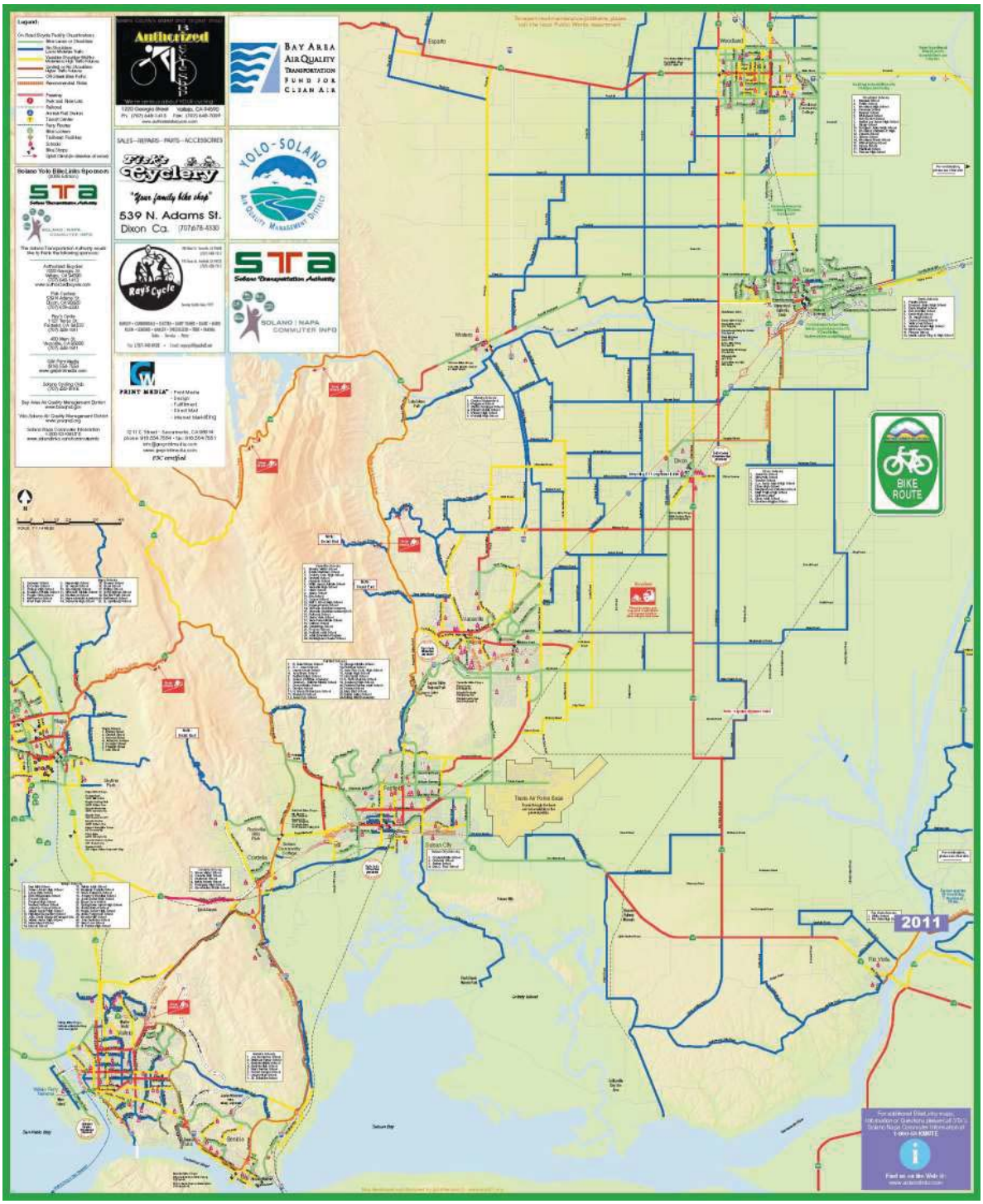
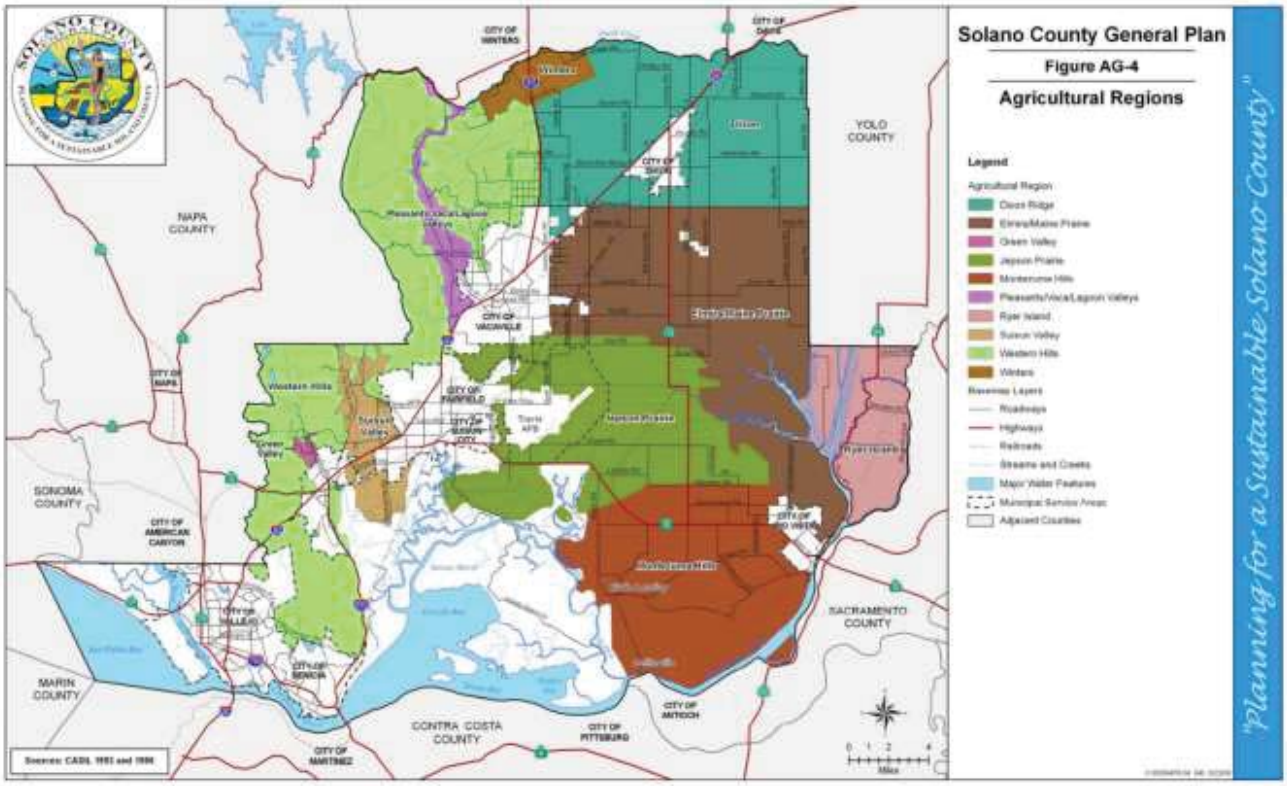
Attachment 4: Solano-Yolo BikeLinks Map



Attachment 5: Solano County Agricultural Regions Map

Putah Creek is designated as one of ten agricultural regions in the Solano County General Plan, as shown in Figure AG-4 of the plan (provided below for reference). The Putah Creek PCA is partially located in the Winters Agricultural Region and partially in the Dixon Ridge Agricultural Region.



Attachment 6: Letters of Support

Letters supporting designation of Putah Creek as a Priority Conservation Area from the following organizations are provided on the following pages:

a. City of Winters
b. City of Davis
c. Davis Bike Club

Insert letters on following pages

Attachment 6: Letters of Support

Letters supporting designation of Putah Creek as a Priority Conservation Area from the following organizations are provided on the following pages:

a. City of Winters
b. City of Davis
c. Davis Bike Club

Insert letters on following pages

Dixon Agricultural Service Area

County of Solano

Part 1: Area Information

Proposed Name: Dixon Agricultural Service Area

Description: The Dixon Agricultural Service Area Priority Conservation Area (PCA) is a 4,045-acre area of Solano County that covers a portion of the Dixon Ridge Agricultural Region. It includes mostly flat, low-lying farmland used for field crops such as tomatoes, alfalfa, and safflowers. Several large-scale agricultural processing facilities are located in the PCA's proposed territory. This area also includes land that supports the larger watershed, providing some groundwater infiltration benefits and groundwater storage.

Location (include map and text description): The proposed PCA is located in north-central Solano County. Its proposed bounds are the northeast boundary of the City of Dixon and along Sievers Road, with the western boundary at Curry Road, and the eastern boundary to include development along Kidwell Road and Interstate 80. The north and south boundaries were determined by connecting the east and west boundaries (see **Figure 1**).

Total Acreage: 4,045 acres

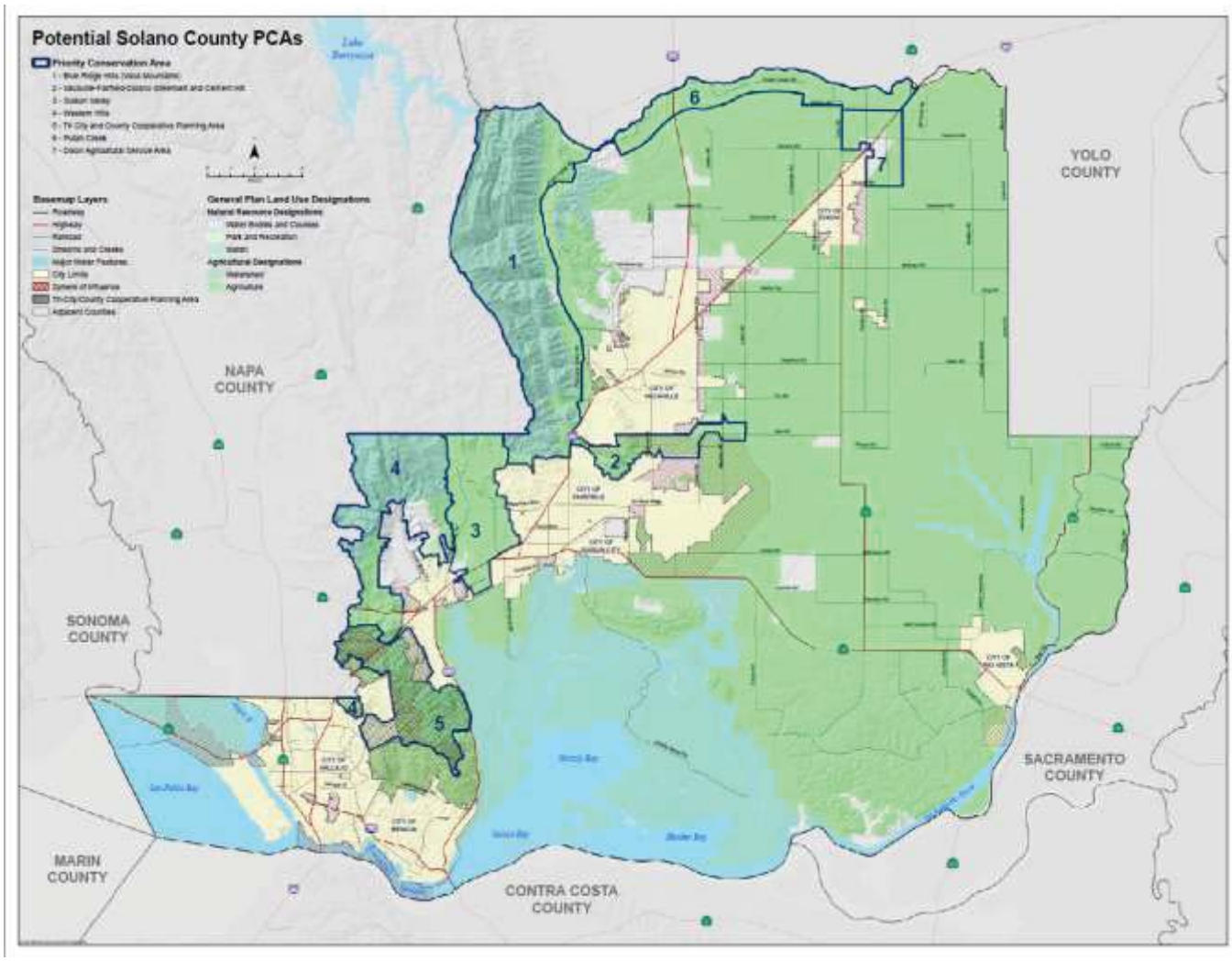


Figure 1: Regional Location and Conservation Framework (Dixon Agricultural Service Area PCA is labeled #7)

Part 2: Sponsor(s)

Lead Nominating Agency/Organization: Solano County

Staff Person: Andrew Hart, Robert Macaulay

Address: One Harbor Center, Suite 130, Suisun City, CA 94585

Phone Number(s): (707) 399-3214

E-mail address: ahart@sta-snci.com

Partnering Agency(ies)/Organization(s):

Part 3: Designation

Selected Designation
(Select one or more designation for the proposed PCA)

X	Natural Landscapes
X	Agricultural Lands
	Urban Greening
	Regional Recreation

Part 4: Benefits

Primary Benefit(s)
(Select one or more benefits and co-benefits for the proposed PCA)

Table 1 summarizes the conservation benefits of the lands being designated as the Dixon Agricultural Service Area Priority Conservation Area.

Table 1: Dixon Agricultural Service Area Priority PCA Benefits

Designations	Primary Benefits Achieved	Criteria Met
Natural Landscapes	Aquatic Ecosystems	✓ Critical habitat for delta smelt
	Water Supply & Quality	✓ Supports watershed health
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources & Economy	✓ Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production ✓ Supports local and state agricultural policies ✓ Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands ✓ Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture

Part 5: Attachments

1. Adopted resolution by the Board of Supervisors
2. Dixon Agricultural Service Area PCA benefits discussion
3. Supported General Plan policies
4. Solano County Agricultural Regions Map (AG-4)
5. Solano County Farmland Conversion Chart
6. Letters of support from partner agencies or organizations
    a. Suggestions: City of Dixon

Attachment 1: Board of Supervisors Resolution

Insert resolution when completed.

Attachment 2: Dixon Agricultural Service Area PCA Benefits Discussion

Natural Landscapes

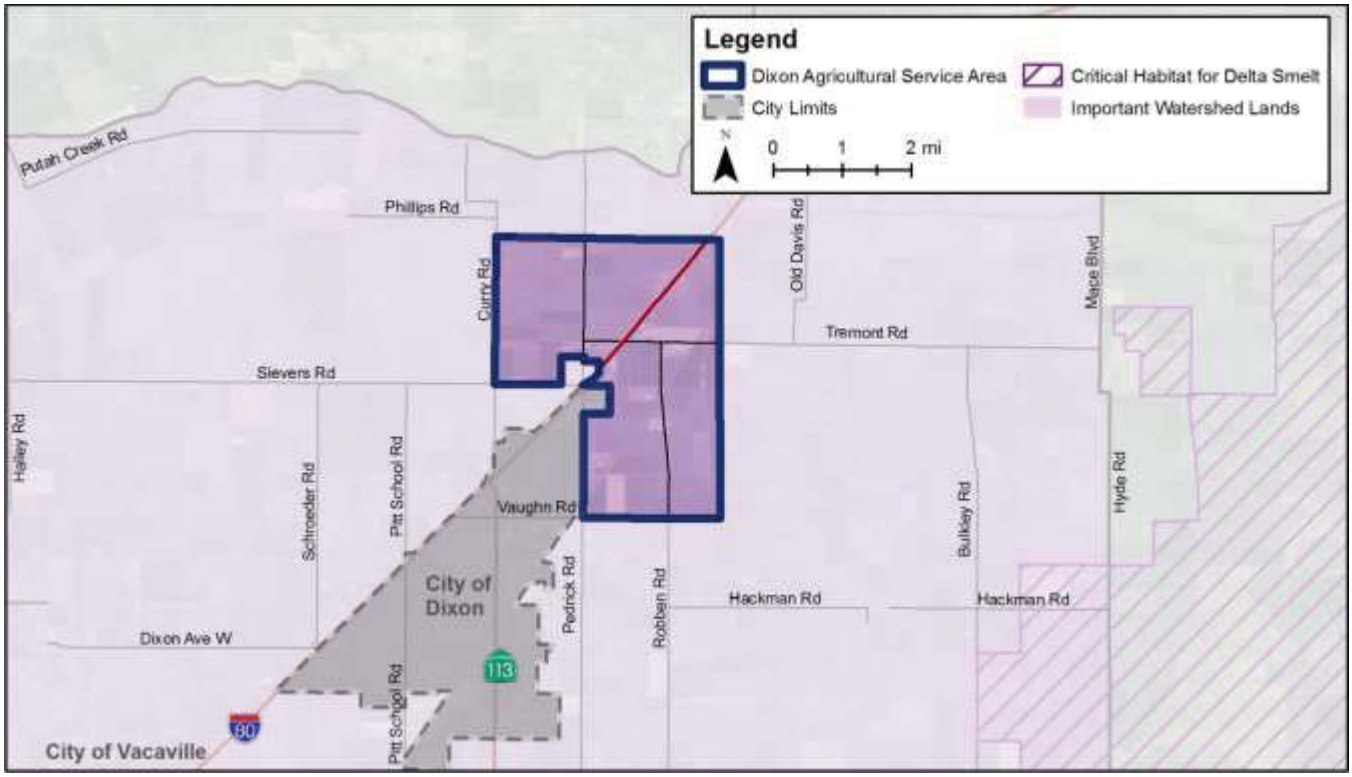


Figure 2: Natural Landscapes Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

Aquatic Ecosystems

The proposed Dixon Agricultural Service Area Priority PCA provides protections for aquatic ecosystems. Eastern portions of this land area connect to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary, and small waterways have been identified as critical habitat for the critically endangered delta smelt (see **Figure 2**).

Water Supply and Quality

The area also supports watershed health. According to the Greenbelt Mapper, the area in the potential PCA is important watershed land, which is land that is important for a healthy functioning watershed, including areas that allow groundwater infiltration and underground water storage.

Potential Co-Benefits: Compact Growth

Agricultural Lands

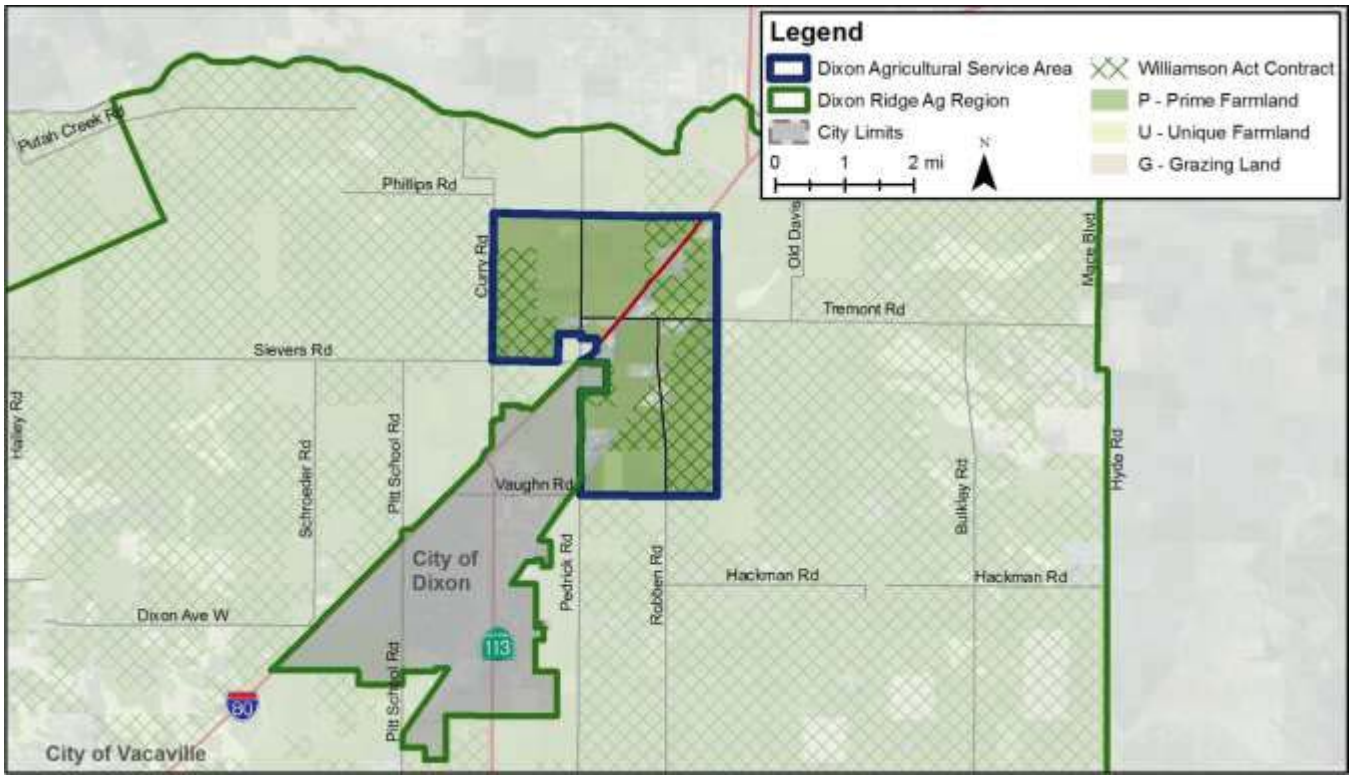


Figure 3: Agricultural Land Benefit Criteria Qualifying Areas

Agricultural Resources and Economy

The proposed PCA is almost entirely Prime or Unique Farmland according to the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) and the Solano County Important Farmland Map. The potential PCA is identified with an Agriculture designation on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram. It includes a portion of the Dixon Agricultural Service Area Priority Agricultural Region assigned by the Agriculture Element of the Solano County General Plan, as shown in **Attachment 4**. The Agriculture Element identifies the area as important for agricultural production, including field crops, and for agricultural processing. Several large-scale agricultural processing facilities are located in the PCA's proposed territory.

Designating this area as a PCA would also help complete contiguous areas of farm or grazing lands protected by Williamson Act contracts or propositions (including the Orderly Growth Initiative [Prop A] in Solano County), which prohibit conversion of farmland.

Potential Co-Benefits: Wildlife Habitat

Attachment 3: Supporting General Plan Policies

The following Solano County General Plan policies and implementation programs support designation of the Dixon Agricultural Service Area Priority as a Priority Conservation Area.

Natural Landscapes

Resources Chapter Policy RS.P-1:
Protect and enhance the county's natural habitats and diverse plant and animal communities, particularly occurrences of special-status species, wetlands, sensitive natural communities, and habitat connections.

Park and Recreation Chapter Policy 3.C:
The County shall work to protect identified recreational sites and natural resource areas.

Resources Chapter Implementation Program RS.I-11:
Together with landowners, land trusts, and agencies, explore habitat preservation alternatives such as:

- voluntary acquisition of development rights or conservation easements;
- developing mitigation banks, especially within Resource Conservation Overlay areas;
- providing outreach to landowners within the Resource Conservation Overlay regarding benefits of conservation easements;
- promoting agricultural practices compatible with habitat protection;
- allowing income-generating uses on agricultural lands that can support farmers who protect habitat lands; and
- promoting eco-tourism to generate revenues to support habitat protection and keep agriculture viable.

Agricultural Lands

Land Use Chapter Policy LU.P-1:
Collaborate with cities to guide development to the county's urban centers and promote sustainable development patterns.

Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-3:
Encourage consolidation of the fragmented pattern of agricultural preserves and contracts established under the Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) and the retention of agricultural preserves and contracts in agricultural, watershed, and marshland areas.

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Agriculture Chapter Policy AG.P-28:
Recognize that agriculture is to be the predominant land use in the Dixon Ridge, Elmira and Maine Prairie, Montezuma Hills, Ryer Island, and Winters regions. These are agricultural areas where preservation efforts should be focused and conflicting land uses avoided.

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- voluntary acquisition of development rights or conservation easements;
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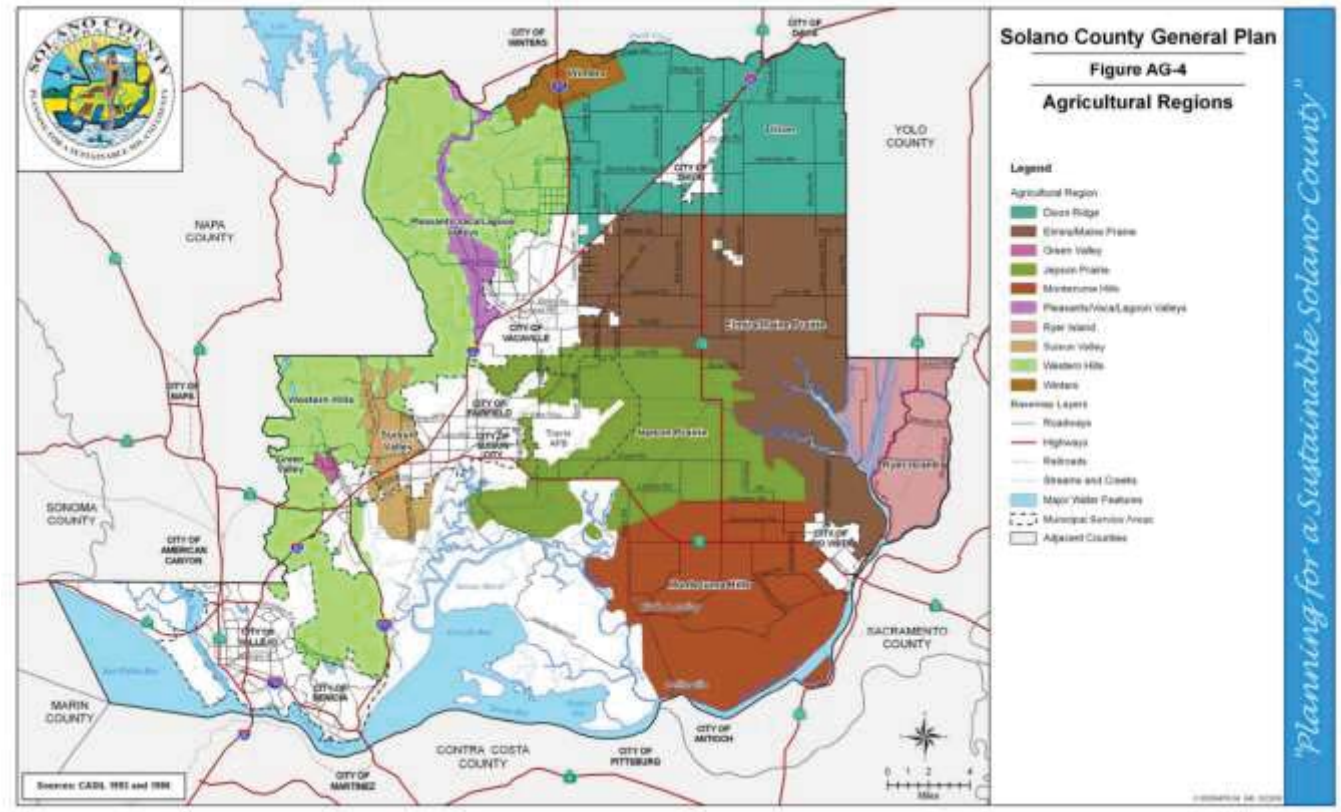
- providing outreach to landowners within the Resource Conservation Overlay regarding benefits of conservation easements;
- promoting agricultural practices compatible with habitat protection;
- allowing income-generating uses on agricultural lands that can support farmers who protect habitat lands; and
- promoting eco-tourism to generate revenues to support habitat protection and keep agriculture viable.

Attachment 4: Solano County Agricultural Regions Map

The proposed Dixon Agricultural Service Area PCA is located within one of ten agricultural regions identified in the Solano County General Plan, as shown in Figure AG-4 in the Agriculture Element of the General Plan (provided below for reference). Specifically, the proposed PCA is located within the boundaries of the county's Dixon Ridge Agricultural Region.



Attachment 5: Solano County Farmland Conversion Chart

Table AG-2 presents the changes in Solano County land use from 1984 to 2006 according to 2006 FMMP data. Negative change indicates loss of area, and positive change indicates gain in area. While changes in survey methodology account for some change in mapped land uses, the majority of loss of Important Farmlands is due to conversion to urban or low-density development. A total of 18,672 acres of Important Farmland became Urban and Built-up Land or Other Land between 1984 and 2006.

Table AG-2
Farmland Conversion (1984–2006)

FMMP Land Use	Acres		Change 1984-2006	
	1984	2006	Acres	Percent
Prime Farmland	152,140	139,459	-12,681	-8.3%
Statewide Importance	12,613	7,159	-5,454	-43.2%
Unique Farmland	16,102	11,031	-5,072	-31.5%
Grazing Land	220,008	202,702	-17,306	-7.9%
Urban and Built-up Land	40,145	58,590	+18,445	+45.9%
Water (over 40 acres)	50,579	49,717	-863	-1.7%
Other land	90,430	113,360	+22,930	+25.4%

Attachment 6: Letters of Support

Letters supporting designation of Dixon Agricultural Service Area as a Priority Conservation Area from the following organizations are provided on the following pages:

a. City of Dixon

Insert letters on following pages

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT PROFILES

Rockville Hills Staging Area and Trail Connections

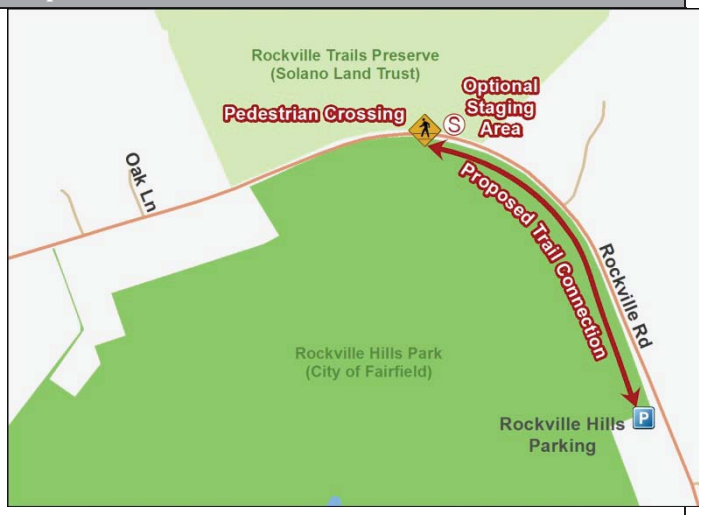
Western Hills PCA

Existing Conditions

The Rockville Trails Preserve is a 1,500-acre preserve owned by the Solano County Land Trust. The property has several ranch roads, and additional trails are planned for hiking, biking, and equestrian recreational use. A parking lot and staging area are currently under planning and environmental review. The property is adjacent to Rockville Hills Parks to its south, which is operated by the City of Fairfield. Both open space areas are best accessed by Rockville Road. Rockville Hill Parks has a parking area off of Rockville Road on its southwestern side, roughly 0.3 miles from the Rockville Trail Preserve.

Project Concept

The proposed project includes the possibility for two separate stages. The first stage is the creation of a new staging area for Rockville including vehicle parking. The staging area would connect to hiking or multi-use trails, a payment kiosk, and informational signage. The optional second stage of the proposed project is the creation of an all-purpose trail connection and controlled intersection across Rockville Road to connect the Rockville Hills Park parking area and the Rockville Trails Preserve. The trail connection will run along the southwest side of Rockville Road for approximately 0.5 miles and then cross over Rockville Road at a signed crossing into the Rockville Trails Preserve. The signed crossing would include pedestrian crossing signaling up to safety standards.



Design Considerations	Design Example
• Quality staging areas often include some or all of the following features: parking for bicycles, drinking water, bathrooms, picnic areas, trash receptacles, horse tie-ups, dog waste stations, and kiosks. • Staging area should include a large sign that clearly marks the park entrance. • If the park will retain consistent operating hours, the staging area should include an entrance gate and posted hours of operation. • Mid-block trail crossings should include cautionary signage, roadway markings, and lighting visible 20 to 50 feet in advance of the crossing. • Trail should be a minimum of 4 feet in width. • Trail should be separated from the roadway by 12 feet or more where possible. • Comply with ADA requirements in trail design where possible.	 **Photo Source: "Unsignalized Intersection Safety Strategies Brochure", Gederal Higway Administration**
PCA Designation Supportive Features	
Recreation: Providing a trail and road crossing connecting the Rockville Hills parking area to the Rockville Trails Preserve facilitates more convenient and safe access to recreational trails including connections to the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Natural Landscapes: Providing a clear trailhead into the preserve helps to prevent off-trail travel that could damage the natural ecosystem.	• Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission. Trail Design Standards (Section 5.4.4). 2015. • East Bay Regional Park District Master Plan. Planning and Management Guidelines for Recreation/Staging Units. (Chapter 4, p. 104). 2013. • Caltrans Highway Design Manual (Chapter 400). • Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Section 2B.11. Federal Highway Administration. 2012.

Lynch Canyon Expansion andVallejo Swett Trails and Bay Area Ridget Trail Expansion

Tri-City and County Open Space PCA

Existing Conditions

Solano Land Trust currently owns the 1,039-acre Lynch Canyon Open Space. Three pieces of property to the southwest of Lynch Canyon are currently identified for expanding Lunch Canyon.

Vallejo Swett is also owned by Solano Land Trust. A portion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the Hiddenbrooke Trail, currently terminates at High Gate. A planned trail would connect the Hiddenbrooke Trail to Blue Rock Springs Park (a GVRD Park), and provide a connection near Hiddenbrooke Park.

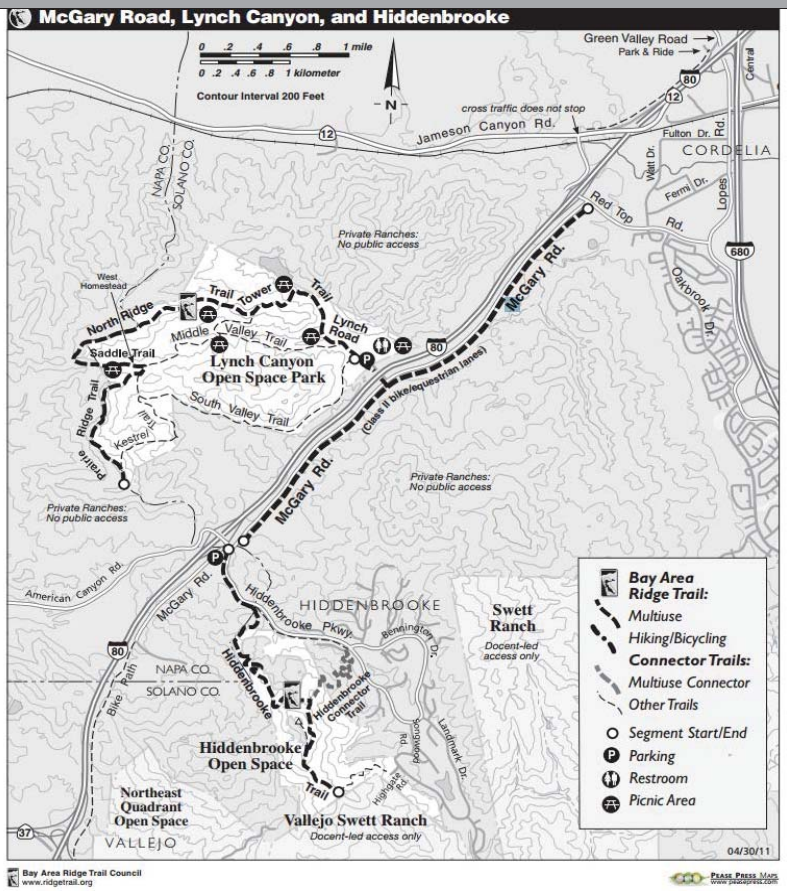


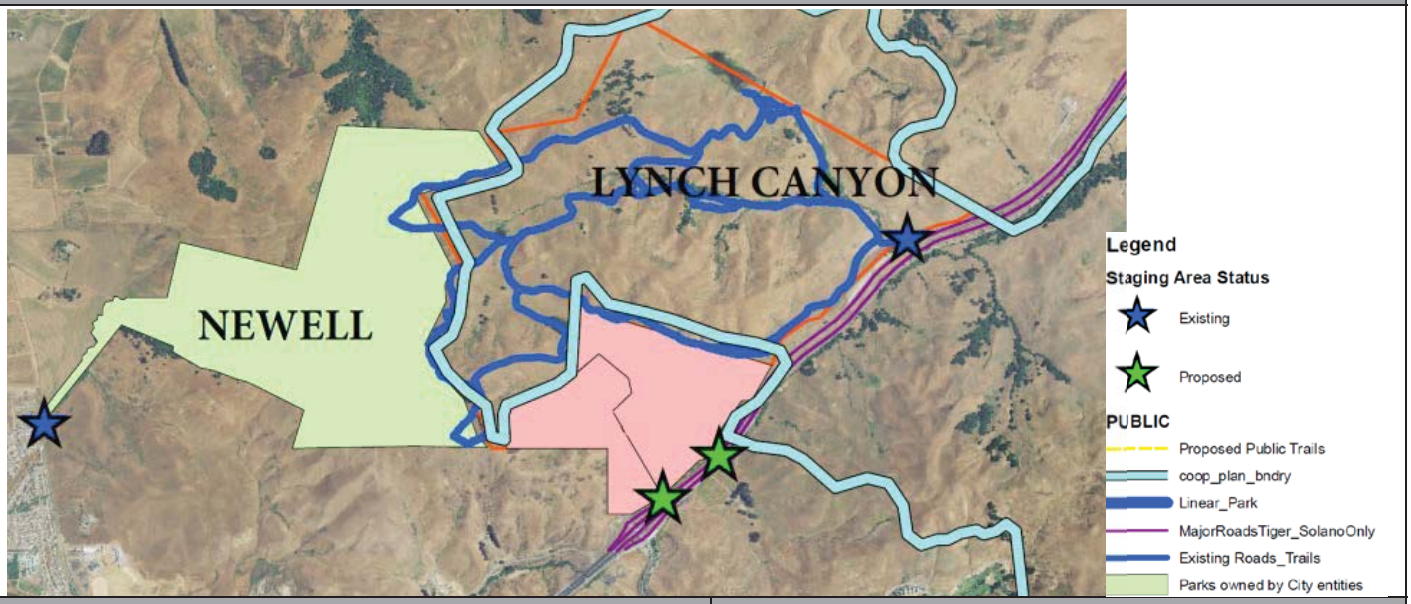
Photo Source: Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Hiddenbrooke Trail.

Project Concept

Part A. Partner with the Solano Land Trust to acquire this land from the County and provide access points, including staging areas, one to the land south of Lynch Canyon Open Space near I-80. Complete a public access plan for the expanded Lynch Canyon.

Part B. Complete environmental review for Vallejo Swett Trails, include a Bay Area Ridge Trail connection from High Gate to Blue Rock Springs Park. Construct trail.

Project Concept



Design Considerations

- Quality staging areas often include some or all of the following features: parking for bicycles, drinking water, bathrooms, picnic areas, trash receptacles, horse tie-ups, dog waste stations, and kiosks.
- Staging area should include a large sign that clearly marks the park entrance.
- If the park will retain consistent operating hours, the staging area should include an entrance gate and posted hours of operation.

Design Example

Photo Source: Billings Canyon, Grand Junction, Colorado. www.gjhikes.com/2010/05/billings-canyon.html.

PCA Designation Supportive Features

Recreation: Providing staging areas will enhance access to both the Lynch Canyon Open Space and the Hiddenbrooke Trail, as well as provide better connection between the two.

Additional Design Guidance

- Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission. Trail Design Standards (Section 5.4.4). 2015.
- East Bay Regional Park District Master Plan. Planning and Management Guidelines for Recreation/Staging Units. (Chapter 4, p. 104). 2013.
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Overcrossings: Lessons Learned. Rory Renfro. June 2007.

Putah Creek Road

Putah Creek PCA

Existing Conditions

The Putah Creek Road project area is a 9-mile section of Putah Creek Road between I-505 and Stevenson Bridge Road.

The surrounding area is an important agricultural center for the community. The existing Putah Creek Road is a two-lane paved roadway with no shoulder. The road is used heavily by agricultural machinery and the transportation of farm goods. It is also a favorite route for recreational bicyclists between Winters and Davis and for vehicles towing boats to destinations like Lake Berryessa.

Project Concept

The Putah Creek Road project would provide a separated off-street bike path along the south side of Putah Creek. The 8-mile section of path would connect from Stevenson Bridge to east and intersect with Putah Creek Road when that roadway turns north to run adjacent to Putah Creek to the west.

The proposed path route would run alongside existing county roadways adjacent to Putah Creek as a Class II bike lane from its proposed western end connection all the way to where the creek-adjacent roadway ends at Martinez Lane, and then continue as a Class I separated bike path until an intersection with Stevenson Bridge Road directly south of the Stevenson Bridge. The Class I bike path can divert bike traffic from this narrow and heavily used section of Putah Creek Road. The path benefits include providing a safe and scenic trail for bicyclists, and helping preserve the Putah Creek Road for agricultural vehicle travel.

Design Considerations	Design Example
• The minimum width of two-way paths is eight feet. • If trees are adjacent to the path, a root barrier should be installed along the path to avoid root uplift. • A minimum 2-foot wide shoulder composed of the same pavement material as the path or all weather surfaces, free of vegetation, shall be provided adjacent to the traveled way of the path when not on a structure. • Number of land owners on the proposed path right-of-way. • Funding to buy right-of-way or forge use agreements with existing land owners.	
PCA Designation Supportive Features	**Additional Design Guidance**
Agricultural Economy: Providing a preferred bike path to divert recreational bike path will ease on-road conflicts and delays from bike traffic and therefore improve agricultural production and transportation. Recreation: A separated path running along Putah Creek provides a safer and more pleasant option for recreational riders.	• Caltrans Highway Design Manual (Chapter 1000 Section 1003.1(1) and (2), and 1003.5). • AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, Chapter 2. • Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Section 9B. Sign Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way. Federal Highway Administration. 2012.

Stevenson Bridge Improvements

Putah Creek PCA

Existing Conditions

Stevenson Bridge spans Putah Creek on Stevenson Bridge Road (95A). It is a 20-foot-wide, two-lane concrete rainbow arch bridge with no road margins. The bridge was built in 1923 and has been identified by the State of California as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It is considered a local icon and is used as a gathering spot and for recreation biking, and roughly 800 vehicles pass over it each day. It is also used frequently by agricultural equipment and for the transportation of farm goods. However, the bridge has poor deck conditions and is considered structurally deficient. Inspections conducted in 2013 resulted in a sufficiency rating of 46 out of 100.

Photo Source: Creative Commons Attribution - Non-commercial Share

Project Concept

The proposed project is to build a two-lane bridge and road connection to Stevenson Bridge Road over Putah Creek for vehicle traffic. The existing bridge is slated for earthquake retrofitting in 2016 and would serve as a pedestrian and bicycle bridge only. The project may also include some deck and nonstructural improvements to the existing bridge to improve user experience. Appropriate signage and connections would also be installed to direct all modes of traffic to the correct crossing location.

Design Considerations

- Aspects of the bridge, including street graffiti, are considered locally iconic and should be considered for preservation.
- The existing Stevenson Bridge on-road markings should include a separated pedestrian pathway at least four feet in width.
- Signage, on-road markings, and barriers should be installed at both intersections between the vehicle roadway and bicycle pathway on either side of the bridge to direct each mode to the correct route.
- The vehicle bridge design should reflect elements of the existing bridge design for aesthetic quality.
- Vehicle bridge span should extend at least 24 feet in width, including 10-foot lanes and 2-foot shoulders.

Design Example

Photo Source: Alameda county Bay Farm Island Bridges

PCA Designation Supportive Features

Agricultural Economy: Providing a preferred bike route over Putah Creek to divert recreational bike path will ease on-road conflicts, bottlenecks, and delays from bike traffic, and therefore improve agricultural production and transportation.

Recreation: A separate bicycle and pedestrian bridge crossing over Putah Creek provides a safer and more pleasant option for recreational travelers.

Additional Design Guidance

- Caltrans Bridge Design Practice Manual, 4th edition. 2015.
- Caltrans Bridge Design Specifications. 2008.
- Caltrans Highway Design Manual (Section 1003.6(2)).
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Overcrossings: Lessons Learned. Rory Renfro. June 2007.

Pedrick Road Overcrossing

Dixon Ridge PCA

Existing Conditions

The Pedrick Road overcrossing is located at the intersection of Pedrick Road and Interstate 80. Pedrick Road is a two-lane rural artery that provides on-ramp access to the highway. The road also intersects with Lincoln Highway directly to the north of the overpass and with Sparkling Lane directly to the south of the overpass. Currently, the intersection is too narrow to allow for safe and convenient access by agricultural vehicles during high traffic times. There are few other north-south crossing options available to agricultural vehicles in the area to cross over the interstate. The nearest option is Kidwell Road, which provides southbound but not northbound access more than 2 miles away to the northeast.

Photo Source: Google Street View. 2015. Capture June 2014.

Project Concept

The proposed project is the widening of Pedrick Road and overpass in both directions to provide for a shoulder lane and wider turning radii to better accommodate slow-moving agricultural equipment.

Design Considerations

- Bridge should have a minimum clearance of 33 feet and shoulders of 4 feet in each direction.
- Incorporating bicycle lanes during the design process is an option to be evaluated.
- The widening would need to comply with seismic and liquefaction safety standards.
- Wider turning radii on turns from the frontage roads and off-ramps should also be evaluated.
- The additional weight caused by widening the overpass may require reinforcement of the foundation.
- Caution signs indicating the presence of slow moving agricultural vehicles should be installed from each approach.

Design Example

Photo Source: Petersburg, Virginia. Bridge Design Crouch Engineering.

PCA Designation Supportive Features

Agricultural Economy: Improved access for agriculture-related vehicle journeys.

Additional Design Guidance

- Caltrans Bridge Design Practice Manual, 4th edition. 2015.
- Caltrans Bridge Design Specifications. 2008.

Appendix 3: PCA PAC Meeting Notes

Priority Conservation Area
Partnership Advisory Committee (PCA PAC) Meeting

9:00 a.m – 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 5, 2014
Solano Transportation Authority
One Harbor Center, Suite 130
Suisun City, CA 94585

At the start of the November meeting, PCA PAC members discussed goals for the meeting, reviewed the consultant's (PMC) scope of work, and considered the Association of Bay Area Governments' (ABAG's) criteria for PCA designations and benefits. The remainder of the meeting focused on generating a list of eight areas within Solano County for consideration as potential PCAs, using the Solano County Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and PCAs map to illustrate potential changes to boundaries of existing PCAs, and to identify additional PCAs for assessment relative to ABAG's criteria. Photographs of the Solano County PDAs and PCAs map used during the November 5th meeting are provided as attachments.

Potential PCAs defined by the PCA PAC which will be assessed by PMC include:

Existing PCAs:

1. **Blue Ridge Hills (Vaca Mountains)**
   This area was preliminarily defined as bounded to the north by the County line, to the south by the Fairfield city limits (with a buffer area within city limits), and to the west by the County line and the existing Suisun Valley PCA. PMC will recommend an appropriate eastern boundary line based on watershed boundaries.

2. **Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill**
   Boundaries of the overlapping PCA and PDA area within the Fairfield Train Station Specific Plan within this existing PCA may be adjusted.

3. **Suisun Valley**
   The existing PCA will be adjusted so that the eastern boundaries match the Fairfield city limits.

4. **Western Hills**
   This area was preliminarily defined as bounded to the north and west by the County line, bounded to the south by State Route (SR) 12, and bounded to the east by the Fairfield city limits and the Suisun Valley PCA.

5. **Tri City and County Cooperative Planning Area**
   This area was preliminarily defined as bounded to the north by SR 12 and bounded to the south, east, and west by the existing Tri City and County Cooperative Planning Area boundaries adopted by the JPA.

Additional PCAs:

6. **Putah Creek**
   This area was identified as having agricultural and recreational values. The Stevenson Bridge was identified as a key maintenance and improvement project within this area. This potential PCA was preliminarily defined as bounded to the north and east by the County line at Putah Creek, and bounded to the west by Pleasants Valley Road. The southern boundaries are formed by existing Agriculture Reserve Overlay areas identified on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram.

7. **Dixon Ridge**
   The Dixon Ridge Agricultural Region as defined in the Solano County General Plan was identified as a potential PCA.

8. **Mare Island**
   Mare Island was identified as a potential PCA with an urban greening designation.

In addition to the eight potential PCAs listed above, PCA PAC members recognized the Suisun Marsh and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as important biological resource areas within Solano County. Although these areas are already protected, PMC will assess two biological “hot spot” areas within the Suisun Marsh and the Delta as potential PCAs.

PMC’s findings and recommendations will be discussed at the December PCA Partnership Advisory Committee meeting.

Figure 1
Solano County PDAs and PCAs Map – Potential PCAs

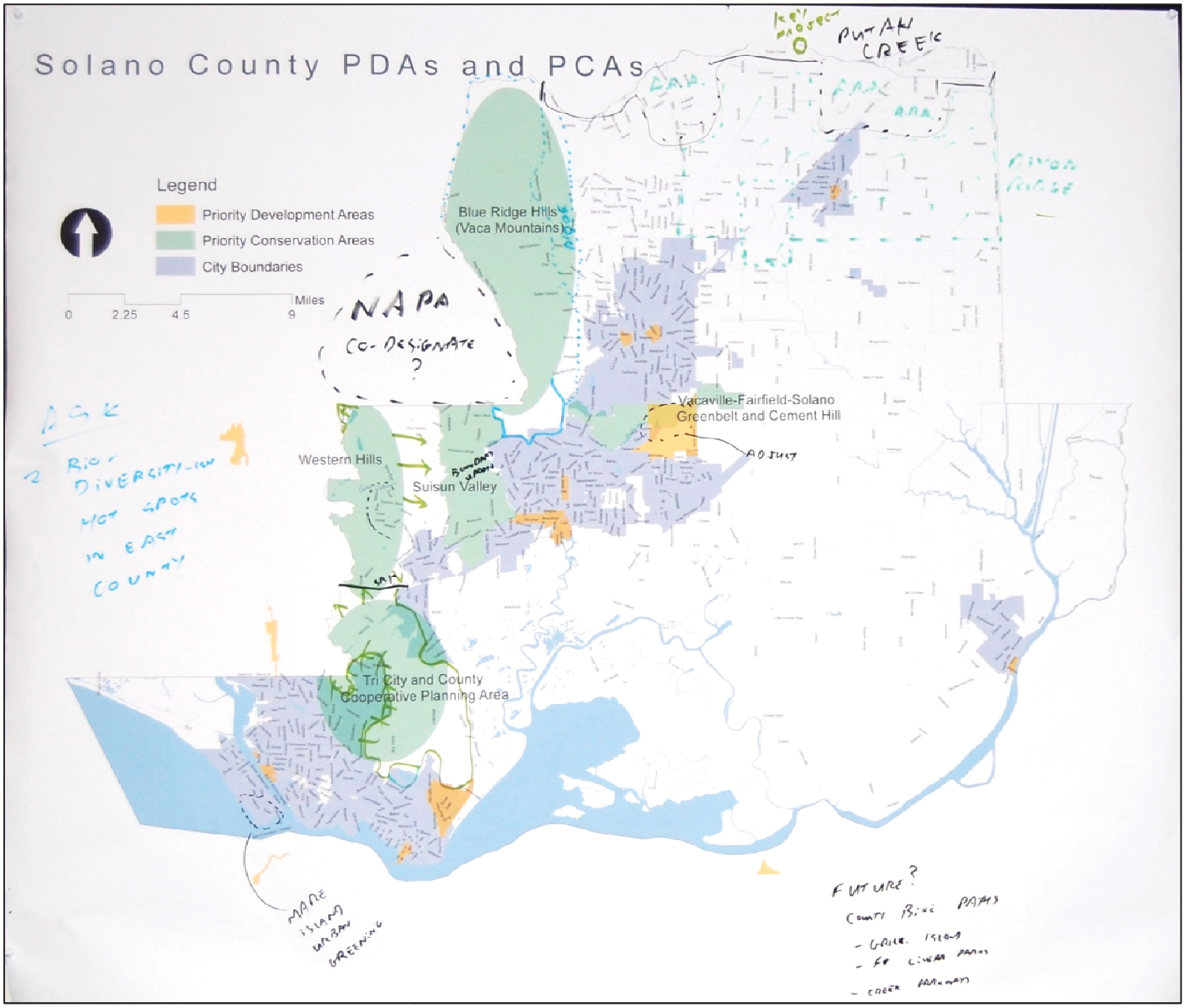
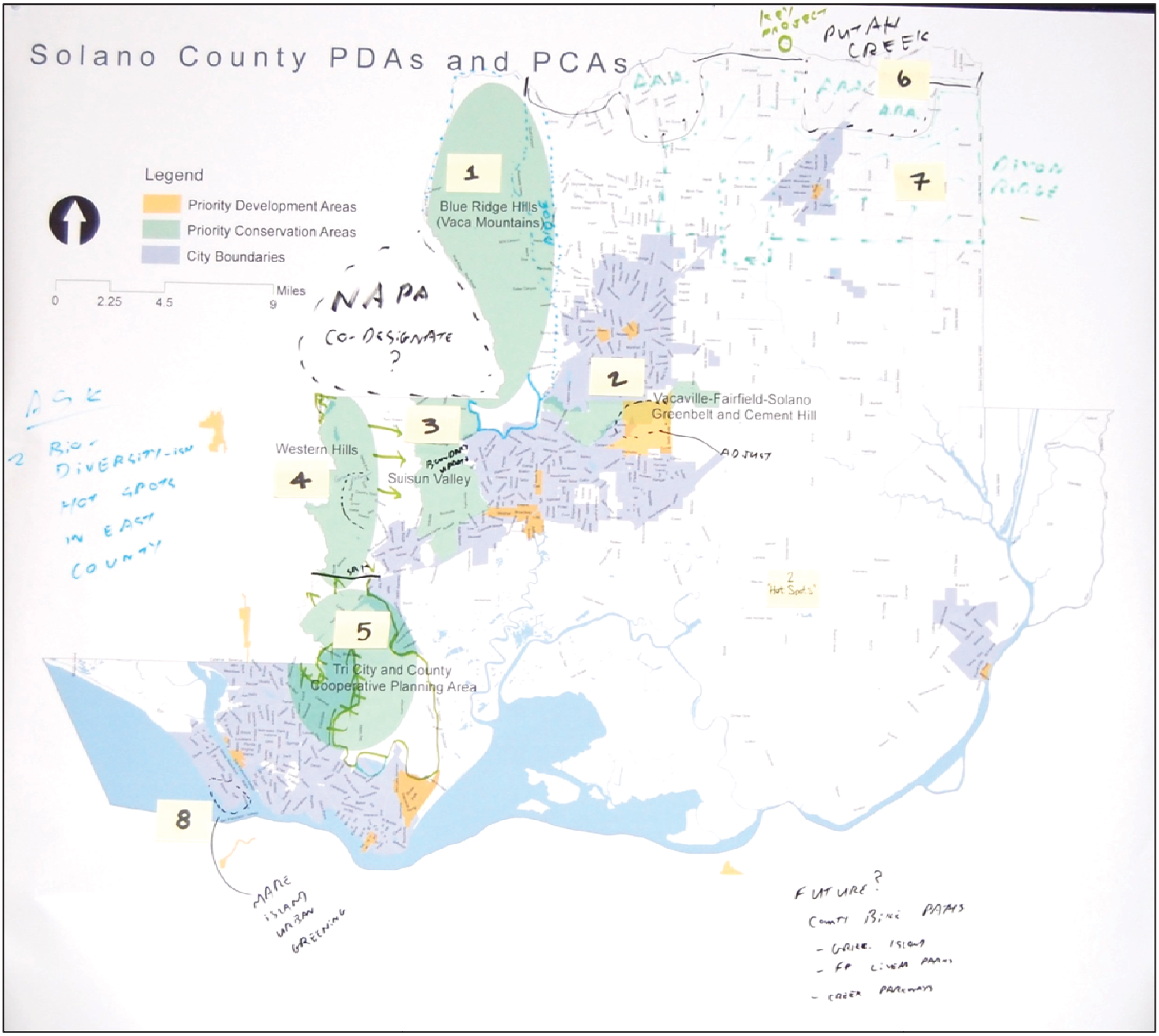


Figure 2
Solano County PDAs and PCAs Map – Potential PCAs (Numbered)



The following Minutes from the December 4, 2014 PCA PAC meeting provided courtesy of PMC

Presentation by Andrew Hart, summarizing intent of PCA's and results of PCA Matrix Assessment of designation benefit criteria.

Q for ABAG: Regarding the confirmation of existing PCA's—the process deadlines have been adjusted to allow for the process?

→Yes. And anyway, if you are happy with the PCA's, no action is necessary. Minor boundary adjustments can be made through this process, no problem. No action necessary by decision-making bodies

Q for ABAG: I was surprised that there was not a sub-area (designation or benefit) established for community separators/greenbelts? Any thought given to that?

→Joanna: we are learning as we go along. ABAG may look into additional designations if necessary.

General comment on Matrix assessment: Doesn't use any City General Plans as sources. Thinks this is important, especially in emphasizing the benefit of bolstering stable urban boundaries/greenbelts

<u>Review and comments on Matrix results for each Proposed PCA:</u>

Blue Ridge Hills:

- This PCA should be left as one PCA, rather than separating it into to where one would be Blue Ridge Hills and the other would be Pleasants Valley
- Concern that doesn't qualify under agriculture. PCA-PAC member noted that grazing land is an important agricultural resource, and that they believe an alternative data source or interpretation should be considered to achieve the 4th benefit criteria necessary to achieve Agricultural Lands designation.
- Boundary alterations: Move eastern boundary further east to encompass hills beyond Pleasant Valley

Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano and Cement Hill:

- No direct concerns on designations. Urban greening should be considered in analysis for designation of this PCA. The importance of this area as a greenbelt should be emphasized in the report or local plan that comes out of this process.
- Boundary alterations: Ensure that PDA and PCA boundaries are contiguous but do not overlap.

Suisun Valley:

- Concerns:
    - The ridge trail doesn't actually go into Suisun Valley. This needs to be double-checked, as its listed in the matrix. If it isn't the boundaries that this PCA won't qualify under Recreation.
    - JoAnna notes that if bike paths etc. are not able to be represented that's a problem that should be fixed
- Boundary alterations: none

Western Hills:

- Concerns that agriculture is not a qualified designation through benefit criteria
    - As with Blue Ridge Hills above, PCA-PAC member noted that grazing land is an important agricultural resource, and that they believe an alternative data source or interpretation should be considered to

achieve the 4th benefit criteria necessary to achieve Agricultural Lands designation. Land within Western Hills may be considered prime grazing land by the State, which should be addressed in analysis.

- Boundary alternations
    - Preferred southern boundary to extend south to include hills and regional park, potentially using rural residential land use edges as the boundary.

Tri-City

- A new name will be chosen for this PCA since boundaries don't match the Greenbelt's official borders for the Tri-City and County Cooperative Plan
- Concerns that regional parks are not listed as a primary benefit under Regional Recreation designation.
    - Proposed parks planned in the Tri-City Plan
    - Also why is Lynch Canyon not in there? Does it count?
- Concerns that agriculture is not a qualified designation through benefit criteria.
- Comment that value benefit as an urban buffer should be emphasized in some way
- Boundary alterations: none

Putah Creek

- Concerns that Regional Recreation is not a qualified designation through benefit criteria.
    - Believe it should considering bike activity and bike trails through the area
- Concerns about 'no' finding for Primary Benefit "protect urban water supply."
- Boundary alterations:
    - Lake Solano should be included and consideration should be given to the Baryessa Lake dam being included in the Putah Creek PCA rather than the Blue Ridge Hills PCA.
    - The southern border on the eastern side should be simplified between Putah and Dixon to run along Tremont Rd.

Dixon Ridge

- Concerns that Regional Recreation is not a qualified designation through benefit criteria.
    - Davis Dixon bike trail runs through there—recreation
- Concerns about 'no' finding for Primary Benefit "protect urban water supply."
    - Think 2-3 inches recharge is incorrect and that 30 – 40 inches of recharge is more likely. The original source needs to be double-checked and additional sources may be necessary.
- Boundary Alterations:
    - Keep Dixon General Plan as excluded boundary.
    - Remove from Dixon whatever area gets included in the El Mira PCA

Mare Island

- Under water supply? How does it qualify
- If it doesn't qualify under Urban Greening, believe it should qualify under Regional Recreation
    - Maybe it provides recreational opportunities for communities of concern
        - However, communities of concern in Vallejo are not adjacent to Mare Island and there's not really pressure to develop—due to the nature of that land
    - Settled on recreation as potential designation

Suisun Marsh

- Also has regional recreation value
    - Opportunity for improved trail access, boardwalk improvements
- Remove “hot spot” term.
- So far keep undefined. Unsure if should be submitted as a PCA application or simply discussed in any local report or plan that comes out of this process

Sac-San Joaquin

- Could potentially make trail improvements
- Potentially highlight it for its incredible urban water supply value
- So far keep undefined. Unsure if should be submitted as a PCA application or simply discussed in any local report or plan that comes out of this process
- Boundary alterations
    - Show dotted boundary to include the entire Delta crescent (as identified on the map used during the meeting), sweeping across the southeast edge of the county from about Oxford Rd as the northern boundary, and Benicia as the southwest boundary.

El Mira potential PCA #11

- Create a new PCA with boundaries generally including the immediate area between City of Vacaville City limits and City of Dixon city limits.
- Intention is an agricultural designation (if qualifies) and as a sort of ‘new’ greenbelt protection between the two cities where this growth pressure.

General discussion on STA approach to PCA implementation:

- STA will reference PCA maps when commenting on City General Plan land use alterations or changes to urban boundaries. This should trigger a public outreach process and physical resource assessments on the part of the cities.
- Changes to the PCA’s required as a result of urban development or General Plan land use changes, will be incorporated at the next round of PCA applications based on ABAG’s timeline.

SOLANO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
PCA PAC Meeting
January 27, 2015

Meeting Summary – Draft

Meeting purpose:

1) Finalize criteria used to determine PCAs
2) Finalize the boundaries of the selected PCAs
3) Provide STA staff direction in preparing applications

Meeting Attendees:

- Barbara Wood, Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Bob Berman, Solano Open Space
- Bob Macaulay, Solano Transportation Agency
- Brian Miller, Solano County Planning Directors
- Craig Leathers, Large Post-Harvest Agricultural Processor
- Drew Hart, Solano Transportation Agency
- Janet Barbieri, JB Comm, Inc.
- Jeff Henderson, PMC
- Matt Walsh, Solano County
- Nancy Lund, Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Zoe Saldovar, Solano Transportation Agency

Discussion

<u>Criteria</u>

- Drew summarized discussion with ABAG staff concerning PCA criteria and interpretation of "and/or" criteria for recreation and agriculture. ABAG response is that the criteria are based on an "or" interpretation. Drew clarified that ABAG did not have any hesitation in making the criteria more broad and Jeff added that the doors are very open as long as the criteria are based on a scientific qualification.

- There have not been major updates to the criteria.

- Question: Could we use the "compact growth" criteria to qualify additional areas as Urban Greening using general plan policies for community separators and compact growth? Could apply to PCAs 2, 11, 7, and could qualify for additional funding for projects (e.g., tree planting in separators).

- Many of these areas are permanent crops - could be awkward to designate them as urban greening if they are in an ag easement.

- Could be great for Area 2 (Fairfield-Vacaville Greenbelt), Suisun Valley is also an area that protects compact growth.

- Could be a comment to ABAG as well that the compact growth criteria is in a strange place.

- Bike paths - Ridge Trail and Bay Trail are automatically PCAs.

- We are using local data to justify Putah Creek.

- Greenbelt also comes into Train Station Specific Plan as recreation.

- Consider amending Area 2 in the future (not now) to include recreation based on rec facilities proposed in Train Station Specific Plan.

<u>Municipal Service Areas</u>

- Question: what is the origin of the MSAs? (County general plan). Are they coterminous with spheres? (not always)

- Maps should also show the MSAs.

- PCA PAC direction should be objective criteria based on a snapshot in time with information available "now" but acknowledge the existence of exceptions in future plans. Group agreed that if someone says they want to "opt in" in the future that no one would object.

- Don't use spheres, but can use urban boundaries.

- Always need to make clear that "PCA" is not a land use designation.

<u>Boundaries</u>

- Areas 9 and 10 - they qualify based on interpretation of the ABAG criteria. But, thinking about the PCA program as a vehicle for funding, does it make sense to designate these? Particularly when considered over what we're currently recommending. What will the designation benefit to these areas?

- It seems odd to submit a map that doesn't include 9 and 10 as designations.

- For 9 - we could use the Primary + Secondary areas of the Suisun Marsh, less the cities/MSAs, etc.

- In the Marsh, this is where most of our mitigation requirements will be accomplished.

- It can't hurt to designate Areas 9 and 10.

- Fuzzy boundaries are on the map - we're not sure that this program is a good channel for infrastructure or other sources of funding. These areas qualify for state and federal funding. If thinking of it as "Comprehensive List of Areas to Preserve in County" - its odd to leave these out. If thinking of it as areas to prioritize funding - it may not make sense.

- In 10 (Delta), Ag is the most important value.

- Wonder if 10 is just too much - includes Montezuma Hills, Wetlands in Suisun Marsh, could split into multiples.

- We may want to show ABAG that these are important areas to conservation - but not necessarily apply for PCA status. Create a different mapping unit, and identify as potential future PCA or otherwise acknowledge their importance.

- Be sure to highlight the importance of the other areas (Marsh, Delta, Montezuma Hills, etc.) - recognize it, but don't designate it.

- Travis concerns - may be outside the scope of this program.

<u>Next Steps</u>

- STA Board meets on Feb 11 and STA staff will update them based on PCA PACs direction from today.

- What we will do next - work with PMC to develop applications to individual PCAs. But, that's not the same as writing the PCA Plan - which describes our process and context, intended use of PCAs (e.g., its not formal land use designations), and potential project ideas.

- There needs to be a nominating agency - likely will be the County (except for 8), but others include some portion of other jurisdictions.

- There could be push-back from the BOS if we're including areas in MSAs without concurrence from affected cities. Need to get supporting resolutions from cities, with overlap or adjacency.

- Future process question - priority projects list. Will develop as a staff partners recommendation

- Question: will there be a community outreach process to vet these priorities? Will go to TAC, Bike and Ped committees, and the STA Board. STA is also working on comprehensive plan update. STA hasn't fully fleshed out how they are coming to committee with input on this.

- Project development approach: select projects from an existing list, with opportunity to add. STA to provide ideas from existing lists.

- ABAG funding cycle - current cycle is through 16/17. Then, new funding will be available to support these projects in 17/18. But, Cap and Trade includes some funding sources that could apply as soon as 15/16.

- Question: What timeframe are we looking at 3-year, or 5-year? Could look at both.

- Current Bike and Ped priority projects are up on STA website.

- Pedrick overpass and Stevens Bridge will be good ideas.

- Let's not limit ourselves to projects in the ABAG OBA criteria - we want to look broader than transportation funding only. Let's identify others that can be funded by other sources.

- Schedule? - Next meeting should really focus on the project list. Likely looking at first week of March.

Action Items

- Fix "Berryessa" spelling on Page 5 of the prior meeting minutes.

- Add Urban Greening designation to 2 (Fairfield-Vacaville Greenbelt), 5 (Tri-City), 11 (Elmira), 3 (Suisun Valley) using the compact growth criteria and County and local general plan policies. But, let's call it "Compact Growth" and convey comments to ABAG about what we're doing and what our intent is.

- For maps - use City limits, plus adopted urban growth boundaries (e.g., Vacaville) and MSA, inclusive of adopted specific plans (Dixon) adopted as of 12/31/14. Add SOIs, MSAs, growth boundaries to maps as an overlay, and redistribute.

- Adjust Area 2 boundary to exclude City of Fairfield boundary to only show as

within the unincorporated County.

- Delete Areas 9 and 10. Create conservation framework map. Be sure to highlight the importance of the other areas (Marsh, Delta, Montezuma Hills, etc.) - recognize it, but don't designate it.

- Part of our story to the Bay Area is to send us open space and farmland conservation funds. There's nothing we don't cover at least one way, either PCAs, County GP, or in Delta and Marsh. Describe how these areas are protected with and without PCAs.

- Consider adding the “bubble” northeast of Vallejo to Area 5 - if it meets the criteria. There may be Ridge Trail on this property.

- For Suisun Valley - the matrix is confusing and conflicting for recreation. Let's be sure that we have correctly identified backup data. Let's be clear as to what we're using as backup data for policies, maybe adding footnotes. Double-check how we're getting the recreation designation here with correct backup data in the matrix. Outcome is correct, we want this to be recreation.

- Begin to prepare formal applications while we create the revised boundaries. When we hold our next meeting, we'll review the final boundaries and can adapt.

- It was a challenge to print out the charts - smallest type seen in some time. Look at different formats for distribution.

- Drew will look for meeting room availability, and Zoe and Drew will send out a save-the-date.

###

APPENDIX 4: MATRIX EVALUATION

MEMO

To: Andrew Hart
SOLANO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

From: Jeff Henderson, Dana Hoffman, Reyna Schenck

Cc: Robert Macaulay, Solano Transportation Authority

Date: November 26, 2014

Re: Draft Matrix Assessment of Potential Priority Conservation Areas in Solano County under ABAG Guidelines

Please accept the following draft assessment for the designation of proposed Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) in Solano County. PMC assessed 10 proposed PCAs provided by the PCA Partnership Advisory Committee (PCA-PAC). Each of the proposed PCAs was assigned a name and draft boundaries based on the recommendations of the PCA-PAC and reference to related boundaries of these areas established by the Solano County General Plan (e.g., agricultural regions, designations, and specific plan boundaries).

According to updated ABAG Guidelines for Priority Conservation Areas adopted in July 2014, PCAs can qualify in four designation categories to recognize the different roles they may have in supporting the vitality of the region's natural systems, rural economy, and human health. The four designations are *natural landscapes*, *agricultural lands*, *regional recreation*, and *urban greening*. A PCA can be assigned one or more designations. PMC used the criteria and recommended data sources established in the ABAG Guidelines to identify potential designations for each of the 10 proposed PCAs. In some cases, proposed PCAs may qualify for multiple designations.

The designations that each PCA may qualifies for are summarized in **Table 1**. Below are six discussion questions for consideration by the Solano Transportation Authority and the PCA-PAC relating to analysis results, data sources, or PCA boundaries. A matrix documenting the analysis for each PCA and maps showing potential PCA boundaries are provided in **Attachments A and B**, respectively.

Table 1: PCA Analysis Matrix Results

Proposed PCA		Recommended Designation(s)	Primary Benefits Supported by Current Data
1	Blue Ridge Hills	Natural Landscapes	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems Aquatic Ecosystems Water Supply & Quality
2	Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill	Natural Landscapes	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems Water Supply & Quality
		Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/Economy
3	Suisun Valley	Natural Landscapes	Aquatic Ecosystems Water Supply & Quality
		Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/Economy
		Regional Recreation	Recreation (regional trails or parks)
4	Western Hills	Natural Landscapes	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems Aquatic Ecosystems Water Supply & Quality
		Regional Recreation	Recreation (regional trails or parks)
5	Tri City and County Cooperative Planning Area	Natural Landscapes	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems Water Supply & Quality
		Regional Recreation	Recreation (regional trails or parks)
6	Putah Creek	Natural Landscapes	Water Supply & Quality
		Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/Economy
7	Dixon Ridge	Natural Landscapes	Water Supply & Quality
		Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/Economy
8	Mare Island	Natural Landscapes	Aquatic Ecosystems Water Supply & Quality
		Regional Recreation	Recreation (regional trails or parks)
9	Suisun Marsh Hot Spot	Natural Landscapes	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems Aquatic Ecosystems Water Supply & Quality
10	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Hot Spot	Natural Landscapes	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems Aquatic Ecosystems Water Supply & Quality
		Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/Economy

DISCUSSION TOPICS

I. **Blue Ridge Hills (1)**: This proposed PCA currently extends from the western border of the county to the edge of the Pleasants Valley Agricultural Region boundary to the east. Splitting the proposed PCA to create two PCAs, one including only the Blue Ridge Hills west of Pleasants Valley, and one including the low-lying valley within the Pleasants Valley Agricultural Region, may improve the benefit criteria for Natural Landscapes for the first, and Agricultural Lands for the latter.

II. **Tri City and County Cooperative Planning Area (5):** The boundaries of this proposed PCA are currently defined by State Route 12 to the north, I-680 to the east, county boundary to the west, and Benicia city limits to the south. An alternative PCA boundary could be defined using the existing Tri-City/County Cooperative Planning boundary.

III. **Putah Creek (6):** The Putah Creek proposed PCA may qualify for the Natural Landscapes and Agricultural Lands designations, but would not qualify for the Regional Recreation designation using the data sources recommended by ABAG. Additional sources (e.g., riparian corridors, CNDDB) would likely alter these results, enabling the area to qualify as a Regional Recreation PCA, if desired.

IV. **Dixon Ridge (7):** This proposed PCA currently excludes the City of Dixon but includes the Dixon Sphere of Influence (SOI). An alternative boundary may be considered that either includes both or excludes both the City limits and the SOI.

V. **Mare Island (8):** The PCA-PAC requested consideration of Mare Island as a potential Urban Greening PCA. The proposed PCA would qualify for this designation under only one benefit criteria: addressing hazard risk in open spaces. The ABAG Resilience Program Solano County Hazard Map identifies the area in this potential PCA with a Shaking Severity Level of *Very Strong*, and the NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map identifies some areas in this potential PCA as *Low-Lying Areas*. However, the PCA would not qualify under this designation under any of the other Urban Greening benefit criteria, and therefore should be eliminated from future consideration as a potential PCA.

VI. **Suisun Marsh and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Hot Spots (9 & 10)**: Both of these general areas identified by the PCA-PAC qualify for PCA designations using recommended ABAG sources. However, to more accurately identify specific hot spots that would benefit most from PCA protection, these sources were supplemented by additional sources including the CNDDB.

NEXT STEPS

PMC has created these draft PCA boundaries and analyses for consideration by the Solano Transportation Authority and the PCA-PAC. At the next meeting, the committee should consider the following questions:

1. Which, if any, of the proposed PCAs should be prioritized or eliminated from further consideration.

2. Which designation or designations the committee prefers for each PCA for submittal applications. Each PCA can be assigned one or multiple designations, but designations should track with potential proposed projects for grant funding.

3. Consider the proposed boundaries of each PCA. Alterations may change benefit criteria for each potential PCA and designation.

Following review by the PCA-PAC and the Solano Transportation Authority, PMC will conduct additional analysis and finalize boundaries and applications for each PCA.

Draft PCA Matrix Analysis

November, 26, 2014

Designation	Blue Ridge Hills (Vaca Mountains)					
	Primary Benefit	**Criteria**	**ABAG Sources**	**Does this area meet the criteria?**	**Source**	**Discussion**
Natural Landscape	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	1)Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN): •Essential •Important •Fragmented •Further consideration, **OR**	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Yes	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Areas within the boundaries are identified as Essential, Important, Fragmented, or Areas for Further Consideration. The majority of the area within the boundaries of this potential PCA meets the criteria.
		2) Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No Bay Area Critical Linkage in the County.
		Optional: Other Critical Habitat	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal Locally identified data	No	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, critical habitat does not exist within this potential PCA.
	Aquatic Ecosystems	1) Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals; **OR**	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	No wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2) Protects subtidal habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals; **OR**	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	Subtidal habitat does not exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		3) Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Yes	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Three Priority 2 Streams are identified within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other Important Features (e.g., Ntl. Imp. Marine Features)	Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Water Supply & Quality	1) Protects urban water supply •Reservoir Catchment Area •Aquifer recharge zone •Critical stream •Priority stream **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper, CLN, and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	The recharge rate within this potential PCA is relatively high (average rate of between 5 and 9+ inches per year). Additionally, three Priority 2 Streams are identified within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2)Supports watershed health	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	No	Greenbelt Mapper and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the Greenbelt Mapper, the area within this potential PCA west of Pleasants Valley Road is not considered Important Watershed Land, which are land areas that are important for a healthy functioning watershed for various reasons. According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, critical habitat does not exist within this potential PCA.
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/ Economy	1)Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production •Farmland identified in Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program •Grazing Lands identified in FMMP	Greenbelt Mapper, CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	Yes	CDC FMMP and Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	Approximately half of the land within the boundaries of this potential PCA west of Pleasants Valley Road is identified as Other Land, while the other half and the majority of the land east of Pleasants Valley Road is designated as Grazing Land.
		2) Supportive of local or state agricultural policy	General Plans/Other Land Use Plans	Yes	Solano County General Plan	The Solano County General Plan Agricultural Regions map identifies the area within this potential PCA as the Western Hills Agricultural Region; the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram identifies areas west of Pleasants Valley Road with a Watershed Agricultural designation and areas east of Pleasants Valley Road with an Agriculture designation within this potential PCA.
		3) Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and Solano County General Plan	The potential PCA includes and would complete contiguous areas of farm or grazing lands protected by Williamson Act Contracts or by a measure or proposition (including the Orderly Growth Initiative [Prop A] in Solano County), which prohibit conversion of farmland. The potential PCA is identified with a Watershed agricultural designation on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram.
		4) Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture	Local Data	No	CDC FMMP, Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map, and Solano County General Plan	The area within this PCA is designated as Other Land and Grazing Land.

Draft PCA Matrix Analysis

November, 26, 2014

Recreation	Recreation	1) Proposed Regional Trails •Bay Trail •Ridge Trail	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper	There are no proposed regional trails within this potential PCA.
		2) Acreage of regional park added	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Solano County General Plan	No regional parks exist or are planned within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other local data sources	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Community Health (*Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Improves access to neighborhood parks in areas with high park need	ParkScore® Index http://parkscore.tpl.org/ Local Data/Analysis	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Increases/completes urban tree canopy	Local Data (e.g., tree inventories)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Increases urban tree cover in areas expected to experience urban heat island effect	Heat Island Effect Source	N/A	N/A	N/A
		4) Supports Local Climate Action Plan/Greening Plan Goals related to Urban Greening	Local Climate Action Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A
		5) Increases tree canopy, food access, and/or park access in Community of Concern	MTC Communities of Concern	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/All	Climate and Resilience *(co-benefit only for all criteria except urban greening)*	1) Protects and/or increases areas with carbon storage potential; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper; Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Addresses hazard risk in open spaces (earthquake etc.)	ABAG Earthquake Mapping Update; NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/Regional Re	Compact Growth *(Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces;	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Supports stable urban edges; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Supports adopted open space policy protection measures	Local General Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A

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	Vacaville-Fairfield-Solano Greenbelt and Cement Hill					
	Primary Benefit	**Criteria**	**ABAG Sources**	**Does this area meet the criteria?**	**Source**	**Discussion**
Natural Landscape	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	1)Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN): •Essential •Important •Fragmented •Further consideration, **OR**	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Yes	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Areas within the boundaries are identified as Essential, Important, Fragmented, or Areas for Further Consideration. The majority of the area within the boundaries of this potential PCA meets the criteria.
		2) Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No Bay Area Critical Linkage in the County.
		Optional: Other Critical Habitat	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal Locally identified data	Yes	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, critical habitat for Contra Costa goldfields, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp exists within a portion of this potential PCA.
	Aquatic Ecosystems	1) Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	No wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2) Protects subtidal habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	Subtidal habitat does not exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		3) Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No streams identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN exist within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other Important Features (e.g., Ntl. Imp. Marine Features)	Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration	Yes	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, critical habitat for Contra Costa goldfields, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp exists within a portion of this potential PCA.
	Water Supply & Quality	1) Protects urban water supply •Reservoir Catchment Area •Aquifer recharge zone •Critical stream •Priority stream **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper, CLN, and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	The recharge rate within this potential PCA is moderate (average of approximately 5 to 7 inches per year), no priority or critical streams are identified within this potential PCA.
		2)Supports watershed health	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper	According to the Greenbelt Mapper, eastern portions of the area within this potential PCA are considered Important Watershed Lands, which are land areas that are important for a healthy functioning watershed for various reasons.
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/ Economy	1)Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production •Farmland identified in Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program •Grazing Lands identified in FMMP	Greenbelt Mapper, CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	Yes	CDC FMMP and Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	The eastern portion of this PCA is identified as Farmland (Prime and Unique), while the majority of the area within the boundaries of this PCA are identified as Grazing Land.
		2) Supportive of local or state agricultural policy	General Plans/Other Land Use Plans	Yes	Solano County General Plan	The Solano County General Plan Agricultural Regions map identifies areas within this potential PCA as the Jepson Prairie Agricultural Region and the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram identifies the area within this potential PCA with an Agriculture designation.
		3) Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and Solano County General Plan	The potential PCA includes and would complete contiguous areas of farm or grazing lands protected by Williamson Act Contracts or proposition (including the Orderly Growth Initiative [Prop A] in Solano County), which prohibit conversion of farmland. The potential PCA is identified with an Agriculture designation on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram.
		4) Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture	Local Data	Yes	CDC FMMP, Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map, and Solano County General Plan	Eastern portions of this potential PCA are identified as Prime Farmland and Unique Farmland and the Solano County General Plan Land Use diagram designates areas within this potential PCA as Agriculture.

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Recreation	Recreation	1) Proposed Regional Trails •Bay Trail •Ridge Trail	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper	There are no proposed regional trails within this potential PCA.
		2) Acreage of regional park added	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Solano County General Plan	No regional parks exist or are planned within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other local data sources	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Community Health (*Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Improves access to neighborhood parks in areas with high park need	ParkScore® Index http://parkscore.tpl.org/ Local Data/Analysis	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Increases/completes urban tree canopy	Local Data (e.g. tree inventories)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Increases urban tree cover in areas expected to experience urban heat island effect	Heat Island Effect Source	N/A	N/A	N/A
		4) Supports Local Climate Action Plan/Greening Plan Goals related to Urban Greening	Local Climate Action Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A
		5) Increases tree canopy, food access, and/or park access in Community of Concern	MTC Communities of Concern	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/All	Climate and Resilience *(co-benefit only for all criteria except urban greening)*	1) Protects and/or increases areas with carbon storage potential; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper; Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Addresses hazard risk in open spaces (earthquake etc.)	ABAG Earthquake Mapping Update; NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Compact Growth *(Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces;	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Supports stable urban edges; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Supports adopted open space policy protection measures	Local General Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A

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	Suisun Valley					
	Primary Benefit	**Criteria**	**ABAG Sources**	**Does this area meet the criteria?**	**Source**	**Discussion & Recommendations**
Natural Landscape	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	1)Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN): •Essential •Important •Fragmented •Further consideration, **OR**	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Small areas within the boundaries are identified as Fragmented with three small areas identified as Essential or Important. The majority of this potential PCA does not meet the criteria.
		2) Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No Bay Area Critical Linkage in the County.
		Optional: Other Critical Habitat	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal Locally identified data	No	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, critical habitat does not exist within this potential PCA.
	Aquatic Ecosystems	1) Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	No wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2) Protects subtidal habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	Subtidal habitat does not exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		3) Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Yes	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	One Priority 1 Stream and one Priority 2 Stream are identified within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other Important Features (e.g., Ntl. Imp. Marine Features)	Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Water Supply & Quality	1) Protects urban water supply •Reservoir Catchment Area •Aquifer recharge zone •Critical stream •Priority stream **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper, CLN, and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	The recharge rate within this potential PCA is moderate (average of approximately 5 to 7 inches per year) and one Priority 1 Stream and one Priority 2 Stream are identified within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2)Supports watershed health	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the Greenbelt Mapper, areas within this PCA are considered Important Watershed Lands, which are land areas that are important for a healthy functioning watershed, including areas that allow groundwater infiltration and underground water storage. According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, critical habitat does not exist within this potential PCA.
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/ Economy	1)Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production •Farmland identified in Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program •Grazing Lands identified in FMMP	Greenbelt Mapper, CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	Yes	CDC FMMP and Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	Land within this potential PCA is identified as Farmland (Prime, Unique, or of Statewide Importance) and Grazing Land, with small portions of the PCA identified as Other Land.
		2) Supportive of local or state agricultural policy	General Plans/Other Land Use Plans	Yes	Solano County General Plan	The Solano County General Plan Agricultural Regions map identifies this potential PCA as the Suisun Valley Agricultural Region, and the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram identifies the area within this potential PCA with an Agriculture designation.
		3) Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and Solano County General Plan	The potential PCA includes and would complete contiguous areas of farm or grazing lands protected by Williamson Act Contracts or by a measure or proposition (including the Orderly Growth Initiative [Prop A] in Solano County), which prohibit conversion of farmland. The potential PCA is identified with an Agriculture designation on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram.
		4) Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture	Local Data	Yes	CDC FMMP, Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map, and Solano County General Plan	Areas within this potential PCA are identified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance. The Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram designates the area within this potential PCA as Agricultural land use.
Recreation	Recreation	1) Proposed Regional Trails •Bay Trail •Ridge Trail	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper	The proposed Bay Area Ridge Trail is partially located within this potential PCA.
		2) Acreage of regional park added	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Solano County General Plan	No regional parks exist or are planned within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other local data sources	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Community Health (*Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Improves access to neighborhood parks in areas with high park need	ParkScore® Index http://parkscore.tpl.org/ Local Data/Analysis	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Increases/completes urban tree canopy	Local Data (e.g. tree inventories)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Increases urban tree cover in areas expected to experience urban heat island effect	Heat Island Effect Source	N/A	N/A	N/A
		4) Supports Local Climate Action Plan/Greening Plan Goals related to Urban Greening	Local Climate Action Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A
		5) Increases tree canopy, food access, and/or park access in Community of Concern	MTC Communities of Concern	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/All	Climate and Resilience *(co-benefit only for all criteria except urban greening)*	1) Protects and/or increases areas with carbon storage potential; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper; Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Addresses hazard risk in open spaces (earthquake etc.)	ABAG Earthquake Mapping Update; NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Compact Growth *(Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces;	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Support stable urban edges; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Support adopted open space policy protection measures	Local General Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A

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	Western Hills					
	Primary Benefit	**Criteria**	**ABAG Sources**	**Does this area meet the criteria?**	**Source**	**Discussion & Recommendations**
Natural Landscape	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	1)Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN): •Essential •Important •Fragmented •Further consideration, **OR**	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Yes	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Areas within the boundaries are identified as Essential, Important, Fragmented, or Areas for Further Consideration. The majority of the area within the boundaries of this potential PCA meets the criteria.
		2) Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No Bay Area Critical Linkage in the County
		Optional: Other Critical Habitat	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal Locally identified data	Yes	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, a small area (approximately 40 acres) in the southern portion of this potential PCA is identified as critical habitat for California red legged frog.
	Aquatic Ecosystems	1) Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	No wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2) Protects subtidal Habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	Subtidal habitat does not exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		3) Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Yes	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Two Priority 2 Streams are identified within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other Important Features (e.g., Ntl. Imp. Marine Features)	Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Water Supply & Quality	1) Protect urban water supply •Reservoir Catchment Area •Aquifer recharge zone •Critical stream •Priority stream **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper, CLN, and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	The recharge rate within this potential PCA is relatively high (average rate of between 5 and 9+ inches per year). Additionally, two Priority 2 Streams are identified within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2)Support watershed health	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper	According to the Greenbelt Mapper, areas within this potential PCA are considered Important Watershed Lands, which are land areas that are important for a healthy functioning watershed, including areas that allow groundwater infiltration and underground water storage.
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/ Economy	1)Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production •Farmland identified in Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program •Grazing Lands identified in FMMP	Greenbelt Mapper, CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	Yes	CDC FMMP and Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	The majority of land within this potential PCA is identified as Grazing Land, with portions identified as Farmland (Prime), Other Land, or Urban/Built-Up Land.
		2) Supportive of local or state agricultural policy	General Plans/Other Land Use Plans	Yes	Solano County General Plan	The Solano County General Plan Agricultural Regions map identifies the area within this potential PCA as the Western Hills Agricultural Region and the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram identifies areas within this potential PCA with a Watershed designation and a Agriculture designation.
		3) Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and Solano County General Plan	The potential PCA includes and would complete contiguous areas of farm or grazing lands protected by Williamson Act Contracts or by a measure or proposition (including the Orderly Growth Initiative [Prop A] in Solano County), which prohibit conversion of farmland. The potential PCA is identified with Watershed and Agriculture designations on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram.
		4) Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture	Local Data	No	CDC FMMP and Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	Compared to the entire area within this potential PCA, only a small portion of the land is identified as Prime Farmland.
Recreation	Recreation	1) Proposed Regional Trails •Bay Trail •Ridge Trail	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper	The proposed Bay Area Ridge Trail is partially located within this potential PCA.
		2) Acreage of regional park added	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Solano County General Plan	No regional parks exist or are planned within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other local data sources	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Community Health (*Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Improve access to neighborhood parks in areas with high park need	ParkScore® Index http://parkscore.tpl.org/ Local Data/Analysis	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Increase/complete urban tree canopy	Local Data (e.g. tree inventories)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Increase urban tree cover in areas expected to experience urban heat island effect	Heat Island Effect Source	N/A	N/A	N/A
		4) Supports Local Climate Action Plan/Greening Plan Goals related to Urban Greening	Local Climate Action Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A
		5) Increase tree canopy, food access, and/or park access in Community of Concern	MTC Communities of Concern	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/All	Climate and Resilience *(co-benefit only for all criteria except urban greening)*	1) Protect and/or Increase Areas with Carbon storage potential; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper; Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Address Hazard Risk in Open Spaces (earthquake etc.)	ABAG Earthquake Mapping Update; NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Compact Growth *(Recreation co-benefit only)*	Protect land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces;	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Support stable urban edges; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Support adopted open space policy protection measures	Local General Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A

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	Tri City and County Cooperative Planning Area					
	Primary Benefit	**Criteria**	**ABAG Sources**	**Does this area meet the criteria?**	**Source**	**Discussion & Recommendations**
Natural Landscape	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	1)Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN): •Essential •Important •Fragmented •Further consideration, **OR**	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Yes	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Areas within the boundaries are identified as Essential, Important, Fragmented, or Areas for Further Consideration. The majority of the area within the boundaries of this potential PCA meets the criteria.
		2) Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No Bay Area Critical Linkage in the County.
		Optional: Other Critical Habitat	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal Locally identified data	Yes	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, areas within this potential PCA are identified as critical habitat for California red-legged frog.
	Aquatic Ecosystems	1) Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	No wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2) Protects subtidal habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	Subtidal habitat does not exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		3) Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN; OR	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No streams identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN exist within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other Important Features (e.g., Ntl. Imp. Marine Features)	Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Water Supply & Quality	1) Protects urban water supply •Reservoir Catchment Area •Aquifer recharge zone •Critical stream •Priority stream **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper, CLN, and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	Although the recharge rate within this potential PCA is low to moderate (average of approximately 2 to 7 inches per year), no priority or critical streams are identified within this potential PCA.
		2)Support watershed health	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper	According to the Greenbelt Mapper, areas within this potential PCA are considered Important Watershed Lands, which are land areas that are important for a healthy functioning watershed, including areas that allow groundwater infiltration and underground water storage.
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/ Economy	1)Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production •Farmland identified in Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program •Grazing Lands identified in FMMP	Greenbelt Mapper, CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	Yes	CDC FMMP and Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	The majority of land within this potential PCA is identified as Grazing Land, with portions identified as Other Land or Urban/Built-Up Land.
		2) Supportive of local or state agricultural policy	General Plans/Other Land Use Plans	Yes	Solano County General Plan	The Solano County General Plan Agricultural Regions map identifies the area within this potential PCA as the Western Hills Agricultural Region, and the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram identifies areas within this potential PCA with an Agriculture designation.
		3) Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and Solano County General Plan	The potential PCA includes and would complete contiguous areas of farm or grazing lands protected by Williamson Act Contracts or by a measure or proposition (including the Orderly Growth Initiative [Prop A] in Solano County), which prohibit conversion of farmland. The potential PCA is identified with an Agriculture agricultural designation on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram.
		4) Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture	Local Data	No	CDC FMMP and Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	The land within this potential PCA is identified as Grazing Land, Other Land, and Urban/Built-Up Land.
Recreation	Recreation	1) Proposed Regional Trails •Bay Trail •Ridge Trail	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper	The proposed Bay Area Ridge Trail is partially located within this potential PCA.
		2) Acreage of regional park added	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Solano County General Plan	No regional parks exist or are planned within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other local data sources	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Solano Open Space	Regional parkland recreation is included in the shared goals of the cities and counties within the Tri-City CPA which entered into a JPA.

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Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Community Health (*Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Improves access to neighborhood parks in areas with high park need	ParkScore® Index http://parkscore.tpl.org/ Local Data/Analysis	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Increases/completes urban tree canopy	Local Data (e.g. tree inventories)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Increases urban tree cover in areas expected to experience urban heat island effect	Heat Island Effect Source	N/A	N/A	N/A
		4) Supports Local Climate Action Plan/Greening Plan Goals related to Urban Greening	Local Climate Action Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A
		5) Increases tree canopy, food access, and/or park access in Community of Concern	MTC Communities of Concern	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/All	Climate and Resilience *(co-benefit only for all criteria except urban greening)*	1) Protects and/or increases areas with carbon storage potential; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper; Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Addresses hazard risk in open spaces (earthquake etc.)	ABAG Earthquake Mapping Update; NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/Regional Rec	Compact Growth *(Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces;	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Supports stable urban edges; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Support adopted open space policy protection measures	Local General Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A

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	Putah Creek					
	Primary Benefit	**Criteria**	**ABAG Sources**	**Does this area meet the criteria?**	**Source**	**Discussion & Recommendations**
Natural Landscape	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	1)Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN): •Essential •Important •Fragmented •Further consideration, **OR**	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Small areas within the northeastern portion of this potential PCA are identified as Fragmented. A large majority of the area within this potential PCA does not meet the criteria.
		2) Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No Bay Area Critical Linkage in the County.
		Optional: Other Critical Habitat	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal Locally identified data	No	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, no critical habitat exists within this potential PCA.
	Aquatic Ecosystems	1) Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	No wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2) Protects subtidal habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	Subtidal habitat does not exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		3) Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN; OR	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No streams identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN exist within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other Important Features (e.g., Ntl. Imp. Marine Features)	Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration	Yes	USFWS and CDFW	Several special-status fish and wildlife species have the potential to occur within or near Putah Creek incluiding, but not limited to: steelhead, chinook salmon, western pond turtle, California red legged frog, and giant garter snake.
	Water Supply & Quality	1) Protect urban water supply •Reservoir Catchment Area •Aquifer recharge zone •Critical stream •Priority stream **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper, CLN, and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	The majority of this potential PCA has a relatively low recharge rate (average of approximately 0.3 to 3 inches per year) and no priority or critical streams exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2)Support watershed health	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the Greenbelt Mapper, the area within this potential PCA is considered Important Watershed Land, which is land that is important for a healthy functioning watershed, including areas that allow groundwater infiltration and underground water storage. According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, no critical habitat exists within this potential PCA.
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/ Economy	1)Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production •Farmland identified in Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program •Grazing Lands identified in FMMP	Greenbelt Mapper, CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	Yes	CDC FMMP and Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	The majority of land within this potential PCA is identified as Farmland (Prime or Unique), with some small portions of land identified as Grazing Land or Other Land.
		2) Supportive of local or state agricultural policy	General Plans/Other Land Use Plans	Yes	Solano County General Plan	The Solano County General Plan Agricultural Regions map identifies the area within this potential PCA as the Dixon Ridge Agricultural Region and the Winters Agricultural Region, and the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram identifies areas within this potential PCA with an Agriculture designation.
		3) Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and Solano County General Plan	The potential PCA includes and would complete contiguous areas of farm or grazing lands protected by Williamson Act Contracts or proposition (including the Orderly Growth Initiative [Prop A] in Solano County), which prohibit conversion of farmland. The potential PCA is identified with an Agriculture agricultural designation on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram.
		4) Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture	Local Data	Yes	CDC FMMP, Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map, and Solano County General Plan	The majority of land within this potential PCA is identified as Prime Farmland and Unique Farmland, and the Solano County General Plan Agricultural Regions map identifies areas within this potential PCA as the Dixon Ridge Agricultural Region and the Winters Agricultural Region. The Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram designates the land within this potential PCA as Agricultural land use.

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Recreation	Recreation	1) Proposed Regional Trails •Bay Trail •Ridge Trail	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper	There are no proposed regional trails within this potential PCA.
		2) Acreage of regional park added	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Solano County General Plan	No regional parks exist or are planned within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other local data sources	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	CDFW	The Putah Creek Wildlife Area is designated as recreational use Type C, which allows fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, and bird watching.
Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Community Health (*Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Improves access to neighborhood parks in areas with high park need	ParkScore® Index http://parkscore.tpl.org/ Local Data/Analysis	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Increases/completes urban tree canopy	Local Data (e.g. tree inventories)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Increases urban tree cover in areas expected to experience urban heat island effect	Heat Island Effect Source	N/A	N/A	N/A
		4) Supports Local Climate Action Plan/Greening Plan Goals related to Urban Greening	Local Climate Action Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A
		5) Increases tree canopy, food access, and/or park access in Community of Concern	MTC Communities of Concern	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/All	Climate and Resilience *(co-benefit only for all criteria except urban greening)*	1) Protects and/or increases areas with carbon storage potential; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper; Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Addresses hazard risk in open spaces (earthquake etc.)	ABAG Earthquake Mapping Update; NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Compact Growth *(Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces;	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Supports stable urban edges; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Support adopted open space policy protection measures	Local General Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A

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	Dixon Ridge					
	Primary Benefit	**Criteria**	**ABAG Sources**	**Does this area meet the criteria?**	**Source**	**Discussion & Recommendations**
Natural Landscape	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	1)Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN): •Essential •Important •Fragmented •Further consideration, **OR**	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Small areas within the northeastern portion of this potential PCA are identified as Essential, Important, or Fragmented. A large majority of the area within this potential PCA does not meet the criteria.
		2) Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No Bay Area Critical Linkage in the County.
		Optional: Other Critical Habitat	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal Locally identified data	No	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, areas within the eastern portion of this potential PCA are identified as critical habitat for Delta smelt; however, no critical streams are found within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
	Aquatic Ecosystems	1) Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	No wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2) Protects subtidal habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	Subtidal habitat does not exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		3) Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN; OR	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No streams identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN exist within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other Important Features (e.g., Ntl. Imp. Marine Features)	Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration	Yes	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, areas within the eastern portion of this potential PCA are identified as critical habitat for Delta smelt.
	Water Supply & Quality	1) Protect urban water supply •Reservoir Catchment Area •Aquifer recharge zone •Critical stream •Priority stream **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper, CLN, and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	The recharge rate within this potential PCA is low to moderate (average of approximately 0.3 to 5 inches per year) and no priority or critical streams existing are identified within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2)Support watershed health	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the Greenbelt Mapper, the area within this potential PCA is considered Important Watershed Land, which is land that is important for a healthy functioning watershed, including areas that allow groundwater infiltration and underground water storage. According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, no critical streams are found within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/ Economy	1)Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production •Farmland identified in Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program •Grazing Lands identified in FMMP	Greenbelt Mapper, CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	Yes	CDC FMMP and Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	The majority of land within this potential PCA is identified as Farmland (Prime, Unique, or of Statewide Importance), with the City of Dixon identified as Urban/Built-Up Land and some small portions of land identified as Grazing Land or Other Land.
		2) Supportive of local or state agricultural policy	General Plans/Other Land Use Plans	Yes	Solano County General Plan	The Solano County General Plan Agricultural Regions map identifies the area within this potential PCA as the Dixon Ridge Agricultural Region, and the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram identifies areas within this potential PCA with an Agriculture designation.
		3) Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and Solano County General Plan	The potential PCA includes and would complete contiguous areas of farm or grazing lands protected by Williamson Act Contracts or proposition (including the Orderly Growth Initiative [Prop A] in Solano County), which prohibit conversion of farmland. The potential PCA is identified with an Agriculture agricultural designation on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram.
		4) Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture	Local Data	Yes	CDC FMMP, Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map, and Solano County General Plan	The majority of land within this potential PCA is identified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. The Solano County General Plan Agricultural Regions map identifies the area within this potential PCA as the Dixon Ridge Agricultural Region, and the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram designates land within this potential PCA as Agricultural land use.

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Recreation	Recreation	1) Proposed Regional Trails •Bay Trail •Ridge Trail	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper	There are no proposed regional trails within this potential PCA.
		2) Acreage of regional park added	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Solano County General Plan	No regional parks exist or are planned within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other local data sources	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Community Health (*Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Improves access to neighborhood parks in areas with high park need	ParkScore® Index http://parkscore.tpl.org/ Local Data/Analysis	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Increases/completes urban tree canopy	Local Data (e.g. tree inventories)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Increases urban tree cover in areas expected to experience urban heat island effect	Heat Island Effect Source	N/A	N/A	N/A
		4) Supports Local Climate Action Plan/Greening Plan Goals related to Urban Greening	Local Climate Action Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A
		5) Increases tree canopy, food access, and/or park access in Community of Concern	MTC Communities of Concern	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/All	Climate and Resilience *(co-benefit only for all criteria except urban greening)*	1) Protects and/or increases areas with carbon storage potential; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper; Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Addresses hazard risk in open spaces (earthquake etc.)	ABAG Earthquake Mapping Update; NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Compact Growth *(Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces;	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Support stable urban edges; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Support adopted open space policy protection measures	Local General Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A

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	Mare Island					
	Primary Benefit	**Criteria**	**ABAG Sources**	**Does this area meet the criteria?**	**Source**	**Discussion & Recommendations**
Natural Landscape	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	1)Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN): •Essential •Important •Fragmented •Further consideration, **OR**	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Areas within this potential PCA are not identified as Essential, Fragmented, or Areas for Further Consideration. The area within this potential PCA does not meet the criteria
		2) Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No Bay Area Critical Linkage in the County.
		Optional: Other Critical Habitat	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal Locally identified data	No	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, no critical habitat exists within this potential PCA.
	Aquatic Ecosystems	1) Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	Yes	EcoAtlas and Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals - A Report of Habitat Recommendations	This potential PCA is within Segment D (Napa River Area) of the North Bay Subregion identified in the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals.
		2) Protects subtidal habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	Subtidal habitat does not exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		3) Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN; OR	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No streams identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN exist within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other Important Features (e.g., Ntl. Imp. Marine Features)	Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Water Supply & Quality	1) Protects urban water supply •Reservoir Catchment Area •Aquifer recharge zone •Critical stream •Priority stream **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper, CLN, and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	No priority or critical streams are identified within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2)Supports watershed health	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the Greenbelt Mapper, the area within this potential PCA is considered Important Watershed Land, which is land that is important for a healthy functioning watershed, including areas that allow groundwater infiltration and underground water storage. According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, no critical habitat exists within this potential PCA.
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/ Economy	1)Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production •Farmland identified in Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program •Grazing Lands identified in FMMP	Greenbelt Mapper, CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	No	CDC FMMP and Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	Land within this potential PCA is identified as Other Land and Urban/Built-Up Land.
		2) Supportive of local or state agricultural policy	General Plans/Other Land Use Plans	No	Solano County General Plan, City of Vallejo General Plan	The Solano County General Plan Agricultural Regions map does not include this potential PCA within a designated agricultural region, and the City of Vallejo General Plan Land Use map does not designate any agricultural land uses within this potential PCA.
		3) Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper	This potential PCA would not complete a contiguous area of farm or grazing lands.
		4) Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture	Local Data	No	CDC FMMP and Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	Land within this potential PCA is identified as Other Land and Urban/Built-Up Land.
Recreation	Recreation	1) Proposed Regional Trails •Bay Trail •Ridge Trail	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper	There are no proposed regional trails within this potential PCA.
		2) Acreage of regional park added	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes		Mare Island Regional Park
		Optional: Other local data sources	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Community Health (*Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Improves access to neighborhood parks in areas with high park need	ParkScore® Index http://parkscore.tpl.org/ Local Data/Analysis	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Increases/completes urban tree canopy	Local Data (e.g. tree inventories)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Increases urban tree cover in areas expected to experience urban heat island effect	Heat Island Effect Source	N/A	N/A	N/A
		4) Supports Local Climate Action Plan/Greening Plan Goals related to Urban Greening	Local Climate Action Plans	No	Solano County Climate Action Plan and City of Vallejo Climate Action Plan	The Solano County Climate Action Plan and the City of Vallejo Climate Action Plan do not establish goals related to urban greening.
		5) Increases tree canopy, food access, and/or park access in Community of Concern	MTC Communities of Concern	No	MTC Communities of Concern	Vallejo is not listed as a MTC Community of Concern
Urban Greening/All	Climate and Resilience *(co-benefit only for all criteria except urban greening)*	1) Protects and/or increases areas with carbon storage potential; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper; Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Greenbelt Mapper	This potential PCA is not identified to meet this criteria.
		2) Addresses hazard risk in open spaces (earthquake etc.)	ABAG Earthquake Mapping Update; NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map	Yes	ABAG Earthquake Mapping Update; NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map	The ABAG Resilience Program Solano County Hazard Map identifies the area within this potential PCA with a Shaking Severity Level of Very Strong and the NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map identifies some areas within this potential PCA as Low-Lying Areas.
Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Compact Growth *(Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces;	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper	This potential PCA is not identified to meet this criteria.
		2) Supports stable urban edges; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper	This potential PCA is not identified to meet this criteria.
		3) Supports adopted open space policy protection measures	Local General Plans	No	Solano County General Plan and City of Vallejo General Plan	This potential PCA is not identified to meet this criteria.

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	Suisun Marsh "Hot Spot"					
	Primary Benefit	**Criteria**	**ABAG Sources**	**Does this area meet the criteria?**	**Source**	**Discussion & Recommendations**
Natural Landscape	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	1)Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN): •Essential •Important •Fragmented •Further consideration, **OR**	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Yes	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Areas within the boundaries are identified as Essential and Important.
		2) Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No Bay Area Critical Linkage in the County.
		Optional: Other Critical Habitat	? USFWS Critical Habitat Portal ? Locally identified data	Yes	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, the Suisun Marsh is critical habitat for Delta smelt, Suisun thistle, and soft bird's-beak.
	Aquatic Ecosystems	1) Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals; OR	? EcoAtlas	Yes	EcoAtlas and Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals - A Report of Habitat Recommendations	This area is within Segment A (Suisun Marsh East) of the Suisun Subregion identified in the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals.
		2) Protects subtidal habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals; OR	? EcoAtlas	Yes	EcoAtlas	Subtidal habitat exists within this potential PCA.
		3) Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN; OR	? Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No streams identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN exist within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other Important Features (e.g., Ntl. Imp. Marine Features)	Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and CDFW CNDDB	This potential PCA is an area within the Suisun Marsh without permanent protection. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) identifies rare plant and and animal species wtihin this potential PCA.
	Water Supply & Quality	1) Protect urban water supply •Reservoir Catchment Area •Aquifer recharge zone •Critical stream •Priority stream **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper, CLN, and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	The area within this potential PCA has a low to moderate recharge rate (average of approximately 2 to 7 inches per year) and no critical or priority streams exist within the boundaries; however, the area is identified as critical habitat for Delta smelt.
		2)Support watershed health	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper	According to the Greenbelt Mapper, the area within this potential PCA is considered Important Watershed Land, which is land that is important for a healthy functioning watershed, including areas that allow groundwater infiltration and underground water storage.
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/ Economy	1)Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production •Farmland identified in Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program •Grazing Lands identified in FMMP	Greenbelt Mapper, CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	No	CDC FMMP and Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	Land within this potential PCA is identified as Other Land.
		2) Supportive of local or state agricultural policy	? General Plans/Other Land Use Plans	No	Solano County General Plan	The Solano County General Plan Agricultural Regions map does not include this area within a designated agricultural region, and the Solano County General Plan Land Use map does not designate any agricultural land uses within this potential PCA.
		3) Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and Solano County General Plan	The potential PCA includes and would complete contiguous areas of farm or grazing lands protected by Williamson Act Contracts or proposition (including the Orderly Growth Initiative [Prop A] in Solano County), which prohibit conversion of farmland.
		4) Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture	Local Data	No	CDC FMMP and Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	Land within this potential PCA is identified as Other Land.
Recreation	Recreation	1) Proposed Regional Trails •Bay Trail •Ridge Trail	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper	There are no proposed regional trails within this potential PCA.
		2) Acreage of regional park added	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Solano County General Plan	No regional parks are located within or near this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other local data sources	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Community Health (*Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Improves access to neighborhood parks in areas with high park need	ParkScore® Index http://parkscore.tpl.org/ Local Data/Analysis	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Increases/completes urban tree canopy	Local Data (e.g. tree inventories)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Increases urban tree cover in areas expected to experience urban heat island effect	Heat Island Effect Source	N/A	N/A	N/A
		4) Supports Local Climate Action Plan/Greening Plan Goals related to Urban Greening	Local Climate Action Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A
		5) Increases tree canopy, food access, and/or park access in Community of Concern	MTC Communities of Concern	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/All	Climate and Resilience *(co-benefit only for all criteria except urban greening)*	1) Protects and/or increases areas with carbon storage potential; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper; Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Addresses hazard risk in open spaces (earthquake etc.)	ABAG Earthquake Mapping Update; NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Compact Growth *(Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces;	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Support stable urban edges; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Support adopted open space policy protection measures	Local General Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A

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	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta "Hot Spot"					
		Criteria	ABAG Sources	Does this area meet the criteria?	Source	Discussion & Recommendations
Natural Landscape	Terrestrial (land) Ecosystems	1)Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN): •Essential •Important •Fragmented •Further consideration, **OR**	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	Yes	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	The majority of land within this potential PCA is identified as Essential, Important, or Fragmented.
		2) Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No Bay Area Critical Linkage in the County.
		Optional: Other Critical Habitat	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal Locally identified data	Yes	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	According to the USFWS Critical Habitat Portal, the area within this potential PCA is critical habitat for Delta smelt.
	Aquatic Ecosystems	1) Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	No wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals exist within the boundaries of this potential PCA.
		2) Protects subtidal habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals; OR	EcoAtlas	No	EcoAtlas	No subtidal habitat exists within this potential PCA.
		3) Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN; OR	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No	Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	No streams identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN exist within this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other Important Features (e.g., Ntl. Imp. Marine Features)	Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper, CDFW CNDDB	This potential PCA includes a vernal pool complex without permanent protection. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) identifies rare plant and and animal species wtihin this potential PCA.
	Water Supply & Quality	1) Protects urban water supply •Reservoir Catchment Area •Aquifer recharge zone •Critical stream •Priority stream **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper, CLN, and USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	The area within this potential PCA has a moderate recharge rate (average of approximately 3 to 5 inches per year) and no critical or priority streams exist within the boundaries; however, the area is identified as critical habitat for Delta smelt.
		2)Supports watershed health	USFWS Critical Habitat Portal	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper	According to the Greenbelt Mapper, the area within this potential PCA is considered Important Watershed Land, which is land that is important for a healthy functioning watershed, including areas that allow groundwater infiltration and underground water storage.
Agricultural Lands	Agricultural Resources/ Economy	1)Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production •Farmland identified in Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program •Grazing Lands identified in FMMP	Greenbelt Mapper, CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	Yes	CDC FMMP Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	Land within this area is identified as Grazing Land, with some small portions of land identified as Other Land or Urban/Built-Up Land.
		2) Supportive of local or state agricultural policy	General Plans/Other Land Use Plans	Yes	Solano County General Plan	The Solano County General Plan Agricultural Regions map identifies the area within this potential PCA as the Montezuma Hills Agricultural Region, and the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram identifies areas within this potential PCA with an Agriculture designation.
		3) Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands	Greenbelt Mapper	Yes	Greenbelt Mapper and Solano County General Plan	The potential PCA includes and would complete contiguous areas of farm or grazing lands protected by Williamson Act Contracts or proposition (including the Orderly Growth Initiative [Prop A] in Solano County), which prohibit conversion of farmland. The potential PCA is identified with an Agriculture designation on the Solano County General Plan Land Use Diagram.
		4) Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture	Local Data	No	CDC FMMP Solano County Important Farmland 2012 map	Land within this area is identified as Grazing Land with some small portions of land identified as Other Land or Urban/Built-Up Land.

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Recreation	Recreation	1) Proposed Regional Trails •Bay Trail •Ridge Trail	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Greenbelt Mapper	There are no proposed regional trails within this potential PCA.
		2) Acreage of regional park added	Greenbelt Mapper	No	Solano County General Plan	No regional parks are located within or near this potential PCA.
		Optional: Other local data sources	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Community Health (*Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Improves access to neighborhood parks in areas with high park need	ParkScore® Index http://parkscore.tpl.org/ Local Data/Analysis	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Increases/completes urban tree canopy	Local Data (e.g. tree inventories)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Increases urban tree cover in areas expected to experience urban heat island effect	Heat Island Effect Source	N/A	N/A	N/A
		4) Supports Local Climate Action Plan/Greening Plan Goals related to Urban Greening	Local Climate Action Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A
		5) Increases tree canopy, food access, and/or park access in Community of Concern	MTC Communities of Concern	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/ All	Climate and Resilience *(co-benefit only for all criteria except urban greening)*	1) Protects and/or increases areas with carbon storage potential; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper; Conservation Lands Network (CLN)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Addresses hazard risk in open spaces (earthquake etc.)	ABAG Earthquake Mapping Update; NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urban Greening/Regional Rec.	Compact Growth *(Recreation co-benefit only)*	1) Protects land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces;	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2) Supports stable urban edges; **OR**	Greenbelt Mapper	N/A	N/A	N/A
		3) Support adopted open space policy protection measures	Local General Plans	N/A	N/A	N/A

Appendix 5: ABAG PCA Criteria Tables

Summary of Priority Conservation Area Designations

PCA Designation	Primary Benefit(s)	Potential Co-Benefits	Examples
Natural Landscapes	• Terrestrial (Land) Ecosystems • Aquatic Ecosystems • Water Supply and Quality	• Climate and Resilience • Compact Growth • Recreation	• Critical habitat areas • Wetlands targeted for restoration • Riparian Corridors • Watershed land protection
Agricultural Lands	• Agricultural Resources • Agricultural Economy	• Wildlife Habitat • Water Supply and Quality • Recreation • Climate and Resilience • Compact Growth	• Farmland or grazing land • Timberlands
Urban Greening	• Community Health • Recreation • Climate and Resilience	• Wildlife Habitat • Water Supply and Quality • Recreation	• Potential "edible park" sites (park + community garden) • Urban forest areas • Urban portion of riparian corridor
Regional Recreation	• Recreation	• Wildlife Habitat • Water Supply and Quality • Climate and Resilience • Community Health • Compact Growth	• Regional trail network • Potential regional park sites

Priority Conservation Area Benefits and Criteria

Benefit	Criteria Required and *(Optional)*	Data Sources for Evaluation
Terrestrial (Land) Ecosystems	• Protects land within Conservation Lands Network (CLN) • Essential • Important, • Fragmented, or • For Further Consideration; or • Protects Bay Area Critical Linkage	• Conservation Lands Network (CLN)
	• *(Protects Other Critical Habitat)*	• USFWS Critical Habitat Portal • Locally identified data
Aquatic (Water) Ecosystems	• Protects wetlands identified in Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals; or	• EcoAtlas

Benefit	Criteria Required and *(Optional)*	Data Sources for Evaluation
	• Protects subtidal Habitat identified in Subtidal Habitat Goals; or	
	• Protects stream identified as a Stream Conservation Target in the CLN	• Conservation Lands Network (CLN)
	• *(Protects Other Important Features) e.g. Nationally Important Marine Features*	• Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration
Water Supply and Water Quality	• Protect urban water supply o Reservoir Catchment Area o Aquifer recharge zone o Critical stream o Priority stream; or • Support watershed health	• Greenbelt Mapper • USFWS Critical Habitat Portal
Agricultural Resources and Economy	• Supports agricultural economy/preserves land with soil important for food production o Farmland identified in Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program o Grazing Lands identified in FMMP	• Greenbelt Mapper, CA Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
	• Supportive of local or state agricultural policy	• General Plans/Other Land Use Plans
	• Completes contiguous area of farm or grazing lands	• Greenbelt Mapper
	• Supports production on soil with reduced environmental impacts from agriculture	• Local Data
Community Health	• Improve access to neighborhood parks in areas with high park need	• ParkScore® Index • Local Data/Analysis
	• Increase/complete urban tree canopy • Increase urban tree cover in areas expected to experience urban heat island effect	• Local Data (e.g. tree inventories) • Heat Island Effect Source
	• Supports Local Climate Action Plan/Greening Plan Goals related to Urban Greening	• Local Climate Action Plans
	• Increase tree canopy, food access, and/or park access in Community of Concern	• MTC Communities of Concern

Benefit	Criteria Required and *(Optional)*	Data Sources for Evaluation
Recreation	• Proposed Regional Trails o Bay Trail o Ridge Trail • Acreage of regional park added • *(Local data sources)*	• Greenbelt Mapper
Climate and Resilience	• Protect and/or Increase Areas with Carbon storage potential; or	• Greenbelt Mapper • Conservation Lands Network (CLN)
	• Address Hazard Risk in Open Spaces (earthquake, flood, sea level rise)	• ABAG Earthquake Mapping Update • NOAA Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts Map
Compact Growth	• Protect land with open space benefits with high development pressure and adjacent open spaces; • *Support stable urban edges;* or	• Greenbelt Mapper
	• Support adopted open space policy protection measures	• Local General Plans