

Priority Conservation Area Grant Program



2024 Grant Program Update



ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

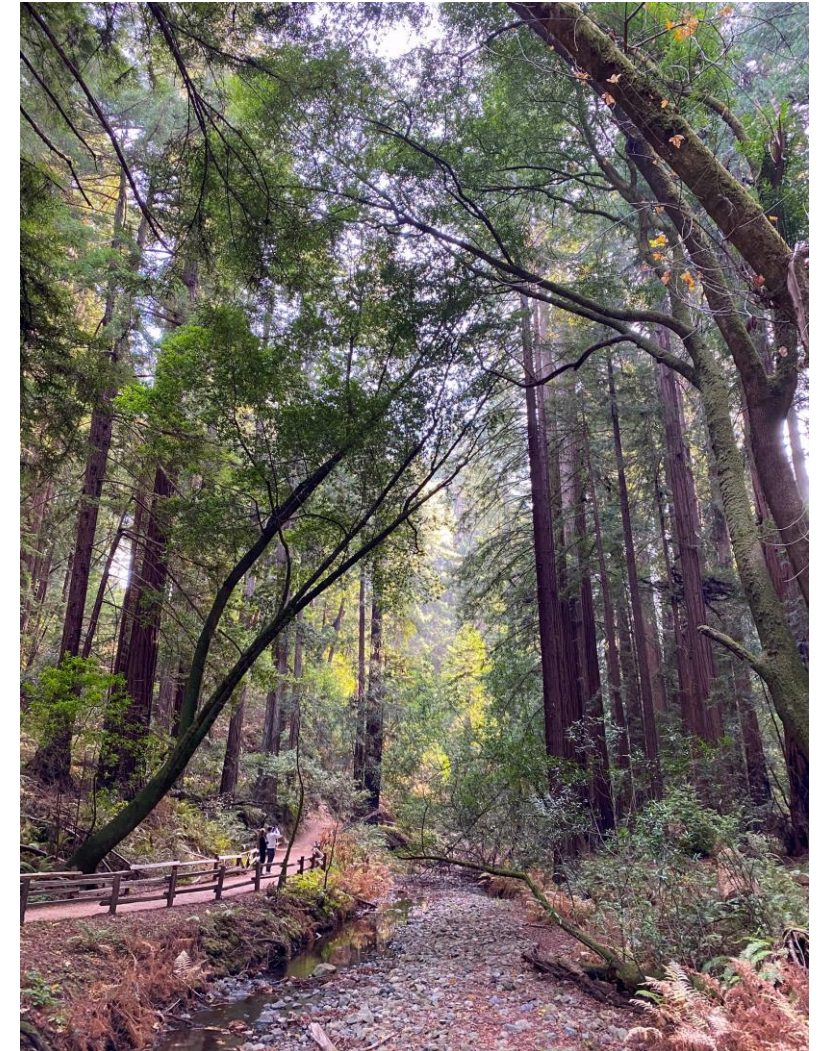


San Francisco
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November 6, 2024

PCA Program Overview

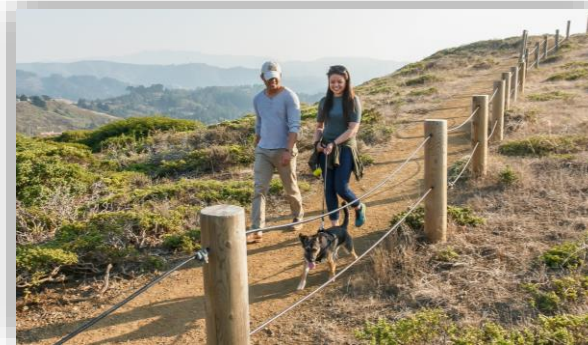
- Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) are locally nominated locations important for protecting and enhancing the region's **natural and agricultural lands** and improving **outdoor access** and **urban greening** in Bay Area communities
- The **PCA planning framework** was first designed in 2007, had minor updates in 2014, and recently underwent a data-driven **Refresh**
 - **Estuary Blueprint Task 3-5**
- PCAs designations make projects eligible for **PCA Grant Program** funding



Prior PCA Grant Cycles

- MTC and Coastal Conservancy have awarded over **\$30 million** in support of **58 projects**
- Eligible project types have included:
 - Protection of natural resources, open space, or agricultural lands
 - Habitat restoration or enhancements
 - Trail and access improvements
 - Urban greening
 - Planning activities
- Two separately managed programs:
 - North Bay (CTAs)
 - Rest of Bay (MTC/SCC)

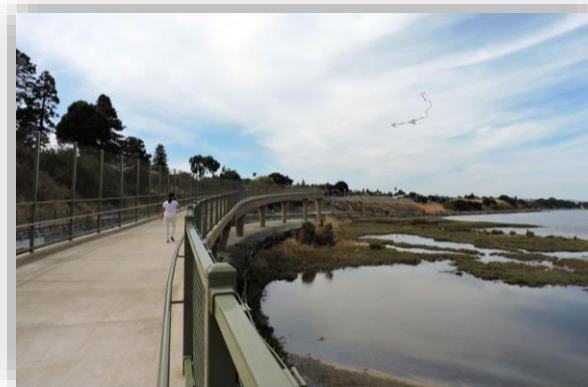
Funding Cycle	MTC Contribution	Coastal Conservancy Contribution	Total PCA Funding
OBAG 1	\$10,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$12,000,000
OBAG 2	\$16,400,000	\$1,800,000	\$18,200,000



Milagra Battery Trail
Image Source: Vivien Kim Thorp, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy



900 Innes Park Planning
Image Source: San Francisco Recreation and Parks



Pinole Shores to Bayfront Park
Image Source: Karin Betts



Dotson Family Marsh
Image Source: East Bay Regional Parks District



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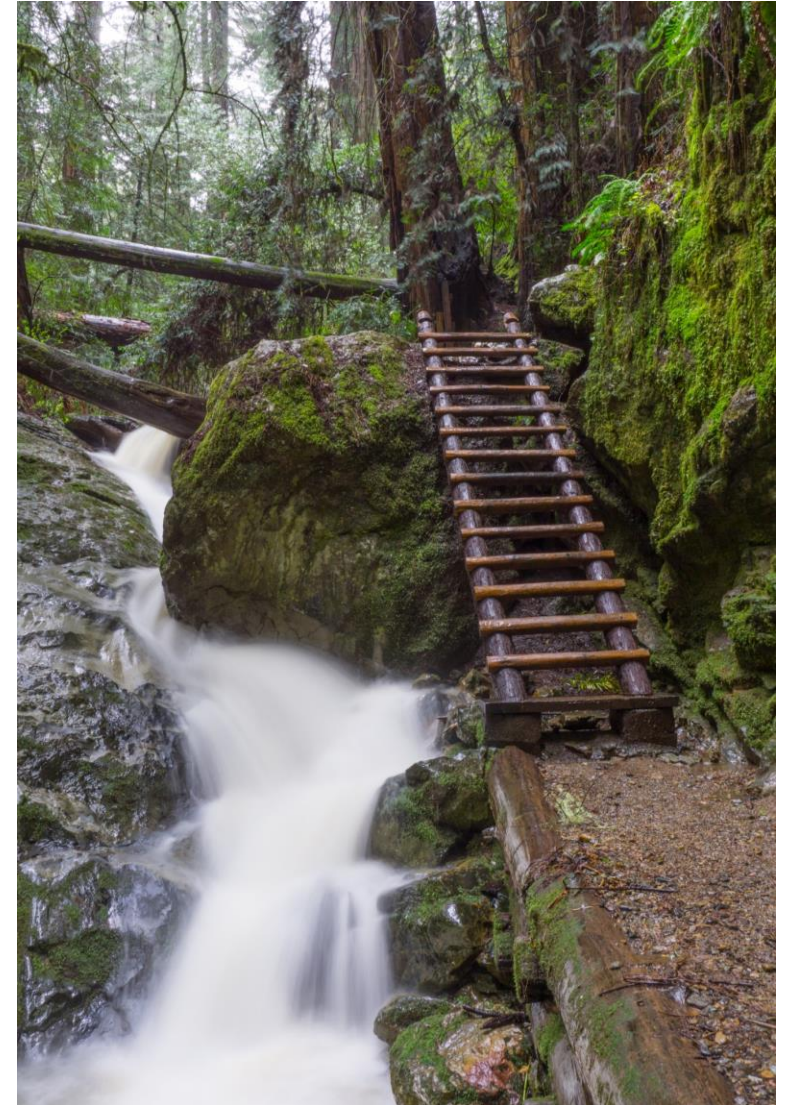


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OBAG 3 PCA Grants

Two Phase Approach

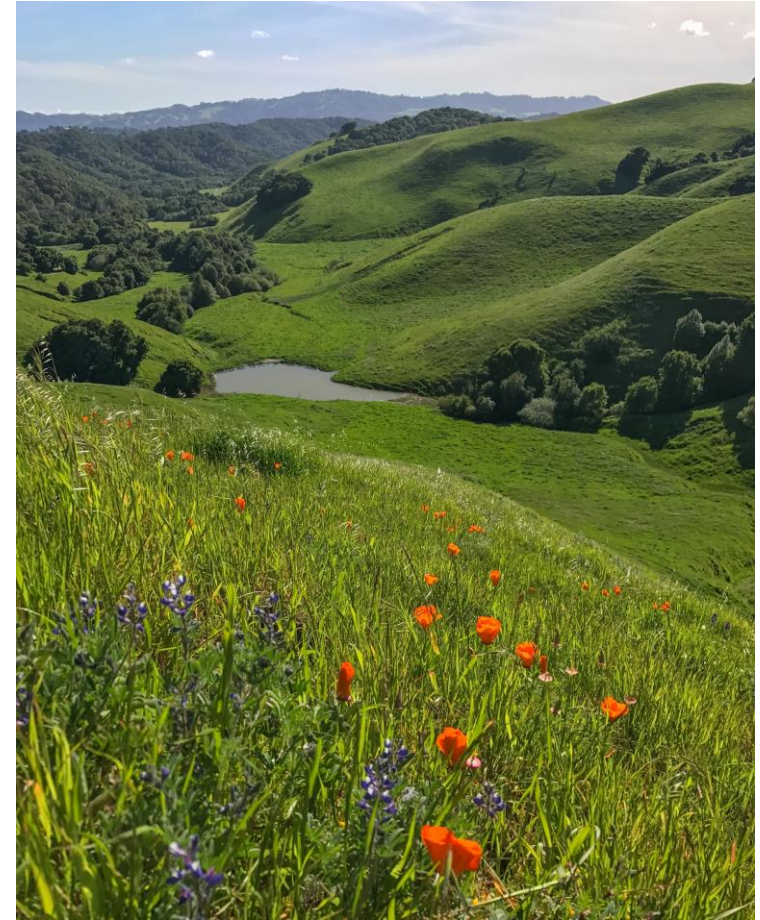
- **Phase 1 – \$8.5M (2024)**
 - Support near-term need for conservation project funding
 - Largely maintain 2019 PCA Grant Program Guidelines
 - Target 50+% of funding in North Bay counties
- **Phase 2 - \$8M (Spring 2025)**
 - Implement PCA Refresh framework
 - Seek SCC supplemental funding





PCA Grant Program Process

- **December 8** – Committee approval to release \$8.5M Call for Proposals
- **March 11** – Grant Program Guidelines and Call for Proposals released
- **May 8** – 24 LOIs received (\$21.2M)
- **June 6** – 15 proposals advanced
- **August 28** – Full applications due
- **November 8** – 13 award recommendations





Evaluation Process

- **Evaluation Committee**
 - MTC / SFEP / SCC
- **Evaluation criteria**
 - Alignment with PCA Goals
 - Partnership / EPC benefits
 - Regional Significance
 - Likelihood of Success
 - Multiple Benefits
 - Operations and Maintenance

- **Award Recommendations**
 - Full award for projects >85pts (7)
 - 75% award for projects 84-76 pts (6)
 - No award for projects <75pts (2)





Award Recommendations (1 of 2)

County	Applicant	Project Name	Proposed Award
Alameda	East Bay Regional Park District	Tidewater Expansion at Martin Luther King Jr Regional Shoreline	\$ 1,000,000
Napa	Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District	Phinney Fee Acquisition	\$ 1,000,000
Santa Clara	Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency	Richmond Ranch Acquisition Project	\$ 1,000,000
Sonoma	City of Santa Rosa	Southeast Greenway	\$ 750,000
Solano	Solano County Resource Management	Farm to Market Phase 4	\$ 750,000
Napa	Napa County Public Works	Napa Valley Vine Trail - Vista Carneros Segment	\$ 750,000
San Francisco	City and County of San Francisco, Recreation and Parks Department	Visitacion Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvement Project	\$ 750,000





Award Recommendations (2 of 2)

County	Applicant	Project Name	Proposed Award
Marin	Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy	Evolving Shorelines Project at Bothin Marsh	\$ 670,000
Sonoma	Sonoma County Regional Parks	Sonoma - Schellville Trail Design	\$ 550,000
Santa Clara	County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation	Upper Stevens Creek Trail Project	\$ 500,000
Contra Costa	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	Rangeland Enhancement through Livestock Pond Restoration	\$ 280,000
Santa Clara	Peninsula Open Space Trust	Coyote Valley Wildlife Connectivity Planning Project	\$ 250,000
Santa Clara	Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space Preserve Regional Bay Area Ridge Trail Expansion	\$ 250,000
TOTAL			\$8,500,000





Upcoming Action & Path Forward



Friday: Approve \$8.5M for recommended projects

Phase 1 PCA Grants (\$8.5M)*



Award funding

Winter 24/25
Execute Awards

Spring 2025 Phase 2 PCA Grants Call for Projects (\$8M)*

- Expanded technical assistance
- Opportunities for streamlined reapplication
- SB1425 implementation

*\$18M approved by Commission in Reso. 4505



Priority Conservation Areas
Update designations

Call for New Designations



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Thank You

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