

1 [Apply to Amend San Francisco's Priority Conservation Areas Designations]

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3 **Resolution authorizing the Planning Department to apply, on behalf of the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco, to confirm existing and create new and revised designations**
5 **of Priority Conservation Areas by the Association of Bay Area Governments and the**
6 **Metropolitan Transportation Commission.**

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8 WHEREAS, The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan
9 Transportation Commission (collectively, "the regional agencies") are undertaking a long-
10 range regional planning initiative called Plan Bay Area; and

11 WHEREAS, Plan Bay Area is the Bay Area's regional transportation plan and
12 Sustainable Communities Strategy ("SCS") that meets the requirements of the California
13 Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375) to integrate land use
14 and housing growth policies with transportation investments and strategies in order to meet
15 state- mandated greenhouse gas reduction targets; and

16 WHEREAS, The regional agencies sought local government partners to voluntarily
17 participate in creation of a growth framework for the SCS that identifies priority areas that (1)
18 accommodate growth in housing and jobs (Priority Development Areas or "PDAs"), (2) protect
19 or invest in agricultural, recreational, or environmental resources (Priority Conservation Areas
20 or "PCAs") while not precluding development, and (3) promote middle-wage jobs and support
21 the region's economy through its industrial sector (Priority Production Areas or "PPAs"); and

22 WHEREAS, The Board recognizes that the City has an ongoing need to improve and
23 expand its open space and recreation system citywide to serve a growing population and
24 further resiliency, sustainability, and equitable access; and

1 WHEREAS, The Recreation and Open Space Element of the General Plan directs the
2 City to “establish a coordinated management approach for designation and protection of
3 natural areas and watershed lands, and

4 WHEREAS, Several existing and proposed open spaces and trails of citywide and
5 regional significance deserve recognition and attention as PCAs, especially those that require
6 significant investment to complete or address resiliency, access, and renewal; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2017, the Commission on the Environment adopted the San Francisco
8 Biodiversity Policy, which included five Citywide goals (1) Biologically Rich Ecosystems, (2)
9 Equitable Access, Awareness and Experience of Nature, (3) Community and Ecological
10 Stewardship, (4) Ecological Planning and Design, (5) Resilience in a Living City; and

11 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice Communities are disproportionately burdened by
12 flood hazards, lack of access to parks, recreation centers, and other community facilities,
13 exposure to dangerous heat waves, and air pollution, and these hazards are anticipated to
14 increase as the climate continues to warm; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2022, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Safety and Resilience
16 Element of the San Francisco General Plan, which includes a comprehensive set of policies
17 for minimizing San Francisco’s contribution to climate change and ensuring local resilience to
18 multiple hazards, natural and human-made, and identified Environmental Justice
19 Communities as areas in San Francisco disproportionately experiencing environmental
20 burdens; and

21 WHEREAS, The 2024 San Francisco Waterfront Flood Study - Draft Plan, prepared by
22 the Army Corps of Engineers and Port of San Francisco, identified opportunities to use
23 “nature-based features such as creek enhancements” to reduce coastal flood risk and the
24 effects of sea level rise in communities along the City’s eastern waterfront; and
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1 WHEREAS, Green infrastructure, which utilizes the natural processes of soils and
2 plants to slow down and filter stormwater, can reduce flood hazards, beautify neighborhoods,
3 improve Bay and Ocean water quality, improve air quality, cool neighborhoods on hot days,
4 and create or reclaim open space for community use; and

5 WHEREAS, Trail networks provide opportunities for recreation, enhance sustainable
6 mobility options, beautify neighborhoods, and connect communities to natural areas and the
7 City's waterfronts, and land and easements acquired for trails can also serve as wildlife
8 corridors connecting natural areas; and

9 WHEREAS, San Francisco Recreation and Open Space Element of the General Plan
10 support the development of "signature public open spaces along the shoreline," which aligns
11 with the Bay Trail's goal of creating a continuous shoreline trail; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2024, ABAG adopted a revised framework for the PCA program,
13 including five types (Natural Land, Working Land, Urban Greening, Recreation, and Climate
14 Adaptation), new program objectives, and revised indicators, resulting in a need to amend
15 designated PCAs to conform to align with the updated framework; and

16 WHEREAS, Locally-nominated PCAs can complement or overlap with Regionally-
17 Identified PCAs to ensure greater regional cohesion and connectivity in critical areas; and

18 WHEREAS, The designation of a Priority Conservation Area does not alter existing
19 land use designations, zoning, or the local jurisdiction's land use authority; and

20 WHEREAS, The PCA designation provides opportunities for grant funding to support
21 conservation, restoration, and recreational projects, helping to achieve both local and regional
22 conservation goals; and

23 WHEREAS, The updated PCA criteria adopted by ABAG in 2024 aim to ensure
24 alignment with regional sustainability and conservation priorities; and
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1 WHEREAS, The updated PCA criteria adopted by ABAG in 2024 aim to ensure
2 alignment with regional sustainability and conservation priorities; and

3 WHEREAS, In February 2025 ABAG invited local governments to amend or revise
4 existing PDAs and nominate new PCAs; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the Board authorizes the San Francisco Planning Department to
6 apply on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco to confirm and revise San
7 Francisco's Priority Conservation Area (PCA) designations of the following areas, as indicated
8 on the maps on file with the Clerk of the Board in File No. 250526, as follows:

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10 Existing PCAs (No changes):

- 11 • Treasure Island Yerba Buena Island Open Space
- 12 • Outer Mission Park Connections
- 13 • Lake Merced
- 14 • Ocean Beach
- 15 • Northern Waterfront
- 16 • Palou Phelps Natural Area
- 17 • McLaren Park
- 18 • Crosstown Trail
- 19 • San Francisco Bay Trail
- 20 • Bay Area Ridge Trail
- 21 • California Coastal Trail

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23 Existing PCAs and Proposed Expansions:

- 24 • India Basin Waterfront Open Space - Expanding to include Pier 94 Wetland Area
- 25 • Bayview Hill - Expanding to include adjacent parcels on southern and eastern edges
- Central Waterfront - Expanding to include more of Warm Water Cove Park waterfront
- Twin Peaks/Glen Canyon Bioregion – Expanding to encompass habitat throughout the bioregion

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27 Proposed Areas for PCA Designation:

- 28 • SF Core
- 29 • Embarcadero Waterfront
- 30 • Buena Vista Park/Corona Heights

- 1 • Bernal Hill
- 2 • Golden Gate Park
- 3 • Mission Creek and Mission Green Zone Area
- 4 • Islais Creek Area
- 5 • Yosemite Creek and Candlestick Area
- 6 • Sunset Boulevard

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