

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee**

November 8, 2024

Agenda Item 7a

**Priority Conservation Area Grant Program: 2024 Grant Award Recommendations:
Various Applicants (\$8.5 Million)**

Subject:

Approval of \$8.5 million in grants to advance Plan Bay Area 2050 strategies to protect and enhance the region's natural and agricultural lands and improve outdoor access and urban greening through the Priority Conservation Area Grant (PCA) Program.

Background:

On December 8, 2023, the Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee (Committee) approved the release of a \$8.5 million Call for Proposals for the PCA Grant Program to support the implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050 Environment Strategy EN 5 (protect and maintain high-value conservation lands) and EN 6 (modernize and expand parks, trails, and recreation facilities).

Application Process

Consistent with Committee guidance, the PCA Grant Program 2024 Grant Guidelines and Call for Proposals established grant eligibility, funding targets, and evaluation criteria and detailed a two-step application and evaluation process. Eligible applicants and project activities remained similar to prior PCA grant cycles. A Call for Proposals was released on March 11, 2024, and kicked-off a two-step application and evaluation process. Letters of Interest (LOI) were submitted by May 8, 2024, and reviewed by an evaluation committee consisting of staff from MTC, ABAG/SFEP, and the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC). Twenty-four LOIs requesting more than \$21.2 million were received and evaluated. All applicants were notified on June 6 and fifteen projects were recommended to prepare full applications. Applicants provided full applications by August 28, 2024.

Recommended Awards

Based on the evaluation of the applications, staff are recommending approval of \$8.5 million in PCA grants for the following awards (Table 1; Attachment B).

Table 1. Recommended PCA Grant Program Project Awards

#	Applicant	Project Name	Project County	Proposed Award
1	Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy	Evolving Shorelines Project at Bothin Marsh	Marin	\$ 670,000
2	City of Santa Rosa	Southeast Greenway	Sonoma	\$ 750,000
3	Sonoma County Regional Parks	Sonoma Schellville Trail Design	Sonoma	\$ 550,000
4	Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District	Phinney Fee Acquisition	Napa	\$ 1,000,000
5	Napa County Public Works	Napa Valley Vine Trail - Vista Carneros Segment	Napa	\$ 750,000
6	Solano County Resource Management	Farm to Market Phase 4	Solano	\$ 750,000
7	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	Rangeland Enhancement through Livestock Pond Restoration	Contra Costa	\$ 280,000
8	East Bay Regional Park District	Tidewater Expansion at Martin Luther King Jr Regional Shoreline	Alameda	\$ 1,000,000
9	Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency	Richmond Ranch Acquisition Project	Santa Clara	\$ 1,000,000
10	Peninsula Open Space Trust	Coyote Valley Wildlife Connectivity Planning Project	Santa Clara	\$ 250,000
11	Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space Preserve Regional Bay Area Ridge Trail Expansion	Santa Clara	\$ 250,000

#	Applicant	Project Name	Project County	Proposed Award
12	County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation	Upper Stevens Creek Trail Project	Santa Clara	\$ 500,000
13	City and County of San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department	Visitacion Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvement Project	San Francisco	\$ 750,000
			TOTAL	\$8,500,000

Next Steps:

Staff will work with selected awardees to finalize scopes of work, budgets, and timelines.

Issues:

None.

Recommendations:

Staff recommends the MTC Planning Committee approve \$8,500,000 in recommended grants to advance Plan Bay Area 2050 strategies to protect and enhance the region's natural and agricultural lands and improve outdoor access and urban greening through the Priority Conservation Area Grant Program. Associated programming revisions to MTC Resolution Nos. 3989, Revised and 4505, Revised are included in the November Programming and Allocations Committee agenda.

Award funding pending cooperative development of a scope between MTC and the project sponsor.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Presentation
- Attachment B: 2024 Priority Conservation Area Grant Program Award Recommendations

Andrew B. Fremier