

A New Regional Coalition

FAQ's

November 2019

The following questions have been asked about this new regional coalition. So we'll share them with you in case you were wondering, too.

Questions? Contact Annie Burke, annie@openspacecouncil.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I, as an individual, join the coalition?

The coalition consists of nonprofits, public agencies, and Indigenous Tribes. Individuals who are not affiliated with a nonprofit, agency, or Tribe can participate in the coalition by attending the annual Summit (the first one will be held in the fall 2020).

Does this coalition serve the general public, like park users or youth?

We do not provide programs directly to the public. We strengthen our member nonprofits, public agencies, and Indigenous Tribes.

I loved the Bay Area Open Space Council. What's different?

There are several key differences, but one is that we will not try to be all things to all people. We will lead with focus and with a clear purpose.

How do membership dues work?

Your annual dues are based on the operating budget of your agency, organization or tribe. Please note that dues will ramp up over the next two years. We understand that this is a new coalition and part of this year will be focused on building organizational capacity and sustainability, as well as advocating for our shared policy agenda and convening a 2020 Summit. In order for our coalition to have maximum strength and impact, it is important that organizations of all sizes are included and able to participate. In future years, dues will continue to be tiered based on members' operating budgets in order to ensure that dues are not a barrier to participation.

Are you a trade association?

We are not a trade association that provides a range of services to our members. Our members belong to a range of trade associations that serve the specific needs of their industry, e.g., water agencies, park agencies, resource conservation districts, outdoor education, etc. In contrast, this new coalition is a coalition of multiple "trades" that work together across industries and other silos for resilient lands and people in the Bay Area.

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I have a project or an issue that I want the coalition to take a position on. Will you?

We do not take positions on local issues except in the case of county funding measures that support resilient lands and people. We will take positions at the regional, state, and federal levels based on our public policy engagement guidelines. We do not work or engage in local issues including at the city and county levels. Our focus is on the regional level. This local / regional tension is not one that we can eliminate, but one that we will have to manage over time.

Will you have a fundraising board like a typical nonprofit?

We are not a "typical" nonprofit that raises money from individuals. It was extremely challenging to raise money from individuals in the past because we serve organizations, not the general public. Appealing to individual donors and foundations will take us away from our mission and our focus on strengthening our members.

Are you unique?

We are the only regional coalition of organizations working on resilient lands and people in the Bay Area that we are aware of. We do not replicate efforts made by existing organizations but instead support working groups of members who collaborate on shared priorities.

Will you hold quarterly Gatherings?

As our programs become more focused and we align staff time on our goals, we will not hold quarterly Gatherings but rather focus our convening work on an annual Summit and working groups. And we will close down or find a new organizational home for the Outdoor Voice program.