

Priority Conservation Area Grant Program



2026 Grant Award Recommendations



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

MTC Planning Committee
June 12, 2026



PCA Grant Program Process

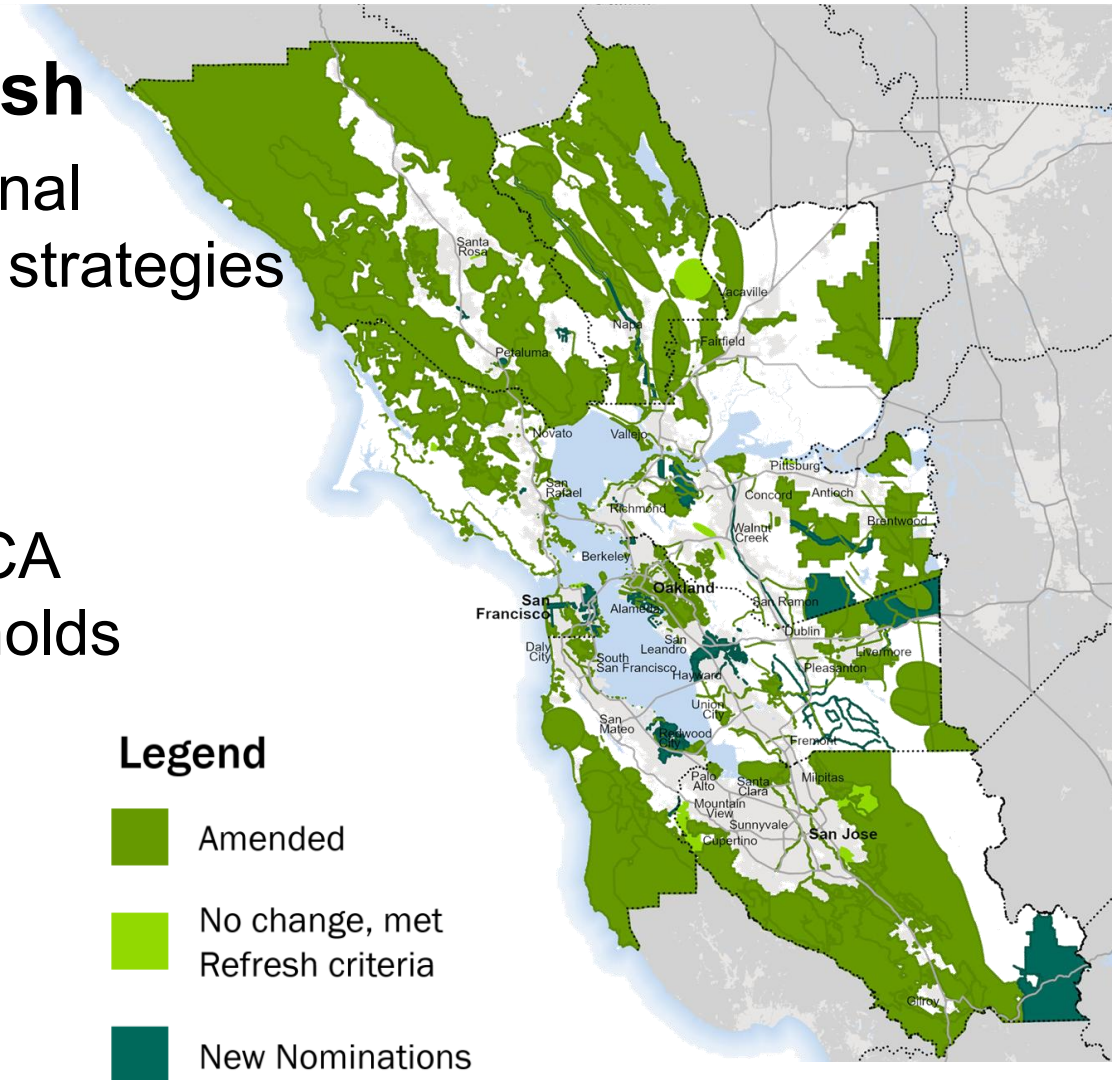
- **September 12, 2025** – Committee approval to release \$8M Call for Proposals
- **October 30, 2025** – Grant Program Guidelines and Call for Proposals released
- **December 19, 2025** – 53 LOIs received (\$35.9M)
- **February 2, 2026** – 28 proposals advanced
- **March 20, 2026** – Full applications due
- **June 12, 2026** – 16 award recommendations





Implementing Plan Bay Area

- **Priority Conservation Area Refresh**
 - Established objectives to define regional priorities and advance Plan Bay Area strategies
 - Established data for each objective
- **Planning → Implementation**
 - ABAG adopted amended and new PCA Designations to align with data thresholds
 - PCA Objectives were integrated into **PCA Grant Evaluation Criteria**





Evaluation Process

- **Evaluation Criteria**

- Alignment with PCA Goals
- Partnership / EPC benefits
- Regional Significance
- Likelihood of Success

- **Evaluation Committee**

- Staff from MTC / ABAG, SFEP, SCC

- **Funding Targets**

- At least one project per county
- Highest-scoring projects prioritized
- Recommend 50+% of awards for North Bay
- Fund a range of project types and activities
- Partial awards focused on larger requests
- Maximum feasible number of projects funded



Funded Project Types

- 1) **Protection, Restoration or Enhancement of Natural Resources, Open Space, or Agricultural Lands**
 - Acquisitions
 - Restoration or enhancements
 - Support agricultural protection/economy
- 2) **Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities**
- 3) **Urban Greening**
- 4) **Planning Activities**





Award Recommendations (1 of 2)

County	Applicant	Project Name	Proposed Award
Alameda	City of Alameda	Wooden Bridge Replacement Feasibility Study	\$500,000
Alameda	Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation	Restoration Connections: Deep East Oakland	\$450,000
Contra Costa	City of San Pablo	McNeil Park	\$500,000
Marin	City of San Rafael	Canal Boatyard Urban Park Connection	\$800,000
Napa	Napa County Resource Conservation District	Resilient Suscol Creek	\$440,000
San Francisco	San Francisco Rec and Park	Twin Peaks Promenade	\$500,000
San Mateo	Grassroots Ecology	Fire and Flora: Resilient Foothills Initiative	\$210,000
San Mateo	San Mateo County Transportation Authority	Bay Trail SFO Gap Closure Project	\$600,000
Santa Clara	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	Highway 17 Wildlife and Ridge Trail Crossings	\$750,000



Award Recommendations (2 of 2)

County	Applicant	Project Name	Proposed Award
Santa Clara	Peninsula Open Space Trust	North Coyote Valley Wildlife and Trails Study	\$250,000
Santa Clara	UC Cooperative Extension	Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Outreach and Awareness	\$200,000
Solano	Solano County	Farm to Market Phase 4	\$800,000
Sonoma	Western Rivers Conservancy with Kashia Band of Pomo Indians	South Fork Gualala River Acquisition	\$750,000
Sonoma	Petaluma River Park Foundation	Petaluma River Park	\$550,000
Sonoma	Sonoma Land Trust	Osprey Hill Ranch	\$450,000
Sonoma	City of Sonoma	Improving Habitat Quality and Bike/Ped Connectivity	\$250,000
TOTAL			\$8,000,000



Requested Action & Path Forward



Today: Approve \$8M for recommended projects

Phase 2 PCA Grants (\$8M)*



Award funding

Summer 2026
Execute awards

2027/28
OBAG 4 PCA Grants
Call for Projects

- Expanded technical assistance
- County conservation profiles

*\$18M approved by Commission in Reso. 4505
\$8.5M awarded in 2025



Thank You

Ben Botkin

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