

**ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

RESOLUTION NO. 11-2025

ABSTRACT

This resolution redesignates Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) that were amended and nominated by local governments to conform to the 2024 updates to the PCA planning framework as described in ABAG Executive Board Resolution No. 7-2024. It further designates new PCAs nominated by local governments in spring 2025.

Further discussion of this action is contained in the ABAG Executive Board Summary Sheet dated September 18, 2025.

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WHEREAS, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) is the region's Council of Governments and regional land use planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, California Government Code Section 6500 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) planning framework recognizes that natural landscapes, unique microclimates, and varied park options are part of what makes the Bay Area a special place to live, and these natural features enable high levels of ecosystem biodiversity, a dynamic local food system, and a variety of recreation options; and

WHEREAS, PCAs identify opportunities for land preservation and enhancement; and

WHEREAS, PCAs have been a program of ABAG since they were first introduced in 2007; and

WHEREAS, PCA designation does not affect land use rights or override local zoning; and

WHEREAS, the PCA Refresh effort from 2022 to 2024 developed a comprehensive set of reforms to ensure a more effective planning framework that incorporates topics of equity and climate resilience that were adopted in Resolution No 7-2024; and

WHEREAS, staff engaged with lead contacts in local governments from summer 2024 to summer 2025, sharing evaluations of existing PCAs and recommendations for amendments to bring them into compliance with the updated framework; and

WHEREAS, on February 13, 2025, a call for new PCA nominations was announced; and

WHEREAS, 173 amended PCAs meet the updated planning framework criteria and have been approved by their respective local governments between August 2024 and July 2025; and

WHEREAS, 69 newly nominated PCAs meet the updated planning framework criteria and have been approved by their respective local governments via a local resolution between March 2025 and July 2025; and

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WHEREAS, certain long-standing Priority Conservation Areas associated with regionally significant trail networks including the Bay Trail, Ridge Trail, Water Trail, and Coastal Trail span multiple counties and jurisdictions, and were originally nominated by entities no longer serving as leads; and

WHEREAS, the preceding four PCAs are now classified as “Regional” PCAs, with amendments made in 2025 to update their type designations and remove overlaps with other PCAs; and

WHEREAS, both the amended and newly nominated PCAs will support future regional long-range plans, technical assistance, and advocacy efforts; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Executive Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments hereby certifies that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated by this reference; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments, as a decision-making body, hereby designates the amendments to the Priority Conservation Areas and the newly nominated Priority Conservation Areas identified in Attachments B and C to this Resolution.

The foregoing was adopted by the ABAG Executive Board this 18th day of September, 2025.

Belia Ramos
President

Certification of Executive Board Approval

I, the undersigned, the appointed and qualified Clerk of the Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments (Association), do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Executive Board at a duly called and noticed meeting held in San Francisco, California, and at other remote locations, on the 18th day of September, 2025.

Frederick Castro
Clerk of the Board