

PRIORITY
CONSERVATION
AREA

2025 PCA Nomination Webinar

PRESENTATION TOPICS

- 1. What is a PCA?**
- 2. Why nominate a PCA?**

Q&A #1

- 3. Nomination Process & Considerations**
- 4. Mapping Demo**

Q&A #2

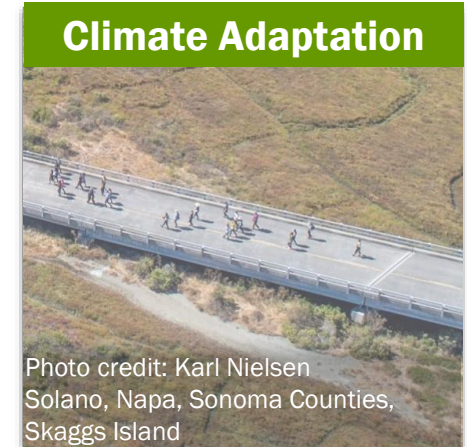
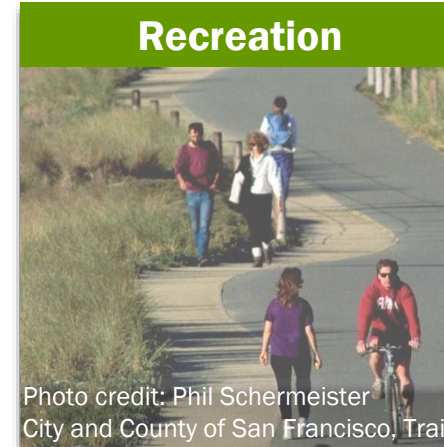
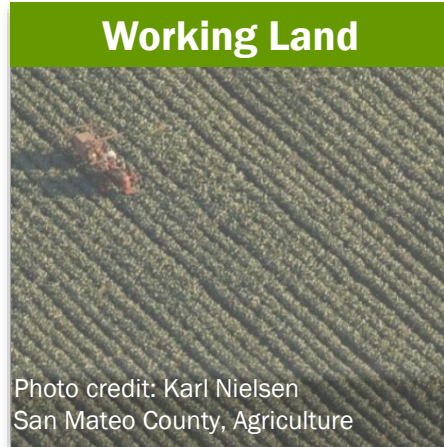
- 5. Next Steps**



What is a Priority Conservation Area?



- 1. PCAs are nominated by local governments *with land use authority*,** such as a city, town, county, park or open space district, and adopted by ABAG.
- 2. PCAs identify a specific geography** with a mapped polygon.
- 3. PCAs are characterized by one or more of the 5 types:**



Updates to the PCA Planning Framework



2024 PCA Planning Framework Refresh

- First major update since 2007
- Two-year refresh process (2022-2024)
- Supported by a Sustainable Agricultural Lands and Conservation (SALC) Program grant

Key Outcomes

- **New Data Criteria:** Enhance regional consistency
- **Broader Policy Focus:** Equity & climate resilience
- **Updated Vision & Goals:** Align with regional priorities
- **Refined Eligibility Maps:** Clearer nomination guidance



Why Nominate a PCA?



- Elevate local conservation priorities into **regional planning framework.**
- **Address gaps in local conservation priorities** and improve residents' quality of life.
 - Urban Greening in disadvantaged communities
 - Nature-Based Solutions
 - Regional Connectivity
- **Encourage coordination** between conservation partners and local governments.
- **Local projects in PCAs may be eligible to apply for PCA grants**, which fund projects that advance Bay Area conservation priorities.



Grant Opportunities Linked to PCAs



- The **PCA Grants** program supports projects within designated PCAs.
- PCA grants, in partnership with California State Coastal Conservancy funding have invested over **\$38M in three prior grant rounds.**
- **\$8M available** through the upcoming grant round.
- Learn more: <https://mtc.ca.gov/funding/funding-opportunities/priority-conservation-area-pca-grants>

Staff Contact

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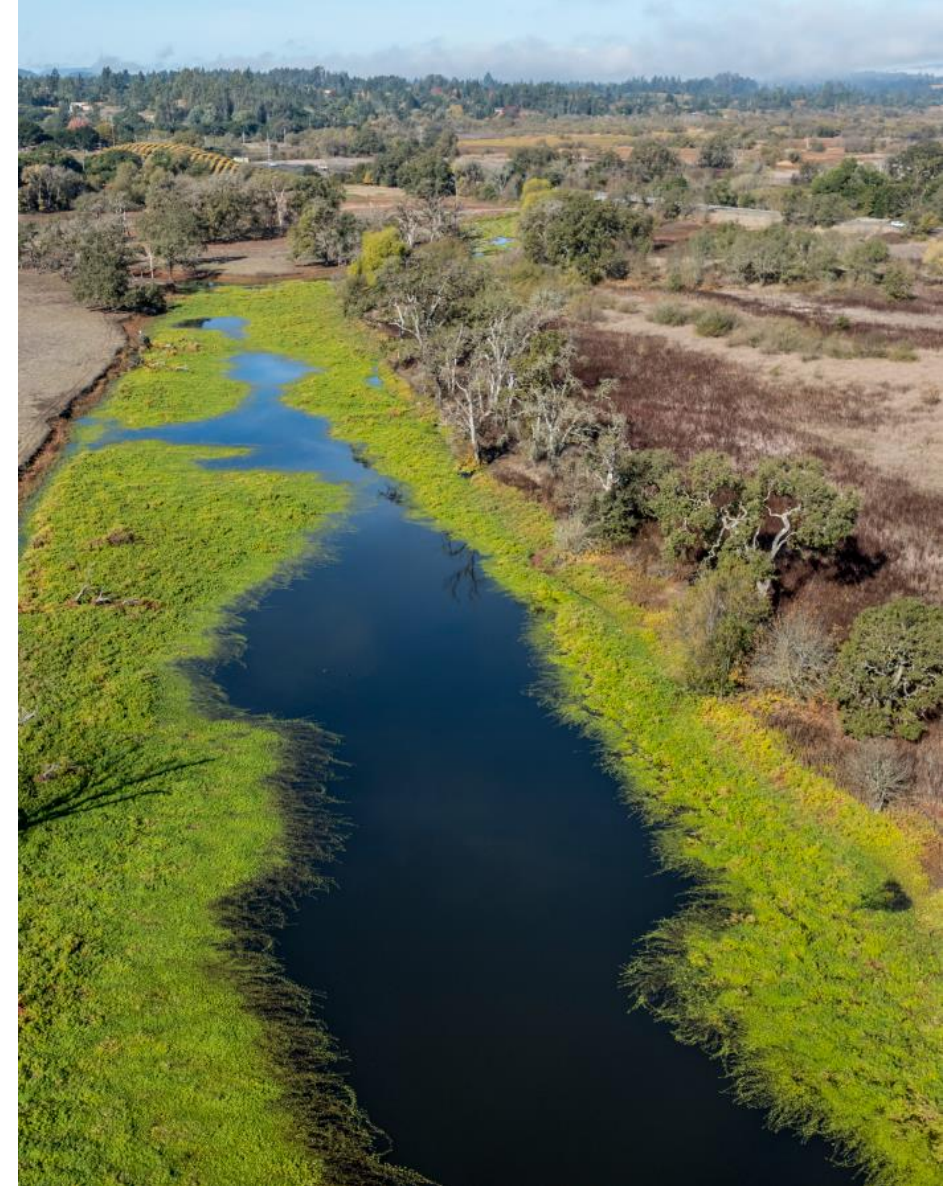


Photo Credit: Karl Nielsen

The PCA Nomination Process



- Local governments (towns, cities, counties, and local special districts) have a window to **nominate new PCAs** that meet the eligibility criteria of the updated planning framework.
- The nomination window will be open through **May 2, 2025**. The four process steps and key dates are described in the diagram to the right.
- Note that **ABAG/MTC staff will review submissions** and follow up with PCA nomination submissions to ensure compliance with eligibility requirements.

Local Nomination Request

- Local government staff submit a mapped geography and defining features for PCA(s).
- Nominations should be submitted by May 2.



ABAG/MTC Staff Review Nominations

- ABAG/MTC staff confirm PCAs meet eligibility criteria.
- Staff aim to reply in 3 business days and no more than 10.



Local Councils Adopt a Resolution

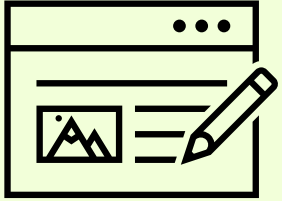
- Local board/council signs a nomination resolution.
- Signed resolutions must be submitted by June 13.



ABAG Executive Board Designation

- Administrative Committee is updated on July 11, 2025.
- The Executive Board takes action at July 17, 2025 meeting.

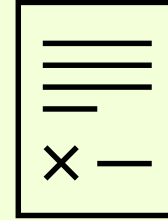
Deliverables & Resources for PCA Nominations



May 2nd Deadline for PCA Geography and Type Submissions

Supporting Resources:

- Use the [**PCA Nomination GIS Tool**](#) to explore boundaries and submit a mapped proposal.
- Use the [**Nomination Briefer Part 1**](#) to learn about the nomination process.
- Use the [**Nomination Briefer Part 2**](#) to learn more about eligibility criteria and prioritizing nominations.



June 13th Deadline for Resolution from Council/Board

Supporting Resources:

- [**Template nomination resolution**](#)
- [**Template nomination summary memo**](#)
- [**Template presentation slides**](#) for background information on PCAs and the nomination process



ABAG/MTC staff are available for [**office hours**](#) to discuss nomination or work through any issues that were flagged during PCA proposal review.

Questions?



Photo Credit: Karl Nielsen

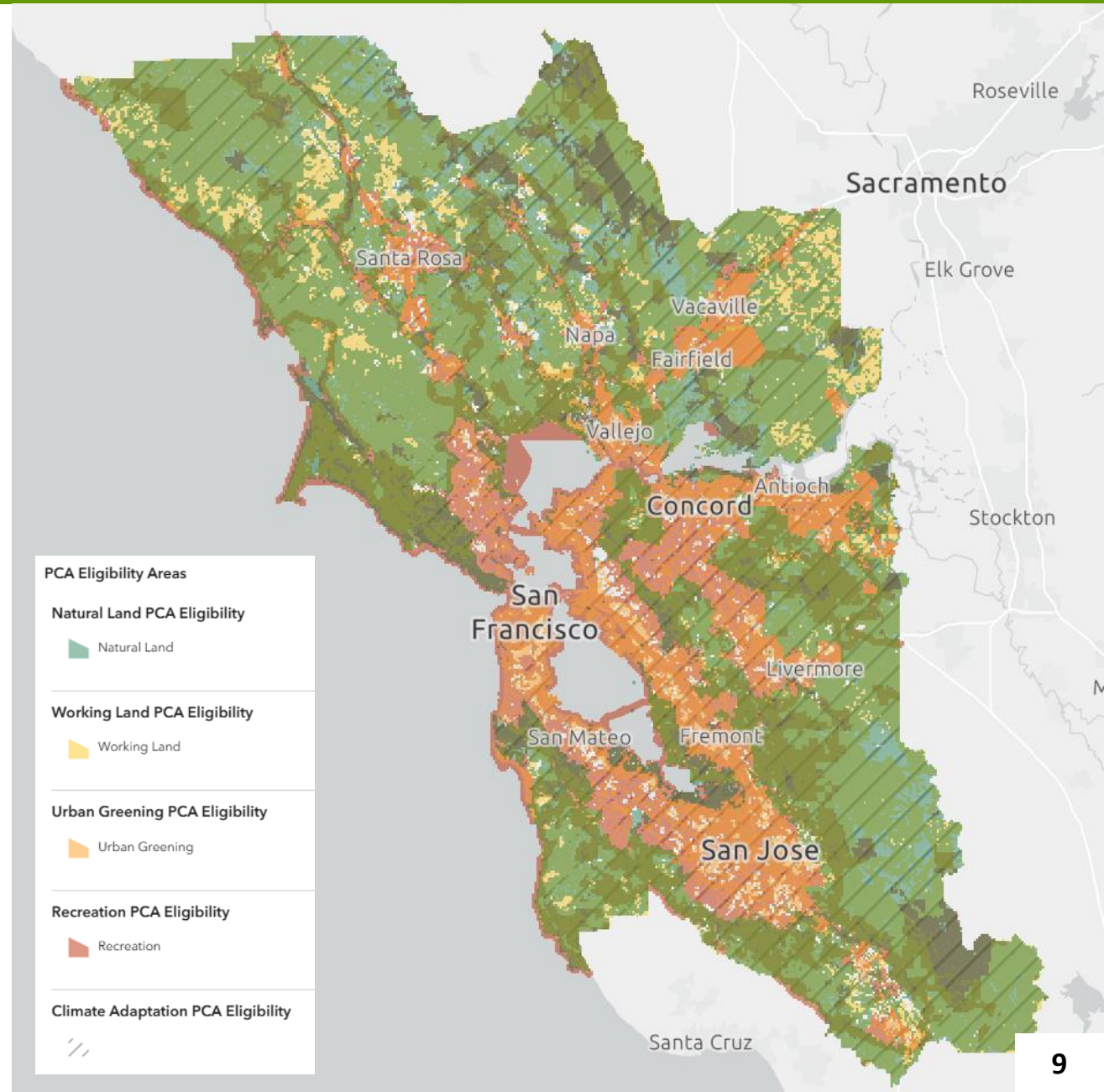
PCAs must meet the following eligibility criteria



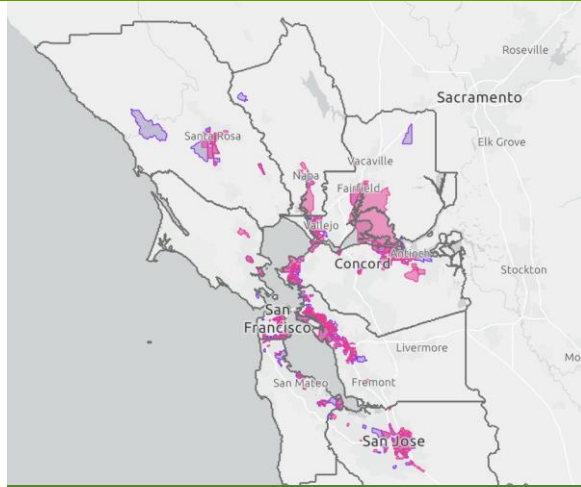
1. The proposed PCA should be located **either within an urbanized area or outside of it, depending on the PCA type**, but must remain within the nominating jurisdiction's boundaries.*
2. The proposed PCA should intersect with **eligibility map(s).****
3. The proposed PCA **should not overlap** with other PCAs.

* Eligibility requirements by PCA type are available at the end of this presentation and on the [PCA Website](#).

** Use the online mapping tool and [eligibility requirements](#) to ensure PCAs meet eligibility criteria.



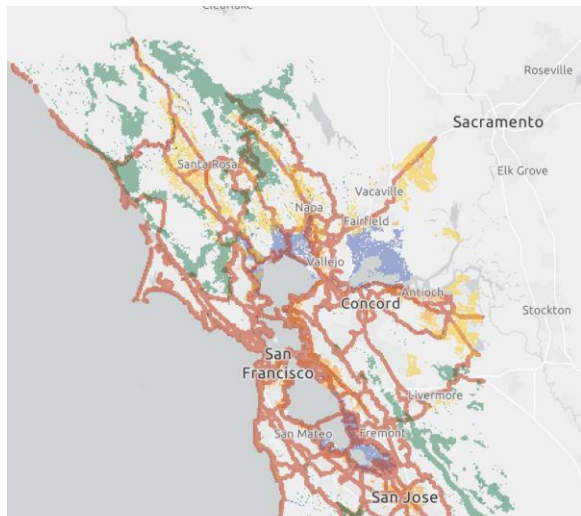
Prioritizing New PCAs



**Equity Priority
Communities**

Incorporate Local Priorities

- Engage the local community. Leverage past engagement and current partnerships.
- Advance local plans, like urban forestry plans, urban greening analysis, open space element, relevant climate action or adaptation planning elements and other initiatives.
- Consider integration of Equity Priority Communities or other local environmental justice mapping to address social and environmental inequities.



**Regionally Identified
Priorities**

Align with Regional Priorities

- Review Regionally Identified Priorities, created by MTC during the [PCA Refresh](#), to nominate lands with regional connectivity or significance. MTC may use these layers for future planning or analysis, but areas must also be locally nominated as PCAs to be eligible for grants.
- Consider areas that advance multiple goals to maximize co-benefits like biodiversity, climate resilience, recreation, community health, and equity.

For more assistance on how to prioritize new PCA nominations, review the PCA [Nomination Briefer Part 2](#).

Tool Demo: How to Submit a PCA

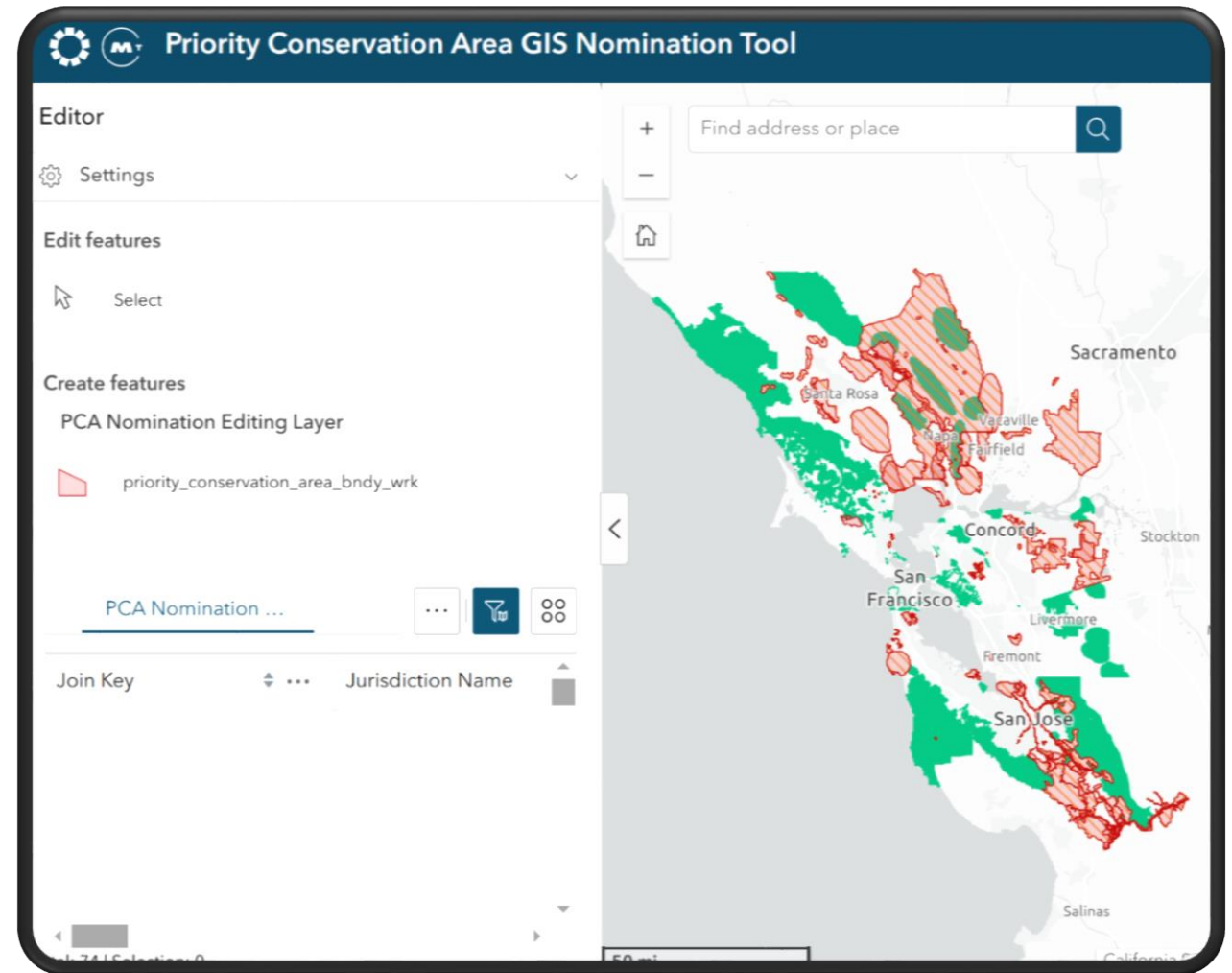


PCA GIS Nomination Tool

- **Step 1:** Review key eligibility and reference layers.
- **Step 2:** Draw a PCA boundary.
- **Step 3:** Provide key information like PCA name and types.
- **Step 4:** Submit your PCA!

Wait for feedback from ABAG/MTC staff.

- **If needed:** Revisit and edit your PCA later.



Questions?



Photo Credit: Laszlo Green

Next Steps and Contacts



1. Identify PCA Nominations and Submit by May 2.

- [PCA Program Website](#)
- [Nomination Tool](#)

2. Get PCAs Approved by Local Board or Council by June 13.

3. After Summer 2025 ABAG Executive Board Action:

- ABAG/MTC staff will integrate PCAs into the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Implementation Plan.
- New and amended PCAs will be eligible to submit grant applications for PCA grant round 2 (\$8M of OBAG 3).

Staff Contact

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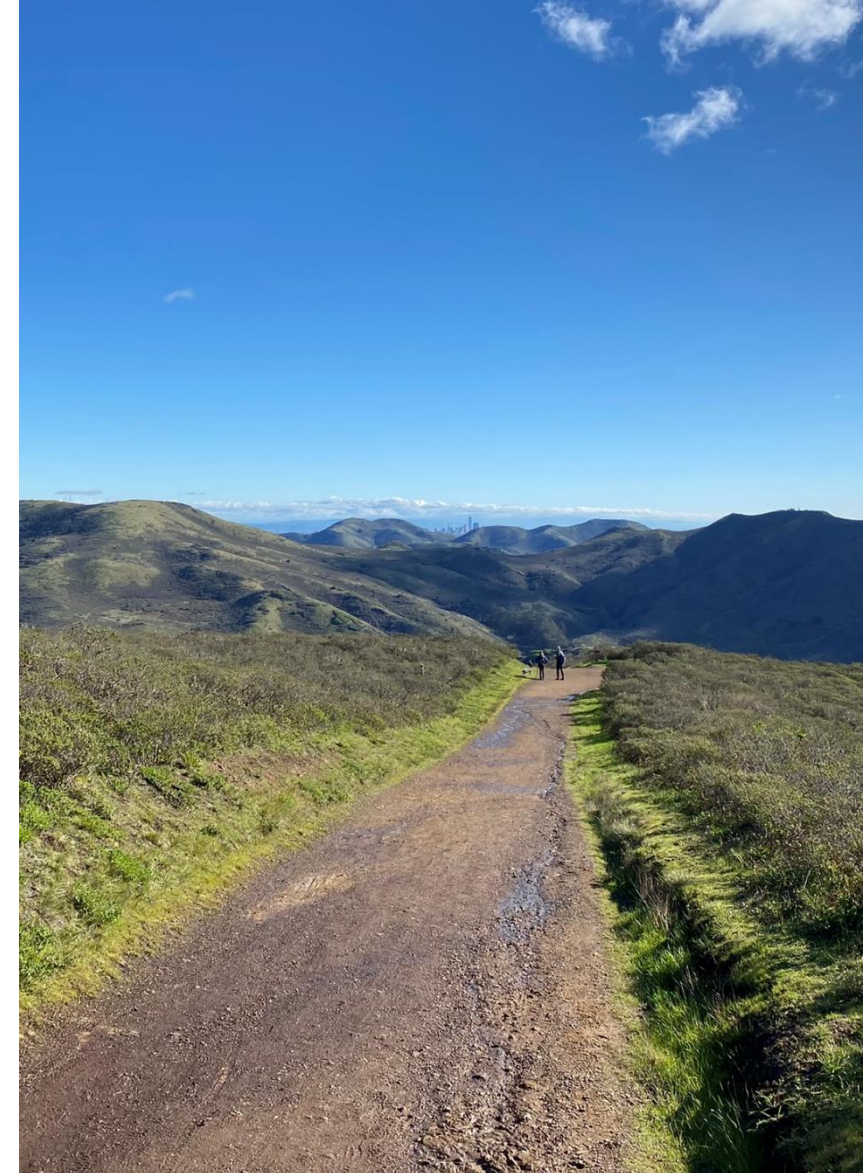


Photo Credit: Kara Vuicich, Marin County