Priority Conservation Area Grant Program

2026 Grant Award Recommendations

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

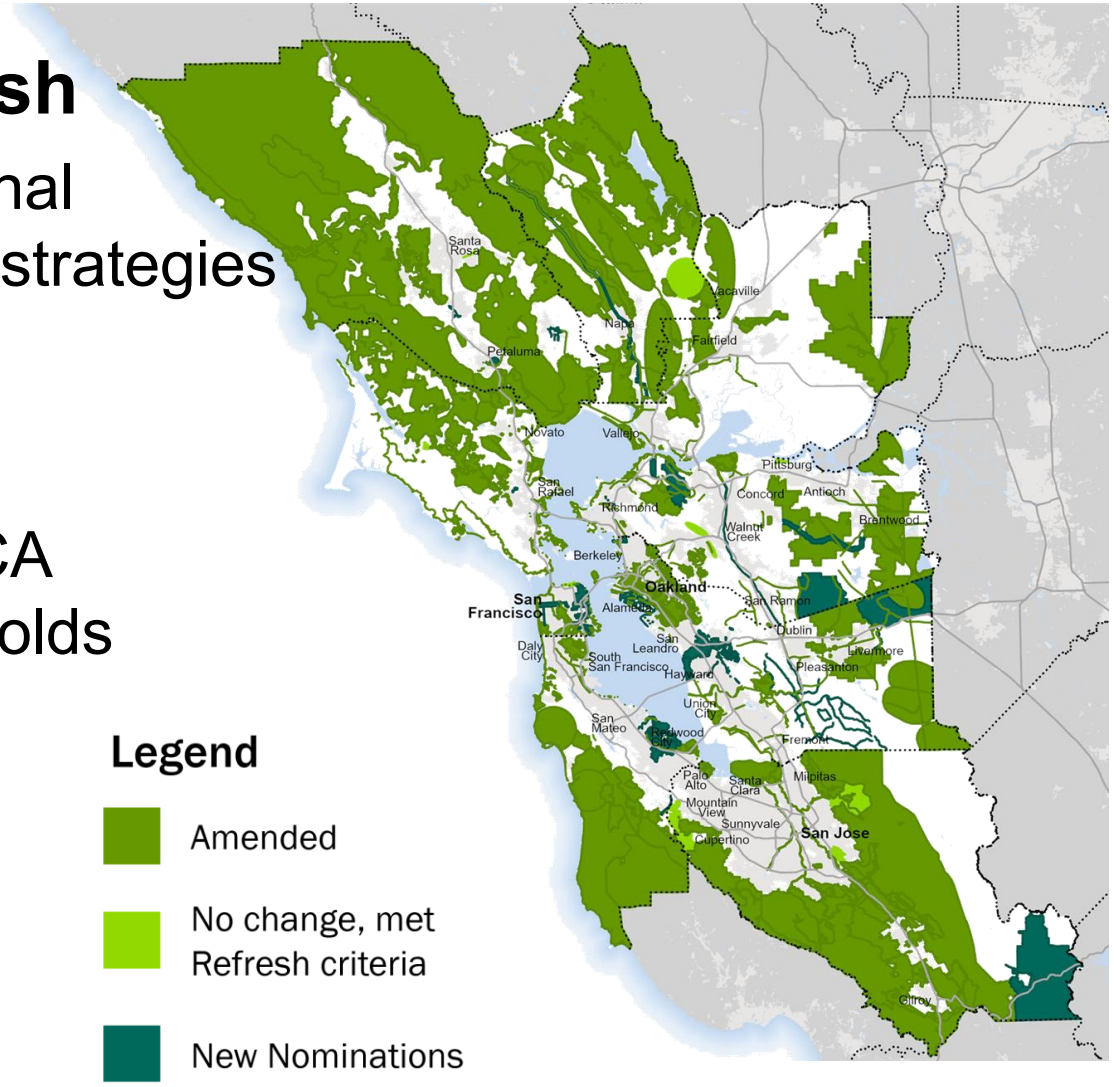
MTC Planning Committee
June 12, 2026

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**



METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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

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