



2950 PERALTA OAKS COURT P.O. BOX 5381 OAKLAND CALIFORNIA 94605-0381 T: 1-888-EBPARKS F: 510-569-4319 TRS RELAY: 711 WWW.EBPARKS.ORG

May 22, 2015

Mr. Ezra Rapport
Executive Director
Association of Bay Area Governments
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Priority Conservation Areas

Dear Mr. Rapport:

We have always appreciated your willingness to listen to the interests of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). We value our ability to work in partnership with you through your service with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

We understand ABAG is considering an update of the Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) program. As a two-county special district managing nearly 120,000 acres of open space in a highly urbanized area, including 33 municipalities, EBRPD has served as a unique partner in identifying, protecting, and managing PCAs. We have a long history of working in collaboration with cities in the East Bay, perhaps most notably with our Measure WW local grant program, which set aside meaningful financing of \$125 million for local municipal park related improvements.

We stand ready to assist in the designation of PCAs in our region. We believe EBRPD's Master Plan adopted July 16, 2013, and the corresponding map comprise the blueprint for PCAs in the East Bay.

As your agency and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) contemplate the next iteration of Plan Bay Area, we respectfully suggest regional consideration of the impacts of climate change on transportation projects and land use. With major transportation infrastructure along the bay shoreline, sea level rise poses a major risk to those investments. As our region seeks to be more resilient and adapt to rising tides, transportation and planning agencies will need partners in the conservation community to ensure meaningful mitigation opportunities.

Efforts such as Regional Advanced Mitigation deserve significant consideration. As the lead agency involved in the East Contra Costa County Habitation Conservation Plan, EBRPD has considerable experience in advanced mitigation. EBRPD's tremendous experience and science expertise in conservation and land management makes us an ideal collaborative partner for ABAG and MTC as adaptation steps are developed. Additionally, agencies like ours are ideally suited to work with transportation agencies on the front end of projects to reduce overall costs and delays.

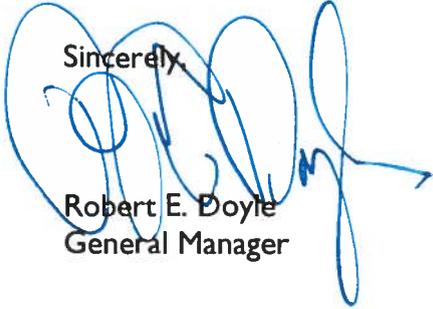
Board of Directors

Whitney Dotson President Ward 1	Doug Siden Vice-President Ward 4	Beverly Lane Treasurer Ward 6	Dennis Waespi Secretary Ward 3	John Sutter Ward 2	Ayn Wieskamp Ward 5	Diane Burgis Ward 7	Robert E. Doyle General Manager
---------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------	------------------------	------------------------------------

On a number of occasions we have offered, and continue to offer, our assistance in ensuring that meaningful resource protection is a significant part of the Plan Bay Area effort. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in a thoughtful discussion about the role land management agencies can play in planning for a more resilient future.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring our children and grandchildren inherit a more sustainable community. We appreciate the challenges you face in updating the Priority Conservation Area program, and stand ready to work with ABAG as a partner in lending our 80 years of expertise in regional conservation efforts.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Doyle
General Manager

- cc: Julie Pierce, ABAG President
- JoAnna Bullock, ABAG Senior Regional Planner
- Steve Heminger, Metropolitan Transportation Commission Executive Director
- EBRPD Board of Directors