



Tuesday, May 19, 2015

NOTICE REGARDING CITY OF EL CERRITO APPLICATION TO ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS FOR PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREA STATUS FOR LOWER CERRITO CREEK FROM THE OHLONE GREENWAY TO THE WESTERN CITY BOUNDARY

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) is updating its Priority Conservation Area (PCA) program. The update introduces four categories to recognize the role of different kinds of PCAs in supporting the vitality of the region's natural systems, economy and human health: Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, Urban Greening, and Regional Recreation.

The City of El Cerrito intends to nominate Lower Cerrito Creek from the Ohlone Greenway to the City of El Cerrito's western boundary with Richmond as a PCA in the Urban Greening category. The City will submit the application for nomination to ABAG by the due date of May 30, 2015.

The Cities of El Cerrito and Albany have a long history of collaboration on Cerrito Creek projects that improve water quality, connectivity and recreational opportunities for both cities.

Designation of this important segment of Cerrito Creek would make it eligible for grants and emphasize its important connection to the already designated Albany Hill.

The City of El Cerrito is submitting an application to ABAG for PCA designation. As required by the designation process, our application will be accompanied by this notification of designation within your jurisdiction. The application process requires us to notify you of your right and opportunity to object the designation within a 90-day comment period. We are therefore providing you with this notice. If your jurisdiction chooses to pass a resolution objecting to the nomination, then the portion of lower Cerrito Creek in the City of Albany will be excluded from the PCA designation.

If you have any questions about this nomination, please contact Emily Alter, Community Development Analyst, at (510) 215-4385 or emalter@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. For more information about the Priority Conservation Area Program, please visit <http://abag.ca.gov/priority/conservation/>