



Thursday, May 21, 2015

NOTICE REGARDING CITY OF EL CERRITO APPLICATION TO ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS FOR PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREA STATUS FOR THE OHLONE GREENWAY IN EL CERRITO

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 the Ohlone Greenway 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 City of El Cerrito and BART have a long history of collaboration on Ohlone Greenway projects that improve water quality, connectivity and recreational opportunities for both cities. PCA Designation is in keeping with the City's License Agreement for the bicycle, pedestrian and landscaping purposes that exist on BART property along the Ohlone Greenway

Designation of the Greenway would make it eligible for grants to complete projects identified in both BART and El Cerrito planning documents and projects that achieve co-benefits for both agencies. The designation does not authorize the City to execute projects along the Greenway without BART authorization. The designation emphasizes the importance of the Greenway as a community asset in El Cerrito.

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 Ohlone Greenway will be excluded from 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/>