

## RESOLUTION NO. 6268

### RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK TO NOMINATE THE MENLO PARK AND EAST PALO ALTO BAYLANDS AS A PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREA

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Association of Bay Area Governments requested nominations from local governments and special districts for Priority Conservation Areas pursuant to the Plan Bay Area multi-agency regional planning initiative; and

WHEREAS, Priority Conservation Areas are areas of regional significance which contain important agricultural, natural resource, watershed, historic, scenic, cultural, recreational, and/or ecological values and ecosystem functions deserving of conservation funding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park is the nominating agency for the Menlo Park and East Palo Alto Baylands (Baylands) Priority Conservation Area, which includes the following:

1. Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, owned by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District; and
2. Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, owned by the Federal Government and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and
3. Cooley Landing, owned by the City of East Palo Alto; and
4. Bedwell Bayfront Park, owned by the City of Menlo Park; and
5. Ravenswood Triangle (i.e., open space/wetland mitigation areas for the Dumbarton Bridge and Bayfront Expressway projects), owned by the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the City supports the designation of the regionally-significant Baylands as a Priority Conservation Area, which would make it eligible for crucial funding to continue to conserve and upgrade these areas for the community's benefit; and

WHEREAS, the City's nomination of the Priority Conservation Area does not commit the City to long-term management and maintenance of areas outside City-owned lands; and

WHEREAS, on February 19, 2015, the City of Menlo Park sent notification letters to the City of East Palo Alto and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the City received no objections to the nominations; and

WHEREAS, the City received a Resolution of Support from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and letters of support from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the City of East Palo Alto; and

WHEREAS, the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project is pursuing the next phase of Salt Pond Restoration efforts for Ravenswood Ponds (R3, R4, R5 and S5) and contemplates future phases of restoration of Ponds (R1 and R2) within the proposed PCA boundary; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority is pursuing the SAFER Bay (Strategy to Advance Flood protection, Ecosystems and Recreation along the Bay) Project to address tidal flooding, restore habitat and enhance recreational opportunities within the proposed PCA boundary; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park's Bedwell Bayfront Park is a former landfill requiring the need to properly address methane capture; and

WHEREAS, the area designated for the PCA includes or is immediately adjacent to critical infrastructure and utilities for the region including Dumbarton Bridge, State Route 84 (Bayfront Expressway), the Ravenswood PG&E electric substation, the San Francisco Public Utility Commission (SFPUC) Bay Division Pipeline of the Hetch Hetchy Water System; and

WHEREAS, City of Menlo Park understands that a PCA designation does not affect any use or rights to land and does not affect the City's local control nor its ability to pursue necessary infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2015, the City Council held a duly noticed public meeting on the PCA nomination, at which all interested persons had the opportunity to appear and comment; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that nominating the PCA is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City Menlo Park as follows:

1. The City nominates the Menlo Park and East Palo Alto Baylands as shown in Exhibit A as a Priority Conservation Area under the categories of Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes.
2. The City Manager is authorized to execute any and all other documents necessary or appropriate to submit an application for the nominated Priority Conservation Area to the Association of Bay Area Governments.

I, Jelena Harada, Deputy City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said Council on the nineteenth day of May, 2015, by the following votes:

AYES: Carlton, Cline, Keith, Ohtaki

NOES: None

ABSENT: Mueller

ABSTAIN: None

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of Menlo Park on this nineteenth day of May, 2015.



Jelena Harada  
Deputy City Clerk