CITY OF MENLO PARK

Office of the City Manager

February 19, 2015

Carlos Martinez, City Manager
City of East Palo Alto
2415 University Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

RE: Proposed Priority Conservation Area in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park

Dear Carlos:

In July 2013, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Executive Board and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approved Plan Bay Area, a long-range, integrated transportation and land-use/housing strategy through 2040 for the San Francisco Bay Area. Plan Bay Area includes the designation of Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) to balance housing and transportation demands with the need to preserve the region's diverse farming, recreational, scenic, and natural resource lands and their many ecological values and ecosystem functions for future generations.

PCAs are intended to identify lands of conservation significance that are broadly supported by the public and local jurisdictions to be eligible for future PCA Program funding and potentially other conservation-based funding. PCA designations are strictly for grant funding purposes only, to identify lands of key open space importance that merit grant funding. PCAs are neither regulatory in nature, nor do they have any effect on local land use or zoning designations or future local land use decisions. They are, however, intended to align with and build upon local General Plan strategies for open space conservation to remain consistent with local policies and objectives.

Given the success of previous collaboration between the City of East Palo Alto, City of Menlo Park and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District as part of the Cooley Landing project, the City of Menlo Park is exploring a potential PCA for the Bayfront/Baylands of the two respective cities and the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve (see Attachment 1 for PCA Map). We believe the area would be a candidate for the Regional Recreation, Natural Landscapes, and Urban Greening designations.

Menlo Park is also coordinating with other partners including the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, which manages the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. The geographic area covered by the potential PCA includes a number of critical transportation (e.g., Dumbarton Bridge and Dumbarton Rail), utility (e.g., water, sewer, storm drain and electric facilities), and infrastructure issues (e.g., levees to address tidal flooding and sea level rise). Based on communication with ABAG staff, it is our understanding that a PCA designation would

not impede any efforts to maintain, enhance or construct these facilities. Menlo Park is open to changes to the proposed PCA boundary if necessary.

The City of Menlo Park is reaching out to the City of East Palo Alto at this time to officially notify you of the proposed new PCA designation that is being considered within your jurisdiction, for which Menlo Park has already initiated conversations with your staff. Over the next three (3) months, Menlo Park will continue to work alongside your staff and partner agencies to further develop and refine these PCAs to ensure that the PCAs are aligned with the City of East Palo Alto's conservation strategies and transportation, utility and infrastructure needs. The City of Menlo Park anticipates submitting an application to ABAG by the May 30, 2015 deadline for PCA nominations. You are welcome to prepare a letter of support, but otherwise there is no specific action that you need to take.

If you have questions about the PCA Program and the proposed PCA, please do not hesitate in contacting me at (650) 330-6610 or via email at admcintyre@menlopark.org or Justin Murphy at (650) 330-6725 or via email at jicmurphy@menlopark.org

Sincerely Yours,

Alex D. McIntyre
City Manager

Attachment: Map of proposed PCA

CC: Joanna Bullock, Senior Regional Planner, Association of Bay Area Governments
Michelle Daher, Management Analyst, City of East Palo Alto
Len Materman, Executive Director, San Franciquito Creek Joint Powers Authority
Anne Morkill, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
John Bourgeois, Executive Project Manager, South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

CITY OF MENLO PARK

Office of the City Manager

February 19, 2015

Steve Abbors, General Manager
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94002

RE: Proposed Priority Conservation Area in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park

Dear Steve:

In July 2013, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Executive Board and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approved Plan Bay Area, a long-range, integrated transportation and land-use/housing strategy through 2040 for the San Francisco Bay Area. Plan Bay Area includes the designation of Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) to balance housing and transportation demands with the need to preserve the region's diverse farming, recreational, scenic, and natural resource lands and their many ecological values and ecosystem functions for future generations.

PCAs are intended to identify lands of conservation significance that are broadly supported by the public and local jurisdictions to be eligible for future PCA Program funding and potentially other conservation-based funding. PCA designations are strictly for grant funding purposes only, to identify lands of key open space importance that merit grant funding. PCAs are neither regulatory in nature, nor do they have any effect on local land use or zoning designations or future local land use decisions. They are, however, intended to align with and build upon local General Plan strategies for open space conservation to remain consistent with local policies and objectives.

Given the success of previous collaboration between the City of East Palo Alto, City of Menlo Park and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District as part of the Cooley Landing project, the City of Menlo Park is exploring a potential PCA for the Bayfront/Baylands of the two respective cities and the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve (see Attachment 1 for PCA Map). We believe the area would be a candidate for the Regional Recreation, Natural Landscapes, and Urban Greening designations.

Menlo Park is also coordinating with other partners including the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, which manages the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. The geographic area covered by the potential PCA includes a number of critical transportation (e.g., Dumbarton Bridge and Dumbarton Rail), utility (e.g., water, sewer, storm drain and electric facilities), and infrastructure issues (e.g., levees to address tidal flooding and sea level rise). Based on communication with ABAG staff, it is our understanding that a PCA designation would

not impede any efforts to maintain, enhance or construct these facilities. Menlo Park is open to changes to the proposed PCA boundary if necessary.

The City of Menlo Park is reaching out to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at this time to officially notify you of the proposed new PCA designation that is being considered within your jurisdiction, for which Menlo Park has already initiated conversations with your staff. Over the next three (3) months, Menlo Park will continue to work alongside your staff and partner agencies to further develop and refine these PCAs to ensure that the PCAs are aligned with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's conservation strategies and transportation, utility and infrastructure needs. The City of Menlo Park anticipates submitting an application to ABAG by the May 30, 2015 deadline for PCA nominations. You are welcome to prepare a letter of support, but otherwise there is no specific action that you need to take.

If you have questions about the PCA Program and the proposed PCA, please do not hesitate in contacting me at (650) 330-6610 or via email at admcintyre@menlopark.org or Justin Murphy at (650) 330-6725 or via email at jicmurphy@menlopark.org

Sincerely Yours,

Alex D. McIntyre
City Manager

Attachment: Map of proposed PCA

CC: Joanna Bullock, Senior Regional Planner, Association of Bay Area Governments
Jane Mark, Planning Manager, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Len Materman, Executive Director, San Francquito Creek Joint Powers Authority
Anne Morkill, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
John Bourgeois, Executive Project Manager, South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project