

## Priority Conservation Area Application Form

Enter information in the spaces provided. E-mail this completed application form and attachments requested as part of this form to [joannab@abag.ca.gov](mailto:joannab@abag.ca.gov) by **May 30, 2015**. If e-mailing is not possible, a hard copy of materials can be mailed to PCA Applications, Association of Bay Area Governments, P.O. Box 2050, Oakland, CA 94604-2050.

### PART 1: AREA INFORMATION

Proposed Name	<i>Menlo Park and East Palo Alto Baylands</i>
Description	<i>The proposed PCA includes the portions of Menlo Park and East Palo Alto along the San Francisco Bay stretching from Bedwell Bayfront Park near Marsh Road in Menlo Park to Cooley Landing near Bay Road in East Palo Alto, inclusive of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve.</i>
Location (include map and text description)	<i>City of Menlo Park and City of East Palo Alto in San Mateo County</i>
Total Acreage	<i>Approximately 2,700 acres</i>

### PART 2: SPONSOR(S)

Lead Nominating Agency/Organization	City of Menlo Park
Staff Person	Justin Murphy, Assistant Community Development Director
Address	701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
Phone Number(s)	650-330-6725
E-mail address	<a href="mailto:jicmurphy@menlopark.org">jicmurphy@menlopark.org</a>
Partnering Agency(ies)/Organization(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of East Palo Alto</li> <li>• Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District</li> <li>• U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</li> </ul>

### PART 3: DESIGNATION

**Selected Designation** – Select one or more designation for the proposed PCA.

**Natural Landscapes**    **Agricultural Lands**    **Urban Greening**    **Regional Recreation**

## **Supporting Narrative and Data Sources**

The proposed PCA reflects a partnership between the City of Menlo Park, the City of East Palo Alto, and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The proposed PCA boundary area covers Bedwell Bayfront Park, the Ravenswood Salt Pond Restoration Area, the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, and Cooley Landing Park. A common connector of many of these features is the Bay Trail, except for one gap between University Avenue and the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve. Menlo Park is currently collaborating with the City of East Palo Alto, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, San Mateo County and Santa Clara County on a project to potentially close this critical gap in the Bay Trail.

The area covered by the proposed PCA is identified for conservation, restoration and enhancements in the various policy documents of the respective agencies. In general, the proposed PCA area provides various opportunities for habitat restoration, flood management, public access, and recreation. The Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, as a specific example, is rich in marshland and vegetation, which attracts a variety of migrating birds including sandpipers, dowitchers, and avocets.

The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project is a federal/state multi-agency effort (Fish and Wildlife Service, California State Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and local water districts) aimed at restoring commercial salt ponds at the south end of San Francisco Bay to a mix of tidal marsh, mudflat, and other wetland habitats. Phase 1 of the restoration project included enhancing 240 acres to create a 155-acre pond with 30 nesting islands for nesting and resting shorebirds, and 85 acres of critical habitat for the western snowy plover, which is listed as threatened on the Endangered Species List. Phase 2 planning is underway.

In addition, the geographic area covered by the proposed PCA includes a number of critical transportation facilities (e.g., Dumbarton Bridge and Dumbarton Rail), utilities (e.g., water, sewer, storm drain and electric power transmission lines), and infrastructure needs (e.g., levees to address tidal flooding and sea level rise) for the region. This application is done with an understanding of all of the partner agencies that a PCA designation would not impede the ability to maintain or pursue improvements to transportation, utility and infrastructure facilities subject to the applicable regulatory permitting requirements and environmental review.