



May 29, 2015

PCA Applications, Association of Bay Area Governments
P.O. Box 2050
Oakland, CA 94604-2050
Attn: Joanna Bullock, Senior Regional Planner

Sent Via Email Only: joannab@abag.ca.gov

Subject: 2015 Nominations for Priority Conservation Areas

Dear Joanna,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, I am pleased to submit the attached 2015 Priority Conservation Area (PCA) nominations application. The Open Space Authority (OSA) is an independent special district created in 1993 to balance growth in Santa Clara County through the preservation and stewardship of open space, natural areas and agricultural lands. The OSA's sphere of influence covers a 1,084 square mile area of Santa Clara County.

The attached application includes 27 PCA nominations and proposed designations for 3 existing PCAs within the OSA's sphere of influence. These nominations were informed by the OSA's Santa Clara Valley Greenprint: A Guide for Protecting Open Space and Livable Communities, a 30-year strategic plan approved in 2014. This document integrates the region's best available conservation science and datasets and was developed over an 18-month period with input from over 100 conservation partners to identify the most important areas for protecting wildlands and natural areas, water supplies and groundwater recharge, flood risk and water quality, scenic viewsheds, working lands, and regional recreation opportunities. The Valley Greenprint also informed the Expenditure Plan for Measure Q, a 2014 voter-approved parcel tax that provides funding for the protection and stewardship of open space and investments in livable communities.

As part of the PCA Nomination process, the OSA conducted thorough outreach to its partners and local jurisdictions to ensure broad consensus that these PCA nominations encompass areas with the greatest conservation values for natural landscapes, regional recreation, agricultural lands and urban greening.

Please find attached, a signed Resolution of the Open Space Authority Board of Directors, descriptions and maps of each of the 27 PCAs nominated and letters and resolutions of support. I am confident that these PCAs represent the highest priority areas for land conservation in Santa Clara County and thank ABAG for favorably considering the OSA's application.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Mackenzie". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

cc: Board of Directors, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

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Suite 100
San Jose, CA 95119
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408.224.7548 F
openspaceauthority.org

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 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 (See attachment 3)

PART 2: SPONSOR(S)

Lead Nominating Agency/Organization	Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Staff Person	Jake Smith: Conservation GIS Coordinator
Address	6980 Santa Teresa Blvd Suite 100
Phone Number(s)	408.224.7476
E-mail address	jsmith@openspaceauthority.org
Partnering Agency(ies)/Organization(s)	See Attachment 6

PART 3: DESIGNATION (See Attachment 3)

PART 4: BENEFITS (See Attachment 3)

PART 5: ATTACHMENTS

Required

1. Copy of adopted resolution by City Council, Board of Supervisors, or Open Space or Park District Board.
2. Attach a map showing the proposed general area boundaries and location. Include other relevant information, such as topography or an aerial photograph, to show the context for protection of this area.
3. Provide text, data/maps that demonstrate primary benefit(s) of the relevant designation and co-benefit(s).
4. Copy of public notification of meeting at which resolution was adopted
5. Copy of notification of PCA nomination to jurisdictions in which PCA is located

Optional

6. Letters of Support from partner agencies or organizations (*not required*)
7. Additional data, maps, supportive local policies (*not required*)

For questions regarding the application form, please contact JoAnna Bullock at 510 464-7968 or joannab@abag.ca.gov.