



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: October 28, 2013
Board Meeting Date: November 5, 2013
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: David G. Holland, Assistant County Manager

Subject: supporting the designation of the 174-acre Office of Education Loma Mar property as a Priority Conservation Area (PCA) by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution supporting the designation of the 174-acre Office of Education Loma Mar property as a Priority Conservation Area by the Association of Bay Area Governments.

BACKGROUND:

The PCA Grant Program is a pilot program initiated by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). For the region that includes San Mateo County, the program is administered by the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) in partnership with the MTC and ABAG. San Mateo County Parks is pursuing \$500,000 in grant funding through this program to support the possible future acquisition of the 174-acre Office of Education Loma Mar property, adjacent to Memorial County Park. MTC has made \$5 million of federal funds available for this potential acquisition, with additional funding provided by SCC.

The PCA Grant Program is a component of Plan Bay Area, the integrated long-range transportation and land-use/housing plan for the San Francisco Bay Area. Plan Bay Area emphasizes growth in nearly 200 locally identified Priority Development Areas (PDAs) along the region's core transit network, and accommodates new growth within existing urban growth boundaries and urban limit lines. It also emphasizes protection for the region's agricultural, scenic and natural resource areas, including over 100 designated PCAs. The goal is to create a specific and shared concept of where growth can be accommodated (priority development areas) and what areas need protection (priority conservation areas) in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

DISCUSSION:

To qualify for the PCA Grant Program, the project must be in or connect to at least one PCA. If a project isn't in or doesn't connect to a PCA, the applicant is required to file an application with ABAG requesting a PCA designation. Priority conservation areas are areas of regional significance that have broad community support and an urgent need for protection. These areas will contain important agricultural, natural resource, watershed, historical, scenic, cultural, recreational, and/or ecological values and ecosystem functions. The proposed PCA would cover the entire 174-acre Office of Education Loma Mar property.

ABAG is responsible for reviewing requests and designating PCAs, as well as PDAs. The nomination request must be submitted by November 15, 2013.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The support of the PCA designation has no impact on the County General Fund.