

# ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' TRANSPORTATION/ PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, July 7, 2025  
9:30 a.m.

Supervisor David Haubert, Chair  
Supervisor Nate Miley, excused

Location: Board of Supervisors Chamber – 5th Floor  
County Administration Building  
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

## Staff Briefing

- I. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREA (PCA) NOMINATIONS TO THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION/ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS (MTC/ABAG)** - *Potential nomination of unincorporated-area PCAs for approval by MTC/ABAG for the purposes of supporting local conservation, resilience, and sustainability goals and providing access to funding opportunities through the PCA Grant Program. Nominations due to MTC/ABAG by July 25, 2025. Nominations under consideration:*

- A. Environmental Justice Priority Communities "Green Zone"
- B. Sunol-Area Creeks
- C. South Bay Aqueduct Trail
- D. Regional Trail Connectors in the Working Landscape
- E. Resilient Fairview

[Attachment](#)

[Attachment](#)

Ali Abbors presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Priority Conservation Area (PCA) nominations. The presentation explained the background, purpose, funding opportunities, and specific proposed nominations for Alameda County ahead of the July 25<sup>th</sup> Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) deadline.

PCAs are geographic areas nominated by cities/counties and recognized by ABAG for environmental or recreational importance. They are mostly symbolic, but they make areas eligible for PCA Grant funding.

Since 2013, \$38M has been awarded through 3 grant cycles (2014, 2019, 2023). Another \$8M cycle is expected this year. Designations do not change zoning, land use, or property rights. They are not conservation easements and can be modified in future cycles.

Existing PCAs include South and North Livermore Valleys, Bethany Reservoir, Tesla Park and Cedar Mountain.

### Proposed PCA Nominations

1. Environmental Justice Priority Communities Green Zone
  - Covers Ashland, Cherryland, San Lorenzo, Hayward Acres, Castro Valley.
  - Supports EJ policies and funding for projects like urban forestry.
  - Supported by Eden Area MAC; opposed by Castro Valley MAC (though opposition focused on creeks, not this zone).
2. Sunol Area Creeks
  - ~60 miles of creeks around Sunol.
  - Aims to address flood hazards and support habitat/recreation.
  - Strong support from Sunol CAC, City of Hayward, City of Pleasanton, local conservation groups.

3. Regional Trail Connectors in Working Landscape
  - ~30 sq. miles in NE Alameda County, linking existing PCAs.
  - Supports agriculture and multi-use trails.
  - Unanimously supported by Ag Advisory Committee
4. South Bay Aqueduct Trail
  - 3-mile proposed trail along South Bay aqueduct to I-580.
  - Supported unanimously by Ag Advisory Committee
5. Resilient Fairview
  - Focus on fire risk zones + riparian corridors in Fairview.
  - Developed with Fairview MAC; prioritizes wildfire resilience.

The Planning Commission had a split 3–3 vote. Their concerns included mistrust of ABAG, fears of added regulation, low grant funding relative to effort. There was also opposition from Castro Valley MAC.

#### Next Steps

- Board to consider nominations on July 10th.
- Staff continues recommending adoption of the 5 PCAs listed above.
- Nomination process is exempt from CEQA review.

#### Purpose:

- ☐ Report progress
- ☒ **Advocacy or Education**
- ☐ Request Transportation and Planning Committee recommendation
- ☐ Other:

## II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelly Abreu commented on Bethany Reservoir & Recreation Access. Mr. Abreu stated that the State of California provides public amenities at Bethany Reservoir, including the California Aqueduct Bikeway and the Bethany Reservoir State Recreation Area, offering biking, hiking, and recreation. He suggested Alameda County should follow this model in expanding recreational opportunities.

A recent disaster in Central Texas where 30 children died during severe flooding. He stated that there were failures in river warning systems, and inadequate warnings and measurements contributed to the tragedy. There is a need for better warning and preparedness systems.

Mr. Abreu stated that that since there was no quorum, the county held a “fake public meeting.” Without a quorum, meetings should be formally canceled or adjourned.