

Golden Lands: Seizing the Opportunity By Taking Action

We need to act now to preserve our irreplaceable natural resources:

Region-wide

1) Ensure that the Bay Area's open space benefits all of the region's residents equally.

- **Give more people access** to open space by requiring that a park be located no more than 10 minutes by foot or bike from every resident's home.
- **Make sure parks serve community needs** and are well maintained, safe, and clean by increasing stewardship funding and engaging community members.
- **Put nature within reach of all** residents and visitors by providing public transit from cities to beaches, forests, and other recreation areas.

2) Protect and maintain vital Bay Area lands through acquisition, conservation easements, and ongoing stewardship.

- **Ensure that we can purchase and steward** threatened lands by increasing funding for those purposes. Sources include new and existing bonds, local measures, and budget appropriations at all levels of government.
- **Preserve privately held natural areas** and agricultural lands by increasing funding for conservation easements.
- **Maximize conservation investments** by aligning local initiatives, including mitigation of development impacts, with regional conservation objectives. Coordinate efforts early on to deliver the most value.

3) Adopt strong policies to protect and maintain Bay Area lands.

- **Protect natural areas and working lands** with local land-use policies and plans that define where development should and should not occur.
- **Preserve local food supplies** and the agricultural economy by supporting strategies to improve the financial health of farms and ranches.
- **Protect water supplies** and reduce flooding by promoting watershed-scale planning.
- **Encourage private owners to preserve** their lands' ecological values through policies and incentive programs that support ongoing stewardship.

Urban Parks

- **Provide funding to maintain parks**—and involve residents in their care—to keep parks safe, clean, and inviting.
- **Support many types of green spaces**—from urban creeks to sports fields and playgrounds to community gardens—to allow parks to serve the whole community.
- **Require that parks be located no more than a 10-minute walk from every resident's home** to ensure easy access for all.

County by County

San Francisco County

- **Create more parks**, natural areas, and places to play by ensuring that open space and ecological preservation are priorities in development and planning projects.
- **Manage the network of natural areas** throughout the city to preserve and connect rare habitat, restore creeks, and give children access to wild places.
- **Complete the Blue Greenway**, a 13-mile corridor along the city's southeastern waterfront that will bring green space, recreational opportunities, and Bay access to an underserved part of the city.

Marin County

- **Close gaps in Marin's protected lands system** to preserve 15,000 acres of habitat, complete wildlife and trail corridors, and save wetlands.
- **Actively maintain natural areas**—including controlling invasive plants and erosion—to help protect Marin's streams, such as Lagunitas Creek, a rare remaining coho salmon run.
- **Permanently protect** 60,000 acres of farmland from nonagricultural development to allow Marin to keep producing locally farmed food.

Sonoma County

- **Guide growth into existing cities** and prevent inappropriate development to help preserve Sonoma County's rural character.
- **Support farming** with agricultural easements and policies to ensure local food production and preserve prime farmland.
- **Adopt policies that protect wetlands and forests** from conversion to higher-intensity land uses, to help preserve biodiversity and local water sources.

Napa County

- **Fund Napa's newly created park district** to take an essential step toward increasing public access to nature.
- **Tighten growth controls** to halt fragmentation and loss of agricultural lands stemming from rural development.
- **Develop trails**, like the Napa Crest and Napa River trails, to provide opportunities for enjoyment and education.

Solano County

- **Help farmers** build value-added operations and provide economic incentives to keep farming. These essential steps will preserve Solano's valuable agriculture sector—the county's second-largest economic driver.
- **Create an open space district**—Solano is the only Bay Area county without one—to preserve farm and grazing land and provide much-needed public access to the outdoors.

Contra Costa County

- **Stop subdivision** and development of farms, ranches, and natural areas to preserve wildlife corridors and agricultural heritage.
- **Prevent development on Delta watershed lands** to protect California's drinking water and help preserve a fragile ecosystem.
- **Build parks and trails on the North Richmond shoreline** to give underserved residents opportunities to enjoy the Bay.
- **Preserve Concord Naval Weapons Station open space** to protect habitat and enable easy access to nature via BART.

Alameda County

- **Curb sprawl in the Tri-Valley area** to preserve habitat for rare and endangered species, conserve working lands, and protect the Livermore groundwater basin and watersheds—especially the rare alkali sink ecosystem.
- **Invest in urban parks** to ensure that all city residents have accessible, clean, safe places to gather and play outdoors.
- **Protect the Bay shoreline**, Alameda Creek, and their watersheds to increase public access and preserve sensitive aquatic habitat.

Santa Clara County

- **Create an interconnected system** of open spaces to enable wildlife migration, trail connections, and continued farming.
- **Increase public access to open space**, especially near fast growing areas, to help Santa Clara County continue to attract a talented workforce and ensure that all communities benefit.
- **Protect watershed lands** to safeguard the county's water supply for a growing population.

San Mateo County

- **Protect the coast** to safeguard watersheds, help complete skyline-to-sea trails, preserve wildlife migration corridors, and support the county's unique coastal agriculture.
- **Restore baylands and urban creeks** (many now diverted to culverts and pipes) to provide essential habitat.
- **Prevent subdivision and large-lot residential development** to help protect up to 40,000 acres of farmland and natural areas.
- **Fund park maintenance** to keep San Mateo's natural areas healthy and accessible to the public.

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