

# Golden Lands: Seizing the Opportunity By Taking Action

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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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