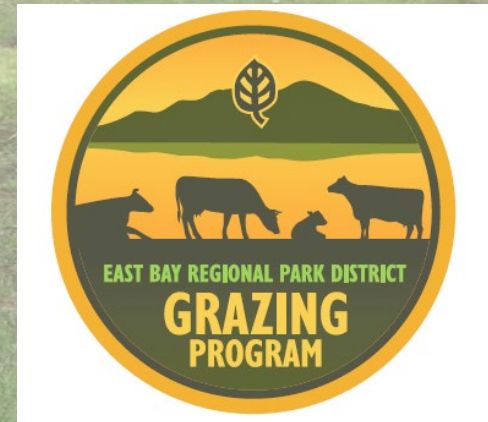


# Conservation Grazing Overview and the Importance of Pond Management

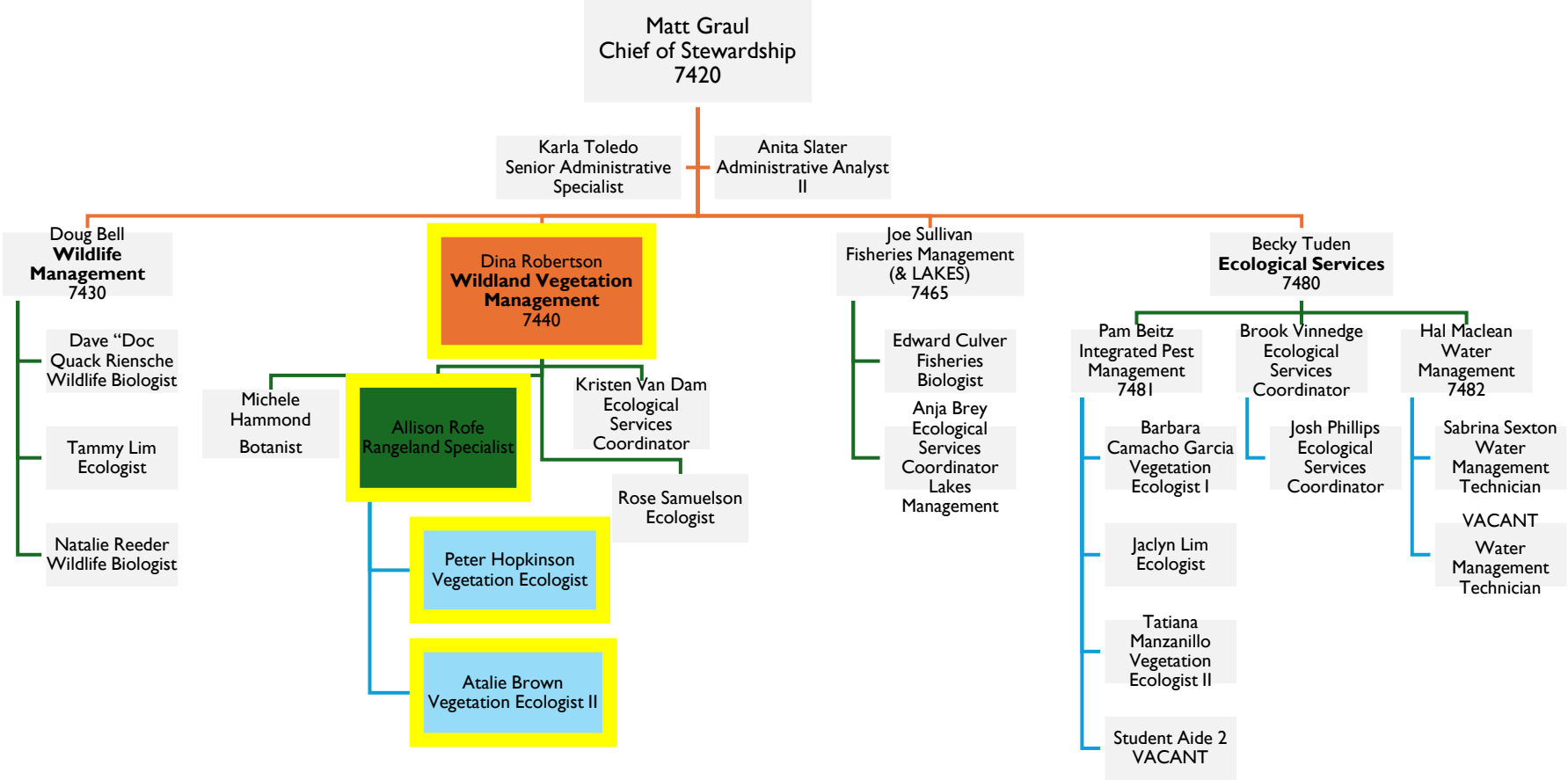


Natural & Cultural Resources Committee – 7/31/24

Presented by: Dina Robertson, Wildland Vegetation Program Manager  
& Allison Rofe, Rangeland Specialist

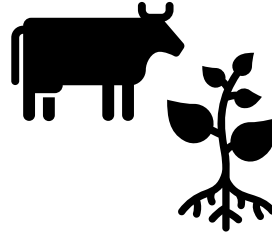


# Stewardship Org Chart



## Grazing Program Team

Allison



Dina



Peter



Atalie





**Sunol** – 1962, 1<sup>st</sup> park with livestock grazing

1967 – 5 Parks with grazing

- Focused solely on fire prevention (Lands)

1977 – 28,752 grazed acres

- Grassland management started in the parks (Lands)

1987 – 43,000 grazed acres

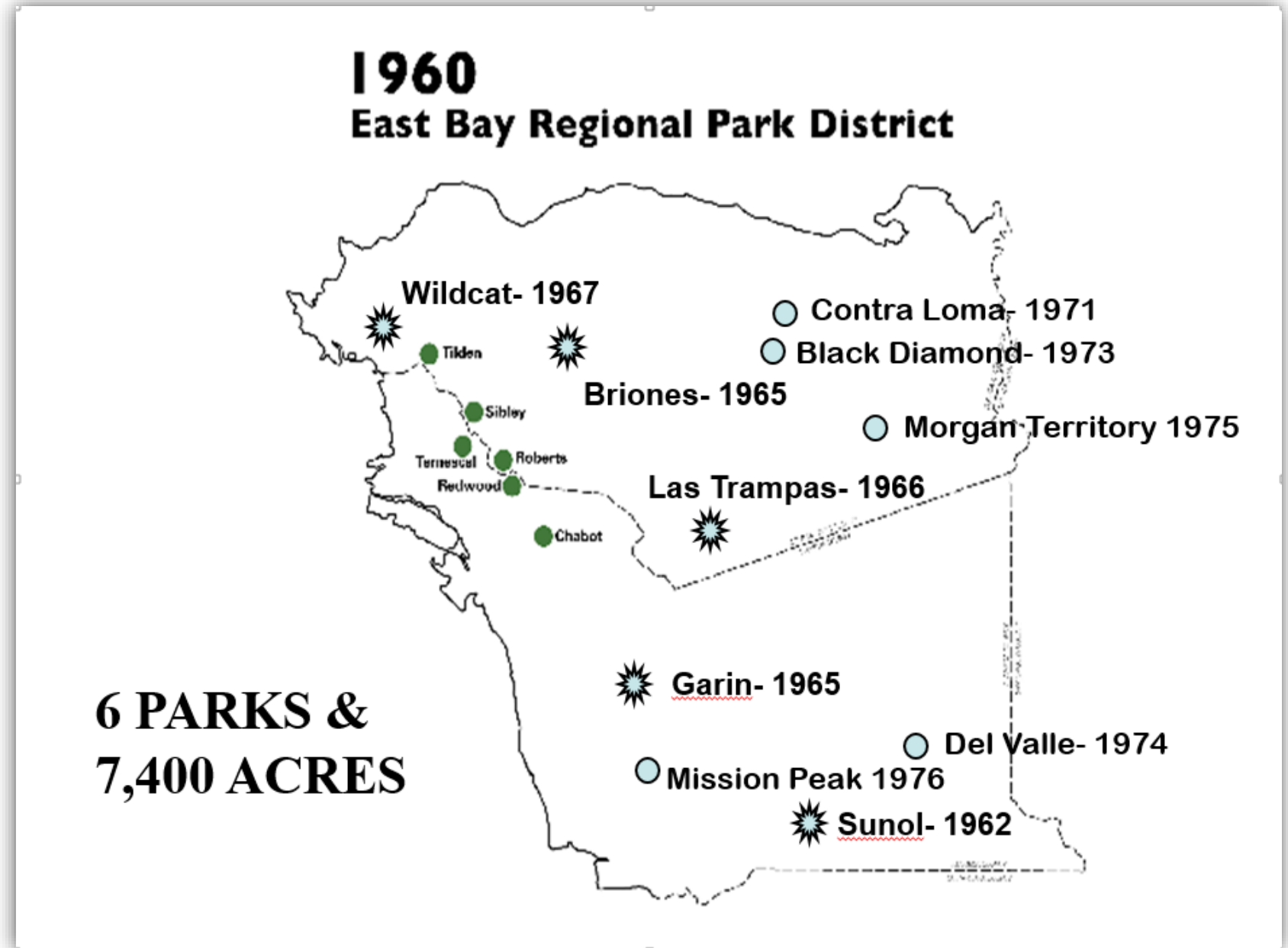
- Stewardship Dept. created ( 1<sup>st</sup> Vegetation Manager)

2006 – over 60,000 grazed acres

- Veg Manager and Veg Ecologist (Stewardship)

2019 – over 80,000 grazed acres

- 1st Rangeland Specialist

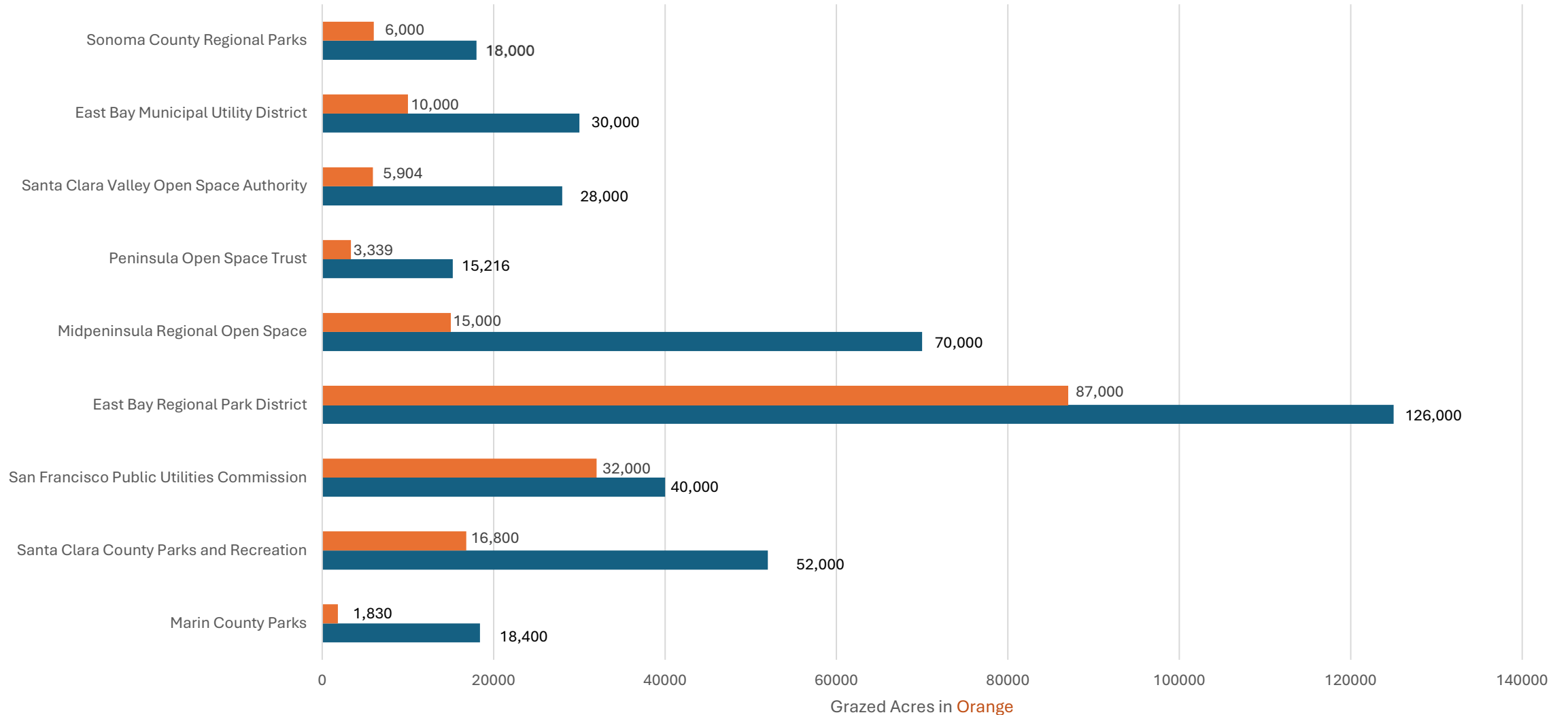








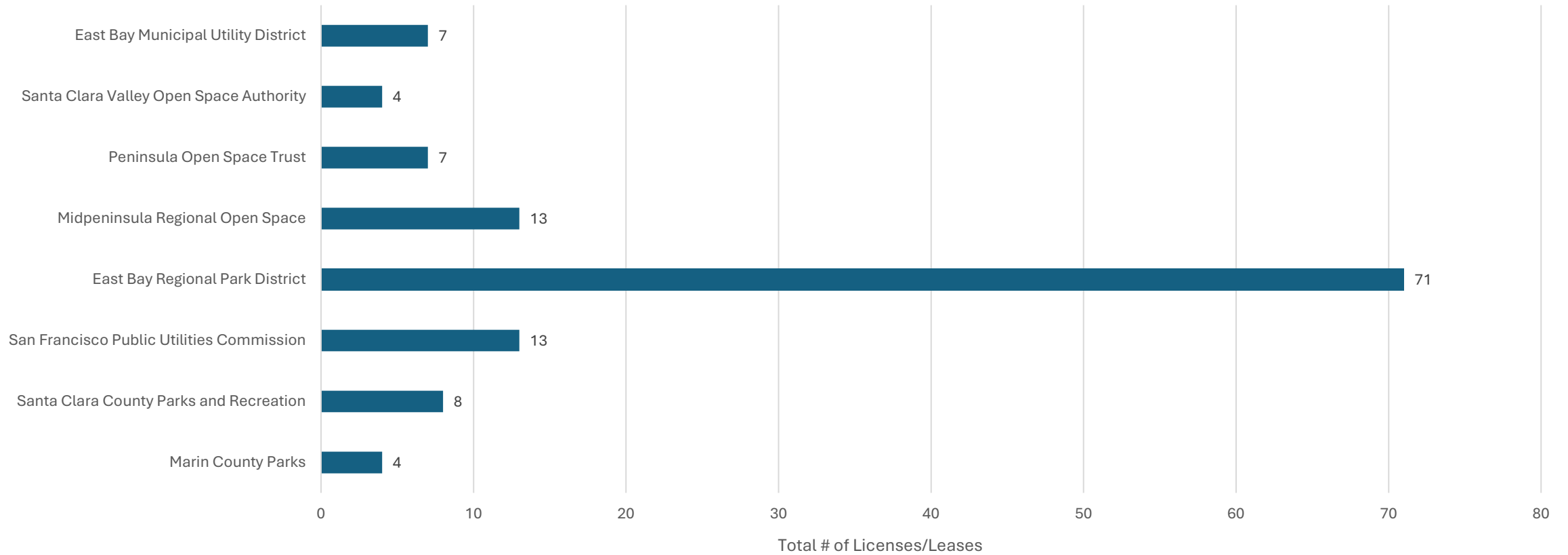
# Bay Area Sister Agency Grazing Program Acreages





# Bay Area Sister Agency Grazing Program Number of Licenses/Leases

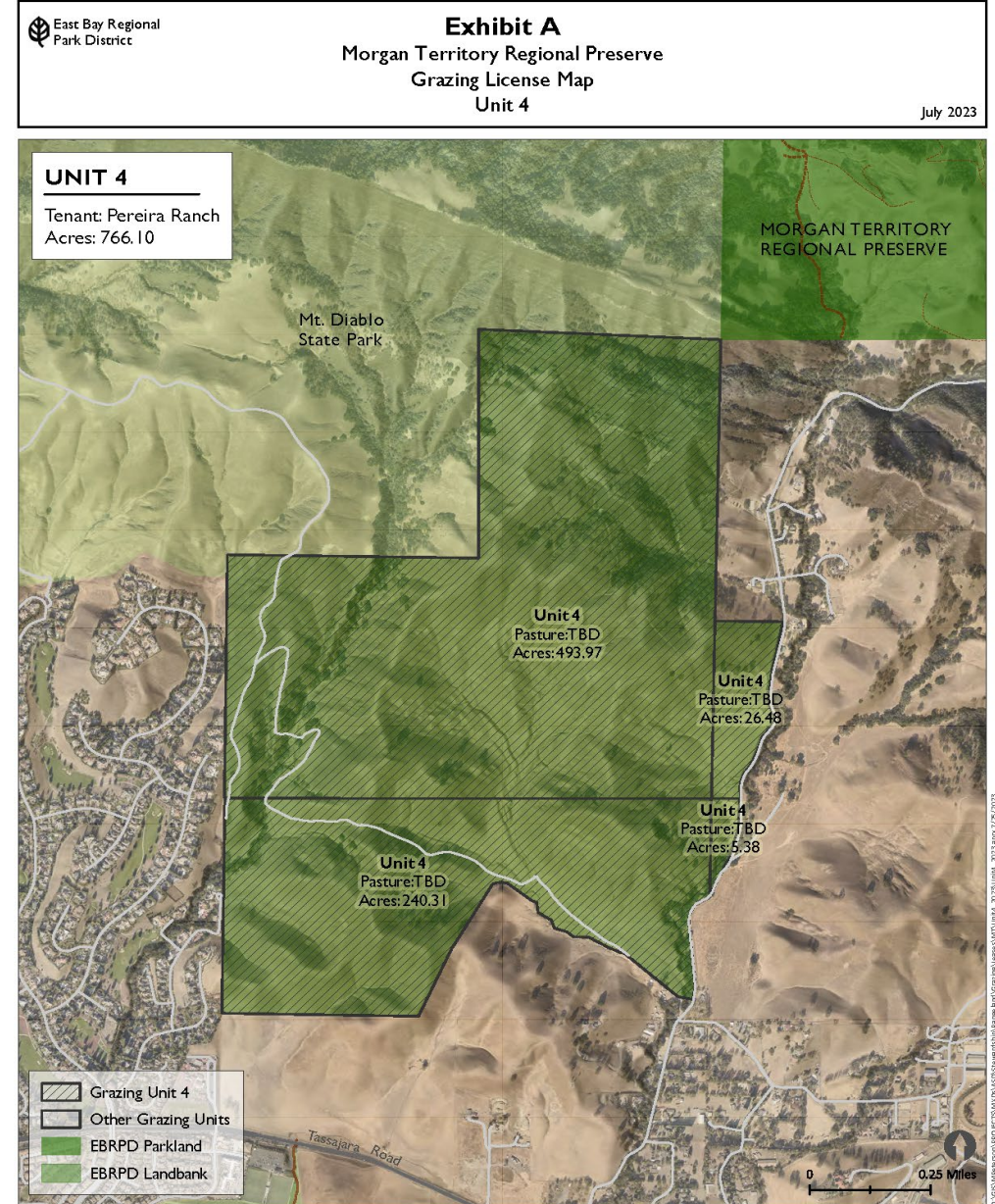
## Grazing Licenses





# Land Acquisitions add Grazed Acres

Year	New Grazed Acreage	New Tenants/ Grazing Licenses
2019-2023	4387 acres	5
2025 (projected)	2566 acres	?



# Conservation Grazing

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- Use of livestock grazing to promote biodiversity and conservation outcomes
- Ecosystem management approach i.e., wildlife habitat vs. traditional livestock and forage production
- Recreational Sensitivity  
(troughs away from trails, calving in less populated areas, minimize trail damage)





# Livestock Grazing Management Objectives



1. Reduce fuel loads to minimize wildfire potential and shrub encroachment
2. Maintain grassland communities
3. Control and manage invasive weedy vegetation
4. Enhance and support wildlife habitat
5. Control and minimize erosion potential (RDM)



# Healthy Grasslands



Mission Peak Regional Park, 2021







# Reducing fine fuel loads along urban edges`



Black Diamond, 2023



Mission Peak, 2024



# THIS FAMILY COULD SAVE YOUR FAMILY

Bigger. Hotter. Faster.  
*That's today's wildfire.*



The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) reports that in the last five years, over 35,000 wildfires have burned more than 670,000 acres causing more than \$250 million in damage.

CDF Director Richard Wilson says that grazing livestock will thin overgrown vegetation that can ignite and fuel a wildfire. "Livestock can help stop fires before they start. They can save your life and property by establishing defensible space. Protect yourself from dangerous wildfires. Establish your defensible space. Help make California fire safe."

## BE A PUP PRO!



### Support Our Hoofed Firefighters!



#### Leash your dog around cattle

Grazing cattle play an important role in wildfire protection  
by managing vegetation and reducing fire risks.



Visit [ebparks.org/PupPro](http://ebparks.org/PupPro) for a quick guide to the dog rules.  
To report an incident call 510-881-1833.  
For emergencies call 9-1-1.

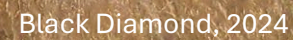
Grazers reduce flammable vegetation  
in Briones Regional Park.

East Bay  
Regional Park District

Healthy Parks Healthy People

#PupPro



[illegible]



# Our Ranchers

- Relationships with park users
- Know the land intimately
- Members of the local community



# Ranchers are First Responders



- Help with access
- Volunteer firefighters
- Animal Safety #1 priority



# Livestock Infrastructure Project Planning







Brushy Peak, 2024



Mission Peak, 2023

## Old Grazing Infrastructure





Briones Regional Park, 2024



Wood Bar Smith LLC

Briones West Stockwater - As Built

Briones Regional Park, Deer Creek Pasture

Legend

As Built Pipeline





# Water Meter for Livestock Water!!!





# Corral Projects





Budget Year & Fund Sources	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 in progress	2025 projected
Wildland Vegetation Dept. Funds (101)	\$379,804	\$511,851	\$453,275	\$353,929	\$901,428	\$980,423	\$901,428
Drought Recovery Funding (one time)				\$429,741	\$231,847	\$136,756	0
Response to Fire Damage – 2020 (one time)		\$907	\$66,181	\$198,977	\$7,587	\$13,500	\$50,000
Grazing Infrastructure Development (one time)			\$208,303	\$87,961	\$110,256	\$174,000	0
Grand Total	\$384,804	\$515,758	\$727,759	\$1,069,607	\$1,027,179	\$1,305,679	\$951,428
Number of Projects	20	24	43	62	63	60~	50~



# Matching Funds for Livestock Grazing Projects

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 estimated
Cost Share Totals	\$128,514	\$56,862	\$319,866	\$390,610	\$654,098	\$441,781



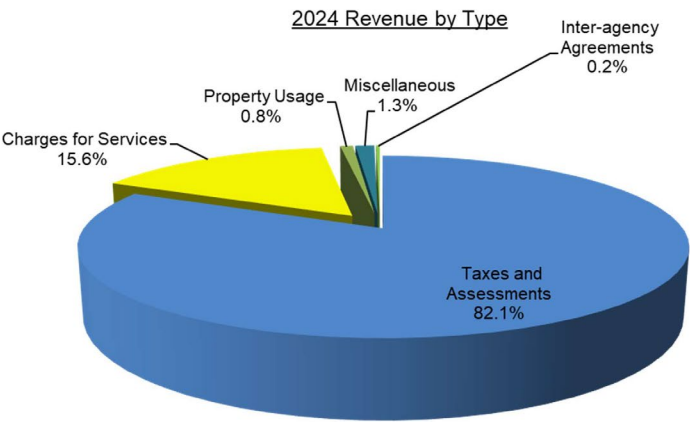


# Five Year Grazing License Revenue

Five Year Grazing Revenue



Grazing rent goes into General Fund





# Shifts and Challenges of the Grazing Program





# 1940's – 1980's: Decades of Pond Creation





# Cattle are essential to pond management



Diablo Foothills, 2022

- Breeding sites for the amphibians
- Turbidity
- Open pond water, little aquatic vegetation
- Food (invertebrates)
- Seasonality
- Upland habitat





Black Diamond Mines, 2022















Contra Loma, 2023



Vasco Hills, 2023













Pleasanton Ridge, 2023





# 3-year Average Pond Restoration Costs

Agency Contribution	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	Resource Conservation District (RCD)	East Bay Regional Park District	Total Cost	Percent of Park District 's Cost
2021 - 3 pond projects	\$101,790	\$56,644	\$69,500	\$227,934	30%
2022 - 5 pond projects	\$136,130	\$25,520	\$78,050	\$239,701	33%
2023 - 3 pond projects	\$146,829	\$70,843	\$40,014	\$257,686	16%
2024 - 5 pond projects, estimated	\$64,484	\$30,842	\$123,174	\$218,500	56%
2025 – 6 pond projects, estimated	\$102,981	\$30,842	0	\$133,823	0%
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$552,214</b>	<b>\$214,691</b>	<b>\$310,738</b>	<b>\$1,077,644</b>	<b>29%</b>

\*Permitting, agency staff hours for planning, coordinating and construction, and rancher time are not included in these costs



We need dedicated funding for our pond restoration program

