



Presented by Lisa Baldinger, Legislative and
Policy Management Analyst

TOGETHER Bay Area Partnership Update



TOGETHER Bay Area

- **Mission** – Be a champion of and a regional voice for the resilient lands and watersheds that are integral to a thriving Bay Area and all people who live here.
- **Vision** – A Bay Area that is home to healthy lands, people, and communities where we address the impacts of the climate and biodiversity crises through collaboration. We live in a just and equitable society where we live in right relations with the lands that sustain us now and will sustain future generations.
- **Members** – TOGETHER Bay Area's 75+ members are nonprofits, public agencies, local Native American tribes and groups, and mission-aligned businesses.





TOGETHER Bay Area Priorities

1. **Together** we will conserve and steward 50% of the Bay Area lands by 2050.
2. **Together** we will build regional capacity for Native American tribal alliances.
3. **Together** we will secure significant and stable public funding that is equitably accessible and distributed
4. **Together** we will build and nurture a social network of practitioners and professionals.
5. **Together** we will create and maintain a thriving organization.

TOGETHER's Work – Regional Habitat

- TOGETHER Bay Area's goal is to facilitate the conservation of **50% of the Bay Area's lands by 2050** by collaboratively setting regional goals that support local conservation and help achieve state-level strategies.
- This goal will be supported by TOGETHER Bay Area's **Conservation Lands Network** (CLN) which is a regional conservation strategy for the San Francisco Bay Area, with a set of goals and science-based decision making tools that support strategic investments in land protection and stewardship. These tools focus conservation in areas that represent the region's biodiversity and support ecological function across the nearly 5 million acres that comprise the 10 Bay Area counties.
- To support regional coordination on wildfire mitigation and management, TOGETHER Bay Area supports a **Wildfire Data Working Group and Regional Coordination with FLAME**. These groups coordinate through partnership to share best practices and support organizations in common goals. The Park District participates in these discussions.



TOGETHER
Bay Area
field trip to
Pleasanton
Ridge

TOGETHER's Work – Advocacy

- TOGETHER Bay Area's goal is to secure public funding and advance policy that supports TOGETHER Bay Area's mission and our members' projects by harnessing the **collective power** of our large and diverse coalition of organizations.
- To support this effort, TOGETHER Bay Area hosts bi-weekly **Policy Committee** meetings and regular **Sacramento Days** with membership organizations.
- To engage all voices, TOGETHER Bay Area has initiated **policy learning sessions** for members new to advocacy throughout 2024.

TOGETHER BAY AREA 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

TOGETHER Bay Area is a champion for the social and environmental changes we need for healthy lands, people, and communities. Our member organizations come together across our 10-county region to work for a just and equitable society where we live in relationship with the land that sustains us now and will sustain future generations. Our members are on-the-ground implementers with programs and projects that make a tangible impact on the land and in their communities. Please see our members: togetherbayarea.org/members/

Our coalition's policy priorities for 2024 include:

PRIORITY: MAJOR INVESTMENTS FOR EQUITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

TOGETHER Bay Area envisions significant and stable public funding for the State Coastal Conservancy, and other similar entities, to enable members programs and projects in the 10 county region. Objectives in 2024 include the following:

- Actively support and protect bond and budget appropriations that result in funding for the State Coastal Conservancy, and other similar entities.
- Actively support policies that improve the likelihood for successful local and/or regional funding measures.
- Actively support representation and inclusion of the Bay Area's unique demographics into prioritization criteria for public funding programs.
- Listen and respond to requests for support related to policy and public funding from partners, Bay Area Native American communities, and under-resourced communities.

PRIORITY: ACCELERATE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

TOGETHER Bay Area envisions an acceleration of projects and programs to enhance climate resilience of the 10 county region and its communities. Objectives in 2024 include the following:

- Actively support policies and appropriations that advance the 30x30 movement, Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, and the Outdoors for All initiative.
- Listen and respond to requests for support of policies that reduce barriers to project and program implementation from partners, Bay Area Native American communities, and under-resourced communities.

Learn more about our principles, values, and definitions of climate resilience and other terms: togetherbayarea.org/

TogetherBayArea.org
@TogetherBayArea

2024 Policy Priorities are initiated by Members and formalized by the TOGETHER Board

TOGETHER's Work – Right Relations

- To support TOGETHER Bay Area's goal to build regional capacity for Native American tribal alliances, the organization facilitates a 9-month **Right Relations** cohort-based program.
- The second cohort was formed in 2024 in partnership with **Redbud Resource Group**
- Redbud Resource Group has also launched a **Restoring Right Relations** leadership program for California Native community members.
- For TOGETHER members not currently in a cohort, Redbud Resource Group also facilitates a workshop titled, "**Going Beyond Land Acknowledgements**" with online sessions occurring:
 - Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 10:00 am–12:30 pm
 - Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 10:00 am–12:30 pm
 - Tuesday, November 5, 2024 10:00 am–12:30 pm



Right
Relations at
Coyote Hills
Regional Park

TOGETHER's Work – Regional Coordination

- TOGETHER Bay Area's goal is to build the relationships between professionals and their organizations that will support the environmental and social changes required for resilient lands and communities. We also want to **increase collaboration** in order to improve our collective ability to respond to challenges and rise to opportunities.
- TOGETHER Bay Area regularly **co-hosts field trips** with member organizations to collaboratively problem solve shared challenges with best practice solutions.
- **TOGETHER Tuesdays** occur every fall to showcase member organization's projects, programs, and initiatives. 2024 dates have not yet been shared.

TOGETHER conference

May 7–10, 2024

This conference will focus on how TOGETHER Bay Area and its members can meet the region's time-sensitive climate needs while also investing in long-term solutions. Specific focus topics include:

Conserving and stewarding 50% of the Bay Area's
lands by 2050

Building Tribal alliances and fostering right
relations

Securing significant and stable funding for the
region



Upcoming Opportunities for Engagement

April 16 | Wildfire Data Working Group Session

April 16 | Going Beyond Land Acknowledgements

May 7 – 10 | TOGETHER Conference

May 30 | Centering Relationships in Advocacy

June 2024 | TOGETHER in Sacramento

August 6 | Going Beyond Land Acknowledgements

September 2024 | Landmark CA Environmental Policies

November 5 | Going Beyond Land Acknowledgements



Presented by Lisa Baldinger, Legislative and
Policy Management Analyst

TOGETHER Bay Area Partnership Update

