


4. Authorization to Apply for Grant Funds from the Priority Conservation Area Program in an Amount up to \$1,000,000 for the Tidewater Day Use Area Expansion Project



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	July 16, 2024
TITLE	Authorization to Apply for Grant Funds from the Priority Conservation Area Program in an Amount up to \$1,000,000 for the Tidewater Day Use Area Expansion Project
DIVISION	Finance and Management Services
FROM	Katy Hornbeck, Grants Manager Deborah Spaulding, Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Service/Chief Finance Officer
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors authorize an application to the Priority Conservation Area Program in an amount up to \$1,000,000 for the Tidewater Day Use Area Expansion Project at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline.

BACKGROUND

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), in coordination with the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), issued a call for projects for the Priority Conservation Area (PCA) Grant program in March 2024. The program provides funding to cities, counties, park districts, utility districts, county transportation agencies, non-profits and other agencies to acquire, restore or improve places designated as Priority Conservation Areas within the nine-county Bay Area. MTC has provided \$8.5 million in local and federal funds for the current grant round of this program. Grants may range from \$200,000 to \$1 million. PCA grants form a conservation component of the One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) program, and help local agencies acquire or enhance PCAs.

PCA grant program goals are:

- Protect, restore, or enhance critical habitats, ecosystems, watersheds, and resource areas.
- Protect farmland, grazing lands and timberlands or otherwise support the agricultural economy of the region, such as farm-to-market infrastructure.
- Provide or enhance bicycle and pedestrian access to regional parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation areas.
- Provide or enhance parks and green spaces in urban areas to improve community health, increase habitat connectivity, capture carbon emissions, and address stormwater.

A letter of interest was required to be submitted and evaluated by the PCA evaluation committee. The committee selected a limited number of applicants with the projects that most closely align and implement the PCA program goals and meet the evaluation criteria. Selected applicants were invited to continue and submit a formal application proposal.

Proposals must demonstrate outstanding achievement of at least one program goal or very good achievement of multiple goals. Projects will also be evaluated on either significant partnerships or benefits to Equity Priority Communities (EPC). Match is not required but considered.

Based on the program requirements, goals, and priorities, Park District staff determined the Tidewater Day Use Area Expansion Project would be the most competitive. Staff submitted a letter of interest in March 2024 and later received an invite to submit a formal applicational proposal.

ANALYSIS

The Tidewater Day Use Area Expansion Project at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline supports the Priority Conservation Area Program goals as well as the state of California's 30x30 conservation initiative that calls for the protection of thirty percent (30%) of lands and waters by the year 2030 to meet the environmental challenges due to the devastating loss of the natural world and its life supporting systems.

The project will transform the site – creating new park acreage with recreation opportunities in an underserved area while contributing to greenhouse gas reductions through its planned 200+ trees, shrubs, and perennial grasses. The expansion will create eight acres of green space where there is currently none. Features in the expansion area include a multi-use turf area, a nature play area, several small and group picnic spaces, paved and natural trails, an outdoor classroom, two waterfront overlooks, a restroom, and boat storage. These features will significantly expand the opportunities for larger and new interpretive and recreational programming at Tidewater and provide vital access to green space for the surrounding communities. It will help make outdoor recreation a more natural extension of the community's daily lives.

FISCAL IMPACT

The action approves a grant application in an amount up to \$1 million. No grant match is required. If awarded, grant funds for the project would be budgeted into project #154300. The total project cost estimate is approximately \$15 million. This project may increase future operational costs of the Park District due to ongoing maintenance and labor.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 07 -
JULY 16, 2024**

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE PRIORITY
CONSERVATION AREA PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$1,000,000 FOR THE
TIDEWATER DAY USE AREA EXPANSION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Priority Conservation Area Program has approximately \$8.5 million and has issued a call for projects; and

WHEREAS, the Tidewater Day Use Area Expansion Project is located in a designated Priority Conservation Area and meets program goals and priorities; and

WHEREAS, the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) procedures require Board Approval for all grant applications; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application with the Priority Conservation Area Program up to the maximum amount allowed under the program; and
2. Certifies that Grantee understands the assurances and certification in the application form; and
3. Certifies that Grantee has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and
4. Authorizes and directs the General Manager or Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services/CFO, on behalf of the Park District and in its name, to accept grant funds and execute and deliver such documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and amendments and to do such acts as may be deemed or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolutions as presented to the Board on July 16, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services/CFO or Budget Manager is hereby authorized to amend the current year's budget, without further Board action, upon receipt of the executed contract from the Grants Manager. The budget amendment will include an increase in budgeted revenue and a corresponding increase in appropriation for the amount stipulated in the contract.

Moved by Director _____, and seconded by Director _____, and adopted July 16, 2024, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: