

PCA Grant Program Summary

- **The Priority Conservation Area (PCA) Grant Program** is an MTC/ABAG initiative (in collaboration with the State Coastal Conservancy) and is administered by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. It's funded through the One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) program to **protect, restore, and enhance open space/ag lands, improve outdoor access and urban greening, and build regional climate resilience within designated Priority Conservation Areas.**
- **What are PCAs?** Regionally significant places designated by ABAG (nominated locally) for conservation and recreation benefits: natural habitats, farms/rangelands, recreation areas, urban green spaces, and locations that help fight climate change. PCA designation supports [Plan Bay Area 2050 goals](#).
- [PCA 2024 Guidelines](#)
- [PCA Grant Letters of Interest are due 12/19, and Full Applications are due 3/20/26.](#)
 - **Step 1:** Interested applicants submit a Letter of Interest form providing a concise overview of the project scope, schedule, and budget and how the project aligns with PCA Program Objectives.
 - **Step 2:** Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal for further evaluation, which will include a more detailed project description, scope of work, budget, schedule, maps and images.
- **Eligible project types (examples):**
 - Protection of natural resources/open space or agricultural lands
 - Habitat restoration/enhancement
 - Trail, pedestrian & bicycle access improvements
 - Urban greening & stormwater improvements
 - Visual enhancements (2024 cycle)
- **How it's evaluated (recent cycles):**
 - Alignment with **PCA goals**
 - Regional significance
 - Multiple benefits
 - Partnerships/Equity & Performance Committee (EPC) benefits
 - Likelihood of success

PCA Grant Program Priorities (one or more)

1. **Open Space / Habitat Protection:** preserves natural lands, biodiversity, endangered species.
2. **Climate Adaption/Resilience:** wildfire recovery, flooding/stormwater, erosion/landslide prevention.
3. **Access & Connectivity:** trails, safe routes, recreation, equitable access.
4. **Urban Greening/Community Benefit:** nature-based solutions in/near developed areas.

5. **Regional Significance:** aligns with Plan Bay Area 2050 - regional benefits. Multi-county projects are allowed and encouraged. "Projects should serve a *greater than-local* need."
6. Accurate and verified **geographic boundaries**.

Projects for Consideration

1. Quarry Road Improvement Project

- Why
 - Safe route to school focus including easier bicycle access
 - Connects to Crocker Trail + area wide shuttle/transit stops nearby.
 - Provides walking route connecting Central Brisbane to Crocker Industrial Park and the Northeast Ridge.
 - Trail access - already a popular recreational area – connects with Army Road and leads to Buckeye and Owl Canyon trailheads.
 - History of landslides and flooding.
- What
 - Addresses water drainage, flooding, and stormwater issues.
 - Planting natives, addressing dying Monterey pine trees.
 - Retention of roadway for emergency access to mountain and school.
 - Holds back significant landslide potential; erosion control.
 - Protects wildland–urban interface.
 - Re-vegetation downslope with more resilient plants to reduce erosion.
 - Smooth pavement
 - Add benches to make path more age-appropriate

2. Restoration and Resiliency of Brisbane Acres Lot 96 above Firth Canyon

- Why
 - Lot 96 was recently acquired by the City of Brisbane. It is in Firth Canyon above Firth Park and the San Bruno Mountain Firth Canyon Trailhead.
 - The canyon washed out in 2023 and 1982, destroying public and private property.
 - Likely tied to erosion/flood prevention and land stability.
 - Helps protect canyon site with one of the oldest Bay trees in San Mateo County.
 - Protects Firth Canyon Trail access - already a popular recreational use.
 - Protects wildland–urban interface.
 - History of landslides and flooding.
- What
 - Conservation + hazard mitigation potential.
 - Possibly for building of retaining walls (need engineering assessments)
 - Re-vegetation with more resilient plants to reduce erosion.
 - Trail improvements

3. Establishment of Native Seed Bank (Fire Restoration)

- Why
 - Fire restoration tactic; supports all 9 Bay Area counties.

- Many seeds are endangered species.
- Regional impact beyond Brisbane and San Bruno Mountain.
- Aligns with climate resilience, biodiversity, and wildfire recovery.
- What
 - Grant funds to pay to set up program
 - Partnership with Mission Blue Nursery/SBMW
 - Fund intern?

4. Peking Handicraft Property Acquisition

- Why
 - Holds back landslide potential; erosion control.
 - Trail access to San Bruno Mountain State & County Park from Public Transit.
 - Protects wildland–urban interface.
 - Provides flyway and habitat for endangered Callippe Silverspot butterfly.
 - Re-vegetation with more resilient plants to reduce erosion.
- What
 - Involves purchase of property (conservation acquisition) and deed restrictions

Example PCA Project Scoring Criterion

Criterion	Description	Points
PCA Alignment	How well does the project advance PCA priorities (open space, climate resilience, equitable access, urban greening, regional significance)?	0-10
Partnerships OR Equity Priority Community Benefits	The extent to which the proposal describes EITHER the project's partnership activities OR its potential benefits for Equity Priority Communities (EPCs).	0-5
Urgency / Threat	Is there an immediate need (e.g., acquisition window, hazard risk, failing infrastructure, safety issue)?	0-5
Regional & Community Impact/ Multiple Benefits	Does it benefit only Brisbane or also the wider Bay Area? Does it improve access, equity, or recreation for the community?	0-5
Feasibility / Readiness/ Sustainability	How realistic is implementation (land ownership, permits, partners, timing)? Can we demonstrate this project will be maintained and sustained into the future?	0-5
Total		0-30

Example PCA Project Scoring Matrix

Project	PCA Alignment (0–10)	Partnerships (0-5)	Urgency (0–5)	Regional & Community Impact (0–5)	Feasibility & Sustainability (0–5)	Total (0–30)
Quarry Road						
Acre Lot 96 above Firth Canyon						
Native Seed Bank						
Peking-Handicraft Property Acquisition						