



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: November 6, 2025

From: Christina Fernandez, Assistant City Manager

Subject: Priority Conservation Area Grant (PCA)

Recommendation

Staff recommend submitting the Quarry Road Recreational Trail Project for a Priority Conservation Area (PCA) grant, as advised by the Open Space and Ecology (OSEC) Committee.

Background

Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) are spaces that provide environmental and recreational benefits in the Bay Area. PCAs are identified and nominated through a process designated by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). PCA designations support the goals of Plan Bay Area 2050, the adopted long range regional plan for housing, economy, transportation, and the environment.

The PCA Grant Program is funded by the One Bay Area Grant Program and administered by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. The PCA grant program began in 2013 and has funded over \$38 million to protect and enhance the region's natural and agricultural lands, improve outdoor access and urban greening, and build regional climate resiliency.

Last year, City staff worked with OSEC's PCA Subcommittee to apply for the acquisition of Lot 96 in the Brisbane Acres. Unfortunately, the application was unsuccessful. Despite this, the City was able to acquire Lot 96 earlier this year.

Discussion

Staff learned that 2025-2026 Call for Proposals would be released on October 30, 2025. In anticipation of this, the OSEC PCA Subcommittee met on September 29, 2025 to discuss potential projects. The City's grant writers attended the subcommittee to provide guidance and subsequently provided a matrix with sample criterion from which to evaluate the potential projects. (Attachment 1)

The PCA grant program priorities include:

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.

With these priorities in mind, the PCA Subcommittee discussed four projects in-depth to determine how competitive each project would be for funding. The four projects are:

- ***Quarry Road Recreational Trail Project***

The Quarry Road Recreational Trail Project (Quarry Road Trail) would provide a safe route to school and focus on including easier bicycle access. It connects to Crocker Trail and provides access to nearby transit and shuttle stops. The Quarry Road Trail provides a walking route connecting Central Brisbane to Crocker Industrial Park and the Northeast Ridge. It also provides trail access by connecting with Army Road and leads to Buckeye and Owl Canyon trailheads. See Attachment 2 for a map of City owned property at Quarry Road.

The Quarry Road Recreational Trail Project addresses water drainage, flooding, and stormwater issues. It also would include planting of natives and addressing dying Monterey pine trees. The project would retain roadways for emergency access to the mountain and the school and would assist with erosion control. The Quarry Road Recreational Trail project would protect the wildland-urban interface. It would also include adding benches to make paths age friendly. The proposals full scope of work would be produced in collaboration with the City's Department of Public Works, Community Development, and Parks & Recreation.

- ***Acres Lot 96 above Firth Canyon***

Lot 96 was recently acquired by the City and is in Firth Canyon above Firth Park and the San Bruno Mountain Firth Canyon Trailhead. The canyon washed out in 2023 and 1982, destroying properties. This project would build retaining walls and add vegetation for erosion control. It would also assist with trail improvements.

- ***Native Seed Bank***

Grant funds would be used to create a Native Seed bank Program in partnership with Mission Blue Nursery and San Bruno Mountain Watch. The Seed Bank would host endangered seed species and would provide seeds regionally beyond Brisbane and San Bruno Mountain. The project aligns climate resilience, biodiversity, and wildfire recovery.

- ***Peking Handicraft Property Acquisition***

The Peking Handicraft Property provides trail access to San Bruno Mountain State & County Park from public transit, assists with erosion control, protects wildland-urban interface, and provides a flyway and habitat for endangered Callippe Silverspot butterflies. Grant funds would be used to acquire and conserve the property.

More details on each project may be found in Attachment 1. The Subcommittee recognized that the Quarry Road Project is likely the most competitive of the four projects, but recommended Staff bring all projects to the full OSEC Commission for discussion. On October 22, 2025, the OSEC Committee agreed with the Subcommittee's recommendation and advises that Council submit the Quarry Road Project for the Priority Conservation Area (PCA) grant program.

If approved, Staff will continue to work with our grant writers in consultation with the City's grant writers to submit a Letter of Interest by the December 19, 2025 deadline and the full application package by the deadline of March 20, 2026.

Fiscal Impact

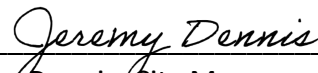
There is no match requirement, however, Staff time and resources will be utilized in pursuit of this grant.

Attachments

1. PCA Grant Summary and Projects
2. Map of Quarry Road Trail



Christina Fernandez, Assistant City Manager



Jeremy Dennis, City Manager

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](#)
- **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 Project

- Safe route to school focus
- Addresses water drainage, flooding, and stormwater issues.

- Planting natives, addressing dying Monterey pine trees.
- Connects to trail + shuttle stop nearby.
- Retention of roadway for emergency access to mountain and school.

2. Lot 96

- Washed out Canyon.
- Likely tied to erosion/flood prevention and land stability.
- Conservation + hazard mitigation potential.

3. Seed Bank (Fire Restoration)

- Fire restoration tactic; supports all 9 Bay Area counties.
- Many seeds are endangered species.
- Regional impact beyond Brisbane.
- Aligns with climate resilience, biodiversity, and wildfire recovery.

4. Peking Handicraft Acquisition

- Involves purchase of property (conservation acquisition).
- Holds back significant landslide potential; erosion control.
- Canyon site with one of the oldest trees in the county.
- Trail access - already a popular recreational area.
- Protects wildland–urban interface.
- Re-vegetation with more resilient plants to reduce erosion.
- History of landslides and flooding.

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	Does it benefit only Brisbane or also the wider Bay Area? Does it improve access, equity, or recreation for the community?	0-5

Impact/ Multiple Benefits		
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						
Lot 96						
Seed Bank						
Peking Handicraft Acquisition						

Attachment 2 - Quarry Road Trail

