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Date: , 2025

Item Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ 4/5 Vote Required

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**Resolution Of The Board Of Directors Of The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District endorsing amendments to the Coastal Forestlands (formerly Coastal Sonoma to Armstrong Redwoods), Mayacamas South (Sonoma County) (formerly Upper Mark West Creek Watershed), and Green Valley-Atascadero Creek Watershed PCAs to be adopted by the Association of Bay Area Governments and authorizing the General Manager to complete and submit the required PCA amendment form and any supporting materials to the Association of Bay Area Governments**

**Whereas,** The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) has updated the Priority Conservation Area (PCA) planning framework which creates a regionally consistent approach to designate key areas for conservation and nature-based improvements.

**Whereas,** PCAs include diverse landscapes such as nature preserves, farms, ranches, trails, urban parks, and areas that benefit from urban greening or nature-based climate adaptation solutions.

**Whereas,** the PCA planning framework includes locally nominated PCAs as locations to coordinate local and regional planning for the conservation of regionally significant areas which are adopted by the ABAG.

**Whereas,** the PCA designation provides opportunities for grant funding to support conservation, restoration, and recreational projects, helping to achieve both local and regional conservation goals.

**Whereas,** the updated PCA criteria adopted by ABAG in 2024 aim to ensure alignment with regional sustainability and conservation priorities.

**Whereas,** the Coastal Forestlands area contains important conservation features that

contribute to the ecological and climate resilience needs of Sonoma county and the greater Bay Area, including: Coast redwood, Douglas-fir, and mixed hardwood forests; stands of remnant old growth and populations of rare serpentine plants; wildlife corridors and large intact habitat areas; headwater contributing areas for salmonid-bearing streams; and climate resilient sites that are expected to support a diverse array of plants and animals into the future.

**Whereas,** the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (Ag + Open Space) and its partners are actively pursuing conservation and land stewardship projects within the Coastal Forestlands area to further goals to protect and enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitat, enhance streamflow and water quality for native Coho salmon and steelhead trout, ensure landscape connectivity, reduce wildfire risk, and promote public access.

**Whereas,** the Mayacamas South (Sonoma County) area contains important conservation features that contribute to the ecological, recreational, and climate resilience needs of Sonoma county and the greater Bay Area, including a mosaic of mixed hardwood woodlands, chaparral, and conifer forests that provide important habitat and migration corridors for wildlife; populations of rare serpentine plants and other sensitive plant species; in-stream and riparian habitat that supports Coho salmon, chinook salmon, steelhead trout, red-legged frog and other sensitive species; opportunities for recreational experiences across a diverse and scenic landscape; and opportunities to reduce wildfire risk in the wildland-urban interface.

**Whereas,** Ag + Open Space and its partners are actively pursuing conservation and land stewardship projects within the Mayacamas South (Sonoma County) area—building on a network of existing protected lands—to further goals to protect and enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitat, ensure landscape connectivity, enhance streamflow and water quality, protect scenic views, facilitate public access and recreation, and reduce wildfire risk.

**Whereas,** the Green Valley-Atascadero Creek Watershed contains important conservation features that contribute to the ecological, agricultural, and climate resilience needs of Sonoma county and the greater Bay Area, including floodplain wetlands and aquatic and riparian habitats associated with Green Valley and Atascadero Creeks; in-stream habitat for Coho salmon, chinook salmon, and steelhead trout; and a concentration of diverse and

agriculturally productive lands.

**Whereas,** Ag + Open Space and its partners are actively pursuing conservation and land stewardship projects within the Green Valley-Atascadero Creek Watershed to further a number of goals, including to protect lands that support diverse agriculture, protect and enhance lands that provide critical terrestrial and aquatic habitat for native plants and animals, and enhance streamflow and water quality for native Coho salmon, chinook salmon, and steelhead trout.

**Whereas,** the designation of Priority Conservation Areas does not alter existing land use designations, zoning, or the local jurisdiction's land use authority;

**Whereas,** Ag + Open Space recognizes the importance of amending the above-listed PCAs to ensure eligibility for future funding and support for projects that enhance the area;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District hereby:

1. Endorses amendments to the Coastal Forestlands, Mayacamas South (Sonoma County), and Green Valley-Atascadero Creek Watershed PCAs to be adopted by the Association of Bay Area Governments
2. Authorizes the General Manager of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to complete and submit the required PCA amendment form and any supporting materials to the Association of Bay Area Governments

**Directors:**

Hermosillo:

Rabbitt:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

**So Ordered.**