



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-11-56
Meeting 11-10
April 27, 2011

AGENDA ITEM 5

AGENDA ITEM

Informational Presentation on the San Francisco Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals Project

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Receive a presentation on the San Francisco Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals Project.

SUMMARY

The San Francisco Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals project is a science-based study initiated by the Bay Area Open Space Council to identify the most essential lands needed to sustain the biodiversity across the nine Bay Area counties. The final work product of this study is the Conservation Lands Network, a geographic information system database of conservation lands needed to sustain diverse and healthy communities of plant, fish and wildlife resources, which is intended to serve as a guide for selecting lands to be conserved by public and private conservation organizations.

DISCUSSION

The Conservation Lands Network provides the District with a tool to evaluate future land purchases on their conservation values as potential additions to District Open Space Preserves. This lands network was developed by the Upland Habitat Goals project, a project initiated in 2004 by the Bay Area Open Space Council to identify the most essential lands needed to sustain the "natural infrastructure" of our region. The project consisted of a five-year, science-based study that included a collaboration of 125 organizations. Its goal was to recommend the types, amounts, and distribution of conservation lands, as well as actions needed to sustain diverse and healthy communities of plant, fish and wildlife resources in the nine county Bay Area. Over 4.3 million acres were studied and over 1,000 variables were considered – from redwood forests to California red legged frog habitats, from climate change to migratory routes. This effort has identified 1.8 million acres of essential land to be conserved throughout the nine Bay Area counties. Approximately 40,000 of these acres are located within District boundaries.

Nancy Schaefer, Project Manager and Ryan Branciforte, Conservation Planner for Bay Upland Habitat Goals project, will provide project background, an overview of the Conservation Lands Network, and information on future steps.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this presentation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. No additional notice is required.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is a research project and therefore not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

NEXT STEP

Staff will provide the Board with periodic updates on the status of the research.

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Conservation Lands Network Map

Prepared by:

Casey Cleve, GIS Coordinator

Contact person:

Same as above

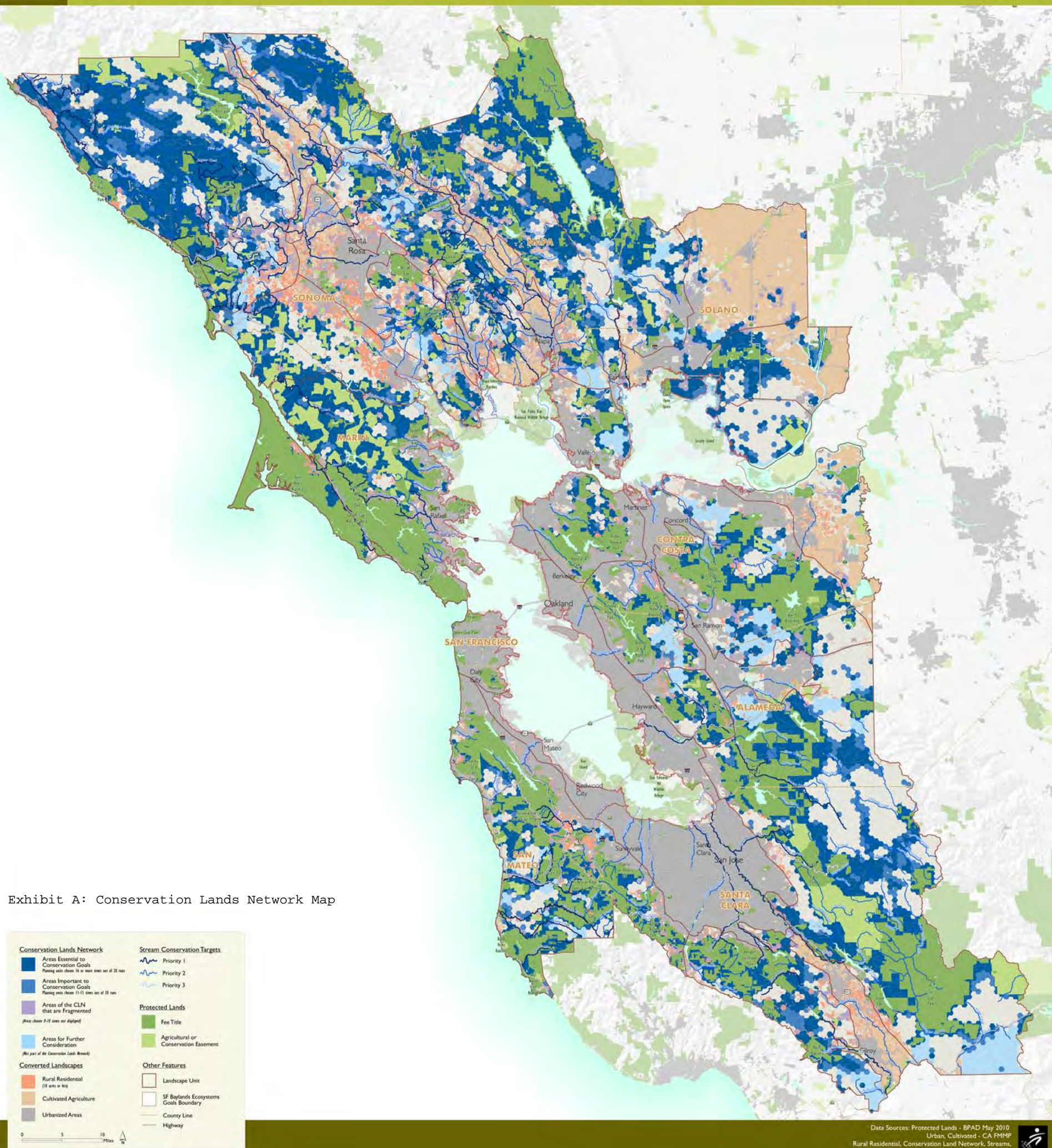


Exhibit A: Conservation Lands Network Map