

***A Bold Plan to Protect
the Bay Area's
Last Wild Places
and Working Lands***

Dear Friend:

We all know it: The Bay Area is one of the most special places on Earth. But for how much longer? Our region is facing unprecedented threats, from budget cuts to poorly planned development to a changing climate. Every day fresh water for people and nature is dwindling, habitat and migration routes are shrinking, and small family farms and ranches are forced to cash out and move on.

This matters economically because the Bay Area depends upon clean water, beautiful vistas, healthy food, and accessible wilderness. It is a region that pioneered the world's largest network of urban parks, and whose farmers, ranchers, vintners and chefs continue to produce a globally lauded cuisine. All of these things contribute billions to the regional economy, and quality of life assets that can never be measured.

We can't afford to lose them.

There is hope. A new and growing coalition of scientists, conservationists, and ranchers has joined together. Leading with science, we have created a bold, achievable plan that can ultimately ensure the health and survival of the lands and waters that sustain us all.

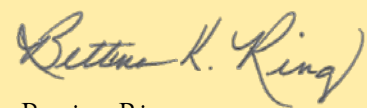
You now hold in your hands a "greenprint" for action: the Conservation Lands Network. This is the culmination of five years of work conducted by a comprehensive list of 125 organizations and individuals – from the National Park Service to local ranchers. It reveals the potential to create an enduring network of flourishing wilderness, parks and working lands, all connected in new ways.

The Conservation Lands Network means more acres conserved and linked together across ownerships. It means protecting our "natural infrastructure" even as we build roads, railways and houses. It means supporting great agricultural land stewardship and greener urban lifestyles. These are actions that protect and build upon the tremendous investments that have already been made in land conservation in the Bay Area.

With your support, the Conservation Lands Network can help the Bay Area realize its formidable promise of becoming a global model of a truly "Sustainable Community." This is the best opportunity we will ever have to protect the essential network of remaining places that can sustain the health of the Bay Area, and all its denizens – human, plant and animal – for future generations.

Please join us.

Sincerely,

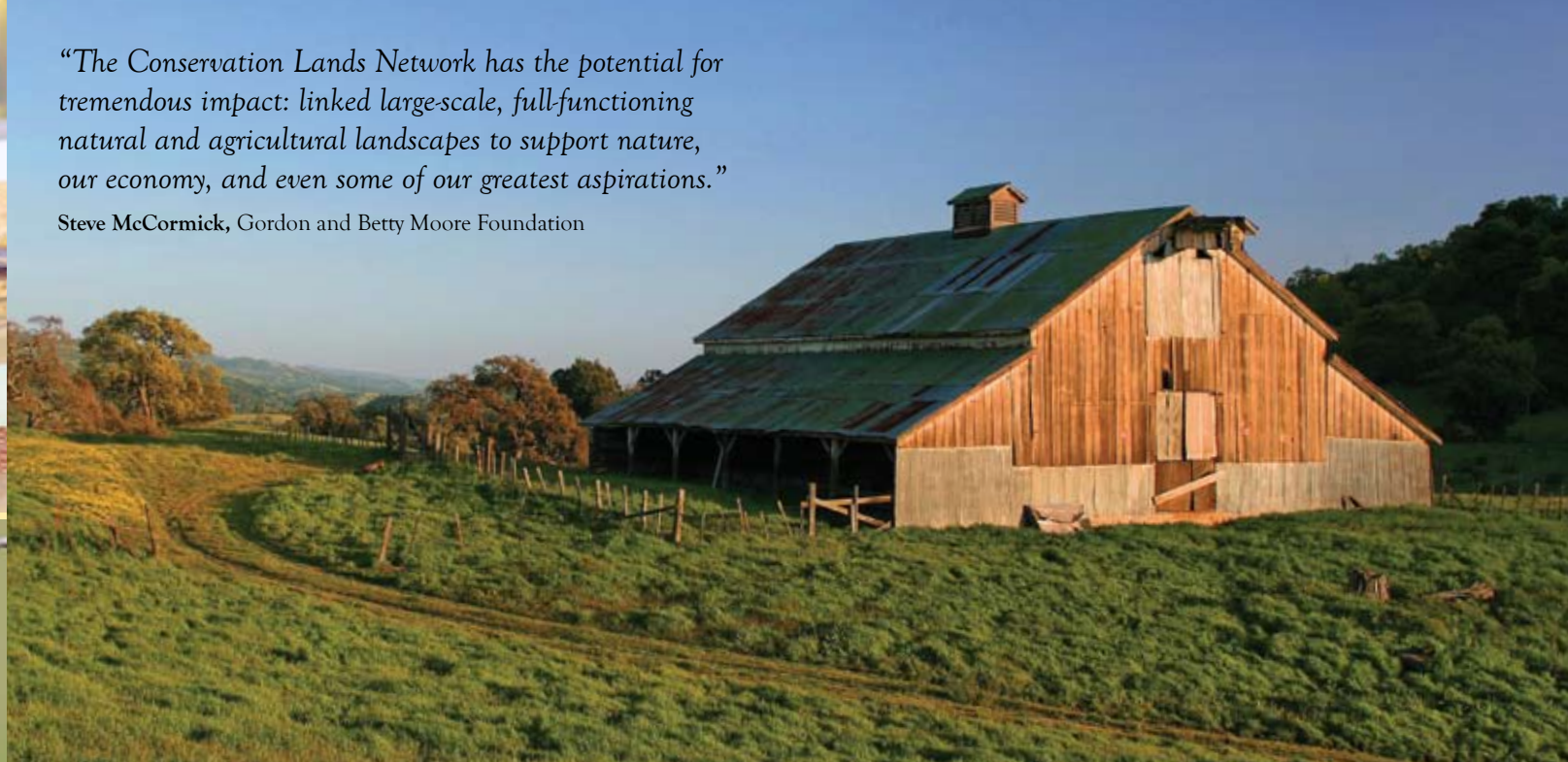


Bettina Ring
Executive Director
Bay Area Open Space Council



"The Conservation Lands Network has the potential for tremendous impact: linked large-scale, full-functioning natural and agricultural landscapes to support nature, our economy, and even some of our greatest aspirations."

Steve McCormick, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation



Conservation Lands Network

Created by the Upland Habitat Goals Project, a coalition of over 125 Bay Area organizations and individuals dedicated to creating a thriving, resilient network of wild and working lands through common vision, great science and new connections.

Steering Committee

California Department of Fish and Game • Janice Gan
California Native Plant Society • Laura Baker, Lech Naumovich
California State Coastal Conservancy • Melanie Denninger, Ann Buell
California Rangeland Trust • Darrel Sweet, Tina Batt
California State Parks - Marla Hastings, Cyndy Shafer
East Bay Regional Park District • Beth Stone
Marin Open Space District • Mischon Martin
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District • Kirk Lenington
The Nature Conservancy • Dick Cameron
Peninsula Open Space Trust • Paul Ringgold
PRBO Conservation Science • Geoff Geupel
San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory • Janet Hanson, Jill Demers
San Francisco Bay Joint Venture • Sandra Scoggin
San Francisco Estuary Institute • Rainer Hoenicke, Josh Collins
Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department • Don Rocha
Save the Redwoods League • Laura Kindsvater
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District • Kim Batchelder, Tom Robinson
Sonoma County Water Agency • Keenan Foster
Sonoma Land Trust • Wendy Eliot
University of California, Davis • Virginia Boucher
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service • Terry Huff, Morpheus Anima
US Fish and Wildlife Service • Ryan Olah, Kim Squires
US National Park Service • Darren Fong

Project Team

Nancy Schaefer, *Project Manager*, Land Conservation Services
Stuart B. Weiss, *Science Advisor*, Ph.D., Creekside Center for Earth Observation
Ryan Branciforte, *Conservation Planner*, Bay Area Open Space Council

Funders

California Coastal and Marine Initiative of the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
California Landscape Conservation Cooperative
California Resources Agency
California State Coastal Conservancy
David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund
US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program at San Francisco Bay
Technical assistance provided by the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

Bay Area Open Space Council

The Bay Area Open Space Council is a collaborative of member organizations actively involved in permanently conserving and stewarding parks, trails and agricultural lands in the ten-county San Francisco Bay Area.

OpenSpaceCouncil.org

2150 Allston Way, Suite 320
Berkeley, CA 94704
510 809 8009

Bettina Ring, Executive Director
Ryan Branciforte, Director of Conservation Planning
Annie Burke, Director of Development and Engagement

Photo credits: Max Allen, BirdsofaFeatherB&B, Annie Burke, California Beef Council, Jim Coleman, Cowgirl Creamery, David Fenton, Janet Rae Jorgensen, Peter LaTourette, Mohammad Mahdian, Lech Naumovich, Larry Serpa, Michael Venera, Miguel Viera

Design: Ellen Toomey Design
Content: Kelly Cash Consulting

Go to BayAreaLands.org for the full report, web-based interactive mapping, and GIS database.

Join us and explore the
Conservation Lands Network
— Go to BayAreaLands.org.



"The Conservation Lands Network helps us understand how we are connected to a bigger vision, and how we can coordinate to have greater impact." Andrea Mackenzie, Santa Clara Open Space Authority



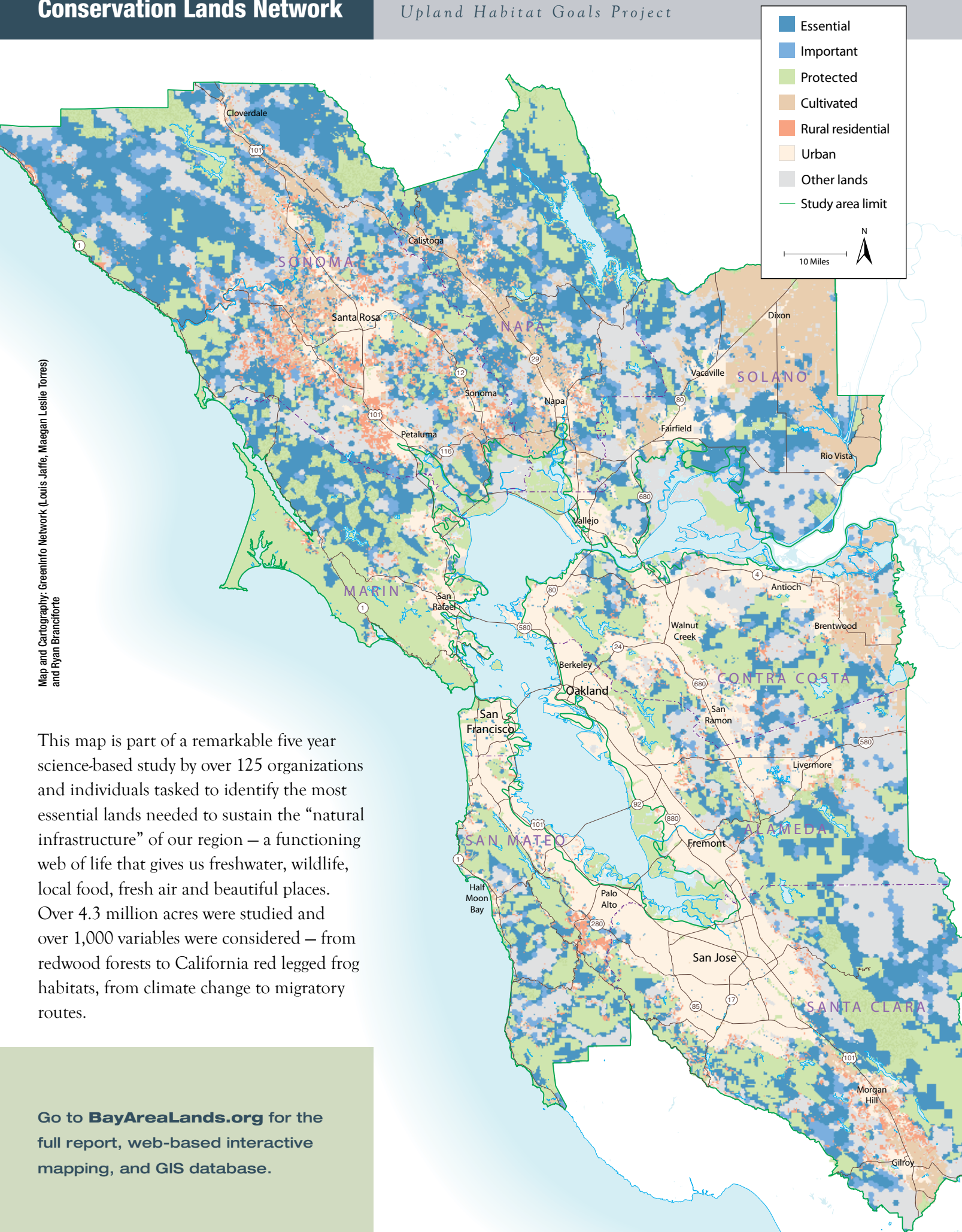
BAY AREA
OPEN SPACE
COUNCIL

The Conservation Lands Network

Upland Habitat Goals Project

BayAreaLands.org

Think Big. Connect More.



Map and Cartography: GreenInfo Network (Louis Jaffe, Maegan Leslie Torres) and Ryan Branciforte

This map is part of a remarkable five year science-based study by over 125 organizations and individuals tasked to identify the most essential lands needed to sustain the “natural infrastructure” of our region – a functioning web of life that gives us freshwater, wildlife, local food, fresh air and beautiful places. 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.

Go to BayAreaLands.org for the full report, web-based interactive mapping, and GIS database.

“Using these tools, ranchers can see how their ranches stack up and their potential opportunities. More and more ranchers want to participate. A few years ago they resisted. Now they see conservation of their ranches as a way to preserve their ranching heritage.”

Darrel Sweet, California Rangeland Trust Board Member and Rancher



Benefits

- Clean water and fresh air
- Tourist-enticing vistas
- Healthy rural and agricultural economies
- Habitat for native and imperiled plants and animals
- Local food that supplies a world-class culinary movement
- Crop pollination and resilience to climate change
- Outdoor classrooms for our children
- Migratory corridors for birds and mountain lions
- Places to play and renew our spirits

“There is potential here to use visualization, mapping, storytelling, citizen science, and other projects to raise understanding of environmental change, adaptation, and conservation in the face of climate change in the years ahead in the Bay Area, and potentially beyond.”

Jon Christensen, The Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University

**Charting the Course
Eight Steps to a Healthier Bay Area**

- 1. Include everyone.** The Conservation Lands Network can be used by anyone with a computer who wants to help protect open space, wildlife, and ways of life.
- 2. Create incentives.** In these cash-strapped budgetary times, create incentives for ranchers, farmers, and forestland owners that will stabilize land tenure and improve the habitat and the economic viability of working lands.
- 3. Continue to fund what already works.** Provide consistent public and private funding for innovative programs such as the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Williamson Act, private landowner incentive programs, conservation easements, mitigation monies, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- 4. Encourage an era of New Neighboring.** Use the Conservation Lands Network to help neighbors partner with neighbors by linking management actions across property lines. Help connections grow informally and formally in ways that promote community-based conservation.
- 5. Integrate into public plans.** Concentrate development in places that keep essential habitat out of harm’s way by including the Conservation Lands Network in General Plans, the Sustainable Community Strategy and Habitat Conservation Plans, as well as other land use, watershed and transportation planning efforts.
- 6. Freshwater first!** Protect every drop by preserving and restoring sensitive watershed lands and streams. Promote active, ongoing stewardship and protection. These areas will provide both movement corridors and refuge for plants and animals confronting a changing climate.
- 7. Adapt and evolve.** Help public and private landowners create long-term, adaptive management plans that will build on and sustain the network. Create new initiatives within the Conservation Lands Network, such as the upcoming Bay Area Critical Linkages Project, that strengthen and deepen ongoing conservation opportunities.
- 8. Think Big. Connect More.** Find creative ways to protect essential lands and waters such as efforts like the Living Landscape Initiative and the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative.

“With this we can manage water and riparian areas in ways that will make the Bay Area more resilient in the face of climate change.”

Phil Stevens, Urban Creeks Council

