

MEMO

August 8, 2008

TO: Priority Conservation Area Contacts

FR: Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director

RE: Regional Adoption of Priority Conservation Areas

I am pleased to announce that the ABAG Executive Board adopted the recommendations on Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) as part of FOCUS, the San Francisco Bay Area's Regional Blueprint Plan, at its July 17, 2008 meeting. Reaching this milestone means FOCUS staff can move forward with highlighting the conservation values of the areas that were recommended. Integrating PCAs into FOCUS will inform regional and local decision making and improve collaboration on where to accommodate expected growth more appropriately, while protecting the natural resources of this region. A list of the adopted Priority Conservation Areas is now available on the FOCUS website at <http://www.bayareavision.org/initiatives/priorityconservationareas.html>.

What's Next?

The next step in the FOCUS PCA process is to get the word out about the conservation values and near-term land conservation opportunities for the adopted Priority Conservation Areas. To start, we will begin summarizing each PCA based on the information provided in its original nomination form. These summaries will be posted online, and a report that highlights the combined goals of putting development in the right places while protecting the lands we depend on will be printed. These outreach materials are expected to be available by the end of this year. You will be able to use these materials to help promote your local conservation efforts. As the PCA summaries are written, FOCUS staff will be in contact with you along the way for your feedback on its description. Beyond developing outreach materials, FOCUS staff will be coordinating with land conservation funding entities to raise awareness of the funding opportunities in these areas, while continuing to work with parallel conservation planning efforts. We hope this coordinated outreach effort will connect local efforts with land conservation funding opportunities.

Thank you for working with us throughout this process. If you have suggestions on how ABAG, as a regional planning agency and council of governments, can continue to support your land conservation efforts, please let us know. Please contact Jackie Guzman, ABAG Regional Planner, with questions or comments about FOCUS at 510.464.7994 or JackieG@abag.ca.gov.