

Priority Conservation Area Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

April 2024

Question	Response
What is the expected date for grant agreements to be in place?	Grant agreements are anticipated to be executed in December 2024.
What is the expected date when work on projects can begin?	Project work can begin upon project authorization by the MTC Commission, anticipated for November 2024. Eligible costs may be reimbursed from that commission approval date and prior to execution of project grant agreements, as necessary.
What is the timeline to spend grant funds?	There is no funding expiration date, but it is anticipated projects that will be completed within 2 - 4 years will be prioritized.
What is the timeline for completion of the PCA refresh?	The PCA Refresh is proposed to be implemented in two phases: Phase 1, Evaluate and Amend Existing PCAs, will occur Spring 2024 – Summer 2024; Phase 2, Nominate and Designate New PCAs will occur Fall 2024 through early 2025. For more information, please visit here .
Is there a list of the current PCAs?	A link to designated PCAs is available here [PCA Designation Attachment]
Do projects need to be located in existing PCAs?	Projects adjacent to or outside of existing PCAs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis but must demonstrate clear, strong physical and/or cultural benefits to an existing adjacent PCA.

<p>The extent of current eligible PCAs is difficult to discern on the map. What do the points represent and is there any data about the acreage of each PCA point? Do projects need to be associated with PCAs found in the "Existing locally-nominated PCAs" layer?</p>	<p>The Draft PCA Refresh Mapping Viewer includes points and polygons for each Existing Locally Nominated PCA along with the nominating agency, PCA name, acreage, and year adopted. Projects should be located within an "Existing Locally-Nominated PCA" geography. If you have any questions regarding the map viewer or specifics on existing designated PCAs, please reach out to pcagrants@bayareametro.gov.</p>
<p>What is the source of PCA grant funding?</p>	<p>PCA Grant funding is a program of the One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) Program. Projects that are eligible and well-suited to receive federal transportation funds (such as bicycle or pedestrian facilities) may be selected to receive federal funds. For projects recommended for local funds, MTC will exchange federal funds with local funds.</p>
<p>Is there a local match requirement for grants?</p>	<p>This round of PCA grants does not include a match requirement. However, the extent to which the project leverages other resources including local/state/federal funding will be considered in proposal scoring. If the project is eligible and well-suited to receive federal transportation funding, a federal match requirement of 11.47% would apply.</p>
<p>Can a single project include multiple project types (i.e. more than one of: planning/design, implementation, and acquisition)?</p>	<p>Yes, projects are encouraged to be multi-benefit and can include multiple project types and phases.</p>
<p>Are permitting and/or CEQA costs eligible for funding? Is permitting considered planning or implementation?</p>	<p>Yes, environmental review and permitting are eligible for PCA grant funding. Environmental review and permitting activities can be considered either planning or implementation.</p>
<p>What is the target county distribution for Phase 1 funding?</p>	<p>Geographic distribution of grant funding will be considered by the evaluation committee in project recommendations. The PCA Grant Program is targeting at least one project per county, but recommendations will</p>

	depend on the strength and competitiveness of applications.
Can funds be used for a larger project, or only for stand-alone projects?	Both: funds can be used for stand-alone projects or as portions of larger projects. Multi-benefit projects are encouraged.
Will projects that are not invited to submit a full proposal after submitting a Letter of Interest be put on a waitlist for the 2025 PCA Grant Round (Phase 2)?	Yes
Can an agency submit more than one Letter of Interest application?	Yes
Can you provide details on SB 1425 as it relates to the PCA Grant program?	<p>Senate Bill 1425 Open Space Element Update “requires every city and county to review and update its local open-space plan by January 1, 2026. The bill would require the local open-space plan update to include plans and an action program that address specified issues, including climate resilience and other cobenefits of open space, correlated with the safety element. By imposing additional duties on local officials, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.”</p> <p>As ABAG/MTC are working with jurisdictions to implement the PCA Refresh and update PCA designations ahead of PCA Grants Phase 2, staff will work with jurisdictions to assess alignment with open space elements. Depending on need and interest from jurisdictions, some Phase 2 funds could be targeted to eligible open space element planning activities.</p>