

TOGETHER BAY AREA

2023 POLICY PRIORITIES

TOGETHER Bay Area is a regional coalition of nonprofits, public agencies, and local Native American Tribes working together for equity and climate resilient* lands. The health of these lands is integral to a thriving Bay Area and the health of all of the people in our 10 county region. TOGETHER Bay Area's members are local leaders whose programs and projects can support California's goals like conserving 30% of lands and waters by 2030, Outdoors for All, and nature-based solutions to the climate crisis. Please see our members: <https://togetherbayarea.org/members/>

Priority #1: MAJOR INVESTMENTS FOR EQUITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Public funding for our mission and members authorized by natural resources bonds, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, and the state General Fund needs to be appropriated regularly. To support our mission and members, we will:

- Advance policy in the development of new funding opportunities that reduces barriers to public funding that could benefit the diverse communities that TOGETHER Bay Area members serve.
- Protect recent multi-year General Fund state budget appropriations for 30x30 and nature-based solutions to climate change, and other funding sources that support climate resilience.
- Identify needs and seek policy opportunities related to the long-term stewardship, enhancement and management of urban, rural, natural, and working lands.

Priority #2: EQUITY IN PUBLIC FUNDING

Numerous plans, rules, and definitions are used by agencies to administer public funding programs. Guided by our Framework for Justice, Equity, and Belonging we will be a champion for equitable distribution of state funding. To support our mission and members, we will:

- Facilitate conversations between public funding agencies and TOGETHER Bay Area members to build awareness of the region's contributions to climate resilience and environmental justice, and awareness of funding opportunities.
- Support inclusion of the Bay Area's unique needs and demographics into prioritization criteria for public funding programs.

Priority #3: OVERCOME CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION

We must increase the pace and scale of our members' work for healthy lands and communities. This includes a wide range of activities related to conservation, stewardship, and connecting people to the outdoors. To support our mission and members, we will:

- Identify and support policy opportunities to facilitate ease of project implementation including supporting the state's Cutting the Green Tape Initiative, and removing barriers to participation in public process and access to public funding.
- Support other efforts that align with our mission and members' work to steward lands and make them equitably accessible.