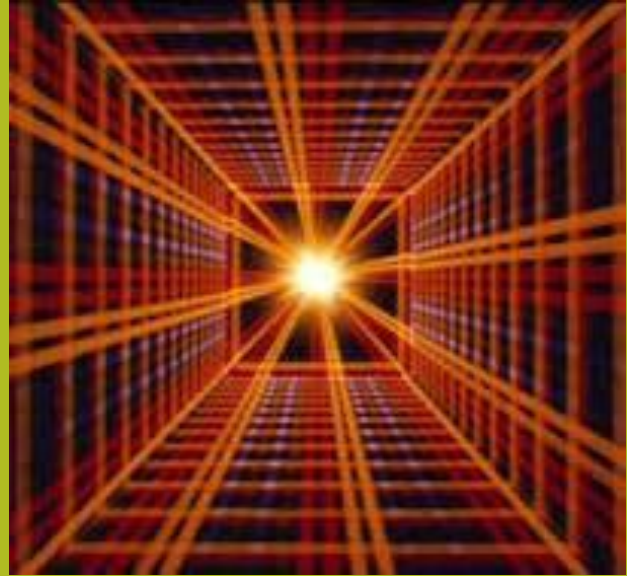


2025 Legislative Session Debrief

**TOGETHER
BAY AREA**

Ludicrous speed!



**T⁰GETHER
BAY AREA**

What Just Happened?

- Proposition 4 Appropriations
- Reauthorization of Cap-and-Invest
- Adjustments to Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
- SB 900
- Much, much more!



2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

TOGETHER Bay Area is a regional coalition of 80 member organizations in the 10-county region. Member organizations are working toward the vision of a Bay Area (including Santa Cruz County) that is home to healthy lands, people, and communities where we address the impacts of the climate and biodiversity crises through collaboration. And, we live in a just and equitable society where we live in right relations with the lands that sustain us now and will sustain future generations.

The [2024-2028 Strategic Direction](#) informs our Policy Priorities, and, in particular, the three strategic priorities below. As a coalition, we will:

- Conserve and steward 50% of the Bay Area lands by 2050.
- Build regional capacity for Native American Tribal alliances.
- Secure significant and stable funding that is equitably accessible and distributed.

Learn more about our coalition and meet our members: togetherbayarea.org/members/

PRIORITY 1: SECURE FUNDING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Significant and stable public funding for the State Coastal Conservancy, and other similar entities, is critical for our members' programs and projects. In 2025, we will:

1. Actively support and protect bond and budget appropriations for the State Coastal Conservancy and other similar entities. Specifically, we will advocate that Proposition 4 funding is not used to backfill proposed cuts to state agencies.
2. Actively support and protect appropriations for California Natural Resources Agency's Tribal Nature Based Solutions Program and Tribal Affairs Program.
3. Actively support policies and appropriations that provide for stewardship of the region's approximate 5 million acres through the state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

PRIORITY 2: INCREASE THE PACE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Accelerating the implementation of our members' projects and programs is critical to meet community needs and to address the climate and biodiversity crises. In 2025, we will:

1. Actively support policies and appropriations that advance California's 30x30 goal, the Outdoors for All Initiative, the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, and the Tribal Stewardship Strategy and Toolkit.
2. Support policies, initiatives, and programs that remove barriers to project implementation including Cutting the Green Tape and advance payments to organizations on state contracts and grants.

Reauthorization of Cap-and-Invest

- Extends Cap-and-Invest through 2046
- Strengthens Oversight
- Institutes a Price Collar
- Offsets: Allows up to 6% compliance offsets starting in 2026, with sub-tiers for tribal/nature-based projects (4%)

Restructuring of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

- Average historical revenue is \$4B annually (significant fluctuation)
- New bucket systems begins in 2026-2027

Bucket 1

- State Responsibility Area fire prevention (\$150M assumed)
- General Fund transfer
- \$3M Legislative Counsel Climate Bureau.

Bucket 2

- \$1B to High-Speed Rail (continuous)
- \$1B for legislative discretion in the Budget Act (the new “primary discretionary” pool).

Bucket 3

Fixed appropriations:

- \$800M AHSC,
- \$400M TIRCP,
- \$200M LCTOP,
- \$250M AB 617 incentives,
- \$200M CalFire,
- \$130M Drinking Water.

Bucket 4

- All remaining revenue flows to legislative discretion (“secondary discretionary”)

Proposition 4 Appropriations & Implementation

- \$3.2 billion from Prop 4 appropriated in SB 105
- APA Exemption/Emergency Regulations for new program development
- CEQA Exemptions (SB 131) for certain projects funded by Prop 4



Proposition 4 Appropriations

State Coastal Conservancy	
\$62 million	Coastal resilience projects and programs, including, but not limited to, grants and expenditures to protect, restore, and increase the resilience of beaches, bays, coastal dunes, wetlands, coastal forests, watersheds, trails, and public access facilities
\$40 million	For projects that are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act or the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, including, but not limited to, projects that address sea level rise, flood management, and wetland restoration.
\$32.835 million	For coastal and combined flood management projects and activities for developed shoreline areas, including, but not limited to, areas with critical community infrastructure, including, but not limited to, transportation and port infrastructure, that is at risk of current flooding and flooding due to sea level rise.

Proposition 4 Appropriations

Wildlife Conservation Board	
\$235 million	For grant programs to protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources and habitat and achieve the state's biodiversity, public access, and conservation goals. <i>(Includes some carve outs)</i>
\$20 million	For projects to improve habitat connectivity and establish wildlife crossings and corridors.
\$20 million	For the Stream Flow Enhancement Program
\$10 million	For the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program

Proposition 4 Appropriations

CalFire	
\$30 million	For regional projects to improve local fire prevention capacity, improve forest health and resilience, and reduce the risk of wildfire spreading into populated areas from wildlands..
\$70 million	For local fire prevention grants
\$80.94 million	For the Forest Health Program. (active restoration and reforestation projects)
\$11.95 million	For a wildfire mitigation program and may be used to provide loans, rebates, direct assistance, and matching funds for projects that prevent wildfires, increase resilience, maintain existing wildfire risk reduction projects, reduce the risk of wildfires to communities, or increase home or community hardening. Projects shall benefit disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, or vulnerable populations.

Proposition 4 Appropriations

CA Natural Resources Agency	
\$46.125 million	For competitive grants for urban greening.
\$9.225 million	For the Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program.

Department of Conservation	
\$32 million	For the Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program for groundwater sustainability projects that reduce groundwater use, repurpose irrigated agricultural land, provide wildlife habitat, improve drought resilience or floodwater management, or support implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
\$10 million	For the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program to increase regional capacity to prioritize, develop, and implement projects.

Proposition 4 Appropriations

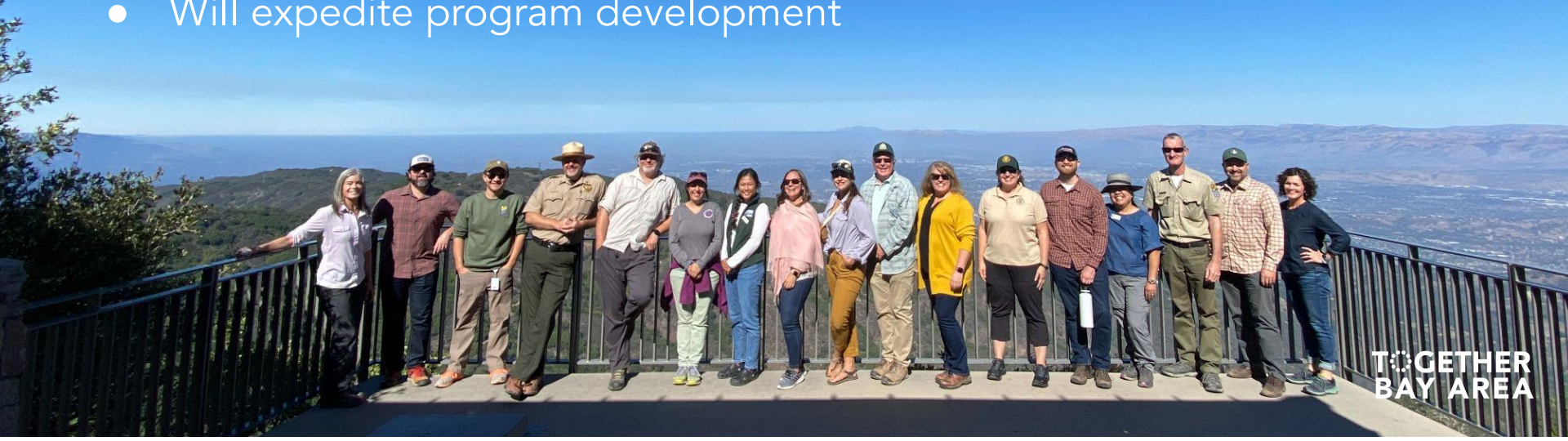
Department of Parks and Recreation	
\$84 million	For purposes including projects that advance climate resilience and support equitable access to parks. <i>(As part of its project prioritization criteria, the Department of Parks and Recreation shall include projects that advance climate resilience and support equitable access to parks)</i>
\$188.5 million	For the creation, expansion, and renovation of safe neighborhood parks in park-poor neighborhoods in accordance with the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Act of 2008's competitive grant program.

Proposition 4 Appropriations

CA Department of Food and Agriculture	
\$35 million	For the Healthy Soils Program
\$36.9 million	For the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program
\$18.45 million	For urban agriculture projects.
\$18.5 million	For certified mobile and and year round farmers markets.

Emergency Regulations for New Prop 4 Programs

- New programs likely require new guidelines
- Agencies can request a waiver to promulgate guidelines under emergency regulations (i.e. impacts of climate change=emergency)
- Will expedite program development



Opportunities for 2026

- Build legislative champions
- Education legislators on stewardship, nature based solutions, and natural and working lands
- Advocate for funding in GGRF discretionary bucket(s)
- Others?



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Next Steps

- Send thank you's
- Brief legislators on your projects
- Register for the November Policy Summit

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