

TOGETHER BAY AREA

2026 POLICY PRIORITIES

TOGETHER Bay Area is a regional coalition of 80 member organizations in the 10-county region that includes Santa Cruz County. Member organizations are working toward the vision of a Bay Area 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.

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 2026, we will:

- 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.
- Actively support and protect appropriations for the California Natural Resources Agency's Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program and Tribal Affairs Program.
- Actively support policies and appropriations that provide for conservation and 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 crucial to meeting community needs and addressing the climate and biodiversity crises. In 2026, we will:

- 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.
- 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.

PRIORITY 3: NAVIGATE CHANGES TO FEDERAL POLICY

Collaboration for nature and equity is more important than ever because of policy changes at the federal level and the deepening climate and biodiversity crises. In 2026, we will:

- Assess, navigate, and consider responding to changes to federal policy that impact the work of TOGETHER Bay Area members.
- Partner with other organizations and coalitions with relevant expertise and positional power to contribute our voice when it could make an impact.

Our 2024-2028 Strategic Direction informs our 2026 Policy Priorities, in particular, these three strategic priorities:

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

Additionally, the 2024-2028 Strategic Direction informs how we approach these pressing issues, and how we move towards systemic change and transformation. Our work is anchored in the values outlined below and guided by our fourth strategic priority which is to build and nurture a social network of practitioners and professionals.

Our Values

Trust - We constantly work to build and maintain trust in all of our relationships by leading with heart and doing what we say we're going to do.

Joy - We create opportunities for joy, play, creativity, and fun in order to create space for connection between people and ideas.

Belonging - We aim to create a sense of belonging for everyone on our team and everyone who participates in our programs.

Equity - We center equity in everything we do by asking who benefits from our work, who is not involved and should be, and how we can change culture and systems to be more just and equitable.

Learning - We build a culture of learning in which we honor whole and complex human beings in our pursuit of the organization's mission and priorities.

Hope - We seek out and elevate hope and positivity as the driving forces for the work we do.

Please consider TOGETHER Bay Area and our member organizations a resource as we navigate a dynamic landscape together.

Connect with us:

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